

# Statement of the Implementation in Germany of Chapter K, „Women and the Environment“ of the Platform for Action of the 4<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Women

The paper was prepared by **genanet** and discussed and agreed

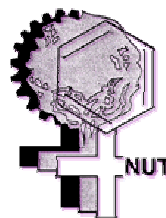
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Network Caring Economy

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## Retrospective view

At the 4th UN World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995 (4th WCW), 188 states agreed on a joint platform for action, "Equity, development and peace", which was intended to serve as a guideline for future action in policy towards women. Since then, the situation for women has not substantially improved; indeed, in many parts of the world it has worsened. At the same time, it has for years been noticeable at the level of international conferences and meetings that the topics of women, women's rights, equality and gender justice have been declining in importance on the wider agenda and are increasingly encountering resistance. In discussions on the crucial issues of globalisation, the world economy, terrorism and war, gender aspects are largely overlooked, and indeed a decidedly hostile attitude towards gender equality issues can often be detected. Against this background, the United Nations shied away from holding a fifth UN World Conference on Women in 2005, because it was feared that considerable retrograde steps would have been taken relative to the resolutions adopted in Beijing. Instead, a review of the implementation of the platform for action will take place at the regular session of the *Commission on the Status of Women* (CSW) scheduled for Spring 2005.

The present statement relates exclusively to the implementation in Germany of chapter K, "Women and the environment", of the platform for action and is linked to working group 12 on "Women and the environment", which was set up at the Ministry for Women's Affairs to prepare for the 4th WCW. The statement was discussed and adopted in its present version at a workshop organised by **genanet** - focal point gender justice and sustainability. The demands were drawn up in the hope of making a contribution to the sustainable and effective implementation of chapter K in Germany. It is anticipated that the German Federal Government will initiate the appropriate steps without delay.

### **1. Changing institutional structures in order to increase the proportion of women and to involve female specialists and scientists in areas relevant to the environment**

*What does chapter K of the platform for action say on this topic?*

The objective is to "ensure opportunities for women to participate in environmental decision-making at all levels, including as managers, designers and planners, and as implementers and evaluators of environmental projects" (Art. 253 a) and to "establish strategies and mechanisms to increase the proportion of women involved as decision makers, planners, managers, scientists and technical advisers and as beneficiaries in the design, development and implementation of policies and programmes for natural resource management and environmental protection and conservation" (Art. 254 d).

*What has been implemented in Germany in this area? What were the supporting/limiting factors?*

While the proportion of women in the federal authorities has increased, there are still far fewer women than men in senior management and decision-making functions. Although the Federal Environment Ministry has a 50% quota of women at the political level (Ministers and Secretaries of State), at the administrative level only one department out of seven is headed by a woman and in the Federal Environmental Agency only one out of six divisions. The situation in the environmental organisations is even more striking – only four out of 97 environmental organisations are headed by women. The proportion of women employed in bodies under the control of the federal government more than doubled between 1990 and 2001 (average for all ministries: an increase from 7% to 15.9%; Federal Environment Ministry: an increase from 2% to 9.8%), but the staffing is still far from being balanced. The

goal set out in the law on the appointment and deputation of women and men in bodies under the control of the federal government (Bundesgremienbesetzungsgesetz – BgremBG [Appointments to Federal Bodies Act]), namely “the equal participation of women and men in official bodies” (section 1, article 1) has until now been implemented only inadequately: for example, only three of the 22 members of the Nachhaltigkeitsrat [Council for Sustainable Development] are women.

Limiting factors: Women still lack the informal structures (e.g. networks) which are important for appointments to committees and individual posts. In addition, the prevailing dominance of men in decision-making positions/committees results in appointment criteria being tailored more toward male qualifications. The striking lack of childcare facilities and of fathers who are prepared to take on the work of parenting also plays a part keeping women out of managerial positions.

Supporting factors: Affirmative action programmes, together with the Appointments to Federal Bodies Act and the Bundesgleichstellungsgesetz [Federal Equal Opportunities Act], have led to improved perception of the problem and ultimately also to an increase in the proportion of women in public service, although there is still a substantial need for further action. These laws do not affect organisations, hence there is an urgent need for voluntary agreements and/or voluntary commitments in order to comply with the statutory mandate of equality.

