



**HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (HLPF)
2017- 11TH MEETING: “Science and policy interface and emerging issues”
Friday, 14 July, 2017**

Statement delivered by Pam Rajput from, MDS/ WOMEN 2030

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, I am Pam Rajput from, MDS/ WOMEN 2030 speaking on behalf of the Women's Major Group. Today, our pink scarves highlight the importance of gender responsive public policies and public services.

How the public policy and services are developed and delivered decides their effectiveness. Women's and feminist activists have advocated for the connection of three P's k, Praxis (evidence from grassroots) - Paradigm (information and knowledge) - Policy, to inform a holistic approach to ensure equality and well-being among populations. Women's agency and voices are critical for public policy development and implementation.

To fulfil SDG 3.7, Member States should ensure universal access to evidence-based, scientifically accurate comprehensive sexuality education to enable youth with skills and information to protect their health, and build their fulfilling futures.

Governments, in line with the Paris Agreement, must implement **science-based climate change policies**, to avoid **irreversible damage**, risking survival of humanity.

The evidence from grassroots and civil society are essential for public policy, **but often not recognized** as such. This includes respect for indigenous knowledge and technology, *without* exploitation.

Public policy should be based on **independent science, rather than ideology, on social, gender and environmental assessments**, and include **full participation** in planning and decision making of diverse stakeholders.

The precautionary principle, as agreed in Rio'92, should be applied to public policies. If there is an indication of potential harm, protection of human rights should have priority over economic interests. It should not be the victims of unsustainable public policies who have to provide the proof of damage, but the causer of the damage.

We hope that the strong Ministerial Declaration coming out of this meeting recognizes the importance of people-centered, gender-responsive, evidence-based policy making, as part of MOI, as well as women's human rights.

Thank you