



Engaging Women in Rio+20



Women's Major Group Presentation of Consultation and Survey Results

Introduction

The Women's Major Group¹ began preparing for Rio+20 in 2010, after CSD 19. First steps included reaching out to networks and raising interest and awareness about Rio+20 and its importance for gender equality and women's empowerment in the context of sustainable development.

In 2011, the Women's Major Group partnered with UN Women to increase women's participation in and impact on the Rio+20 process, particularly grassroots women. Several project activities initiated by the WMG were included in the partnership, such as global outreach, consultations and a survey. Together, the efforts have influenced the WMG positions and recommendations over the last several months, and in particular at Rio+20. The culmination of those activities is women's participation and influence at the Rio+20 Conference itself. Grassroots women and others working closely with grassroots issues in all corners of the world are represented at the historic conference.

Throughout 2010, 2011 and 2012, the WMG facilitated connections through its growing networks, broadening to include not only experts on gender equality and women's empowerment, but also content experts on a range of issues from food and agriculture to chemicals and waste to climate change and energy to sexual and reproductive health and rights,

Consultations with constituents and stakeholders were ongoing and strengthened via the partnership with UN Women. The WMG carried these out via in-person consultations at the Rio+20 preparatory meetings; regular phone calls with the Steering Committee; questionnaires and discussions at related meetings such as CSW and AWID and other meetings of the Steering Committee; meetings organized specifically for the purpose of consulting on Rio+20; and virtual dialogues on the women's networking site, Women Creating a Sustainable Future.

The WMG also launched an online survey in 3 languages, the detailed analysis of which is elaborated below. Together with the consultations, the survey contributed to the following Women's Major Group recommendations.

¹ The Women's Major Group, comprised of over 200 organizations, is facilitated by three Organizing Partners – Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECF), Voices of African Mothers (VAM), and Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN). It is supported by core members including, the International Network on Gender and Sustainable Energy (ENERGIA), Global Forest Coalition, and Women's Environment Development Organization (WEDO).

Recommendations:

Overall, the survey and consultations resulted in a clear call for government commitments, legislation, investment and protection and promotion of women's equal human rights and gender equality. Key recommendations are highlighted here.

Establish and strengthen gender equality legislation and reform or abolish existing legislation that discriminate against women, and commit to programs and legislation geared towards gender equality education as a means to combat institutional discrimination and discriminatory cultural practices.

Enhance women's participation in water management decision and land use policies to provide access to quality sources of drinking water, transportation planning to ensure opportunities to improve livelihoods and employment, and in decision-making on climate change mitigation and adaptation policies.

Establish quotas and other affirmative mechanisms for increasing women's representation and participation in Governmental and political institutions and decision making bodies, as well as in the private sector, with the aim of redressing historical discrimination and achieving parity.

Write and enforce laws ensuring women's access and rights to land and property; expanded access to traditional communal lands, forests, fishing areas; meeting women's energy needs for cooking, agro-processing, water pumping, lighting, communications and income-generating activities

Establish legislation and programs to value the care economy and women's unpaid and informal work and address the following barriers women face such as: childcare during working hours and time spent caring for others (elderly, children, disabled, sick, etc.).

Ensure access to financial resources, loans and grants to women, and invest in training for women in technical and business skills to support women's economic development.

Commit to enforce already adopted gender equality laws and/or laws with mandatory quotas, and ensure proper enforcement mechanisms for gender equality legislation, including access to justice and rule of law when rights and legislation are violated.

Enact a social protection floor to ensure access to essential services such as education and comprehensive health care, and prioritize sexual and reproductive health care services.

Invest in capacity building and awareness raising for women to foster leadership abilities and ensure women are informed about their rights, including basic human rights and how to exercise them, as well as ensuring women can participate effectively as agents of change in their local communities, national institutions and international bodies.

Commit to collection and use of sex-disaggregated data to ensure gender sensitive policies and programs.

Reach an agreement between developing and developed countries so that the latter provide funds and technical cooperation for the above-mentioned programs and policies.

Focus on the Survey

Rio+20 Survey on Sustainable Development: A Gender Perspective

In preparation for the June 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development that will be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, referred to as Rio+20, The Women's Major Group (WMG), with support from UN Women and the Rockefeller Foundation, carried out a survey, 'Rio+20 Survey on Sustainable Development: A Gender Perspective', to **collect input that reflects the diverse views of women from all parts of the world** and builds on existing WMG efforts. At the same time, the WMG wished to **identify areas of focus and convergence**, determined by this survey and other outreach to contribute to Rio+20, the framework for action and follow-up.

The questions on the survey generally reference the 'Zero Draft' of the Outcome Document, which was the starting point for negotiations in January 2012. The WMG is using this survey information to update recommendations that form the basis of interventions/statements at the remaining international preparatory meetings and the Rio conference; write position papers and issue briefs; advocate to government delegates; and propose text additions and changes, among other activities.

One section of the survey offered respondents the opportunity to share information about successful women's projects and helpful policies to provide substantive ideas for governments, the UN, civil society and other activities in terms of what women would like to see accomplished and/or scaled up.

The Rio + 20 conference comes 20 years after the historic Earth Summit of 1992, which set the framework for sustainable development, including its 3 dimensions: environmental, social and economic. Rio+20 has 2 major themes, (1) Green Economy in the Context of Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication and (2) Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development (or governance). Rio+20 will also look at progress and challenges of implementation over the past 20 years, along with emerging issues.

On the following pages is an analysis of some of the priority questions in the survey that serve as the basis for WMG positions in Rio. The questions were developed to assess the progress and status of gender equality and women's empowerment, as well as understand the issue areas of concern to women, within the realm of sustainable development. The survey was available in three main languages, English, French and Spanish. A total of 1260 people participated in the online survey as of June 18, 2012. The analysis is based on the 1,037 people who had participated as of June 1; 695 participated in the English survey, 261 participated in the Spanish survey and 81 participated in the French survey. An additional 339 people responded to a shorter survey with just 6 key questions.²

² The shorter surveys are analyzed separately because of some differences in the manner of responding (e.g. respondents could not rank on the 6 question survey).

Survey Participants

English Survey

Participation in the English survey was the widest as it included people from many different countries and is not necessarily limited to English speaking countries. Of the 1037 respondents to the English survey, 38 people were from India, 35 from the United States, 19 from Pakistan, 18 from Canada, 16 from each Nigeria and Niger, 14 from the Philippines, 12 from Japan, 10 from Australia, 8 from Bangladesh, 7 from each of South Africa, Kazakhstan and Vietnam, 5 from each of China and Spain, 4 from each of the United Kingdom, Portugal, Thailand, Indonesia, Argentina, Jamaica, Palestine and Russia, 3 from Sudan, Nicaragua, Colombia and New Zealand, 2 from each of Afghanistan, Turkey, Finland, Mexico, Ecuador, Bolivia, Brazil and Iraq, and 1 from each of Mali, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Saudi Arabia, Chile, Madagascar, Egypt, Guatemala, France, Puerto Rico, Denmark, Germany, Lebanon, UAE and Jordan.