*What must be done in order to make implementation more effective and sustainable in future?*

- When making appointments to senior posts in public service, gender competence must be applied as a decisive selection criterion. Existing managerial staff (both men and women) must be made aware of gender aspects, for example through compulsory gender training programmes.
- When making appointments to committees (in particular the Council of Experts on Environmental Issues, the Advisory Council on Global Change, the Council for Sustainable Development), special efforts must be made to nominate qualified women. The appointment procedures must be transparent and gender competence should be demonstrated by all candidates. The aim should be for the proportion of women to be at least 40% by 2010.
- Women’s associations and organisations and/or gender experts must be included and consulted at all consultations (e.g. on amendments to the law or new environmental-policy plans and programmes).
- Environmental organisations must draw up an institutional gender policy, i.e. establish gender justice as a goal in the area of personnel policy and in the content design of topics and projects as well as in the organisation’s mission statement and/or basic programme, and set out steps for achieving this goal. It will be necessary to create an appropriate policy climate and to use clear work assignments to communicate this goal.
- When making appointments to senior positions in environmental organisations, agreements of targets for increasing the proportion of women should be reached and gender competence applied as a selection criterion. Existing managerial staff must be made aware of gender aspects.
- Environmental organisations should ensure greater transparency by regularly recording and publishing details relating to the gender composition of their membership and decision-making structures.

## 2. Measures, methods and instruments for incorporating the gender perspective and implementing gender mainstreaming

*What does chapter K of the platform for action say on this topic?*

The integration of the gender perspective into the design and implementation of policies is mentioned at several points in the platform for action. What is important here is both to implement specific measures and, centrally, to develop (further) methods and instruments which will guarantee the integration of the gender perspective not only in the planning of a measure or law, but also during the course of its implementation.

*What has been implemented in Germany in this area? What were the supporting/limiting factors?*

The Gender Mainstreaming strategy, which provides for the integration of the gender perspective at all decision-making levels and in all policy programmes and measures, was anchored as a consistent guiding principle in the Common Ministerial Rules of Procedure. For the purposes of its implementation, an interministerial working group on gender mainstreaming with a co-ordinating role was set up and pilot projects were carried out in all ministries.

Further development of the *Gender Impact Assessment (GIA)* instrument for the environmental sphere was carried out in the Federal Environment Ministry as part of a pilot project on gender mainstreaming. The "prototype" developed in this context was included in the work aid on article 2 of the Common Ministerial Rules of Procedure: "Gender mainstreaming in the preparation of legal provisions" (gender-differentiated assessment of legal consequences), which is intended to be used for draft legislation. An implementation structure which is intended to form the basis for the comprehensive integration of gender mainstreaming within the work process in the Federal Environment Ministry was also set up. Over the last three years, the Federal Environmental Agency has implemented the "Gender relations and sustainability" project, the goal of which was the integration of the gender perspective into the specialist work of the Federal Environmental Agency, and has set up appropriate structures there. However, the permanent and consistent anchoring of the gender perspective is still a long way off.

*Federal, state and local authorities:*

Limiting factors: The implementation of gender mainstreaming is still highly dependent on the personal commitment of individuals. In departments where there are no such individuals – these are often the more technology-dominated areas such as for example energy or climate protection – there are correspondingly also no activities relating to integration of the gender perspective. The situation is made more difficult on the one hand by the fact that limited data is available on gender aspects in the various environmental fields and gender relevance is therefore difficult to demonstrate, and on the other hand because generally little or no resources in terms of time and finance are made available for dealing with the gender perspective.

Supporting factors: Various GIA tests and pilot projects in the Federal Environment Ministry and Federal Environmental Agency demonstrated that integrating gender aspects opens people's eyes to other issues. In this way, the quality of environmental measures is also improved and information and PR work can be targeted more selectively. This underlines the important role that pilot projects can play. At the same time, however, the relevant data basis must be provided. The setting up of supporting and networking structures (genanet – focal point gender justice and sustainability], womnet – women's network point international women's policy) helped in the development of positions from the gender perspective, in carrying out lobbying work and in disseminating the results.

In addition, within the framework of the sponsorship of organisations, the Federal Environment Ministry and the Federal Environmental Agency have financed projects which served to support these processes and/or the implementation of gender mainstreaming at the organisational level. Gender mainstreaming has not yet established itself at the level of the environmental organisations. This situation should be improved by talks which are being held regularly between the Federal Environment Ministry and environmental organisations on gender mainstreaming in relation to key issues (e.g. energy, chemicals).

