

## Gender Equality, Women's Rights and Women's Priorities:

### Recommendations for the proposed Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Post-2015 Development Agenda

Governments and UN Agencies are busy preparing a framework of global goals and targets for development, following the Rio+20 summit in June 2012, as well as follow-up of the Millennium Development Goals (Post-2015). It is essential that the analysis and recommendations from the perspective of civil-society women's and gender organizations is taken into account.

The Women's Major Group was created as a result of the United Nations 1992 Rio Earth Summit, which recognized women as one of the nine major groups of civil society whose participation in decision-making is essential for achieving sustainable development. The Women's Major Group (WMG) is organized globally with over 500 representatives of non-governmental organizations. See [www.womenrio20.org](http://www.womenrio20.org)

The report "Gender Equality, Women's Rights and Women's Priorities: Recommendations for the proposed Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Post-2015 Development Agenda" provides a compilation of position papers on different elements of the post-2015 agenda and the proposed SDGs written by a diverse group of WMG members. The report highlights the root causes of the unsustainable development model that has triggered the ecological, social and economic crises the planet is facing today, and the structural, transformative changes that are needed to address these crises. Instead of moving towards a green economy, the members of the WMG propose a transformation towards a sustainable, equitable and inclusive economy. Key recommendations are that the post-2015 process and the proposed Sustainable Development Goals should:

1. Form part of a broader agenda of deep structural and transformational changes that is firmly rooted in human rights obligations and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, and not be limited to reductive targets and indicators. Social and ecological justice, including women's and girls rights and empowerment, must be at the heart of sustainable development.
2. Integrate women's rights and a human rights architecture in general, in the development agenda taking into account the diversity of needs and constraints based on gender, age, class, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation and abilities. States should respect the principle of non-regression and guarantee the full implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and its optional protocol and other human rights' instruments.
3. Include at least one, and better even several, SDG's focused on ensuring gender equality and women's rights.
4. Eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence based on misogynist, homophobic, lesbo-phobic and trans-phobic practices, and all forms of violence against women.
5. Ensure respect for the sexual and reproductive rights of all adolescent girls and boys, women and men, and their right to quality, comprehensive, integrative sexual and reproductive health education and services.
6. Ensure a macroeconomic environment that preserves national policy space for governments to fulfill their human rights obligations and effectively advance the three dimensions of sustainable development in an integrated manner, including by increasing their tax base through progressive tributary policies.
7. Recognize and redistribute the unequal and unfair burdens on women and girls in sustaining societal wellbeing and economies, combat gendered labor market segregation and assure redistribution of unpaid work while ensuring full employment, decent work and a living wage for all.
8. Implement universal social protection worldwide in the form of a basic income for women and men, financed amongst others through the Financial Transaction Tax. A global social protection floor will assure women, men and children access basic services such as health care, food, water, energy, housing and employment.
9. Recognize and account for the value of care work, protect the rights of care workers and expand the global understanding and measurements of wellbeing and development through appropriate targets and indicators, taking into account the contributions of unpaid work and nature, without commodification or financialization of nature.
10. Ensure and enforce legally binding corporate accountability, and the application of the Maastricht Principles on Extraterritorial Obligations of States in the area of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

11. Halt the commodification of nature and wellbeing, and the dispossession of indigenous and rural peoples and instead manage common natural resources in the interest of peoples' livelihoods and nature. No-one should be excluded from resources which are essential to their livelihoods due to, inter alia, patenting of seeds, or the privatization of ecosystems, water or health care services. Local free seed supply and distribution should be guaranteed and ecosystems and forests should be kept out of carbon-markets and other market-based mechanisms that trigger privatization and restrict access to women. Public services cannot be turned over to the market since they are a public responsibility.
12. Recognize and fully respect the unique knowledge of Indigenous peoples and peasant and coastal communities, especially the knowledge held by women, as well as territories and areas conserved by Indigenous peoples and local communities (ICCAs), in the spirit of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Women's land tenure and land use rights should be assured, including through land reform programs.
13. Secure food sovereignty based on the recognition of small holder farmers and fisherfolk, particularly women, as key economic actors whose right to use and own land and access rivers, lakes and seas should be protected against land and resource grabbing through legally binding safeguards. Recognize food and agricultural production and fisheries as part of the formal sector so that agricultural workers enjoy the rights recognized under International Labor Organization (ILO) conventions.
14. Eliminate subsidies for industrial fishing fleets, promote and respect community-based governance models of marine protected areas and set targets for the implementation of the International Guidelines to Secure the Small-scale Sustainable Fishing.
15. Promote technology transfer, financing, monitoring, assessment, and research in line with the precautionary principle and the principle of free, prior informed consent and establish an independent technology assessment and monitoring organization.
16. Ban the use of unsustainable, radioactive and harmful substances and technologies and re-affirm or impose moratoria on dangerous technologies like synthetic biology, nanotechnology, biochar, geo-engineering and genetically modified organisms.
17. Design and implement effective rights-based, socially just, gender-responsive and coherent ecosystem-based approaches to halt climate change.
18. Eliminate financial support to ecologically or socially harmful economic activities such as industrial fisheries, unsustainable agriculture, large-scale industrial bioenergy and extractive industries, and impose moratoria in areas of mining, nuclear energy, chemicals and large-scale monocultures that lead to irreversible biodiversity loss.
19. Redirect support to alternative sustainable energy technologies, agroecological practices and local sustainable value chains that can safely meet energy and food needs while generating employment and supporting local communities.
20. Regulate commodity markets, limit fluctuations in food prices, ban speculation on food, close tax havens and implement a global financial transaction tax.
21. Prioritize public financing over public-private partnerships. Donor or corporate interests must not drive the post-2015 agenda. Public budgets, including military budgets, need to be transparent, open to public debate and incorporate a gender perspective and social and environmental safeguards.
22. Ensure meaningful participation of women's and social movements in the design, delivery, monitoring and evaluation of the development goals, policies and programs.

The full compilation of position papers, *Gender Equality, Women's Rights and Women's Priorities: Recommendations for the proposed Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Post-2015 Development Agenda*, a booklet with the main conclusions and recommendations of the report, and this flyer can be downloaded in [English](#), [Spanish](#) and [French](#).

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