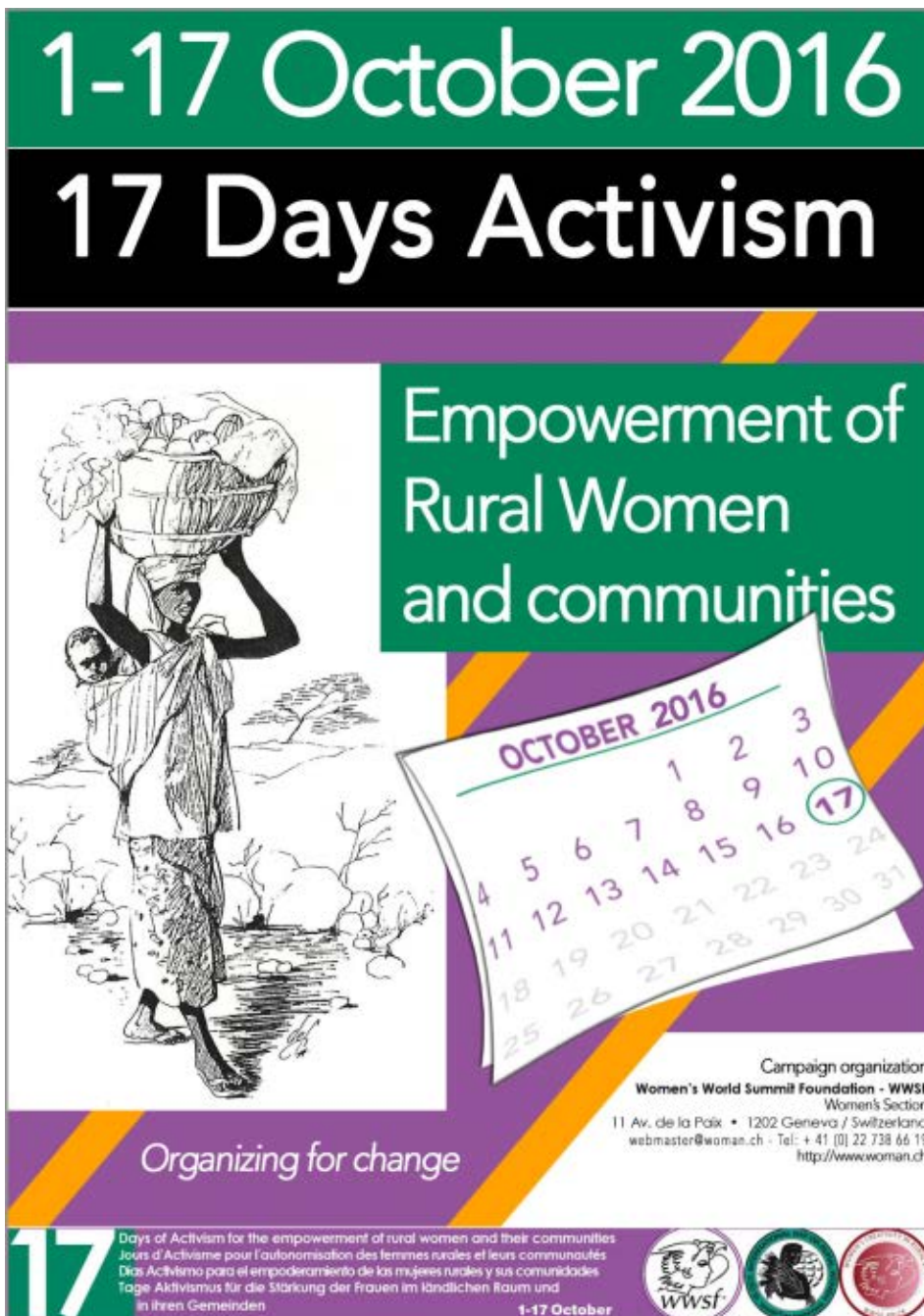


Creating the power for change

Rural Women Rise and Claim your Rights - Beijing+21 and SDGs+1

17 Days of Activism Campaign Kit – 2016



1-17 October 2016

17 Days Activism

Empowerment of Rural Women and communities

Organizing for change

OCTOBER 2016

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17 Days of Activism for the empowerment of rural women and their communities
Jours d'Activisme pour l'autonomisation des femmes rurales et leurs communautés
Días Activismo para el empoderamiento de las mujeres rurales y sus comunidades
Tage Aktivismus für die Stärkung der Frauen im ländlichen Raum und in ihren Gemeinden
1-17 October








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WWSF 17 Days of Activism for the Empowerment of Rural Women and their Communities 1-17 October
Empowering Rural Women - Advancing Humanity - An Idea whose time has come.

MANIFESTO 2016

Because 2016 is a new beginning with the adoption of the United Nations **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** for 2030

Because **Goal 5** listed below ensures to “Achieve Gender Equality and Empower All Women and Girls” by 2030

Because **Goal 13** focuses on capacity building to involve women and local communities to reduce climate change

Because 2016 marks **WWSF 25th** anniversary, celebrating its annual empowerment programs, including the **Prize for rural women**, the **17 Days campaign** and the Swiss **White Ribbon** initiatives.

Selected Facts & Figures (UN sources)

- **70%** of the world's poor are women
- **145** out of **195 countries** guarantee equality between women and men in their constitutions as of 2014
- Rural women are roughly **1.6 billion** and represent more than a quarter of the total population
- Rural women represent **two thirds** of all illiterate people
- Worldwide, women and children spend **140 million hours each day** collecting water
- Women are **key** to achieving the UN **Sustainable Development Goals 2030**

Join the 17 Days campaign; download the Empowerment Kit for information and ideas for action.
Regularly remind States of their SDG commitments 2030 and International Human Rights Laws.

SD Goal 5 and Target 13.b (Link: <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>)

- **End all forms of discrimination** against all women and girls everywhere
- **Eliminate all forms of violence** against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation
- **Eliminate all harmful practices**, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation
- **Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work** through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate
- **Ensure women's full and effective participation** and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life
- **Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health** and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Program of Action of the Intl. Conference on Population and Development, and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences
- **Undertake reforms** to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws
- **Enhance the use of enabling technology**, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women
- **Adopt and strengthen** sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels
- **13.b: Promote** mechanisms for **raising capacity** for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing States, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities.



2016 WWSF Campaign - Rural Women Rise and Claim Your Rights - Beijing+21 & SDGs+1

Introduction

17 Days Activism for the Empowerment of Rural Women & their Communities 1-17 Oct. - May 2016



Dear Partners and Friends,

The Women's World Summit Foundation (WWSF) is happy to launch its second edition of the campaign Kit: "17 Days of Activism for the empowerment of rural women and their communities 1-17 October". The campaign draws its energy and inspiration from over 20 years of awarding rural women leaders with the annual "Prize for women's creativity in rural life" (413 winners to-date), from promoting the International Day of Rural Women on 15 October, and as of 2015, promoting the 17 Days of activism, which includes as of 2016 the relevant Sustainable Development Goals for 2030, adopted by UN member states.

Every year we work with our partners, women's rights- and development organizations, grassroots groups and the media, to mobilize communities, connect women, men, girls and boys to work for continued change and ensure that especially rural women rise and claim their right to development, equality and peace.

It's time to walk the talk.

The new UN Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 has put women and girls center stage. 193 UN Member States adopted in 2015 a bold new global vision with **17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** to end poverty and promote shared economic prosperity, social development and environmental protection. The agenda includes a transformative stand-alone goal on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls as well as gender-sensitive targets in 11 other goals.



Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Preamble: "This Agenda is a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity. It also seeks to strengthen universal peace in larger freedom. We recognize that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. All countries and all stakeholders, acting in collaborative partnership, will implement this plan. We are resolved to free the human race from the tyranny of poverty and want and to heal and secure our planet. We are determined to take the bold and transformative steps, which are urgently needed to shift the world onto a sustainable and resilient path. As we embark on this collective journey, we pledge that no one will be left behind.

