



High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development 2015: A transformative integrated agenda: How can governments, societies and the United Nations rise to the challenge?

11th meeting, July 06, 2015

Thank you chair. I am Kehkashan Basu speaking on behalf of the Women's Major Group.

We are pleased to hear countries highlighting the leadership of women and the importance of resources for gender equality.

The Women's Major Group firmly believes that strengthening the participation and involvement of major groups and civil society constituencies, coupled with enhanced responsibility, accountability, and collaboration with Member states is critical to the long-term success of the SDGs. Official recognition of the rights of non-governmental actors to self-organization and autonomy can enhance Inclusivity and integration, because this provides a level of flexibility that allows for new and emerging constituencies and rightsholders to participate effectively in the follow up, review and implementation of Post-2015.

Simultaneously governments should promote a regulatory process for the private sector, ensuring ex-ante assessment of their social and environmental impacts through a human-rights based approach, to guard against potential adverse human rights impacts fueled by perverse incentives that inherently undermine independent public policy making.

Finally, the HLPF can provide a platform for sharing best practices and identification areas of joint action at all levels.

We are all talking about a transformative agenda but how will you ensure that inclusivity of civil society and women as agents of this transformation will be the foundation of enacting the SDGs?

Thank you.