The Environmental Dimension of Global Sustainable Development Goals

Rio+20

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Introduction WECF

WECF was created after Rio1992 – and refers to the UN report: ‘Our Common Future’

WECF is a network of women, environment and development organisations, and gives a voice to the “Women’s Major Group” of Rio Agenda 21
Regions where WECF implements activities

WECF's work in Europe

WECF provides a platform for project and policy development and implementation at local and national level with 100 member organisations in 40 countries of the EU, EECCA, SEE, Central Asian region as well as in Turkey and Afghanistan. WECF develops innovative solutions for sustainable development adjusted to the local culture, market and climate, based on local needs, and brings the lessons learned to policy makers and into regional policy processes.

WECF's work worldwide

WECF empowers its member organisations to bring their policy recommendations to international policy makers and into global policy processes. WECF cooperates in capacity building of international women's organisations and environmental organisations;

In the context of our Climate Justice Coalition we will be developing programmes together with partners from the Netherlands, Germany, France, Latin-America, Africa and Asia, as well as with strategic partners with expertise in "de-carbonising" our societies, particularly in the area of transportation, energy, forests, agriculture and housing.
Geneva, 5 June 2012

WECF International Policy work

- UN; ECOSOC consultative status
- UNEP accredited; WECF represents Major Group ‘Women’
- UN Commission for Sustainable Development: WECF co-chair Major Group ‘Women’
- UNFCCC; co-organisator of the women & gender constituency
- UNECE: PWH, EFE
- WHO: Health &Environment
WECF network members

- WECF International: 120 member org’s >40 landen
- WECF France, WECF Germany, WECF Netherlands
- Budget 2 – 3 million Euro p/yr
1 Goal – 4 Themes

- Energy / Climate
- Water & Sanitation
- Healthy Environment for All
- Chemicals/Waste
- Agriculture & biodiversity
Practical, Innovative, Affordable Solutions
Update: Rio+20

• More than 130 Heads of State expected
  • of which 6 women Heads of State
  • in total 30,000 participants
• extra negotiations May 29-June 2 in NY, USA
Learning from Problems of MDGs

• MDG1 – poverty eradication
• Limited focus on “income” poverty (less 1 USD p/day)
• Poverty is far from being eradicated
• Women make up the majority of the world’s poor
• Women’s poverty is often difficult to measure, as they do unpaid domestic work, work in the informal and precarious sectors and their livelihoods are often based on subsistence farming and fishing activities.
‘Female face’ of poverty
Living with less than 1 dollar a day

Women
– are 70% of the 1.3 billion poor
– work 2/3 of the world’s working hours
– receive only 10% of the world’s income
– own less than 2% of the world’s land
– Women receive up to 80% less than men (for same job, in the same position)
MDG 7, target 10

- MDG 7, target 10, Water and sanitation,
- 2000 only water, then sanitation in jo’burg added
- Halving the population without access to water and sanitation by 2015
- Criticism not a human rights based approach
Geneva, 5 June 2012

**Water and Sanitation - Lessons**

- Low hanging fruits,
- Most needy forgotten
- JMP – WHO, UNDP
- Too technical
- Not integrated (toilets used as storage rooms)
- Measure what is measurable, not public sanitation,
- Wrong policy priorities
Status of SDG negotiations

- SDGs as a means to fill gaps of MDGs
- Focus on environmental sphere
- Place holder for “cross cutting issues” such as poverty eradication, gender equality and women’s empowerment,
- Paragraph SDG-5
[SDG 5. We also recognize that the [goals / SDGs] should address and be focused on priority areas for the achievement of sustainable development [including…], energy, water, food security […] oceans [and sustainable consumption and production – US delete] as well as cross-cutting issues like [equity and –US delete] social inclusion, [decent work, –EU, ROK] rule of law and good governance, gender equality and women’s empowerment. –US reserves; G77 delete para; Norway retain]
Geneva, 5 June 2012

Water & Sanitation SDG?

• 2010, UN resolution on human right to water and sanitation.
• UK and Canada problem with human right to sanitation.
• Aim should be human right, so 100% of people, in particular poor and vulnerable
• UNECE good publication: Protocol on W&H “equitable access”
• Access to safe, clean and affordable drinking water and basic sanitation by 2030.

• Is not enough. Needs a goal on protecting water sources from pollution and depletion.

• Already in Agenda 21 we have that: protection of water sources (e.g. from pollution, depletion, degradation).
Water & Sanitation SDG - 3

- Sanitation goal to limited
- Currently with MDG7, we see lots of pit latrines begin build, and in areas with high water tables, these new latrines, polluted the drinking water where people use wells.
- New sub goal needs to include “safe disposal and reuse of waste water and faeces”
Food

- Hunger eradication goal?
- Food security goal?
- Food security is rejected by many NGOs, as can imply a push for more commercialisation and foreign imported food supply.
- NGOs want a Food Sovereignty goal, focus on local food security.
Food - 2

- Women in some parts of Africa 70-80% of food producers.
- Subsistence farmers. Grow indigenous non-cash crop foods.
- Commercial crops come in, men take over.
- Very careful that we do not achieve the opposite of what we want when we start setting a food security goal.
Energy

• Sustainable Energy.
• Access to safe and affordable sustainable energy for all?
• Contradiction?
• Focus should be on those not serviced
• So means decentralized, off-grid combinations of renewable and conventional energy
Geneva, 5 June 2012

Women priorities access to sustainable household energy
Energy

- **Not** focus on grid-dependent inflexible systems
Energy Efficiency

• Energy efficiency increase by 50% till 2020
• World-wide phase out of nuclear industry till 2020.
Geneva, 5 June 2012

Resource Efficiency

• Away from linear, throw away, landfilling economy
• to a zero-waste cycle economy.

• Zero landfilling by 2030
• Zero radioactive waste by 2030
Financing

• How to finance the goals?
Thank you