The 307 manual surveys came primarily from Africa: Senegal 65, Ghana 68 and Cameroon 107.

Female to male ratio - Out of the 695 participants in the English online survey, a total of 24 people identified themselves as males and 491 as females; 180 did not answer their gender question.

Spanish Survey

The majority of the 261 participants from the Spanish survey were either from Spain or Latin American countries.

Female to male ratio – A total of 8 people identified themselves as males and 206 identified themselves as females; 47 did not respond.

French Survey

Of the 81 people who participated in the French survey, 11 were from France, and the others were primarily from Arab and African French speaking countries. Countries represented include: Tunisia, Morocco, Burkina Faso, Belgium, Haiti, Switzerland, Ghana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Algeria, Benin, Burundi, Brazil, Cameroon, Cote D' Ivoire, Senegal, Mali and Togo.

Female to male ratio – A total of 54 people identified themselves as females and 8 identified themselves as males; 19 did not answer.

Survey Analysis

The Questions

The online survey consisted of 37 questions, of which 6 were required. This analysis focuses on these required questions as well as additional relevant questions best suited to understanding important differences and similarities about sustainable development and gender issues in the world. These findings will aid in assessing the greatest needs within the gender/development realm and serve as a useful tool and guide for key issues at Rio+20, as well as for policymakers to make decisions accordingly.

The six mandatory questions were the following:

- 1) Sustainable development has three dimensions, environmental, social and economic. Which one is most important to you?
- 2) Has your country made progress in any of the following areas since the 1992 Earth Summit? 3) Do you think women's groups in your country are sufficiently engaged by policymakers on sustainable development?
- 4) The following priorities for action at Rio + 20 have been identified so far by members of the Women's Major Group (select up to 4).
- 5) A transition to a sustainable economy will include shifts in employment opportunities. In which sectors do you think women will benefit from these opportunities?
- 6) Which services and provisions below are most important for gender responsive sustainable development? Rank them in order of priority, 1 being most important.

In the analysis below, some additional comments by respondents are included to illustrate opinions.

Required Question No. 1

Sustainable development has three dimensions, environmental, social and economic. Which one is most important to you?

"Environmental problems are very much connected to women's problems; women are not realizing this fact. Working with women on environmental issues is very important." Molly V. P. Chacko, female from Madhya Pradesh, India, age 50-59.

"Human Rights; Human Rights are very important to our work because we believe women's rights are human rights and as such we use every opportunity we have to show this." Amy Oyekunle, female from Nigeria, age 30-39.

- ❖ In regard to the first question, about the three dimensions of Sustainable Development and which one is **more important, the environmental, social or economic aspect, clear differences are identifiable between each of the three surveys. English respondents** gave almost an **identical value** to the **social** and the **environmental** aspects of sustainable development, **although slightly higher on the**

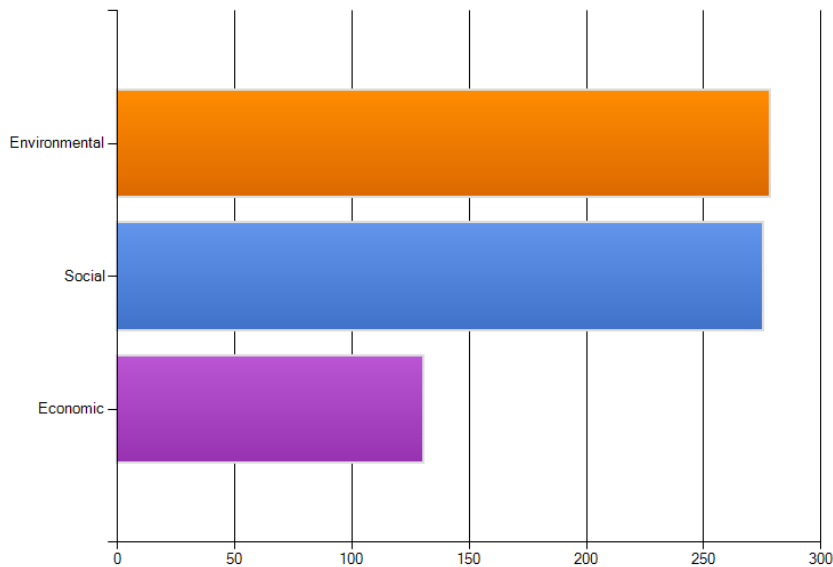
environmental aspects. Spanish respondents gave more merit to the **social** aspects of sustainable development while **French** respondents gave a lot more value to the **environmental** aspects.

“...the most important issue is the advancement and promotion of gender equality in all areas, mainly the prevention of gender violence. In the environmental area it is important to include women in decision making, in particular water management, climate change, and disaster prevention. It is also important to augment capacity building and knowledge of women so that they enhance their contribution to the community and society.”
Yalkiria Pineda Rivera, female from Matagalpa, Nicaragua, Director of CEA Mujer.

Following are the three graphs that show the results of each.

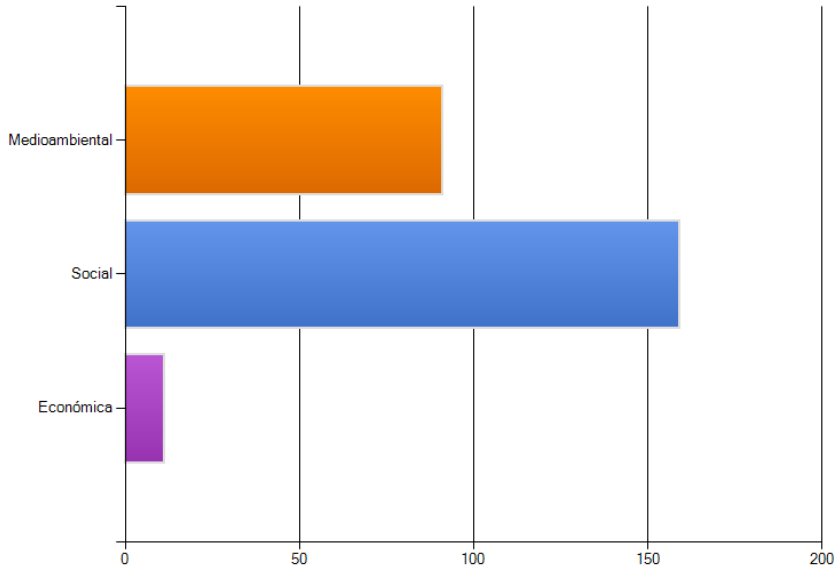
English

Sustainable development has 3 dimensions: environmental, social and economic. Which dimension is most important to you?