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets, demonstrate the scale and ambition of this new universal Agenda. They seek to build on the Millennium Development Goals and complete what these did not achieve. They seek to realize the human rights of all and to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. They are integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development: the economic, social and environmental. The Goals and targets will stimulate action over the next fifteen years in areas of critical importance for humanity and the planet..."

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>

The campaign "17 Days of activism for the empowerment of rural women and their communities 1-17 October,

was launched in response to a collective concern about consistent structural constraints to the advancement of women. According to a UN global assessment conducted to mark the 20th anniversary of the historic 4th World Conference on Women held in Beijing in 1995, progress on gender equality has been unacceptably slow, with areas of stagnation and regression. In 1995, 189 countries pledged to end laws that discriminate based on sex. In 2016 too many women are still waiting! Rural women are the backbone in many societies, especially in the developing world. Globally, women make up 43% of the agricultural labor force and as much as 80% in some countries. Facing economic discrimination, rural women are among the poorest in the world. Much work is unpaid, family-related care or low-paid jobs. Often these factors are the source of the increased marginalization, violence, and suffering, that hinder the fulfillment of their human rights. The influence rural women have in addressing malnutrition, hunger, poverty, climate change and opportunities for education and peace building are immeasurable. Yet, in many countries, they still do not receive the protection, support, and acknowledgement they deserve.



Objectives of the 17 Days Campaign

The **Campaign** aims to empower rural women and their communities to rise and claim their rights by addressing foremost the local and state governments with demands for urgent action to implement the universal adoption of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the **Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action** (1995), as well as the newly adopted **post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda 2030**, and in particular **Goal 5 and 13**. The time has come to accelerate and ensure implementation of laws and programs that fully and equally empower women to shape the decisions that affect them.



By mobilizing local actors who work for the improvement of the quality of life in rural areas, WWSF envisions that the **17 Days** initiative will catalyze increased linkages of grassroots groups and the formation of many new platforms for advocacy to lobby governments for robust implementation.

17 Days Action Kit

As an additional empowerment tool with strategies and recommendations for action, the Action Kit targets especially rural women leaders and their communities to create new groups and networks (and strengthen existing ones), to claim their basic human rights, and demand accountability from governments. WWSF will continue to award the **Prize for Women's Creativity in Rural Life**, honoring selected women leaders and groups who serve to improve rural communities. As always, prizewinners will be celebrated on the **International Day of Rural Women - 15 October**, which is included in the Action Kit.

Please follow below the **17 Days themes** and use what is appropriate according to your local and national priorities. Our list is not exhaustive and other topics related to rural women's rights can be added as you see fit. **We encourage you to include the new Sustainable Development Goals and relevant Targets for 2030 (mentioned in our Kit)** in your programs for action. We also invite you to share the campaign widely with your networks, members and the media. Together we can achieve what no one can do alone.

WWSF wishes to acknowledge the sponsors of the 2016 campaign Kit, and also Claire O'Donnell, a university intern, who helped research and update the 2nd edition of the Empowerment Kit. We are also grateful to all our consultants, staff and volunteers.

We thank you for your solidarity and look forward to your registrations online <http://www.woman.ch> and to your action plans for all coalition members to see and appreciate.

Sincerely, Elly Pradervand, WWSF Executive Director / UN Representative / 17 Days Campaign Convener

For newcomers to the annual 17 Days of activism campaign:

- 1991 **Creation** of Women's World Summit Foundation (WWSF) in Geneva
- 1994 **launch** of the Prize for women's creativity in rural life
- 1995 **launch** of the World Rural Women's Day – 15 October (which was declared an official UN Day in 2007)
- 1994-2014 **20th Anniversary** of the Prize for women's creativity in life (413 prize winners awarded over 20 years of activism)
- 2015 **launch** 1st edition 17 Days Activism for the empowerment of rural women and their communities: Main Theme: Violence against Women
- 2016 **launch** 2nd edition 17 Days Activism for the empowerment of rural women and their communities Main theme: Climate Change

Additional information about the Campaign

◆ What is the 17 Days Campaign?

As a WWSF multi-issue **CALL TO ORGANIZE FOR ACTION** providing advocacy tools, strategies and recommendations for action, the **17 Days** Campaign targets, in particular, rural women leaders and their communities to become powerful lobby groups for claiming basic human rights and demanding accountability from their government.

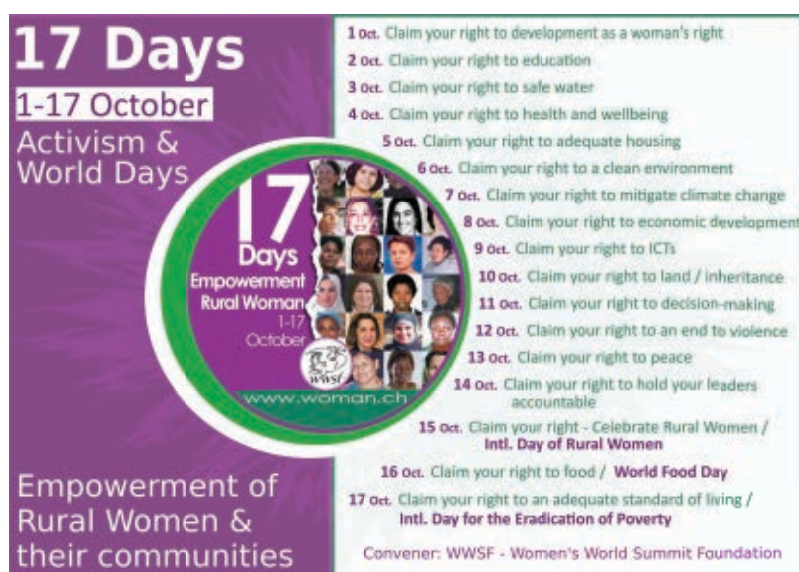
◆ What are the 17 Days Campaign Themes

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Oct. Claim your right to development as a woman's right 2 Oct. Claim your right to education for you and your children 3 Oct. Claim your right to safe water 4 Oct. Claim your right to health and wellbeing 5 Oct. Claim your right to adequate housing 6 Oct. Claim your right to live in a clean environment 7 Oct. Claim your right to mitigate and adapt to climate change 8 Oct. Claim your right to economic development & autonomy 9 Oct. Claim your right to information & communication technology 10 Oct. Claim your right to land and inheritance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11 Oct. Claim your right to decision-making and leadership 12 Oct. Claim your right to security, safety and an end to violence
Main theme 2015 13 Oct. Claim your right to peace 14 Oct. Claim your right to hold your leaders accountable 15 Oct. Claim your right to celebrate rural women & the
International Day of Rural Women 16 Oct. Claim your right to food & participate in the World Food Day 17 Oct. Claim your right to an adequate standard of living &
Participate in the Intl. Day for the Eradication of Poverty |
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◆ **Ideas for Action**

The **17 Days Kit** includes information and definitions, facts and figures, and resources for each of the 17 themes, with a special focus on a **main theme**, which is this year “Claim your right to mitigate and adapt to climate change” on 7 October.

