

## Women's Major Group and Realizing Sexual and Reproductive Justice (RESURJ)

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;**