



Women Major Group at UNEA

We had a powerful delegation of some 25 women civil society organisations at the 2nd United Nations Environmental Assembly (UNEA-2), from all continents. It was decided at the Rio+20 conference, that every 2 years all member states of the United Nations will meet for the UN Environmental Assembly, where members states propose resolutions to decide in consensus on key areas of work for UNEP.

At UNEA-1, 8 resolutions had been proposed and approved, at **UNEA-2 it were 25 resolutions** proposed, which were negotiated in three parallel drafting groups, including resolutions on the environmental dimension of the **2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement** on Climate, on oceans, marine litter, chemicals and waste, and environmental damage from conflict including in Ukraine and Gaza.

The first drafts of the resolutions **lacked clearly in gender responsiveness**, but most parts had been prepared during an earlier meeting in February where only few of us were present. In the 2030 Agenda with support of our colleagues from the Danish family planning, and countries including Canada and EU, the existing language from the 2030 Agenda preamble were used "**respect, protect and promote human rights (para 19) and gender equality (para 20)**". In addition language on indigenous peoples and local communities key role in achieving the 2030 Agenda were added.

The **conflict and environment resolution** which was adopted also has language on gender. When around 4 AM, the last resolution came to adoption, on UNEPs role in assessing the environmental damage in Gaza as a result of the war, **the Assembly came to a vote**. The vote did not bring a majority, so the resolution did not pass. But several countries contested the procedures and the assembly did not want to reconvene the next day, as most delegates were set to fly back home. Thus all but one resolutions were adopted, but the final ministerial declaration was not adopted.

The WMG was active as organisers and co-organisers of **several events** on forest communities and marine litter and plastic waste, and spoke at the **High Level Gender**

Forum, including speakers from AWPLD Papua New Guinea and from Gender Water Alliance, Peru.

Some of the WMG organisations had been involved as authors in a major publication the **Global Gender and Environment Outlook**, an abridged version which was presented at UNEA-2, the full version will be presented at the 2030 Agenda High Level Political Forum in July 2016. See

<http://www.unep.org/gender/portals/24117/GGEO%20TRIFOLDER%20final.pdf>

For more information contact the WMG coordinators at UNEP Isis Alvarez, Global Forest coalition and Caroline Usikpedo, Niger Delta Women Movement for Peace and Development. The WMG at UNEP has its own listserve.