- **Mobilizing** rural women leaders, organizations and grassroots groups to RISE and claim their rights
- **Integrating** the current post-2015 SDG platform into everyday life in order to create a world of peace and equality
- **Raising** awareness of the multi-faceted problems still facing rural women communities
- **Understanding** that rural woman provide a context for change towards a more integrative and understanding society
- **Showing** the inequalities and absence of progress in numerous rural communities; the multi-faceted aspects of poverty and the need to solicit from your government support for the improvement of the quality of life in rural areas
- **Strengthening** local/national initiatives in rural communities and **creating** new women’s groups for compliance
- **Educating** for advocacy and providing empowerment tools
- **Lobbying** governments to implement UN declarations and recommendations for rural women and their communities
- **Linking** rural women and their communities to the CEDAW Convention
- **Creating** new synergies at many levels between diverse actors (youth included) to empower communities



◆ **How to register and participate in the Campaign**

- **Register** your organization or rural women’s group online (<http://www.woman.ch> - **Women’s Section**). Your activity plans will be included on our website international coalition of committed actors creating change in rural communities, and will be shared with all other registered active members.
- **Build** broad alliances with grassroots groups and networks to campaign with you on a given topic or several of them
- **Arrange** meetings with government representatives and advocate for legislative changes necessary **for compliance with CEDAW, the Beijing Platform for Action, and the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals for 2030.**

◆ **What is a Coalition?**

Coalitions are often the main advocates for women’s rights acting on behalf of or with women and young people in the realization of their rights. Credibility and authority gained from a collective membership or group generally outweighs individual action. Coalitions provide a focus for human rights work by acting for change and share concerns for the advancement of women’s wellbeing, outlined in the CEDAW Convention and the General recommendation No. 34 on the rights of rural women. <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/cedaw.htm>

◆ **What is Activism?**

It is quite simply put taking action to effect social change. It’s the action that counts, not the individual that does the action. Often we ask ourselves “how to change the world?” through social, political, economic and environmental change. This can be lead by individuals but is often done collectively through social movements. It’s not who we are, but what we do or don’t do that creates a more just world.

2016 WWSF Campaign - Rural Women Rise and Claim Your Rights - Beijing+21 & SDG+1

◆ A proposal for action – Roundtables ‘Walk the Talk’

Roundtables can bring members and leaders together to discuss issues that are important to you and rural communities. It is a time to share your ideas with your leaders and have a discussion around issues like climate change, which is our main theme this year.



Promote the 4 “R’s” in sustainability – reduce, reuse, repair, recycle. These are key for all humanity to make a difference towards reducing our ecological footprint. Make it a central part of your roundtable discussions, and **rethink** some key ways in how your community can help implement the 4 R’s.

◆ Selected relevant Sustainable Development goals to include in your local and national plans for action



By 2030: End Poverty in all its forms everywhere <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/poverty/>



By 2030: End Hunger, Achieve Food Security and Improved Nutrition & Promote Sustainable Agriculture <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/hunger/>



By 2030: Ensure Healthy Lives and Promote Well-being for all to all Ages <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/health/>



By 2030: Ensure Inclusive & Equitable Quality Education and Promote Lifelong Learning Opportunities for all <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/education/>



By 2030: Achieve Gender Equality and Empower all Women and Girls <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/gender-equality/>



By 2030: Ensure Availability and Sustainable Management of Water Sanitation for all <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/water-and-sanitation/>



By 2030: Ensure Access to Affordable, Reliable, Sustainable and Modern Energy for all <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/energy/>



By 2030: Take Urgent Action to Combat Climate Change and its Impacts <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/climate-change-2/>



By 2030: Promote Peaceful and Inclusive Societies for Sustainable Development, Provide Access to Justice for all and Build Inclusive Institutions at all levels <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/peace-justice/>



By 2030: Strengthen the Means of Implementation and Revitalize the Global Partnership for SDGs <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/globalpartnerships/>

2016 WWSF Campaign - Rural Women Rise and Claim Your Rights - Beijing+21 & SDG+1

SDG 5 - BY 2030: Achieve Gender Equality and Empower all Women and Girls

Women have a critical role to play in all of the SDGs, with many targets for 2030, specifically recognizing women's equality and empowerment as both the objective, and part of the solution.

« While the world has achieved progress towards gender equality and women's empowerment under the Millennium Development Goals (including equal access to primary education between girls and boys), women and girls continue to suffer discrimination and violence in every part of the world. Gender equality is not only a fundamental human right, but a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world. Providing women and girls with equal access to education, health care, decent work, and representation in political and economic decision-making processes will fuel sustainable economies and benefit societies and humanity at large ». <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/gender-equality/>

Goal 5 and Targets for 2030

5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere.

5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.

5.3 Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation.

5.4 Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate.

5.5 Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision making in political, economic and public life.

5.6 Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Program of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences.

5.a Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws.

5.b Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women.

5.c Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels.

The sustainable development goals seek to change the course of the 21st century, addressing key challenges such as poverty, inequality, and violence against women.



On the following pages, you will find the selected themes for the 17 Days of Activism Campaign 1-17 October

2016 WWSF Campaign - **Rural Women Rise and Claim Your Rights** - Beijing+21 & SDGs+1

1 October: Claim your right to development as a woman's right

Dear Partners and Friends,



Now with the new SDGs adopted, rural women must band together and lobby their governments to fulfill the commitments. Your governments have been given the primary responsibility of implementing your right to development. You must petition them to fulfill their promise and ensure you the full and equal enjoyment of all of your human rights to which you are entitled.

The right to development is one of the most fundamental and core human right afforded to you. In 1986 your governments signed the **Declaration on the Right to Development**, the first in a series of legislation stating the international community's commitment to ensuring the right to development for all peoples. Following the Declaration on the Right to Development were several documents specifically proclaiming the importance of coupling the right to development with the mainstreaming of gender equality, such as the Vienna Declaration and Program of Action and the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Program of Action, as well as the **Post-2015 SDG Agenda**. Your governments have signed many documents promising to couple gender equality with increased access to essential services, but there is still much progress to be made.

Today, we invite you to **Rise and claim your right to development and ensure your equal access to essential services such as healthcare, education, and clean energy.**

This right is dependent on your right to food, health, education, adequate housing, employment, and other basic and interdependent human rights. As you know, however, you are not yet able to fully enjoy these rights. Rural women are disproportionately burdened by long hours of unpaid care work, unequal access to education, information and communication technology, and skill training, poor healthcare, and patriarchal land inheritance customs in many areas of the world, amongst other difficulties.

Sustainable Development Agenda 2030

Goal 16, Target 16.7

"Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels."

Target 16.8

"Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance."

Target 16.10

"Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements."



Selected Facts and Figures

- Two-thirds of the 774 million illiterate adults worldwide are women – same proportion for the past 20 years across most regions.¹
- Worldwide, women and children spend 125 million hours each day collecting water.²
- 60% of the world's hungry are women.³
- 50% of pregnant women in developing countries lack proper maternal care, resulting in 240,000 maternal deaths annually from childbirth.⁴
- Women in sub-Saharan Africa spend a total of 40 billion hours a year collecting water, equivalent to a year's worth of labor by the entire workforce in France.⁵
- Women are 50% less likely to access the Internet than men in the same communities.⁶
- On average, women spend 1-3 hours more per day on housework than men do, and 2-10 times the amount of time caring for children, the elderly and sick.⁷
- If women were given the same access to productive resources as men, the number of hungry people in the world would be reduced by 12-17% (100-150 million people)⁸

¹ <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/products/Worldswomen/wwEduc2010.htm>

² <http://water.org/water-crisis/water-facts/women/>

³ <http://thp.org/knowledge-center/know-your-world-facts-about-hunger-poverty/>

⁴ idem

⁵ <http://www.unwomen.org/~media/headquarters/attachments/sections/csw/58/op1-magdalena-sepulveda.pdf.pdf>

⁶ <http://www.intel.com/content/dam/www/public/us/en/documents/pdf/women-and-the-web.pdf>