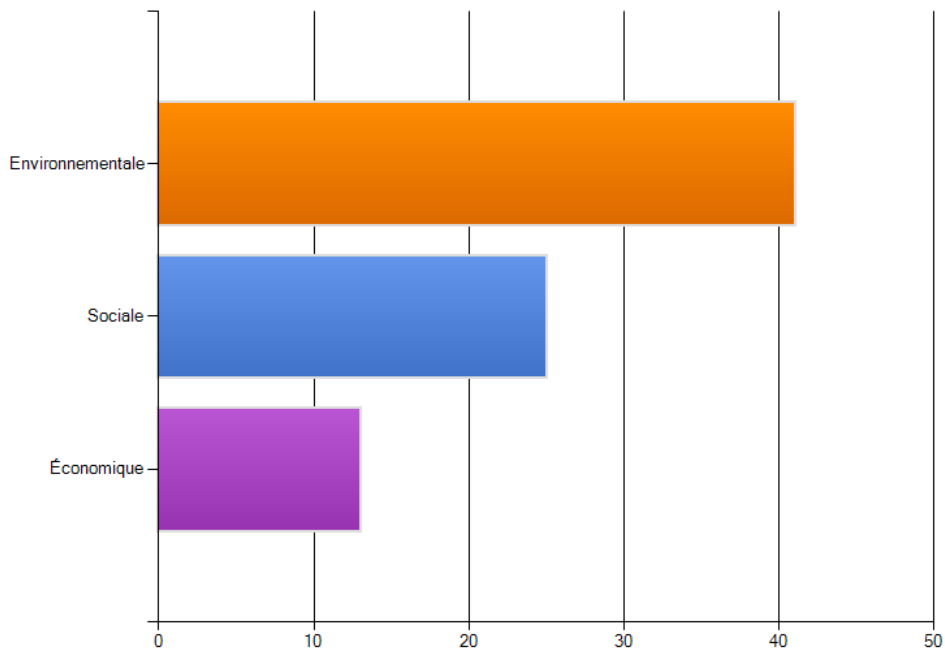
Spanish

El desarrollo sostenible tiene tres dimensiones: medioambiental, social y económica. ¿Cuál de ellas es más importante para usted?



French

Le développement durable a trois dimensions : environnementale, sociale et économique. Quelle dimension est la plus importante pour vous ?



Required Question No. 2

Has your country made progress in any of the following areas since the 1992 Earth Summit?

Access to financial resources; Conservation of biodiversity, natural resources, ecosystems; Availability of technologies for productive uses; Economic development; Social equity and respect for human rights; Poverty reduction/eradication; Empowerment through communications and information technology

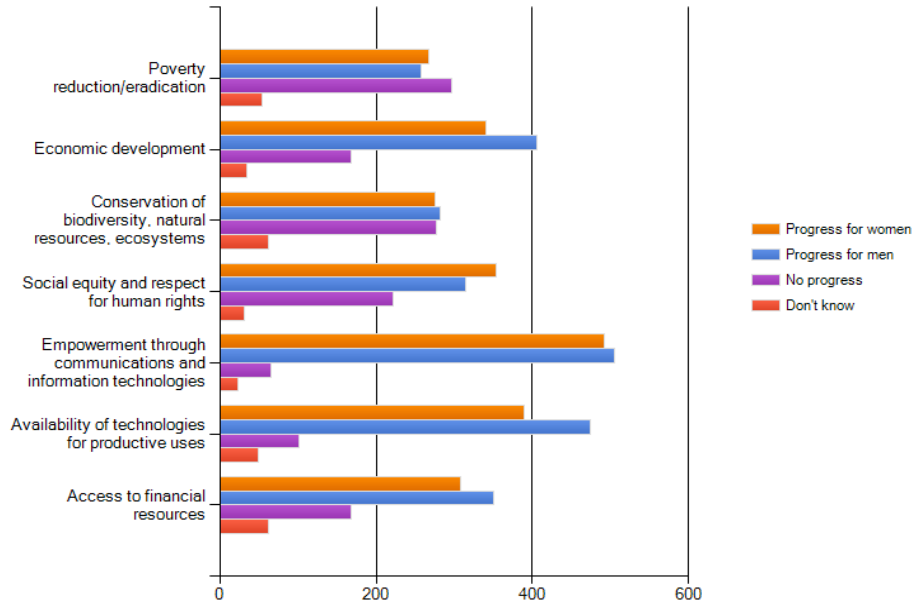
“Poverty has increased especially among women.” Noura Fatchima Djibrilla, female survey participant from Niger, expressed her views about the lack of progress for women in her country since 1992.

- ❖ ***The most striking similarity between all three groups was that the highest progress made for both men and women (women slightly less than men in all cases), was in the empowerment achieved through communication and information technologies.***
- ❖ ***Both in the Spanish and the French surveys a majority of women indicated that there had been no progress in the area of conservation of biodiversity, natural resources and ecosystems.*** French and Spanish respondents also indicated that ***there had been hardly any progress*** in the areas of ***poverty eradication***. Notably, however, this was more prevalent in the Spanish survey.
- ❖ In the areas of ***economic development, access to financial resources, and availability of technologies for productive uses***, respondents from all three groups thought that ***men had had more progress than women***. In the ***Spanish survey***, respondents indicated ***there had been more progress for women than men in social equity and human rights***. A main difference between the English respondents and their Spanish counterparts is that overall, English respondents indicated that women had made the same level of progress (or no progress) as men, while the Spanish respondents indicated more disparity between the sexes in terms of progress or no progress at all, in certain areas. See the graphs below.

“There is still a large disparity between women and men and bias in favor of the latter is always present” Nawal Bousder, female from Marrakech, Morocco, age 21-29.

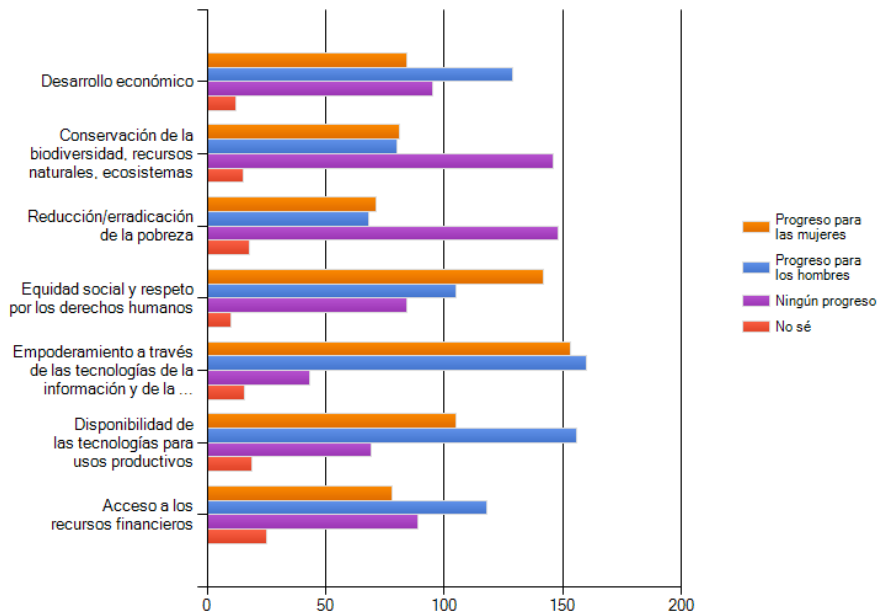
English

Have you seen progress in your country/area over the past 20 years (since the 1992 Earth Summit)?



