

## Women Major Group (WMG) Position on Technology Transfer as a Means of Implementation (MOI) in the Post-2015 Development Agenda

April 21-24 April

The WMG is convinced that cooperation, transfer, assessment and development on technologies that strengthen gender justice and environmental sustainability are essential for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The WMG is concerned that a number of member states seem to believe that there is no role for the state in this area. But, it is evident that the “market” has not been able to ensure that women are equally involved in technology development and decision-making, or in closing the technology gender gap.

A number of MOI specific to the Sustainable Development Goals are no longer reflected in the FfD zero draft, thus more coherence is required between the two.

Reflecting on the Financing for Development zero draft, we recognize the following main issues to be addressed and improved:

### **Systemic obstacles to Transfer of Technology**

The core objective of the Technology section must be the **transfer of environmentally safe, socially appropriate, gender-sensitive and economically equitable technologies** to developing countries to implement the Post-2015 Development Agenda. **Systemic obstacles** must be addressed, such as restrictive intellectual property rights, corporate control and trade regimes. Technology transfer that genuinely promotes sustainable development and addresses economic and gender inequalities stresses the importance of establishing a global technology facilitation mechanism at the UN. Monitoring and assessment of potential impacts of technologies with the active participation of women and affected communities should be an **integral component of the technology cycle and a key function of a technology facilitation mechanism**.

### **The vital role of endogenous capacity and indigenous knowledge**

While technology transfer to attain the Post-2015 Development Agenda must be promoted, the **endogenous capacities of developing countries and local communities** to adapt existing technologies and generate appropriate technologies to respond to needs and conditions must be strategically developed and supported. The contribution of **informal technology** transfers, especially between and among communities, as well as intra-generational transfers must be recognized and scaled up as effective vehicles for technology deployment. **Collective community actions** as a non-financial MOI must be promoted, and traditional governance structures and value systems must be supported.

Local innovations, **indigenous knowledge and endogenous technologies** that are mostly held by women have enormous contributions, sustainable development thus must be scaled out: recognizing and protecting community rights over traditional knowledge systems as embodied in international instruments. An **Innovations Fund** must be established to support the grassroots to **bridge the technology divide** and to facilitate the deployment of locally-appropriate, environmentally sustainable and proven technologies.

### **Gender gap**

**National innovation systems and strategies** must give equal recognition to the contributions of formal innovations and traditional knowledge systems. **Science and technology education** must be gender-sensitive and dismantle

gender stereotypes. The role of women, especially the youth, as technology producers, innovators, entrepreneurs and knowledge holders must be mainstreamed and supported.

#### **Access to technologies, gender dimension**

Access to the Internet must be made universal as a means to increase access to education, information, health and basic services particularly among women. Experiences on the use of ICT, such as the use of mobile phones to link women to health workers that has contributed to the reduction of maternal mortality in Bangladesh, must be widely disseminated and scaled up. National, regional and even global platforms for technology sharing and exchange among communities must be established and facilitated by governments in partnership with civil society and communities.

#### **Technology bank**

The establishment of the **Technology Bank for LDCs must actively involve civil society** and communities who will ultimately be the end-users of technologies that will be transferred through this mechanism. The modalities and operation of the Technology Bank must be participatory and inclusive. The technologies that will be transferred through the Technology Bank must **not be limited to formal innovations** and proprietary technologies, but should equally give attention to traditional technologies and knowledge systems.

#### **Regulatory frameworks for hazardous technologies**

Regulatory frameworks on hazardous technologies, including wastes and substances of technological innovations, must be strictly enforced and must include stringent requirements on life-cycle analysis of technological products. Dangerous technologies should be banned, such as nuclear, GMOs, synthetic biology and geoengineering.

#### **Specific comments and language proposals for the Financing for Development Zero Draft include:**

**Para 103:** We welcome the reference to technology, innovation and capacity building as a way to “promote gender equality”

**Para 104:** We welcome the reference to “the importance of an enabling, regulatory and governance framework” and “transferring technology requires an elaborate process of knowledge sharing and adapting technology to meet local conditions”.

**Para 105:** We are concerned about the focus on “investors” to “compete in the global market place” and propose to delete these phrases. “We affirm that regulatory environments that are open, non-discriminatory, transparent, and collaborative can further our efforts substantially by enabling entrepreneurs, scientists, ~~and investors~~ to collaborate ~~and compete in the global marketplace~~ on the merits of their ideas and innovation”

**Para 107:** A sentence should be added at the end, **“we also recognize the value and respect the traditional knowledge and practice of indigenous peoples and local communities, including women, especially as they relate to ecosystem conservation and restoration”**

**Para108:** We are concerned about the focus on Public Private Partnerships and recommend deleting PPPs and replacing with “cooperation”. “To this end, we will scale up support to ~~PPPs~~ **cooperate on** technology development and diffusion in priority areas”

**Para 112:** We strongly welcome the proposal for using the “recommendations from the structured dialogues on a facilitation mechanism to promote the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies, we support the proposal of the Secretary General to establish an online global platform, building on and complementing existing initiatives, in partnership with all relevant stakeholders”.

**Para 113:** We also welcome the proposal to expeditiously establish the proposed technology bank for LCDs.