⁷ <http://www.empowerwomen.org>

⁸ <http://www.fao.org/docrep/013/i2050e/i2050e.pdf>

2016 WWSF Campaign - Rural Women Rise and Claim Your Rights - Beijing+21 & SDGs+1

1 October: Claim your right to development as a woman's right (cont'd)

Useful Resources

- SDGs 1,2,5,17
<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?menu=1300>
- Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CEDAW.aspx>
- International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ICESR)
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CESCR.aspx>
- Declaration on the Right to Development
<http://www.un.org/documents/ga/res/41/a41r128.htm>
- Vienna Declaration and Program of Action
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/Vienna.aspx>
- Rio Declaration on Environment and Development
<http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=78&ArticleID=1163>
- National Conference on Population and Development Program of Action
http://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/ICPD_PoA_English.pdf
- ICPD Beyond 2014 Framework of Action
http://icpdbeyond2014.org/uploads/browser/files/93632_unfpa_eng_web.pdf



Photo credit: YANN

Ideas for Action

- **Lobby** your government to fulfill the promises made in the Declaration on the Right to Development
- **Put pressure** on your local and national officials to develop and implement policies that are in line with the sustainable development goals on gender equality
- **Educate** others on their human right to development and let them know that they deserve access to all essential services
- **Ensure** that you are being given equal access to adequate housing, land, loans, training, water, and food
- **Utilize** the media, including social media and your creativity to push for more gender mainstreaming in development policies
- **Coordinate** crosscutting policies, programs, and initiatives in order to ensure universal access to essential services like water and hygiene
- **Organize** *WALK THE TALK* roundtables to advocate and demand from your governments that your basic right to development is realized.

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015) Preamble

"Peace: There can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development."

ICPD Program of Action (1994) Principle 4

"Advancing gender equality and equity and the empowerment of women, and the elimination of all kinds of violence against women, and ensuring women's ability to control their own fertility, are cornerstones of population and development-related programs. The human rights of women and the girl child are inalienable, integral and indivisible part of universal human rights. The full and equal participation of women in civil, cultural, economic, political and social life, at the national, regional and international levels, and the eradication of all forms of discrimination on grounds of sex, are priority objectives of the international community."

Declaration on the Right to Development (1986) Principle 1

"The right to development is an inalienable human right by virtue of which all peoples are entitled to participate in, contribute to, and enjoy economic, social, cultural and political development, in which all human rights and fundamental freedoms can be fully realized."

2016 WWSF Campaign - Rural Women Rise and Claim Your Rights - Beijing+21 & SDGs+1
2 October: Claim your right to education for you and your children

Dear Partners and Friends,

Goal 4 of the SDGs ensures equal, inclusive and quality education for both men and women. State governments are encouraged and required to provide this. On the second day of the 17 Days campaign, WWSF encourages rural women and their communities to stand up and demand to have their right to education realized for themselves and their children.

Rural women in particular face the greatest challenges in fully realizing the right to education. Infrastructural issues—including long commutes, poorly maintained roads, or unsafe routes to a schooling facility—may block women from attending training sessions or literacy lessons. Beyond these logistical complications, rural women may be challenged to access education on account of conflicting customary attitudes, early marriage and childbearing, and domestic responsibilities.

Yet you have the power to claim your right to education. In doing so, you also make strides in realizing the many other rights owed to you, for education is the key to participating in every facet of life—political, economic, social, civic, and domestic. By attending formal or informal trainings to learn or improve knowledge of skills useful to you or your community—including literacy—you can strive for equality and change in your community.

Moreover, rural women who demand the right to education seize rights on behalf of their children: for each additional year of mothers' education, their child's school attendance increases by one third. For your daughters, ensure they have equal opportunities to attend, learn, and remain in school: this will equip them with knowledge to lead a healthy, productive life. Rural women have the ability to empower one another to seek education, to lobby their government for the realization of their rights, and to become more active in organizing to attain equality.

If one rural woman demands the equal, accessible, and fair education she is entitled to, she can energize her community to do the same. In doing so, she promotes the needs and concerns of women everywhere. If many women within their rural communities do the same, they can begin to transform their communities and societies to demand equality in all aspects of life!

Sustainable Development Agenda 2030

Goal 4, Target 4.1

"By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes."

Target 4.5

By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations."

Target 4.7

"By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development."



Selected Facts and Figures

- 757 million adults worldwide lack basic literacy skills.¹
- As of 2015, 82.1 % of the female adult world population are illiterate²
- An extra year of primary school increases girls' eventual wages by 10 to 20%, encourages girls to marry later and have fewer children, and makes them less likely to experience violence.³
- Rural primary school-aged children are two times as likely to be out of school compared to their urban counterparts.⁴
- In many rural areas, female household heads have less than half the years of education of their male counterparts.⁵
- There are still 31 million girls of primary school age out of school. There are also 34 million female adolescents out of school.⁶
- 41 million girls worldwide are still denied a primary education, even though it is an established human right.⁷

¹ <http://www.uis.unesco.org/literacy/Documents/fs32-2015-literacy.pdf>

² <http://www.uis.unesco.org/Education/Documents/literacy-statistics-trends-1985-2015.pdf>

³ <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/feature/ruralwomen/facts-figures.html>

⁴ <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/feature/ruralwomen/facts-figures.html>

⁵ <http://www.fao.org/sofa/gender/key-facts/en/>

⁶ en.unesco.org/gem-report/sites/gem-report/files/girls-factsheet-en.pdf

⁷ egirlpower.org/blog/10-facts-status-girls-education-developing-countries-today

2016 WWSF Campaign - **Rural Women Rise and Claim Your Rights** - Beijing+21 & SDGs+1

2 October: **Claim your right to education for you and your children** (cont'd)

Useful Resources

- Goal 4 of the SDGs
<http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/education/>
- World Education Forum 2015
en.unesco.org/world-education-forum-2015
- Universal Declaration of Human Rights
<http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/>
- Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CEDAW.aspx>
- Beijing Platform for Action
<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/pdf/BDPfA%20E.pdf>
- The Global Gender Gap Report 2014
http://www3.weforum.org/docs/GGGR14/GGGR_CompleteReport_2014.pdf
- International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Reform
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CESCR.aspx>

Ideas for Action

- **Lobby** your government to provide rural women and their children equal access to quality and sufficient education and school facilities
- **Put pressure** on your local and national officials to fulfill the promises they made in the SDGs to realize your right to education
- **Inform** others of their human right to education
- **Ensure** that young girls are not kept from school due to early marriage or pregnancy, unsafe travel conditions, violence, or traditional practices
- **Utilize** the media, including social media, and your creativity to have your rights and needs realized on a national level
- **Develop and implement** policies, strategies and programs that will promote and provide safe and inclusive education programs
- **Hold** rallies, conferences, and events to advocate and show your government that you demand to have your rights realized
- **Raise** awareness within your community on the gender gaps in education, and help young women understand the importance of education and literacy
- **Meet** to pass on literacy and other skills to women in your community
- **Organize** *WALK THE TALK* roundtables to discuss adequate school facilities and quality education systems with leaders in your community



Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) (1979)

"States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in order to ensure to them equal rights with men in the field of education."

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966)

"...Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and the sense of its dignity, and shall strengthen the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms...Education shall enable all persons to participate effectively in a free society, promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations and all racial, ethnic or religious groups..."

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) Article 26.1

"(1) Everyone has the right to education. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages. Elementary education shall be compulsory. Technical and professional shall be made generally available and higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit."

2016 WWSF Campaign - Rural Women Rise and Claim Your Rights - Beijing+21 & SDGs+1

3 October: Claim your right to safe water

Dear Partners and Friends,

Today, we call upon rural women to defend their right to safe water. Water is the resource upon which all life relies.

Agriculture, health and hygiene depend on the provision of water supply that is adequate both in terms of quantity and quality. As general comment No. 15 in the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights asserts, access to water “is a prerequisite to the realization of other human rights”. This is to say that a host of fundamental human rights hinge on this most basic necessity, without which the rights to adequate housing, education, and health—among others—cannot be attained.