*Environmental organisations:*

Limiting factors: A study by the Deutscher Naturschutzring (DNR) e.V. (the umbrella organisation of German nature conservation and environmental protection organisations) has shown firstly that there is clear resistance to accepting ideas about the issue of gender : people regard gender aspects as secondary, unimportant or irrelevant and do not see findings in research on gender and women's issues as being relevant to their own (scientific) working environment. Secondly, the environmental organisations, with their male-dominated decision-making structures and positions, show a structural rigidity that counters innovation and change processes.

The women's associations, on the other hand, rarely tackle the themes of the environment and sustainability. As a consequence, the institutional basis and the power to enforce demands for gender justice in environmental and sustainability policy has remained rather limited.

Supporting factors: There are a number of initiatives, model individual projects and active individuals pushing forward the theme of gender issues. In this context, it is expected that the "Gender Greenstreaming" project recently launched by the DNR will demonstrate methods and instruments for changing structures and removing the inertia regarding gender justice in environmental protection and nature conservation organisations.

*What must be done in order to make implementation more effective and sustainable in future?*

- All ministries should anchor their gender mainstreaming commitments more securely and implement them more broadly. In order to do this, projects reappraising and highlighting gender aspects and gender relevance will also be required. The interministerial working group on gender mainstreaming must create an institution that will examine, communicate and make publicly transparent the implementation of gender mainstreaming. On top of this, existing extra-ministerial structures for supporting gender mainstreaming in the environmental sphere and the networking of gender experts must be financially stabilised and institutionalised.
- The instrument of gender budgeting must be further developed and deployed in the environmental sphere. All flows of public finance must be analysed for their impact on gender relations. This analysis must also be carried out in respect of the funds' beneficiaries and the use of the funds. The results of the analysis must be published.
- The performance of gender analyses and the integration of the gender perspective must become a routine and integral component of the work of environmental organisations. Public funding must be linked to evidence that this has been done.
- In all institutions relating to the environment, goals for the integration of the gender perspective must be drawn up and then observed using a functional monitoring system, and, where necessary, corrective measures must be taken.

### 3. Research and development

*What does chapter K of the platform for action say on this topic?*

“Governments have expressed their commitment to creating a new development paradigm that integrates environmental sustainability with gender equality and justice within and between generations”(Art. 248). Among other things mentioned are the “integration of the results of gender-sensitive research into mainstream policies with a view to developing sustainable human settlements” (Art. 256 e), “ensuring adequate research to assess how and to what extent women are particularly exposed to environmental degradation and hazards” (Art. 256 c) and the “analysis of the structural links between gender relations, environment and development” in various environmental areas (e.g. agriculture, climate, water). To support this, the platform for action demands the “development of gender-sensitive databases, information and monitoring systems and participatory action-oriented research, methodologies and policy analyses, with the collaboration of academic institutions and local women researchers” (Art. 258 b).

*What has been implemented in Germany in this area? What were the supporting/limiting factors?*

The drafting and initial updating of the national sustainability strategy have theoretically opened up an opportunity for linking the environment, gender justice and future-proof development, although this has not been taken advantage of to the extent hoped for/demanded. Ignorance in the matter of gender justice was already evident when the appointments to the Council for Sustainable Development were made by the Federal Chancellery, which was in charge of the process. At the time of the initial updating of the sustainability strategy and the process of dialogue carried out for this purpose, the Federal Environment Ministry sought to involve gender organisations and female gender experts. **genanet** - focal point gender justice and sustainability prepared and distributed position papers on the various subject areas of the sustainability strategy, but these are only given marginal coverage in the progress report.

In the area of research, particularly in the exploratory projects on socio-environmental research, there have been some positive initiatives, but these have not been continued in the main programme.

Limiting factors: In the field of socio-economic research there is also a huge discrepancy between the demands formulated on paper and their implementation in practice: only a few of the projects integrate gender aspects throughout; in some, isolated gender aspects are integrated (sometimes expertise is delegated to third parties), but these aspects are often overlooked and also not insisted upon in line with programme requirements by the sponsors.

Supporting factors: Since 2003, the Federal Environment Ministry/Federal Environmental Agency have been funding the “Gender justice and sustainability” focal point, which facilitates improved networking, the development of position statements and support for the gender perspective in environmental and sustainability policies.

The Federal Ministry for Education and Research has set up support programmes in the area of socio-environmental and sustainability research, in which gender is anchored as an analytical category. At the state level, there have been and still are a number of one-off programmes in the area of research into women’s affairs and gender research, but these unfortunately seldom fund projects directly linked to environmental/sustainability topics.

