

Intervention 29 November 2010, At UNFCCC COP 16 Cancun

By Sabine Bock, WECF for the Women and Gender Constituency

Thank you Mr. Chair, Distinguished delegates,

My name is Sabine Bock from Women in Europe for a Common Future and I speak on behalf of the Women and Gender Constituency.

I suggest to you to sit back for a minute and envision the world you want your children and beloved ones to live in.

Is it a world as we experienced in some countries this summer? With heat waves, leading to loss of forest, biodiversity, health and lives of people – forest fires which could have led to a global disaster as they rapidly approached radioactive contaminated areas or nuclear power plants? Do you envision a world with extreme floods leading to millions of people losing their livelihoods and lives, a world with murderous droughts or disappearing island-states?

We probably all have another vision for this world, and therefore we urge you to commit:

- ✓ to concrete legislative and administrative steps nationally in order to demonstrate the willingness to lead internationally.
- ✓ to take on legally-binding emission reduction targets without reservations and which match scientific findings.
- ✓ To discount surplus AAUs substantially to ensure environmental integrity.
- ✓ to put in place long-term national action plans for rapidly developing a zero carbon/ emission economy.
- ✓ to keep nuclear energy out of the flexible mechanisms as well as other high-risk, polluting industries and put instead the focus on mitigation actions such as decentralized, sustainable household and community level projects, which will really contribute to sustainable development, to elimination of poverty and will create decent jobs, benefiting women and men.
- ✓ to define forests in such a way that the value of Forest biodiversity is reflected and therefore exclude large monoculture tree plantations from the definitions and to set reference levels in such a way that they lead to real emission reductions.

Let's put the wellbeing of our planet and peoples first – for our common future.