While access to safe water is a problem that affects communities alike, rural women typically bear the greatest burdens associated with access to water. According to UN-WATER, women and girls often spend up to 6 hours everyday fetching water. This detracts from the amount of time women have to perform other daily tasks, and often leads to girls being withdrawn from school to assist in accomplishing domestic duties. Not only is water retrieval taxing on the valuable time of rural women, the energy required to traverse long distances to water sources—10, 20, 40 kilometers—and the physical challenge of bearing up to 25 liters of water can cause serious health issues. This is to say nothing of the fact that these water sources are often unsafe to drink from. Despite shouldering the majority of the responsibilities associated with accessing water, women are typically excluded from decision-making. Rural women of the world, we urge you to demand action and inclusion in efforts to reform water and sanitation systems. Not only do you have much to gain from access to safe water, but you possess the power to improve your communities, countries, and the world; according to UN-Water, “with the same access to productive resources as men, including water, women could increase yields on their farms by 20-30% and lift 150 million people out of hunger.”

Lack of safe water is a considerable obstacle barring women from the full realization of their rights. It is imperative that states fulfill their responsibility to connect all people, especially rural communities, to an adequate supply of safe water. Rural women, we call upon you to appeal to your government to demand this all-important right, which is the gateway to so many other rights.



Sustainable Development Agenda 2030

Goal 6, Target 6.1

“By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all.”

Target 6.6 b

“Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management.”



Selected Facts and Figures

- About 90% of sewage and 70% of industrial waste in developing countries are discharged into watercourses without treatment, often polluting the usable water supply.¹
- In Africa, women do 90% of the work of gathering water and wood.²
- Women and girls often spend up to 6 hours everyday fetching water.³
- Reducing the distance to a water source from 30 to 15 minutes increased girls’ school attendance by 12%, according to a study in Tanzania.⁴
- Approximately 2.5 billion people around the world lack access to safe sanitation.⁵
- 3.4 million people die each year from water, sanitation and hygiene-related causes; 99% of these deaths occur in the developing world.⁶
- Involving women can make water projects 6 to 7 times more effective.⁷
- By 2025 water scarcity is expected to affect more than 1.8 billion people—hurting agricultural workers and poor farmers the most. (UNDP)

¹ <http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/FactSheet35en.pdf>

² http://www.unwater.org/fileadmin/user_upload/unwater_new/docs/water_and_gender.pdf

³ http://www.unwater.org/fileadmin/user_upload/unwater_new/docs/water_and_gender.pdf

⁴ http://www.unwater.org/fileadmin/user_upload/unwater_new/docs/water_and_gender.pdf

⁵ http://www.unwater.org/fileadmin/user_upload/unwater_new/docs/water_and_gender.pdf

⁶ <http://www.irishaid.ie/news-publications/news/newsarchive/2014/march/world-water-day-2014/title-86499-en.html>

⁷ http://www.unwater.org/fileadmin/user_upload/unwater_new/docs/water_and_gender.pdf

2016 WWSF Campaign - **Rural Women Rise and Claim Your Rights** - Beijing+21 & SDGs+1

3 October: Claim your right to safe water (cont'd)

Useful Resources

- Goal 6 of the SDGs
sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg6
- Universal Declaration of Human Rights
<http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/>
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CEDAW.aspx>
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CESCR.aspx>
- Beijing Platform for Action
<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/platform/envIRON.htm>
- UN HCR Right to Water Fact Sheet No. 35
<http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/FactSheet35en.pdf>
- UN Water.org
http://www.unwater.org/fileadmin/user_upload/unwater_new/docs/water_and_gender.pdf



UN Source

Ideas for Action

- **Lobby** your government to provide rural women equal access to the necessary tools and resources needed to combat barriers to safe water acquisition
- **Put pressure** on your local and national officials to fulfill their obligation to respect, protect, and fulfill your right to safe water
- **Train** yourselves in operating and maintaining village-level water systems
- **Participate** in designing water and sanitation programs that are relevant, appropriate, and sustainable for your community
- **Utilize** the media, including social media, and your creativity to have your rights and needs realized on a national level
- **Address** and work to eliminate sanitation practices that threaten the quality of your water, such as open defecation
- **Create** powerful coalitions to protect your water sources, resist privatization, and demand adequate disposal of industrial waste by corporations
- **Coordinate** crosscutting policies, programs, and initiatives in order to improve access to water.
- **Denounce** unsuitable farming techniques that use pesticides and chemicals that pollute your water.
- **Organize** *WALK THE TALK* roundtables in order to share your policy frameworks and water management ideas with your local leaders

Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (2003) General Comment 15

“Water is a limited natural resource and a public good fundamental for life and health. The human right to water is indispensable for leading a life in human dignity. It is a prerequisite for the realization of other human rights... The continuing contamination, depletion and unequal distribution of water is exacerbating existing poverty. State parties have to adopt effective measures to realize, without discrimination, the right to water...”

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) (1979) Article 14

“States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in rural areas in order to ensure.... that they participate in and benefit from rural development and, in particular, shall ensure to such women the right... to enjoy adequate living conditions, particularly in relation to housing, sanitation, electricity and water supply, transport and communications.”

2016 WWSF Campaign - **Rural Women Rise and Claim Your Rights** - Beijing+21 & SDGs+1

4 October: Claim your right to health and wellbeing

Dear Partners and Friends,

The SDGs have included access to good health and well being as a necessity for all, including women.

The United Nations Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health stated that all people have the right to health, including access to health-related education and information.¹ All states that have ratified CEDAW have agreed to take measures to ensure that women are not discriminated against in their right to healthcare. **The SDGs have also included access to good health and well being as a necessity for all, including women.**



Photo credit: DFID—UK Department for

As the primary caregivers in the family, women are highly susceptible to contracting infectious diseases, which can range from acute respiratory infections to highly deadly diseases like malaria, tuberculosis, and even the new Zika virus, which causes birth defects and poor pregnancy outcomes for newborn children and women. These infections also disturb the social and economic fabric of families, communities and nations. Rural women are also more prone to developing chronic obstructive pulmonary disease from pollutants emitted from cooking over open fires or traditional stoves.

In addition to these obstacles, rural women are also subject to the tortuous practice of female genital mutilation (FGM) and alarming stigmas about HIV/AIDS. It is difficult for women to take time off from childcare or work in order to receive medical treatment, especially with expensive transport costs and fees for accessing medical services.

The commitments made at 2015 Girl Summit on eradicating FGM, as well as an increase in the number of African countries in 2015 that have declared a ban on FGM practices, increased access to retroviral treatments for HIV/AIDS, and increased funding for prevention programs, are important steps to helping women practice their full right to health.² However, until local governments fund and support programs to increase women’s access to equal healthcare, little will change.

Rural women of the world, it is time to exercise your full right to health. While it is important to lobby governments and hold them accountable through UN processes such as 3rd Goal within the 2015 Sustainable Development Goals, the fact that governments have signed a document will not in itself guarantee women’s and girls’ rights. **The shift from policy to individuals, families and communities respecting women’s rights must also be led by women’s rights leaders and advocates, in alliance with other constituencies.**

Sustainable Development Agenda 2030

Goal 3, Target 3.1

“By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births.”

Target 3.7

“By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programs.”

Target 3.d

“Strengthen the capacity of all countries, in particular developing countries, for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks.”