Within the framework of the interministerial working group on gender mainstreaming, the federal government has developed a range of work aids, including one for integrating the gender perspective into departmental research. The compulsory use of this work aid in environmental research (e.g.

UFOPLAN) should lead to an improvement in the data situation (which has until now been problematic) with regard to gender relations and the environment/sustainability.

*What must be done in order to make implementation more effective and sustainable in future?*

- The concept of gender-sensitive environmental research must be further developed and put into concrete terms in the various subject areas, in particular with regard to the way in which the gender perspective impacts on the formulation of research questions and ways of looking at problems as well as on research programmes.
- Institutional structures and institutionalised procedures must be created which will guarantee that the results of gender research will be incorporated into policy making and that the results of gender-sensitive environmental research will be communicated widely. Appropriate resources must be made available for this.
- Consideration must be given in the ongoing process of updating the national sustainability strategy to the positions on environmental/sustainability issues which have been drawn up from the gender perspective, and gender experts and women's/gender NGOs must expressly be included in the policy-making process. An appropriate strategy must be developed for this purpose. A monitoring system should be developed to allow citizens, NGOs, special-interest groups etc. to check on the implementation of the sustainability strategy from the gender perspective.
- Research projects funded by the Federal Environment Ministry and other ministries relevant to the environment must rigorously integrate and examine gender aspects. Personal data must be collected and evaluated in a gender-disaggregated way. Furthermore, gender research projects should be sponsored in a targeted way, using finance ring-fenced for this purpose. For quality assurance purposes, criteria must be developed which can be used to review whether the gender perspective has been integrated comprehensively. The institutionalisation of gender research as well as executive training at the gender and environment/sustainability interface are necessary.
- Funding for non-university research institutions must be made dependent on the demonstrated implementation of gender mainstreaming (in terms of content as well as structure) and on proven gender competence.
- The content of courses in technical disciplines must be redesigned. In line with the idea of sustainability, courses of study and training which are narrowly focussed on one discipline must be (re-) formulated in a more interdisciplinary way, theory must be linked to practice and everyday experience to traditional knowledge and the latter must then be reassessed. Technical and scientific content must be linked to sociological and environmental content.
- Particular support must be given to research programmes that look into the (further) development of alternative forms of society and the economy outside the growth and development paradigm and into the structural connections between gender relations and the *creation* of sustainability/environmental problems (e.g. in the area of traffic).

#### **4. Education**

*What does chapter K of the platform for action say on this topic?*

The platform for action demands the "facilitation and improvement of women's access to information and education, especially in the areas of science, technology and economics" (Art. 253 b). However, women must also be more heavily involved in the generation of knowledge (see item 2).



*What has been implemented in Germany in this area? What were the supporting/limiting factors?*

On principle, Germany formally provides equality of access to education and information, and overall girls/women in the Federal Republic now even have a higher level of education than boys/men. They attain better marks and have better qualifications when they leave school/education. However, this has not yet been reflected in appointments to senior positions in the labour market.

Particularly where technical jobs and internet access are concerned, there continue to be serious gender differences. Despite a plethora of projects on motivating girls/women to take up technical careers, Germany still ranks lowest in the European Union in this regard and falls into the bottom third of countries worldwide. While women do have increasing access to the internet, the gap between men and women, which had been narrowing for a few years, is now widening again. Differing opportunities for using the internet together with a failure to engage women selectively in order to attract their attention has resulted *de facto* in men and women being informed to differing degrees.

Limiting factors: There have to date been few studies examining the differing levels of access of men and women to technical careers from a structural point of view (teaching content and materials, teaching methods, teaching staff, organisation of the learning/teaching programme etc.). There is a shortage of models which actually address the causes and/or implement existing findings (e.g. women are more interested in technical disciplines when these are placed in an environmental context).

Supporting factors: Partially gender-disaggregated teaching can help girls to pursue their interests. The increasing take-up of the opportunities offered by "Girls' Day" also shows that role models and practical investigations have a positive impact on career choice options. Networking and mutual support in organisations of employees in occupational categories (e.g. Frauen in Naturwissenschaft und Technik – NUT e.V. [Women in Science and Technology (Registered Association)], Deutscher Ingenieurinnenbund – dib [German Association of Women Engineers]) help to weaken traditional preconceptions of roles and career images.

