

**FOURTH UNECE REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION MEETING ON  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

*GENEVA, 1-2 December 2009*

**Agenda item 9. The 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and  
Production Patterns**

Intervention by the International Federation of Business and Professional Women<sup>1</sup>

Thank you chair.

Yes, women in under developed areas want economic growth – however especially women living in rural areas express time and again that they prefer sustainable, eco friendly solutions to “speed”. I would like to add that – as is the case for most “voluntary” work – not valuing and paying for their activities to uphold our environment is really unacceptable.

The water sector in Europe in particular has started a joined stewardship program, aimed at developing stewardship systems and methods for responsible use of water also in production. The group, lead by the European Water Partnership, consists of all major groups including big and small companies in agriculture, food processing and paper industry, tourism and also CSOs and local/ regional governments. This program might be a good example for working on stewardship in an integrated way and so reach sustainable production.

More info: <http://www.ewp.eu/projects/aquawareness/water-stewardship>

The program is going “global”, lead by Nature Conservancy (TNC):  
<http://www.ewp.eu/projects/aquawareness/water-stewardship/stewardship/global-platform>

We also point to the Aquawareness program as a whole, aimed at awareness raising by the average citizen in Europe.

Lesha Witmer

Chair

Standing Committee Environment, Sustainable Development & Water  
International Federation of Business & Professional Women (IFBPW)

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<sup>1</sup> The text is presented as received from the author.