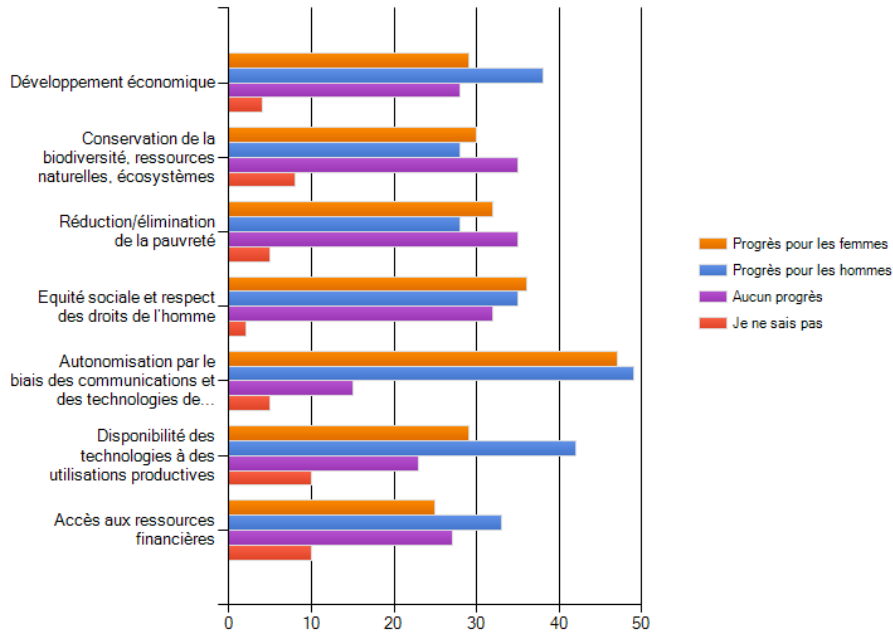
Spanish

¿Ha visto progresos en su país o área en los últimos 20 años (desde la Cumbre de la Tierra de 1992)?



French

Avez-vous constaté des progrès dans votre pays/région au cours de ces 20 dernières années (depuis le Sommet Planète Terre de 1992)?



Required Question No. 3

Do you think women's groups in your country are sufficiently engaged by policymakers on sustainable development? Local level; National level; International level

❖ **All three groups agreed by a significant majority that women's groups are not sufficiently engaged by policymakers on sustainable development at any level.**

The question also asked what improvements respondents would like to see, if they answered no. Below are some of the comments submitted.

"Women and women's groups should have access to the main political/development discussions soon, as to decision making processes. Also the support and financing of women's political and civil initiatives should be the part of state strategy." Julia, female from Moscow, Russia, age 21-29.

"More women in Government – more weight in United Nations." Simon, female from Geneva, Switzerland, age 50-59.

"Greater empowerment of women through exposure in international forums." Bishnu Bhakta Mishra, male from Thimpu, Bhutan, age 40-49.

"Both on the local and national levels there is a need to include more the valuable contributions that women can

make to sustainable development.” Yosmeny, female from Soledad, Colombia, age 21-29.

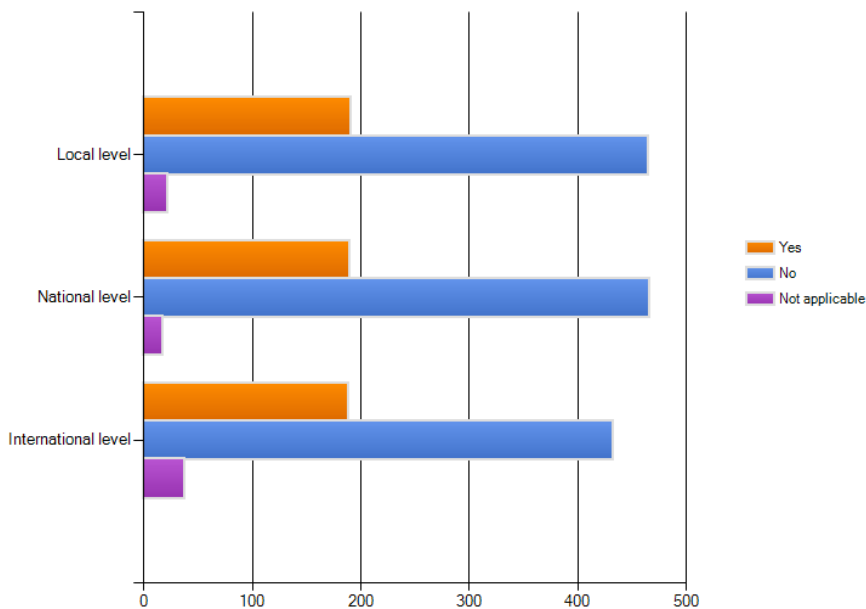
“Parity in gender representation in executive and policy-making bodies, with stronger bias on women from the marginalized sectors of the society.” Frances Q. Quimpo, female from Quezon City, Philippines, age 50-59.

“Inclusion of women in sustainable development issues is necessary not just as the most affected group, but as part of the solution, based on the potential and capacity to generate a sustainable alternative economy.” Mirna Fernández, female from Bolivia, age 20-29.

Below are the graphs that illustrate these findings.

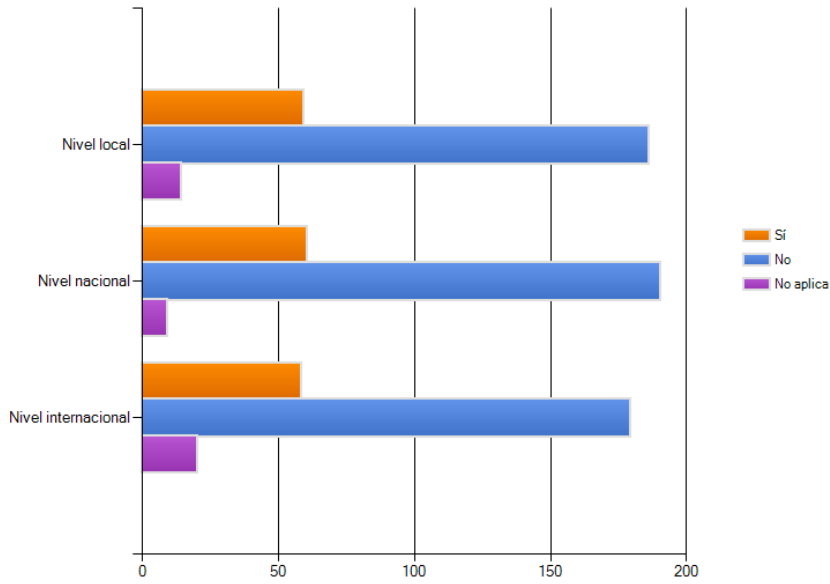
English

Do you think women’s groups in your country are sufficiently engaged by policymakers on sustainable development?