*What must be done in order to make implementation more effective and sustainable in future?*

- The entrenchment of "gender stereotyped" careers must be opposed as a matter of principle. This also means that so-called "careers for women" must also be made accessible and more attractive to boys and men. This process must begin at playgroups and schools, but it must also be fundamentally rethought through a (re-)evaluation of work (e.g. technical versus social work).
- The teaching of gender skills must begin at the stage of teacher/educator training, and gender and the environment must be included in the curriculum and made more "accessible" through practical learning.
- By breaking down the barriers between the separate parts of education, lifelong learning should receive further continuous support through targeted financing (children learning at political centres, pensioners visiting schools, "Grandma Day" as an idea for a project to pass on "generation-specific" knowledge e.g. about sustainable consumption, university for home-makers). The gender perspective must be integrated into existing "education for sustainability" programmes (both curricular and extra-curricular).
- All sections of the population / interest groups must have the same opportunities to access information on the environment. In order to ensure this, information (e.g. information materials from the ministries on topics relevant to the environment) must be redrafted in such a way that the content and layout as well as forms of address and methods of distribution do not implicitly or explicitly exclude any sector of the population / interest group.

## 5. Participation and involvement of citizens

Political processes which are developed, planned and formulated with the broad involvement of citizens are more sustainable in many regards: they are more readily accepted by the public and the inclusion of (all) relevant points of view, interests and needs as well as knowledge and experience means that their quality is many times higher. The transparency and traceability of the link between participation processes and decision-making processes is fundamental to the credibility of such processes. If the population, i.e. all relevant sectors of the population and interest groups, can only "take part", without this having any bearing on decision-making, participation becomes a farce. The support of the population in the implementation phase and thus also the sustainability of these processes are then lost.

*What does chapter K of the platform for action say on this topic?*

In this area it addresses the **participation, particularly of women, in the identification of needs**, in terms of public services, spatial planning and the provision and design of urban infrastructure. (Art. 253 g) as well as the **involvement of women as beneficiaries** (or persons affected) **in the design, development and implementation** of policies and programmes for natural resource management and environmental protection and conservation (Art. 254 d). Of central importance is the "**integration of women,...** their perspectives and knowledge, on an equal basis with men, **in the decision-making process**" (Art. 256 a).

*What has been implemented in Germany in this area? What were the supporting/limiting factors?*

The process of drawing up and implementing Local Agenda 21 began rather tentatively in Germany. However, today nearly 20% of local government units do have an Agenda resolution. The participation of women in these development processes was at first only on the margins. Following a wide-scale information campaign and support for their involvement from the state ministries, local women's offices and women's (environmental) networks, their participation increased considerably. There is unfortunately a lack of data on the current status of the participation of women and of other sectors of the population / interest groups. It is clear here that the support structures set up for such processes and funded continuously from the public purse (e.g. Agendatransfer, Forum Umwelt & Entwicklung [Environment & Development Forum]) have not to date dedicated any attention specifically to gender aspects. Women's networking and co-ordinating structures have received rather sporadic/intermittent funding, which has resulted in experience accumulated there being lost and data failing to be updated.

Limiting factors: In the LA21 processes, a truly cross-sectional treatment of the pillars of sustainability (the environment, the economy, social matters, institutional conditions) has only very rarely been achieved. As a rule, experts from the environmental sphere concern themselves with the environment, those from the social sphere with the social issues within the framework of the Agenda, etc. This has prevented both the increased involvement of women in the decision-making processes, e.g. on future energy provision, and the implementation of gender mainstreaming.

It can be stated, above all with regard to public infrastructures in the areas of energy, transport and water, that the opportunities for participation (not only) for women decline as the privatisation of public services increases. This is closely linked to the tendency toward monopolisation, which goes hand in hand with liberalisation of the markets, and in particular to the fact that decisions are no longer taken at the local level, but at the corporate level.

Supporting factors: The LA21 processes have clearly shown that the increased and decision-making participation of women requires financial and structural support. The more these were available, the more comprehensive and effective was the involvement of women. There are a number of positive examples, in which an attempt has been made to address the various specific target groups and to in-

volve these in local government planning processes. These are to be found not only at the level of Local Agenda 21 processes (e.g. in Duisburg), but also at the level of town and regional planning (for example, gender planning in the town of Kaiserslautern). It is often a question of research projects, which can certainly initiate processes. However, the extent to which these have an impact beyond the confines of the research project and are anchored long-term in local government structures must be examined here. Particularly at the local level, the motivation and commitment of individual persons (groups of persons) play an important role as a key supporting factor.

