

Ref: EEG/AD2-21/2923/06
Date: 28 October 2006

Sophie DeConinck
UNEP

Re: Progress Report on GC 23/11 on Gender Equality in the Field of the Environment

Dear --- Ms. DeConinck,

Thank you very much for your sending us the advanced copy of the working document on the implementation of GC23/11. The working paper is clear and comprehensive and is very well-anchored on past agreements or legislative mandates on the issue of gender parity. This is a proof that gender issue indeed cuts across the entire UN organization and is given attention by all concerned.

As a civil society organization we would recommend adding or elaborating a section of the working paper to highlight benchmarks undertaken by the UNEP, organizationally and in its programs and activities. This is the best gauge to pinpoint where exactly the UNEP has reached in its effort to mainstream gender parity.

It would also be good to recognize and learn from initiatives undertaken by leading women's organizations from the civil society, who have set high standards for women's participation in development through years of struggle.

Secondly, a selection of key indicators should be made available to all stakeholders to be used for gauging gender mainstreaming. Key indicators should be developed at all levels of the project cycle. The list of these key indicators should be sent to the stakeholders for verification, feedback and approval. The benchmarks to be listed above can be used initially to measure performance based on the key indicators. New benchmarks can then be set.

We hope that these points could be useful in the working paper.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to take part in on-going UNEP discussions.

Best regards,

Habiba Al Marashi
Chairperson
Board Member, UN Global Compact

Together for a better environment
NGO with accredited status with UNEP and UNCCD

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