Selected Facts and Figures

- More than 140 million women have an unmet need for family planning.³
- 50% of pregnant women in developing countries lack proper maternal care, resulting in 240,000 maternal deaths annually from childbirth.⁴
- Every minute, one woman around the world dies from pregnancy or childbirth complications.⁵
- Worldwide, one in 10 pregnancies end in unsafe abortion.⁶
- Brazil has reported 3,893 suspected cases of microcephaly, where infants are born with smaller than usual brains, caused by the Zika virus.⁷
- In 2013, almost 60 percent of all new HIV infections among young persons occurred among adolescent girls and young women; this translates into almost 1,000 young women newly infected with HIV every day.⁸
- An estimated 200 million girls and women alive today in Africa and the Middle East have undergone some form of FGM.⁹

¹ <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Health/Pages/SRRightHealthIndex.aspx>

² <https://www.girlsummit2014.org/Commitment/Show>

³ <http://www.prb.org/Publications/Media-Guides/2012/unmet-need-factsheet.aspx>

⁴ <http://thp.org/knowledge-center/know-your-world-facts-about-hunger-poverty/>

⁵ <http://www.unicef.org/newsline/02pr07iwd.htm>

⁶ <http://www.prb.org/pdf05/unsafeabortion.pdf>

⁷ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/01/zika-virus-spread-americas-160125140747987.html>

⁸ <http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/hiv-and-aids/facts-and-figures>

⁹ <http://www.unfpa.org/resources/female-genital-mutilation-fgm-frequently-asked-questions>

2016 WWSF Campaign - **Rural Women Rise and Claim Your Rights** - Beijing+21 & SDG+1
4 October: **Claim your right to health and wellbeing** (cont'd)

Useful Resources

- Goal 3 of the SDGs
<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/SDG3>
- WHO Statistics 2016
http://www.who.int/gho/publications/world_health_statistics/2016/EN_WHS2016_TOC.pdf?ua=1
- Constitution of the World Health Organization
http://www.who.int/governance/eb/who_constitution_en.pdf
http://www.who.int/gho/publications/world_health_statistics/2016/EN_WHS2016_TOC.pdf?ua=1
- Right to Sexual and Reproductive Health ADDED
(<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=17168&LangID=E>)
- General Comment No. 22
http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolNo=E%2FC.12%2fGC%2f22&Lang=en
- UN Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Health/Pages/SRRRightHealthIndex.aspx>
- International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CESCR.aspx>
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CEDAW.aspx>



Ideas for Action

- **Lobby** your government to provide rural women equal access to necessary health information needed to live a healthy and full life
- **Put pressure** on your local and national officials to fulfill the promises they made to realize your right to safe, clean water, adequate sanitation, healthy occupational and environmental conditions, and access to health-related information
- **Educate** others on their human right to health and let them know that they deserve timely and appropriate health care
- **Ensure** that you have the proper information to make your own decisions regarding your sexual and reproductive health
- **Utilize** the media, including social media, and your creativity to have your rights and needs realized on a national level
- **Create** care alliances to allow care providers to share knowledge, skills, and resources on health related topics
- **Encourage** other women to talk about health, preventing unwanted pregnancies and childcare
- **Organize** WALK THE TALK roundtables in order to discuss health related issues concerning rural women and to hold your leaders accountable

Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of Physical & Mental Health (2015)

"The right to health is an inclusive right, extending not only to timely and appropriate health care, but also to the underlying determinant of health (...) and access to health-related education and information."

Constitution of the World Health Organization (2006)

"The enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being without distinction of race, religion, political belief, economic or social condition."

Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) (1979) Article 12.1

"State parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the field of healthcare."

International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (1966)

*"Health is a fundamental human right indispensable for the exercise of other human rights.
Every human being is entitled to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health conducive to living a life in dignity."*

2016 WWSF Campaign - **Rural Women Rise and Claim Your Rights** - Beijing+21 & SDGs+1

5 October: **Claim your right to adequate housing**



Photo credit: CARL HANLON/WB

Photo credit: CARL HANLON/World Bank

Dear Partners and Friends,

In the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, **every person is guaranteed the right to “an adequate standard of living”, which includes “adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions”**. These elements constitute the foundation of the right to live a life with dignity. Yet 1.6 billion live in inadequate shelter around the world, and an additional 100 million or more are homeless. How do we begin to make sense of the violation of this fundamental principle?

The right to adequate housing is not simply concerned with having a roof over one’s head. This right is not fulfilled unless individuals have access to basic needs and services. Because women often bear the brunt of unpaid domestic and care work—activities which are centered around the home—the issue of inadequate housing disproportionately affects them.

Housing can also be considered inadequate when women face violence within or outside the home. The absence of safety or security outside the home can put women at risk of sexual or other forms of assault, and the absence of safety or security within the home can make women vulnerable to homelessness, sustained violence, or further maltreatment.

Sustainable Development Agenda 2030

Goal 11, Target 11.1

“By 2030, ensure access for all adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums.”

Target 11.c

“Support least developed countries, including through financial and technical assistance, in building sustainable and resilient buildings utilizing local materials.”



This issue is closely linked to that of land ownership. For indigenous and rural women in particular, the looming threat of dispossession of land; violent conflict; forcible movement to settlements; denial of the right of self-determination; and discriminatory laws depriving women of land ownership can impose significant obstacles on attaining the right to adequate housing.

It is important to note that while socially and culturally “women and the home are still in many places closely connected”, the need to realize this right should not reinforce the old (and discriminatory) adage that ‘a woman’s place is in the home’. This is to say that this right is a *human right*. Though women tend to face greater challenges related to the realization of this right, it should be accorded to them not because they are women, but because they are *human being*, and because women’s rights are human rights. Women of the world, you have a right to live in a home that is safe, secure, sanitary and resource-plenty.

Selected Facts and Figures

- 1.6 billion people live in inadequate shelter around the world; 1 billion of those live in informal settlements.¹
- More than 100 million people worldwide are homeless.²
- Today, 1.6 billion of people around the world live in shanty towns³
- About one in four people live in conditions that harm their health, safety, prosperity and opportunities.⁴
- By 2030, an additional 3 billion people (about 40% of the world’s population) are expected to need access to housing. This translates to a demand for 96,150 new affordable units every day and 4,000 every hour.⁵
- During forced evictions, women are frequently harassed or beaten and occasionally subjected to inhumane treatment or killed.⁶
- Domestic violence is a leading cause of homelessness among women. More than 90% of homeless women are victims of severe physical or sexual abuse.⁷

¹ <http://www.habitat.org/getinv/events/world-habitat-day/housing-facts>

² <http://www.habitat.org/getinv/events/world-habitat-day/housing-facts>

³ <http://www.habitat.org/getinv/events/world-habitat-day/housing-facts>

⁴ <http://www.habitat.org/getinv/events/world-habitat-day/housing-facts>

⁵ <http://www.habitat.org/getinv/events/world-habitat-day/housing-facts>

⁶ <http://www-ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/F525.Rev.1.pdf>

⁷ http://www.huffingtonpost.com/bill-quigley/ten-facts-about-homelessn_b_5977946.html

2016 WWSF Campaign - Rural Women Rise and Claim Your Rights - Beijing+21 & SDGs+1
5 October: Claim your right to adequate housing (cont'd)

Useful Resources

- SDG 11 sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg11
- Statement by UN Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=15219&LangID=E>
- The Right to Housing – CETIM
<http://www.cetim.ch/en/documents/bro7-log-A4-an.pdf>
- UNHCR Right to Adequate Housing Fact Sheet No. 21
http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/FS21_rev_1_Housing_en.pdf
- Women and adequate housing: study by the special rapporteur on adequate housing as a component on the right to an adequate standard of living
http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Housing/A-HRC-19-53_en.pdf



Photo credit: LINDSAY STARK

Ideas for Action

- **Lobby** your government to provide women access to adequate housing units that are sanitary, secure, and proximate to resources
- **Utilize** the media, including social media, and your creativity to have your rights and needs realized on a national level regarding adequate housing
- **Address** and **work** to eliminate forced evictions
- **Demand** your government to meet their obligation to respect, protect and fulfill the right to adequate housing
- **Call** upon your government at local and national levels to direct more resources towards the right to housing
- **Ensure** accountability of those who threaten women's right to adequate housing through land deprivation, violence, or other means.
- **Educate** rural women about their right to adequate housing for themselves and their families
- **Organize** *WALK THE TALK* roundtables to discuss rights to housing and adequate living with local leaders and hold them accountable

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) (1979)

"States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in rural areas in order to ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women, that they participate in and benefit from rural development and, in particular, shall ensure to such women the right...(h) to enjoy adequate living conditions, particularly in relation to housing, sanitation, electricity and water supply, transport and communications."

