

Report back from Meeting of the Network of Women Ministers and Leaders for the Environment to UNEA-3

5 December 2017
Nairobi, Kenya

Call for Gender-responsive Action for a Pollution-Free Planet

Read by HE Mrs. Carole Dieschbourg, Minister, Ministry for Environment, Luxembourg

Honourable Ministers, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen

Thank you for giving me the possibility to present the outcomes of the Women Ministers and Leaders breakfast meeting of 5th of December at UNEA-3.

More than a 100 Women ministers and leaders met, and discussed in 10 roundtables on the topic of Gender and a Pollution Free Planet.

We shared concerns, gaps and good practices and we made recommendations on action points to be undertaken from national to Global levels.

In her key note speech, the Cabinet Secretary of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of Kenya, Prof. Judi Wakhungu presented how she and her ministry have achieved the single-use plastic bag ban in a period of less than 6 months and the impacts this has had nationwide.

Each of the tables discussed a call for action, calling on UNEA to strengthen support for member states in developing programmes in four key areas: **POLICIES, ACTORS, INFORMATION, and ACTIONS.**

1. We need to support development of **gender-responsive policies and programmes** to address pollution based on precautionary and human rights principles through application of gender equality and safeguard measures;

2. **It is necessary to engage grassroots gender-oriented organisations and women entrepreneurs** in the design and implementation of pollution reduction programs, in developing alternative practices and in applying safeguard policies;
3. We need to improve **access to information related to gender and chemical safety** and support studies with gender disaggregated data on exposures and impacts of chemicals on women and men. There is a need to develop data on the cost of inaction to increase political will to act.
4. Support for **quick-win pollution prevention efforts**, such as phasing out of single-use plastics, eliminating harmful chemicals in products and personal hygiene materials, will bring us further.

The moderator, Dr. Alice Kaudia, *Environment Secretary, of the Kenyan Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources*, called on the Ministers and Women leaders present, to join the Network of Women and Leaders for the Environment to continue cooperation on gender integration into pollution programmes.

We look forward to working together with all member states, UN agencies, major groups and stakeholders, towards a gender-equitable and pollution-free planet.

And finally, I congratulate you, Chair, on a very successful UNEA3.

Thank you