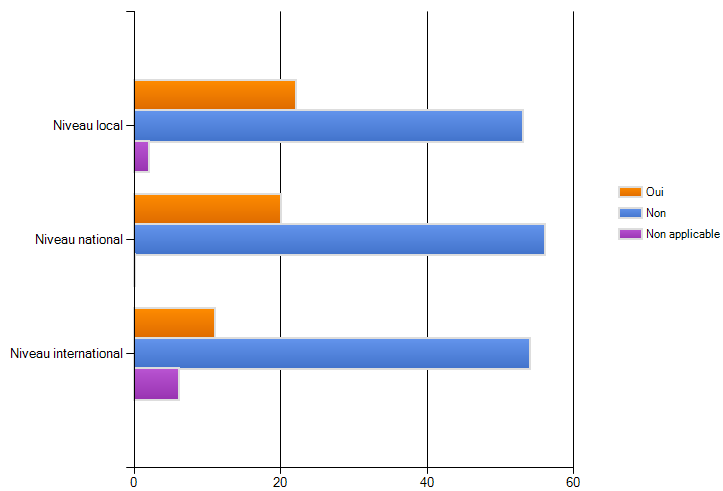
Spanish

¿Cree que los responsables de las políticas en su país han comprometido suficientemente a los grupos de mujeres en materia de desarrollo sostenible?



French

Pensez-vous que les groupes de femmes de votre pays sont suffisamment impliqués sur les questions de développement durable par les responsables politiques ?



Required Question No. 4

The following priorities for action at Rio + 20 have been identified so far by members of the Women's Major Group (select up to 4). What is your priority?

Phasing out of subsidies for unsustainable energy sources based on fossil fuels and nuclear power; Recognition of women's traditional knowledge related to farming, livestock and fisheries; Protection of women's and indigenous peoples' land rights and ownership tenure; Minimizing risks from new technologies and chemicals through application of the precautionary principle, and rapid reduction and elimination of toxic substances; Promotion of women's access to sustainable energy technologies; Application of a 'social protection floor' to ensure access to essential services such as education and health care; Prevention of privatization of common lands and land grabbing; Inclusion of women in water management decisions; Strengthening women's decision-making power and participation in the development and implementation of climate change policies, mechanisms and funding; Assistance to women and families forced to migrate due to land degradation, water insecurity, sea level rise, droughts/floods, land grabs, changing disease vectors and deforestation; Support for women's food security and agricultural rights.

- ❖ All three groups agreed that their number one priority was to ***obtain application of a 'social protection floor' to ensure access to essential services such as education and health care***. Both English and Spanish respondents thought that ***strengthening women's decision-making power and participation in the development and implementation of climate change policies, mechanisms and funding*** was also highly important.
- ❖ Both English and Spanish respondents chose support for ***women's food security and agricultural rights*** as second priority. French respondents chose instead, ***assistance to women and families forced to migrate due to land degradation, water insecurity, sea level rise, drought/floods, land grabs, changing disease vectors and deforestation***.
- ❖ As third priority, **English** respondents chose: ***inclusion of women in water management decision as their priority, while Spanish respondents thought that the progressive elimination of subsidies for non sustainable sources of energy based on fossil fuels and nuclear energy*** was more important. French respondents thought that ***minimizing risks from new technologies and chemicals through application of the precautionary principle, and rapid reduction and elimination of toxic substances*** was more significant.
- ❖ As fourth priority, both English and Spanish respondents chose ***recognition of women's traditional knowledge related to farming, livestock and fisheries***, while French respondents chose ***progressive elimination of subsidies for non sustainable sources of energy based on fossil fuels and nuclear energy*** as being more necessary.

Climate change issues emerged as a main source of concern for African countries. In particular African respondents chose the issue of ***assistance to women and families forced to migrate due to land degradation, water insecurity, sea level rise, drought/floods, land grabs, changing disease vectors and deforestation***.

"Education is one of the most important ways to solve multitude of problems. Female education is one issue which has been low priority for successive governments. Low enrollment rate, high drop-out and social disliking for girls' education are some major issues in female education area."

“Some other priorities keeping in mind the needs of women especially poor rural women from developing countries, are as follows: 1. Women should be allowed to own, cultivate the land and earn an income through it by selling commodities. Also clean energy and sustainable agricultural practices training should be imparted to all such women linked with agriculture to earn a living. 2. Marginalized indigenous people should be provided with micro-funds to start their own environmentally sustainable projects 3. Unemployment mechanisms especially for young women should be addressed.” Sana Chaudhry, female from Bahawalpur, Pakistan, age 21-29.

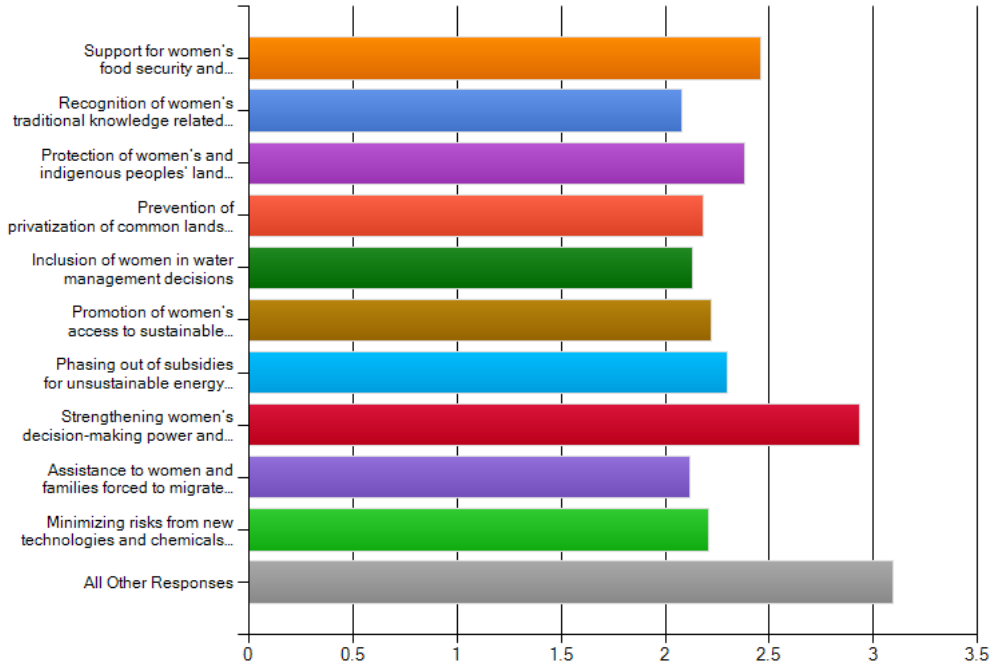
“Food security affects women more than men, as pregnant women need good nutritious food. Women deprived of nutritious foods tend to give birth to low weight babies with several other pregnancy related complications and post pregnancy complications.” Sanaa Lahore, female urban area in Pakistan, age 21-29.

