

Statement of the Women and Gender Constituency at the opening of the AWG-KP 13,

delivered by Sabine Bock, Women in Europe for a Common Future - WECF

Distinguished delegates:

Women's livelihoods all over the world are already affected dramatically by the impacts of climate change, and we all know these impacts will further increase if there is no effective, legally binding commitment by developed countries to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions: Science tells us that the only realistic target to address dangerous climate change is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 40% by 2020 compared to 1990 levels, excluding offsets.

We share the concern of many other stakeholders that methodologies and modalities for forest management accounting under LULUCF should not undermine the integrity of the Kyoto Protocol and its effectiveness as a legally binding instrument to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. We also insist that forest management accounting methodologies and modalities within the framework of this Rio Convention should not lead to practices that impact negatively on the objectives of the other major Rio Convention, the Biodiversity Convention, or on the rights and livelihoods of women, Indigenous Peoples and local communities in North or South.

We object to attempts to set reference levels so high that, far from reducing them, countries would actually be able to increase their emissions from LULUCF related activities considerably.

We would like to reiterate our strong concern that the forest definition that is currently used for LULUCF includes the good, the bad, and the ugly. That is, it includes real, biologically diverse forests, which are an essential source of livelihood for women and their families, but it also includes monoculture tree plantations, including large-scale monoculture tree plantations that have a devastating impact on women's livelihoods and communities in general. These plantations destroy ecosystems and subsistence agriculture, cause rural unemployment and depopulation, deplete soils and water resources and violate Indigenous Peoples' rights. That is why we insist that the definition of "forests" is revised so as to exclude monoculture tree plantations. Moreover, it should be ensured that forest degradation is fully taken into account in any scheme to conserve forests. We reject any forest-related scheme that ignores or underscores the many different values forests have for women and men. Any incentive scheme that

favors the carbon value of ecosystems more than other values will lead to serious negative impacts on food and water sovereignty, access to traditional medicines and seeds, and the other socio-economic, cultural, spiritual and ecological values of forests, which are of essential importance to women.

We strongly object to the proposed continuation of CDM credits for monoculture tree plantations falsely classed as 'afforestation and reforestation' projects, and to proposals to increase the amount of such CDM credits for those plantations. We also object to proposals to include forest, cropland and grazing land management, soil carbon and other 'land use' in the CDM. If approved, this would provide major new carbon finance for monoculture tree and crop plantations of all types. Financial support for climate change mitigation should not be used to support dangerous, environmentally and/or socially harmful projects like industrial biochar, genetically modified trees and crops, industrial bio-energy expansion, nuclear energy, large-scale hydro-electric dams, clean coal and geo-engineering.