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966)

"The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living for himself and his family, including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions. The States Parties will take appropriate steps to ensure the realization of this right, recognizing to this effect the essential importance of international cooperation based on free consent."

2016 WWSF Campaign - Rural Women Rise and Claim Your Rights - Beijing+21 & SDGs+1
6 October: Claim your right to live in a clean environment

Dear Partners and Friends,

The right to a clean environment is a keystone right, upon which the realization of many other rights rests. However, this right is explicitly named in the constitutions of only about 70 of the world's nations.

The 2015 Paris Agreement has shed some further light on the importance and need for a clean environment. Thus the challenge for you to take up on this day of the campaign is twofold: to take action to protect the precious environments of your countries and communities, and to demand that your governments recognize the right to a clean environment as a fundamental human right.

Natural resources are the most important assets of rural populations. A clean environment must be maintained in order to sufficiently meet the needs of communities, which rely upon the provision of clean and enough water for daily use, fuel and energy sources, fertile land for crops, and more. Without a clean environment, basic needs become difficult—or impossible—to attain. The degradation of the environment poses serious threats to stability and well-being. When natural resources are compromised through pollution or overuse, ecosystems can be destroyed and communities displaced.

While this is an issue that burdens communities at large, women often confront a host of related risks in the face of a damaged environment. Wood collecting, for example, becomes more difficult, forcing women to venture further from their communities to retrieve enough wood for adequate energy supply. This can be incredibly dangerous, and puts women at greater risk of being sexually assaulted.

Not only do you have the right to demand a healthy environment, you have a duty to protect it. This entails participating in decision-making to ensure the interests of your community are considered and represented in environmental legislation, as well as learning about sustainable practices for resource use and spreading this knowledge throughout your community. The environment is our habitat and the habitat of our children. It is the solemn duty of all human beings to preserve a clean earth for present and future generations.



Sustainable Development Agenda 2030

Goal 7, Target 7.1

“By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services.”

Goal 12, Target 12.5

“By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse.”

Target 12.8

“By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature.”



Selected Facts and Figures

- A fifth of the disease burden in developing countries can be linked to environmental risk factors.¹
- More than 80% of sewage in developing countries is discharged untreated directly polluting rivers, lakes and coastal areas.²
- 14 billion pounds of garbage, mostly plastic, is dumped into the ocean every year.³
- 8 million tones of plastic end up in the ocean the ocean each year – the equivalent of a dump truck of plastic rubbish every minute. At current rates, that will have grown to two trucks a minute by 2030, and four a minute by 2050.⁴
- The world's poorest inhabitants – 6 out of 10 of whom are female – are severely affected by increasingly longer droughts, more severe storms and flooding, species depletion, soil degradation, deforestation, and other negative alterations to the natural environment.⁵
- An analysis of 141 countries found that natural disasters lower the life expectancy of women more than that of men.⁶

¹ http://www.who.int/healthinfo/global_burden_disease/GlobalHealthRisks_report_part2.pdf

² http://www.unep.org/pdf/SickWater_screen.pdf

³ facts.randomhistory.com/pollution-facts.html

⁴ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/01/oceans-plastic-fish-2050-report-160120051728640.html>

⁵ <http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/corporate/fast-facts/english/FF-Gender-Environment.pdf>

⁶ <http://www.lse.ac.uk/newsAndMedia/news/archives/2006/WomenAndNaturalDisasters.aspx>

2016 WWSF Campaign - Rural Women Rise and Claim Your Rights - Beijing+21 & SDGs+1
6 October: Claim your right to live in a clean environment (cont'd)

Useful Resources

- SDGs 7, 12
<http://www.sustainabledevelopment.un.org>
- Rio Declaration on Environment and Development
<http://www.un.org/documents/ga/conf151/aconf15126-1annex1.htm>
- Beijing Platform (Section K on 'Women and the Environment')
<http://www.un.org/esa/gopher-data/conf/fwcw/off/a--20.en>
- Aarhus Convention
<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/aarhus/>
- UNEP Human Rights and the Environment
<http://www.unep.org/delc/Portals/119/JointReportOHCHRandUNEPonHumanRightsandtheEnvironment.pdf>
- Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development
<http://www.un-documents.net/jbdec.htm>



Photo credit:
<https://whatgives365.files.wordpress.com/2010/08/dsc03541.jpg>

Ideas for Action

- **Lobby** governments to ensure that the needs for both women and men are included in environmental policies, plans and budgets
- **Put pressure** on your local and national officials to consider and integrate rural and indigenous perspectives, knowledge and needs in environmental policies
- **Demand** your government to recognize the right to a clean environment as a fundamental human right
- **Provide** and **disseminate** information to educate others about the right to a clean environment
- **Utilize** the media, including social media, and your creativity to demand environmental rights be delivered on local, national, and international levels
- **Insist** that your government instill and observe guidelines prohibiting pollution by corporations
- **Implement** local programs to protect and conserve natural resources
- **Advocate** to your government, through rallies, conferences and events, that you demand to have your rights realized for a clean environment
- **Collect** and use women's local knowledge to protect, sustain and manage biodiversity
- **Organize** *WALK THE TALK* roundtables to discuss environmental hazards within your area and how to ensure a healthy and clean environment

Paris Agreement (2015)

"Noting the importance of ensuring the integrity of all ecosystems, including oceans, and the protection of biodiversity, recognized by some cultures as Mother Earth, and noting the importance for some of the concept of 'climate justice.'"

FAO Environmental Integrity, SAFA (2012)

"Protecting the integrity of the Earth's system is a precondition of any development. Environmental integrity consists of maintaining life support systems essential for human survival by minimizing negative environmental impacts and fostering positive impacts."

Hague Declaration on the Environment (1989)

"Because of the nature of the dangers involved, remedies to be sought involve not only the fundamental duty to preserve the ecosystem, but also the right to live in dignity in a viable global environment, and the consequent duty of the community of nations vis-à-vis present and future generations to do all that can be done to preserve the quality of the atmosphere."

African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights - Article 24 (1981)

"All people shall have the right to a general satisfactory environment favorable to their development."

2016 WWSF Campaign - **Rural Women Rise and Claim Your Rights** - Beijing+21 & SDGs

7 October: Claim your right to mitigate and adapt to climate change - Main Theme 4 pages

Brief introduction: The Paris UN Climate Change Conference (COP21)



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Dear Partners and Friends,

The Paris UN Climate Change Conference (30 Nov.–11 Dec. 2015)

addressed the growing climate change concerns within our world today, and gathered **193 UN Member States** to discuss an outcome document, which makes nations accountable to lowering their greenhouse gas emissions.

Climate change as a general concept is due to the increase in greenhouse gases, mainly from oil, car exhaust fumes, and mass-produced agricultural production. These increases in harmful gases to our planet has contributed towards a warming of the planet, one that threatens countries across the world and is starting to result in drought, starvation, lack of access to water, increase in disease and an increase in the global sea level. If we do not start to take action now, scientists predict that greenhouse gases will reach the limit beyond which global warming will become irreversible and cause mass damage to our planet.

Countries' original agreements on climate change issues need to go back to the drawing board; new agreements regarding the future of climate change need to be acted upon now before matters become worse. **The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)** hosted the Conference in Paris, negotiated with 193 nations how to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and set the global warming critical threshold to a maximum of 2 Degrees Celsius warming.