“Water: accessibility, as women have to walk long distances and make many trips to collect water for drinking, for household purposes and for animals. Purity of water/ unpolluted water availability.” Zareen Myles, female from New Delhi, India, Director of WAFD.

Zenabou SEGDA, female from Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, age 40-49 said in relation to climate change and gender that priority should be given to: *“Climate change: To make women a main agent in climate change issues through their involvement in the design and implementation of policies, projects, and programs in this area. Energy: Promote renewable and modern sources of energies and make these accessible to women in rural environments; Gender equality: Urge governments to enforce laws relating to gender equality and make them effective in all socio economic and political mediums.”*

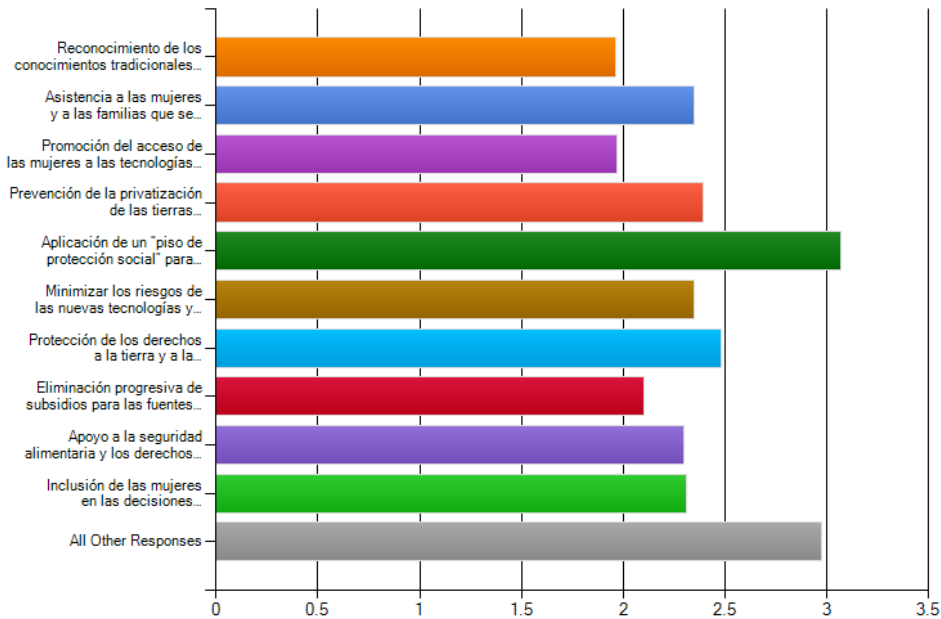
English

The following priorities for action at Rio 20 have been identified so far by members of the Women's Major Group. What is your priority? Select the 4 most important to you.



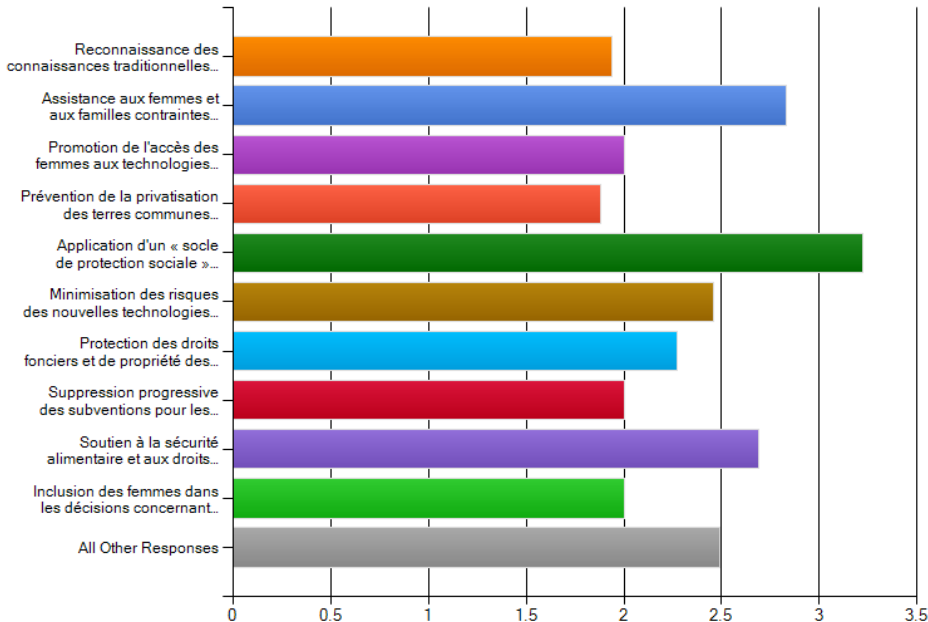
Spanish

Las siguientes prioridades para la acción en Rio 20 han sido identificadas hasta ahora por los miembros del Grupo Principal de Mujeres. ¿Cuál es su prioridad? Elija las cuatro más importantes para usted.



French

Les suivantes priorités pour l'action à Rio 20 ont été à ce jour identifiées par les membres du WMG. Quelles sont les vôtres ? Sélectionnez les 4 priorités les plus importantes pour vous.



Required Question No. 5

A transition to a sustainable economy will include shifts in employment opportunities. In which sectors do you think women will benefit from these opportunities?

Waste management; Tourism; Transportation/Mobility; Information and Communications Technology; Water resources/management; Agriculture and fishing; Energy; Education; Forestry

Significantly Benefit

- ❖ All three groups agreed that women would **SIGNIFICANTLY BENEFIT** from opportunities in **Education** (English Survey – 81.8%, Spanish Survey - 83.7%, French Survey – 78.7%).
- ❖ **Information and Communications Technologies** were second as an area of significant benefits for both English and French respondents (59.0% and 51.7%); Spanish respondents had it third (56.7%).
- ❖ **Agriculture and Fishing** came up as third area of significant benefits for both English and French (56.8% and 47.5%), while Spanish respondents chose **Water Resources and Management** in second place with a 57.4%.

