CSW Side Event on 
Opportunities and Challenges in Improving Rural Women’s Access to 
Clean Water and Sustainable Energy

UN Millennium Plaza Hotel, Riverview Room, 28th floor 
February 28, 2012, 4:00 – 6:00 pm, reception to follow

In many developing countries, women and girls are often affected by lack of water as they are primarily responsible for obtaining and transporting it for daily use. At the same time, rural women are often tasked with collecting and managing traditional fuels, limiting their time and opportunities for education. The effects of climate change in the agricultural sector and its strain on food security add to these realities.

Set as an informal conversation among the Norwegian State Secretary for International Development at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Members of Parliament from different regions of the world, and a sustainable energy entrepreneur, the Side Event will cover the following issues:

• Relevant country experiences on the adverse impacts of water scarcity, traditional fuels and climate change on rural women;
• From local to global: concrete initiatives to ensure rural women’s participation in sustainable energy and access to clean water;
• Drafting and implementing legislation on the universal right to clean water and sustainable sources of energy through a gender lens;
• The gender dimension of a green economy: why is it important?

Panelists:
• Ms. Ingrid Fiskaa, State Secretary for International Development at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway
• Dr. Donya Aziz, Member of Parliament, Pakistan
• Ms. Azize Sibel Gönül, Member of Parliament, Turkey
• Ms. Minou Tavárez, Member of Parliament, Dominican Republic
• Ms. Irene Addo Torshie, Member of Parliament, Ghana
• Ms. Elsa Papadimitriou, Member of Parliament, Greece
• Ms. Tess Mateo, Managing Director and Founder CXCatalysts

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