

**Recommendations on Gender and the Environment
to the Aspen Environment Forum
Aspen, Colorado, 29 March 2009**

We, as women ministers and leaders of the environment, thank the Aspen Institute, National Geographic, and collaborating sponsors for convening The Aspen Environment Forum in Aspen, Colorado. This Forum provides a space to reflect on and create sustainable solutions to, first and foremost, today's energy challenges, but many other pressing issues as well. These challenges and hardships caused by climate change in both developed and developing countries have a proven disproportionate impact on women and their ability to successfully adapt to those challenges and to participate in discussions crafting a new global climate agreement.

After reflecting on the needs of global women leaders at the ministerial level, we make the following recommendations on gender and the environment:

Stressing that women must be present in all climate change negotiations concerning the environment, specifically at the global climate change summit in Copenhagen, Denmark, in December 2009;

Emphasizing that women's leadership and participation at the decision-making table is critical for effective global environmental governance;

Acknowledging that concerted international efforts must be made to meet the targets of all Millennium Development Goals;

Recalling women's roles as powerful agents of change;

Recognizing that climate change can undermine the ability of women to achieve their full potential, and;

Asserting that more women involved in global environmental governance results in better decision-making by governments and their communities;

We therefore recommend creative collaboration between global leaders at the ministerial level, civil society, and the private sector actors to design programs supporting women's leadership and engagement;

We encourage actors in the private sector and civil society to invest in women's leadership through training and creating learning or mentoring opportunities;

We call upon governments and other stakeholders to work with actors in the private sector to create an enabling environment for increased participation of women in decision-making sessions related to the environment and global energy challenges;

We call for greater numbers of women in leadership positions in the environmental realm and for the press to highlight women's involvement or absence;

We commit to mobilizing our collective leadership to strengthen partnerships amongst women leaders of the environment, private corporations, and civil society, and;

We further request participants of the Aspen Environment Forum to continue gender-sensitive conversations after the Forum with governments, international representatives, and individuals in the private sector and civil society to continue building a foundation of women's leadership at all levels for the environment.

Respectfully,

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Dr. Jamie Bechtel, Senior Director, Marine Fund Strategy, Conservation International
Sally Benson, Director, Global Climate and Energy Project, Stanford University
Jayni Chase, Founder, Center for Environmental Education

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Prepared by the Council of Women World Leaders at the Aspen Environment Forum