



**High-Level Political Forum 2018
6th Meeting - High-level Political Forum on Sustainable
Development
Review of SDG7: Energy
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10 July 2018**

Thank you chair

I am Nozipho Wright, from Botswana, expert on gender and energy for ENERGIA Int. network on gender and sustainable energy, and speaking on behalf of the Women's Major Group

Honourable delegates and Colleagues, access to clean energy is no longer regarded as a 'want for those who can afford it'. It is a basic need. Just as much as people die if they do not have access to clean water, the same is the case if they consume polluting energy fuels...

Over 1 billion people still do not have access to electricity. Polluting fuels are used for cooking in **75%** of households in rural communities across the world, **91%** of rural households in Africa! each year there are 2.8 million premature deaths !!!!!. This includes 600,000 deaths in Africa, of which **60% are women!!**

These death are entirely preventable!! And clean and safe energy is the solution.

In addition, Unsustainable energy production is a primary cause of climate change. It is costly in the long-run, and impacts women in particular. Women carry higher biological loads of contaminants from

mining, extraction, milling, processing, manufacture, and transport of energy fuels, including coal, oil, natural gas, and nuclear materials.

Women's leadership in sustainable energy production can help influence policy and regulation to protect people, communities and the planet from contamination from open pit mining, strip mining, mountaintop removal, in situ leaching, hydraulic fracturing, steam extraction, drilling, milling, processing, refinement techniques, transport, and camps. These practices oppress women and result in increased violence against women.

We, the WMG, commend member states and development partners for work done so far to integrate gender issues in energy policies and programmes. Though it has taken almost 20 years to reach this minimal stage. Much more action and much faster is needed now!!

1. We must promote energy democracy and move away from top-down, market-based approaches for energy distribution and control over natural resources. Communities, including women, should have control over their own energy systems as well as over other natural resources.
2. We must empower women in the design, production and distribution of modern energy services by developing their technical and business skills and establishing financing schemes to support gender-specific programmes and women's access to capital.
3. We must establish financing schemes to support gender-specific programmes and women's access to capital, supported by gender disaggregated monitoring!

I thank you for attention.