Moderately Benefit

- ❖ All three groups seem to agree on the area in which women can **MODERATELY BENEFIT** from **Transportation and Mobility** (56.7 English, 83.7 Spanish, 50.0% French).

- ❖ In **second place opinions were a bit different. Waste Management** was the choice for English respondents 51%, while **Agriculture and Fishing** was the choice of Spanish respondents 48.7%, and **Tourism** for French with 48.3%.
- ❖ In third place English respondents chose **Forestry** with 49.4%, **while both Spanish and French respondents chose Energy, 48.4% and 47.5% respectively.**

Required Question No. 6

Which services and provisions below are most important for gender responsive sustainable development? Rank them in order of priority, 1 being most important.

Finance: Direct funding to women led projects; Mobile technology (improved/expanded women’s access to); Basic services and infrastructure (improved/expanded women’s access to); Credit and extension services (improved/expanded women’s access to); Expanded health care, including sexual and reproductive health; Training and capacity building for women’s employment/entrepreneurship

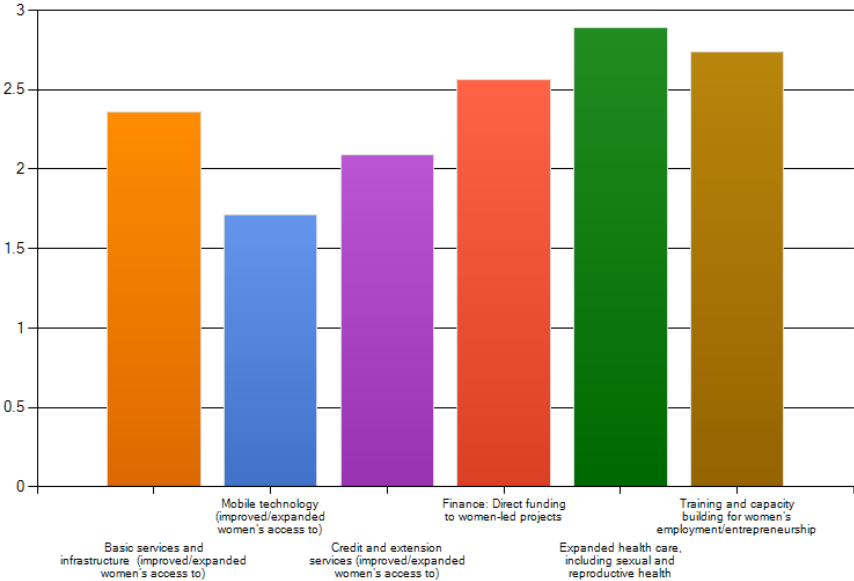
For this question, respondents from all three surveys **agreed in all four priorities.** They stated that the main priorities in order of importance were to obtain:

- ❖ Expanded health care including sexual and reproductive health
- ❖ Training and capacity building for women’s employment and entrepreneurship
- ❖ Finance and direct funding to women led projects
- ❖ Basic services & infrastructure (improved/expanded access to these).

Below are the graphs that show these results.

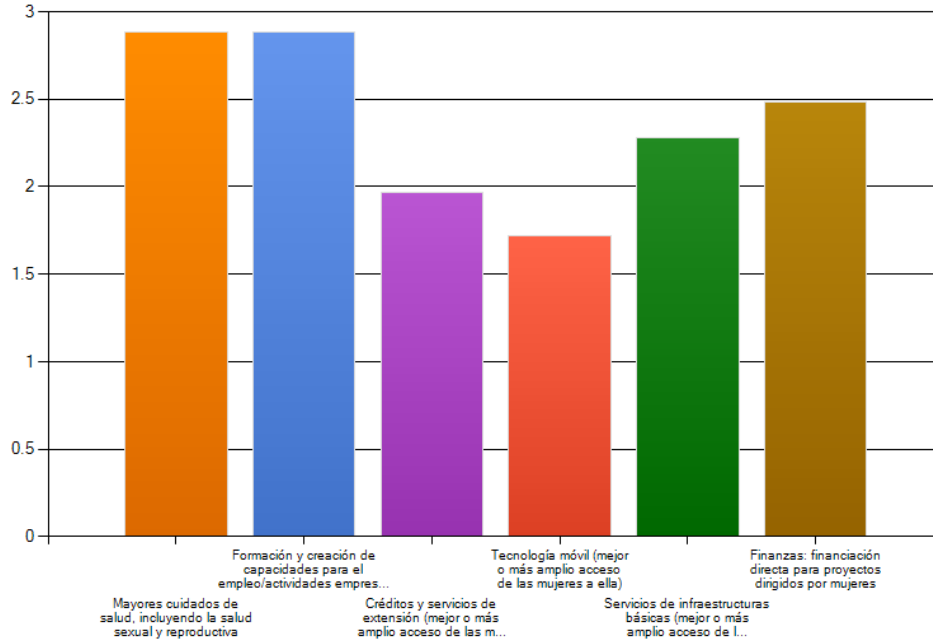
English

Which services and provisions below are most important for gender-responsive sustainable development? Prioritize the 4 most important.



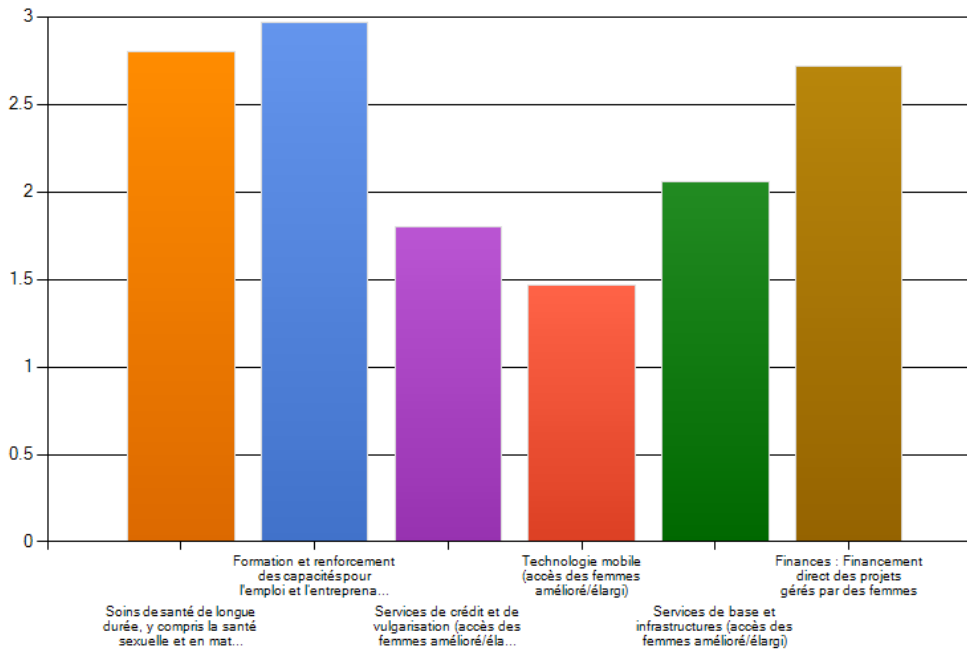
Spanish

¿Qué servicios y disposiciones que se dan a continuación son los más importantes para un desarrollo sostenible atento a los asuntos de género? Priorice los 4 más importantes.



