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Environment - Interactive Panel

“Playing God Without Knowing the Rules?”

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Early in the morning thinking about a fast changing world: “Playing God without knowing the rules”. Mady Molitor, SI Environment Programme Coordinator chaired the Interactive Panel, introduced the issue: the evolution of the world has taken millions of years, built an extremely complex equilibrium - the rules of which are unknown to us. We are introducing dramatic changes at a very high speed and the consequences are yet unknown for us to foresee the future, for example, diminishing biodiversity or genetic engineering experiments.

Ann Christine Soderlund from the Swedish Club of Linkoping presented a point of view of the action that each of us can take as citizens for our country, our city, our home:

- try to be informed about the origin of our food
- ask for products without additives
- lower the energy consumed
- have separate bins for paper, plastic, and glass
- try to send used articles to recycling collecting centres

Dr. Shafika Naner a Soroptimist from Cairo and a Professor of Cairo University, reminded us that we don't know the long term effects of our food containing antibiotics, hormones, genetic modifications and chemicals. Herbicides are contaminants. As producers and consumers we must be very cautious and careful to protect our health and the health of future generations. We need to obtain the correct information and pass it on. We have the right to choose and pass the information to our sisters all over the world.

Jacky Huggins, our guest speaker from Australia, is a specialist in the relationships between indigenous and non-indigenous women in Australia. We have to learn from aboriginal people, they live very near mother nature and feel deeply and respectfully that “the land is our mother”. They can teach us (if we hear them) how to reconcile with their values that whisper some secrets about environmental equilibrium.