



Intervention on behalf of the Women's Major Group

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Good morning co-chairs, delegates and colleagues.

As diverse women, feminists and activists of the Women's Major Group, **we will not rest** until we walk out of the UN with a *transformative and inclusive agenda grounded in respect for all human rights and the planet*.

It would be a disservice to billions of women and girls, if we allow rhetoric to blindside the vision of a world where **ALL** can live free from *poverty, violence and discrimination*.

The Women's Major Group identified 10 Red Flags on the Zero draft and I take this opportunity to highlight some of them:

Gender equality and the human rights of women and girls must be recognized as **cross-cutting** throughout the political declaration, and not only in reference to the goals and targets. The zero draft *fails to recognize* that women and girls make up the majority of those living in poverty, *experience persistent, multidimensional and intersecting inequalities*. They also bear a disproportionate burden of economic and environmental crises. We must duly recognize that **human rights** are not only an *inherent entitlement*; they are also *essential conditions for*

gender equality, the eradication of poverty and the achievement of sustainable development that goes beyond economic growth.

Secondly, we need to reaffirm existing human rights obligations and international agreements pertaining to gender equality and women's human rights (- for example, the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women and the Beijing Declaration and ICPD Programme of Action.)

At the core of a human-rights based approach is the principle of non-discrimination without distinction of any kind. This means that *we cannot list a few groups and exclude others* such as the case under paragraph 17. The list must be broadened and explicitly state that there will be **no discrimination of any kind** in the implementation of the Agenda, including for *people of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities.*

Lastly, sustainable development will not be achieved if we continue to ignore the environmental damage created by unsustainable patterns of consumption and production. The zero draft needs to **clearly state** the root causes of ongoing environmental crises in order to transform the current economic growth model that fuels inequalities and destroys the environment.

I am here to say that **What women want is political will and financing to ensure that gender equality is reflected as a cross-cutting theme throughout this agenda; we want strong commitment to the human-rights based approach to sustainable development; and an agenda that puts people and the planet before profit;**