French

Lesquels de ces services et dispositions sont les plus importants pour un développement durable tenant compte des questions de genre ? Classez les 4 que vous considérez les plus importants par ordre de priorité.



Other Relevant Questions

Have you seen setbacks or challenges in your country or area since 1992?

This question compared whether the following aspects affected women more than men or vice versa; however, ***the following provides the 4 responses in which respondents considered women to have their greatest challenges or setbacks.***

- ❖ ***Unemployment*** was selected by all three groups as the area in which women were most affected or faced the most challenges since 1992.
- ❖ An ***increased gap between rich and poor*** was second among the three groups.
- ❖ ***Climate change*** was third among the three groups.
- ❖ ***Increased poverty*** came fourth within English and French respondents and ***loss of biodiversity*** came fourth among Spanish respondents.

As women move into new areas of employment, they will face some barriers to success. Which of the following are the most significant barriers? Select 3

All three groups agreed overall on the main barriers; however, the order of importance was difference.

- ❖ The number one barrier for English respondents was ***lack of childcare during working hours***, while this was **barrier number two for Spanish** respondents.
- ❖ ***Gender discrimination*** was the **number one barrier for Spanish and French respondents and number two for English** respondents.
- ❖ ***Lack of appropriate skills*** was the second main barrier identified by English respondents.
- ❖ ***Time spent caring for others (elderly, children, disabled, sick, etc.)*** was **identified equally by all groups as a barrier to pursue work opportunities.**
- ❖ ***Lack of transportation*** was **equally identified by all three groups as the third main barrier.**
- ❖ ***Access to training/capacity building to prepare for new jobs*** was identified by both Spanish and French respondents to be a barrier towards achieving employment within the second group.
- ❖ ***French respondents differed*** in that they thought that ***time spent on domestic chores was a barrier towards employment.***

Reforms to regulations and laws may be needed for gender responsive sustainable development. Prioritize the 4 most important.

All three groups agreed that introduction and enforcement of gender equality laws and regulations was the number one priority to attain sustainable development.

- ❖ ***Quotas for increased women's participation and leadership in decision making*** was **identified by all three to be the second priority.**
- ❖ ***Land and property rights (improved and expanded access for women),*** was the **third priority identified by all three groups.**
- ❖ After these three main agreements the opinions start to differ but not substantially. For example, ***valuing the care economy (unpaid work) and improvement of or expanded access to traditional communal lands, forests, fishing areas*** was identified by all three to be within the third or fourth priority.
- ❖ Finally, both French and Spanish respondents identified the ***mandatory collection and use of sex-disaggregated data*** as an important mandatory requirement.

Conclusion

Overall, survey respondents showed broad agreement on the priorities, with some exceptions. Respondents of the English and French survey focused more on environmental considerations within sustainable development than the Spanish, who selected the social dimension. In that regard, Latin American respondents highlighted social issues such as gender violence, inequalities between the sexes, health and reproductive issues, human and women's rights, poverty eradication seem to prevail as a source of concern. They noted that there had been some progress for women in social equity and human rights since Rio. Respondents to the Spanish survey also expressed concerns for environmental issues such as water and sanitation, loss of biodiversity, and lack of conservation of natural resources and ecosystems.

Respondents from all three groups thought that men had achieved more progress than women in the areas of economic development, access to financial resources, and availability of technologies for productive uses. They also agreed that **unemployment** is affecting women more than men. Therefore, policies facilitating training and capacity building for women's employment and entrepreneurship are highly necessary. Accordingly, finance and direct funding mechanisms for women led projects are necessary tools to improve women's status in their societies and advance in sustainable development goals.

Overwhelmingly, respondents indicated that women are not sufficiently engaged by policymakers. Policies to improve women's participation must be prioritized within local, national and international arenas. Akin, social programs to train women with the skills and education necessary to tackle the issues in their communities and empower them to take leadership roles in their societies shall be necessary to see progress post Rio + 20.

Women want to see legislation in the following areas: **Gender discrimination** and gender equality laws, **Quotas for increased women's participation and leadership in decision making, land and property rights** (improved and expanded access for women), mandatory collection and use of sex-disaggregated data, valuing the care economy (unpaid work) and improvement of or expanded access to traditional communal lands, forests, fishing areas.

Women's contributions to and benefits from sustainable development will increase with the establishment of policies and programs that address specific barriers to women's participations in the economy, including in jobs that are opening as a result of renewed focus on sustainable development. Women will also benefit if programs are established to address the barriers that women face, including: childcare during working hours, lack of appropriate skills, time spent caring for others (elderly, children, disabled, sick, etc.), lack of transportation and access to training/capacity building to prepare for new jobs.

Among the priorities for Rio all groups agreed that to **obtain application of a 'social protection floor' to ensure access to essential services such as education and health care** was a priority. Yet, English and Spanish respondents thought that **strengthening women's decision-making power and participation in the development and implementation of climate change policies, mechanisms and funding** was also highly important.

Other priorities for Rio include recognizing and implementing policies towards: women's food security and agricultural rights, assistance to women and families forced to migrate due to land degradation, water

insecurity, sea level rise, drought/floods, land grabs, changing disease vectors and deforestation, inclusion of women in water management decision, progressive elimination of subsidies for non sustainable sources of energy based on fossil fuels and nuclear energy, minimizing risks from new technologies and chemicals through application of the precautionary principle, and rapid reduction and elimination of toxic substances, and recognition of women's traditional knowledge related to farming, livestock and fisheries. It is important to note that women in the three groups thought that they were more affected than men in regards to climate change issues.

In terms of employment opportunities for women, **education** ranked as the number one answer of potential employment. All three groups also agreed that women could benefit from opportunities in **Information and Communications Technologies**. **Agriculture and Fishing and Water Resources and Management** were also chosen as potential for employment to different degrees among the groups. **All three groups seem to agree that they could MODERATELY BENEFIT from job opportunities in Transportation and Mobility**, as well as in **Waste Management, Tourism, Forestry and Energy**.

Recommendations

There is an inexorable link between sustainable development and gender. Sustainable development goals cannot be achieved if gender issues are not attended to. Inclusion and consideration of women in all aspects of the sustainable development process is crucial. Women are the most affected by development issues and climate change yet they are the most important agents for progressive change; empowering women and unlocking their potential can hold the key to solve many of these pressing world problems. This is message that must to be included in the main document out of the Rio + 20 Sustainable Development Conference.