14th meeting on the High-level Political Forum

Tuesday, 7th July 2015.

I am Jessica George (Women's Environment and Development Organization) speaking on behalf of the Women's Major Group.

As we look ahead to 2016 and beyond, a key area of concern for the Women's Major Group is the post-2015 indicator framework which will set the foundation for monitoring progress toward the SDGs. We welcome reflection here on what role the High Level Political Forum may play in this context, and wish to highlight a number of key priorities to ensure a robust and comprehensive indicator framework.

• Research and development of the indicator framework should remain open after the 27th Session of the Statistical Commission rather than being viewed as a discrete agreement to be adopted at a single point in time; there must be scope for further elaboration in the coming years.

• There is an urgent need to concretize finance and capacity-building mechanisms for strengthening national statistical agencies in developing countries, especially prioritizing Strengthening gender expertise.

• National statistics offices should have the primary role of governing data collection and ensuring quality, integrity, and inclusivity at the country level.

• Civil society must have ongoing access to the indicator discussions, with opportunities to contribute and respond to proposals. The important role that civil society plays in collecting and analyzing data must also be recognized. Making data freely accessible, transparent and user-friendly will be essential for implementers at all levels.

• We must recognize that new and innovative indicators will be needed to make sure that we are measuring the factors that are most likely to lead to the transformative change.

• Indicators must highlight not only where there is progress, but also where there are challenges and where financing should be directed. We need to prioritize missing data and filling data gaps.

• The collection of gender-disaggregated data across all indicators must be a priority In addition to gender, data should be disaggregated on the basis of: age, sex, geography, income, disability, race, ethnicity, migrant status and other factors as relevant.

To the panelists, what role do you see the HLPF playing in relation to the Statistical Commission and ongoing processes to define global, regional and national indicators?