



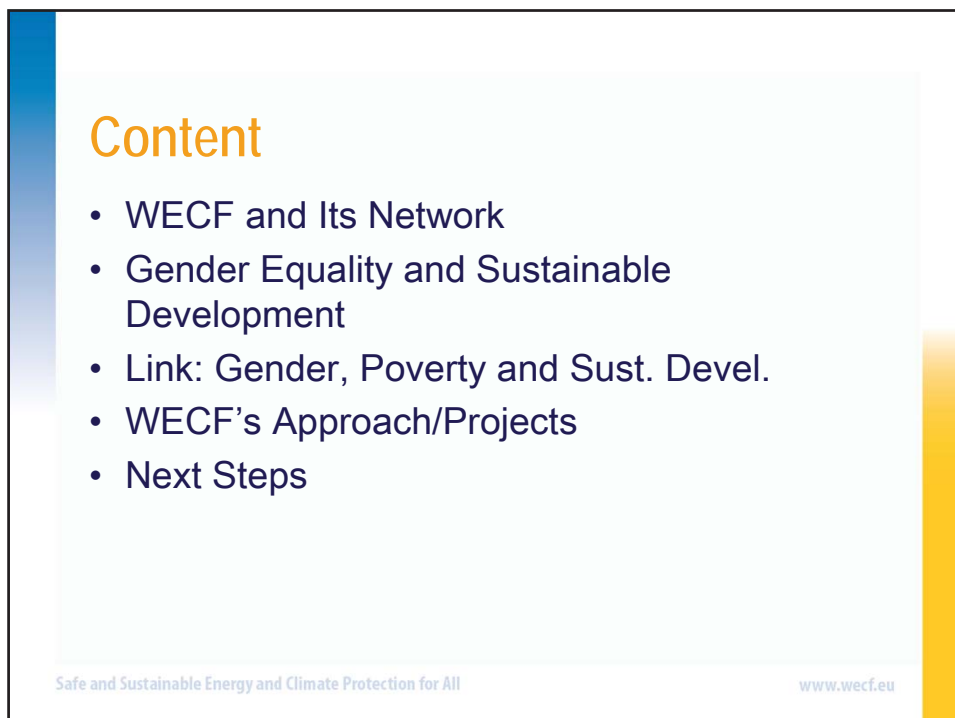
Women in Europe for a Common Future | WECF

**2nd Preparatory Meeting/21st OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum, Kyiv, 16-17 April 2013 - *Session V: Promoting Security and Stability Through Partnerships for Sustainable Energy***

**The role of civil society in promoting sustainable energy – the gender perspective**

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**Content**

- WECF and Its Network
- Gender Equality and Sustainable Development
- Link: Gender, Poverty and Sust. Devel.
- WECF's Approach/Projects
- Next Steps

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## WECF and Its Network

- Projects through 100 member organisations with offices in 40 countries
- Local project work; national and international advocacy work
- 4 offices: France, Germany, NL, CH
- 5 thematic areas:
  - Energy & Climate
  - Chemicals, Waste & Health
  - Water & Sanitation
  - Biodiversity & Food
  - Gender & Rights

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## Gender Equality and Sustainable Development



- Gender inequality threat to stability and security;
- Principle 20 of Rio Declaration: “...full participation... essential to achieve sustainable development.”

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## Link: Gender, Poverty and Sustainable Development

- Equality: same rights, resources and opportunities
- Sustainable development: meeting basic needs of all in strive for better live
- Cross-cutting dimensions of gender and sustainable development – MDGs and SDGs

## WECF's Approach

### Economic Empowerment:

- Women's livelihood strategy
- Women's income generating strategy
- Projects: EU-funded (GEO/UA); NL-funded (EECCA/Africa)

### Political Empowerment:

- Women's participation
- Gender advocacy
- Projects: NL-funded (EECCA/Africa and advocacy)

## Project: "Empower Women – Benefit All"



- Goal to contribute to economic and political empowerment of women
- Where? Low-income rural and peri-urban regions in 6 countries (Afghanistan, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, South Africa, Tajikistan, Uganda)

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## Project: "Switch to Sun, Live in Comfort"



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## Next Steps and Recommendations

- Use an integrated approach based on human rights;
- Improve the understanding of gender and sustainable development;
- Use the specific knowledge of women about sustainable resource management;
- Empower women economically, in particular by using the synergy effects of small-scale, decentralised projects;
- Integrate gender as a cross-cutting issue in all of the goals of sust. devel. in the Post 2015 process/SDGs;

## Next Steps and Recommendations (cont.)

- Promote the rights of women to access to resources, land and services;
- Implement the right to access to information, public-participation in decision-making processes and access to justice for women (Aarhus Convention);
- Work with local NGOs and rely on local expertise, in particular when developing and implementing project on community level;
- Create democratic institutions with gender balance: Water Users' Unions/Eco-San Clubs.

**THANK YOU!**

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