



High-Level Political Forum 2018

8th meeting: Thematic review

SDG - Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies:

Perspectives of LDCs, LLDCs and MICs

11th July 2018

Isis Alvarez (GFC, Colombia)

Thank you chair,

I speak on behalf of the Women's Major Group

I am from Colombia, a Middle Income Country

As Women Environmental Organisations we work locally with communities and have formulated 3 key priorities for action to build and strengthen resilient societies

- 1) Women's equal participation and leadership in decisions that affect them and their communities is a prerequisite for building resilient societies. From local and community driven decisions to decisions on public investments whether the focus is on street lighting, on safe public sanitation, on pre-school child care, these are all priorities which the women and feminist organisations demand. Gender Responsive budgeting is an essential tool for bringing these priorities into planning and implementation.
- 2) Safe cities and resilient societies are the second key priority, gender based violence is especially acute in our countries, particularly in peri-urban and slum areas, in public transportation, and in rural areas including those where conflict situations are present, and after disasters. In my country, in the last 32 days, 34 environmental and social leaders have been assassinated, in situations linked to conflicts around lands, territories and resources where powerful interests go against indigenous peoples and local communities. We shared this at our side event yesterday, and are calling for much stronger action to end violence against women and especially against women human rights and environmental defenders.
- 3) Our indigenous peoples and local communities are the real experts in resilience, they have survived for thousands of years, and are the world's stewards of nature and sustainable use. If we are to learn from resilience, let us learn from the traditional knowledge that our indigenous sisters and brothers still hold. However, indigenous

peoples and local communities are increasingly facing internal and external threats disappearing together with the associated biodiversity. We call for enhanced awareness about the connection between cities and rural, food producing and natural resources areas. If we do not stop the greedy and unsustainable consumption in cities, our supply for water and other basic resources is undermined. There needs to be more clarity from each citizen that the last remaining natural areas are disappearing! We urgently need moratoria on mining and monoculture tree plantations, healthier diets and stop subsidising biofuels and palm oil, among others.

Thank you Chair.