

UN Conference on Sustainable Development and Governance Rio+20 in Rio de Janeiro from 20 – 22 June 2012

On behalf of the women of Switzerland, we the umbrella organisations for Swiss women's associations, the members of the Federal National Council and Council of States and the Federal Commission for Women's Issues submit to the UN Conference on Sustainable Development and Governance Rio+20 held in Rio de Janeiro from 20 – 22 June 2012 the following

RESOLUTION

Vision

The Rio Declaration on the Environment and Development recognises in Principle 20 that women play a vital role in environmental management and development. We are convinced that women can make an essential contribution to finding answers to impending, urgent environmental problems by proposing innovative solutions. In order to do this successfully, women must be treated as equals to men in all areas of life and in particular have equal access to

- education,
- comprehensive medical care,
- rights to land and land tenure rights,
- information and communication technologies and
- financial loans.

If these demands are met, Millennium Goals 1 – 8 will be achieved.

Access to education

In many developing countries, girls attend school far less regularly than boys. Illiteracy is therefore far more widespread among girls. Millennium Goal No 2 requires that children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling by 2015. We support this goal emphatically.

In order for women to have the same opportunities in the job market as men, as girls they must receive the same education at school and must subsequently be offered the same educational opportunities as boys. The latter applies in particular in fields such as science and technology, where women are clearly under-represented.

In school education and professional education and training, gender-specific needs must be recognised and included in education programmes.

However, qualifications are not only acquired at school and in employment, but also in the household and in doing voluntary work for society.

Access to comprehensive medical care

Access to comprehensive medical care must be guaranteed for everyone at all times, irrespective of where they live and their financial circumstances.

Clean water is a basic requirement for health. Women play a key role in obtaining, managing and using water. Their involvement in all decisions connected with access to water, the improvement of water systems and of agricultural projects that have an influence on the quality of the soil and the health of the people must be guaranteed.

We call on governments to fight resolutely against the illegal export of hazardous chemical products and pesticides. These products are used in agriculture, particularly in developing countries, and can have devastating effects on health.

Access to land and land tenure rights

Eradication of poverty and hunger and the sustainable use of the environment depend to a large extent on access to the relevant natural resources.

Women in rural areas play a key role in the food security of rural families. Although they make a major contribution to food production, they often have only limited land tenure rights. Access to land and land tenure rights are therefore essential.

Family-run farms must be encouraged, as they produce food for local markets. Farmers must be offered training in producing, processing and conditioning agricultural products. This will lead to the creation of permanent jobs.

Land grabbing: this unwelcome effect of globalisation must be stopped immediately. In places where it has not yet taken place, measures must quickly be taken to set up land ownership registers.

The growing population, changing consumption patterns and increasing agricultural production of biofuels are putting huge pressure on food security. The loss and degeneration of agricultural land means that sustainable and environmentally sound cultivation practices are required.

ICT Information and Communication Technology

We acknowledge the great potential of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in supporting sustainable development. Applications of ICT in global environmental and development issues must be supported. We are convinced that ICT can make a contribution to improving the well-being and social equity of a large and growing world population, while conserving the earth's limited natural resources.

Concerning the use of ICT, we stress the importance of equal opportunities: everyone, including women and girls, should be able to use ICT in their private and professional lives, for their benefit and future development. Equal opportunity, non-discriminatory access to ICT for all and the competent use of ICT by all are an essential prerequisite for this. Training in the competent use of ICT and lifelong learning for all must be supported.

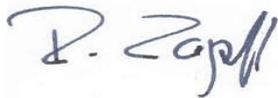
Access to financial loans

For women setting up their own business, access to finance must be guaranteed. They must also have access to expert advice in developing their business and to training in business management. They should be supported in forming cooperatives. It should be possible to obtain reasonable and repayable loans secured by property such as land.

Equal representation of women in decision-making bodies

In order for gender equality to be implemented effectively in all areas of life (civil society, government and business), the corresponding legislation and articles in the national constitution are required. Only under these circumstances will it eventually be possible for women to be represented proportionally in all decision-making bodies, for their perspectives, needs, expectations and demands to be considered and for them to participate in decision-making processes on an equal footing with men.

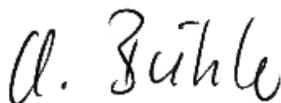
The path to gender equality can be made easier by targeted support programmes or measures such as quotas, as recommended in the CEDAW (UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women). Governments, political parties, trade unions, employers' federations and non-governmental organisations are responsible for their practical implementation.



Rosmarie Zapfl-Helbling, President
alliance F



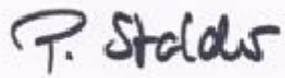
Liselotte Fueter-Fuchs, Co-President
Evangelische Frauen Schweiz EFS



Christine Bühler, President
Schweiz. Bäuerinnen- und Landfrauen-
verband SBLV



Rosmarie Koller-Schmid, President
Schweiz. Katholischer Frauenbund SKF



Priska Stalder, Interim President
Schweiz. Gemeinnützige Frauen SGF
MPs' Representative



Ida Glanzmann-Hunkeler,
National Councillor



Etiennette J. Verrey, President
Federal Commission for Women's Issues

Berne, 14 June 2012