*What must be done in order to make implementation more effective and sustainable in future?*

- All instruments for involving citizens must be examined and, where necessary, restructured (e.g. new forms of participation) both with regard to the participation of the various relevant interest groups and/or the diverse empirical skills and with regard to integration of the gender perspective into the design and use of the instruments. Configurations of gender problems must expressly be included right from the initial analysis of the situation.
- It must be ensured that the decision makers and co-ordinators in all participation processes possess gender expertise.
- All participation processes must exhibit gender balance in their composition. Reference should be made here to the example of a Swedish law which states that decisions are valid only if the decision-making bodies are composed of at least 40% each of women and men.
- Networking and co-ordinating structures for gender-balanced participation and/or the participation of women must be sponsored continuously. Other structures which are supported from public funds must commit themselves to gender mainstreaming. Adequate financial resources must always be provided for participatory processes.

## 6. Equality of access to and control over resources

*What does chapter K of the platform for action say on this topic?*

The objectives of the platform for action relate to **equal access to** and **equal control over** (Art. 256 g, cf. also Art. 256 b) urban and rural infrastructure (transport infrastructure, public transport, day nurseries, etc.), natural resources (air, water, energy, etc.) and information, education and technical advice (see item 4). "Public welfare resources" (state or local government property) are not explicitly mentioned in chapter K, but there is an urgent need for them also to be taken into consideration.

*What has been implemented in Germany in this area? What were the supporting/limiting factors?*

It must basically be stated that current trends toward the privatisation of public services and the liberalisation of markets (water, energy, transport) tend to make access for women (and many men) to the services and their ability to influence the planning of these services more difficult. We are a long way here from "participatory assessment of demand".

Limiting factors: It has been discovered, not only in Germany, that the privatisation of public services (energy provision, water and sewerage services, public transport) leads to significantly higher prices being charged for the services concerned. While it is true that the costs for bulk consumers have been massively reduced, private households and small businesses have to share the cost of this price reduction. Because of the differing levels of financial resources available to men and women, this ultimately leads to differing levels of access to these supply services. Added to this is a marked trend towards monopolisation, as can currently be seen in the supply of energy and water, which results in local suppliers (municipal utilities) being unable to hold out against the concentration of the markets.

This also reduces the opportunities for women to exert influence, which are traditionally greatest at the local level.

*What must be done in order to make implementation more effective and sustainable in future?*

- Environmental policy must be formulated in such a way that it actively counters “environmental injustices”. A prerequisite for environmental justice, which also includes gender justice, is the safeguarding of democratic/parliamentary control over the “supply infrastructure”. A right to infrastructural supply (including a minimum quality of goods supplied) must be enshrined in law.
- There is very little gender-disaggregated data on access to and use of resources in the North. The need for research in this area is consequently great and must be met in a deliberate manner. The North-South dimension must be brought into the resources debate and the impact of resource use here on the human rights and employment rights of women and men in the countries of the South must be made relevant to decision-making.
- The consequences of privatisation and monopolisation of supply services (e.g. energy, water, transport) must be examined from the gender perspective and, where necessary, countered through policy programmes.
- The business-management approach to resources that are essential for supplying essential services (water, energy...) to the population must be made transparent and placed in a socio-environmental context. Prior to any type of privatisation of resources used to supply essential services, a public-interest cost-benefit analysis must be carried out that takes into account the long term effects.
- Concepts such as that of “global public goods” and treaties such as the “Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women”, CEDAW, must not remain at the international level, but should be translated to the national level. In each case, their implementation and/or inclusion in national environmental policy must be discussed and put into concrete terms. The appropriate ministries have responsibility for this.

One very important topic remains unmentioned in chapter K, namely “**women and the environment in economics and trade**”. Women’s associations, government authorities, non-governmental organisations and the private sector should develop (further) *codes of conduct* which relate specifically to the issue of “women and the environment in economics and trade” (for example, the Clean Clothes Campaign). They should commit themselves to observing these and carry out appropriate monitoring. This should not be restricted to production in Germany, but must also impact on import regulations (gender-just trading and customs policies). This means in particular that the import of products which are manufactured abroad and in the manufacture of which women (as well as men) are exposed to hazardous substances and work is carried out under environmentally harmful production conditions or in the production of which gender injustice is reinforced, should not be allowed. At the very least, however, consumer responsibility for the safeguarding of environmental standards and of human rights and employment rights can be increased through appropriate labelling.