Because of this Paris conference, an outcome document has been agreed upon. Countries that are big greenhouse gas emitters, such as the EU, US and China, have agreed by 2030 to cut their emissions down to 2 degrees Celsius.

However, this fight is FAR FROM OVER. The people need to act, mitigate and create change. They need to PUSH and LOBBY their governments to make a PROMISE of their commitments, and stand up for our planet!

Bold States have signed the Paris Agreement and deposited their instrument of ratification at the Ceremony for the Opening for Signature, on 22 April 2016.

List of Parties that signed

<http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/2016/04/parisagreementsignatures/>

Sustainable Development Agenda 2030

Goal 13 & Targets

13.1 Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries

13.2 Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning

13.3 Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning

13.a Implement the commitment undertaken by developed-country parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to a goal of mobilizing jointly 100 billion annually by 2020 from all sources to address the needs of developing countries in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation and fully operationalize the Green Climate Fund through its capitalization as soon as possible

13.b Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing states, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities.

For more information on the Climate Change conference in Paris, and a full copy of the Paris Agreement please visit:

unfccc.int/meetings/paris_now_15/meeting/8926.php



*"The Paris UN Climate Conference represents an historic opportunity to put the world on course to meet the climate change challenge. The world needs a new model of growth that is safe, durable and beneficial to all. COP21 seeks to deliver a clear pathway with short and long term milestones, and a system to help us measure and increase progress over time until we get the job done. **The Paris Agreement is not only possible, it is necessary and urgent. We are counting on everyone's contribution.**"*

- Christiana Figueres, Executive Secretary UNFCCC

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Climate change poses a serious threat to basic human rights such as the access to water, food security, a sustainable livelihood, and peace. Indeed, climate change presents the greatest burden for the world's poor, of which women make up 60%. Women who have long possessed treasured sources of indigenous knowledge can no longer rely on this information, because climate change will continue to render patterns of weather more unpredictable and the availability of resources more scant. This has the potential to upset agricultural practices and crop yields, on which so many rural women and communities depend for their livelihoods. In turn, climate change creates economic, social, and political tension, which can lead to conflict and disruption of the right to peace. It is clear that the right to mitigate and adapt

to the challenge of climate change is pressing.

The ideas of **mitigation and adaptation** contain two responsibilities: to prevent the further degradation of the environment, and to alter behaviors to adjust to an earth that looks and operates differently than it has in the past. This will include adopting new sustainable agricultural practices, both to reduce the impact of agriculture on future climate change and to ensure the growth of crops in a changed climate. It also includes the use of cleaner energy sources, as well as the conservation of more traditional resources.

Yet women, especially rural women, have long been confronted with the responsibility of conserving and managing resources, since they carry out domestic activities that may require direct and regular interaction with the environment—activities such as fuel collection, cooking food, and fetching water. Why is it that they have been excluded from decision-making processes in regards to environmental policy even though they bring valuable knowledge and experience to the table when it comes to adapting to an unfamiliar global landscape.

Rural women, we urge you to demand inclusion and the right to participate in the process of adaptation and mitigation. We stand now at a crucial moment in time: on account of climate change and its rapidly intensifying effects, we, the women of the world, must take action to mitigate the damage and destruction of the earth, and adapt our habits of production, consumption, and day-to-day behavior to accommodate a new global environment.

Definitions

Climate Change

Climate Change refers to a change in the typical or average weather of a region or city. This could mean a change in the annual region's rainfall, or a change in the average temperature of a given month or year. Climate Change is also a change in the earth's overall climate, in either the average temperature or a change in the earth's typical precipitation patterns.¹

Global Warming

Global warming is similar to climate change, yet refers to the observed and projected increases in the average temperature of the Earth's atmosphere and oceans. This means the overall gradual increase in Earth's average temperature as opposed to just a change.²

Carbon Emissions

Carbon Emission refers to the release of the chemical carbon dioxide (CO₂) into the Earth's atmosphere. To talk about carbon emissions is to talk about greenhouse gases; the main contributors towards global warming and climate change.³

¹ <http://www.nasa.gov/audience/forstudents/5-8/features/nasa-knows/what-is-climate-change-58.html>

² timeforchange.org/definition-for-global-warming-what-is-global-warming

³ <http://www.ecolife.com/define/carbon-emission.html>

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Legislation

The 2015 Paris Agreement is the most recent global agreement where member states have agreed to cut their carbon emissions by a certain amount. So far, it is the newest and most detailed legally binding document holding states responsible for their contributions towards climate change specifically.

The Kyoto Protocol – 11 December 1997: The Kyoto Protocol is an International Agreement linked to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which commits state parties to an Internationally binding agreement to reduce emission targets. However, the Kyoto protocol has not been as successful in mobilizing states to live up to their commitments. “The Parties included in Annex I shall strive to implement policies and measures under this article in such a way to minimize adverse effects, including the adverse effects of climate change.”¹

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change 1988: Otherwise known as the IPCC, was established by the World Meteorological Association and the United Nations Environment Program to bring together a panel of experts that could help contribute significant research on climate change and its related issues.

The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer – 16 September 1987: refers to an adopted protocol that sets out the framework, control and definitions for substances that deplete the ozone layer (the layer around our Earth's atmosphere).

Sustainable Development Agenda Goal 13 – September 2015 refers to taking “urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.”



Selected Facts and Figures

- Women farmers currently account for 45-80% of all food production in developing countries depending on the region.²
- About two-thirds of the female labor force in developing countries, and more than 90% in many African countries, are engaged in agricultural work.³
- Over 4 million people die prematurely from illness attributable to the household air pollution from cooking with solid fuels.⁴
- More than 3 billion people rely on open fires and traditional cooking stoves utilizing biofuels.⁵
- A prospective study in Morocco points to gradually increasing aridity due to reduced rainfall and higher temperatures, with negative effects on agricultural yields, especially from 2030 onwards.⁶
- Between 2030 and 2050, climate change is expected to cause approximately 250,000 additional deaths per year, from malnutrition, malaria, diarrhea, and heat stress.⁷
- In 2013, country members of the DAC (development assistance committee) reported that 3% of aid to climate change should focus on gender equality as a principal objective, with 26% of these countries offering to target gender equality in climate change as a secondary issue.⁸
- Women are more likely to die during natural disasters than men. A study by the London School of Economics of 141 disasters showed decisively that a higher death rate for women is directly linked to their lack of rights.⁹
- Global emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂) have increased by almost 50 per cent since 1990.¹⁰

¹ unfccc.int/resource/docs/convkp/kpeng.pdf

² http://www.un.org/womenwatch/feature/climate_change/downloads/Women_and_Climate_Change_Factsheet.pdf

³ <http://www.fao.org/docrep/013/i2050e/i2050e.pdf>

⁴ <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs292/en/>

⁵ <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs292/en/>

⁶ <http://www.fao.org/docrep/018/i3325e/i3325e.pdf>

⁷ <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs266/en/>

⁸ http://www.oecd.org/dac/gender-development/Making-Climate_Finance-Work-for-Women.pdf

⁹ <http://www.oxfam.ca/our-work/climate-change>

¹⁰ <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/climate-change-2/>

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7 October: **Claim your right to mitigate and adapt to climate change** - Main Theme (cont'd)

Why is women's participation in climate change negotiations so critical?

"Men and women are affected by climate change in different ways, with women being the most vulnerable population. Less developed countries are also the most affected by harmful extreme weather conditions caused by climate change. The negative impact of environmental disasters goes far beyond the effects it has on the environment, and also has profound implications for social justice and gender equality. The majority of the populations in developing countries rely on agriculture for their subsistence. Their livelihoods thus get disproportionately affected by calamities such as floods, deforestation and droughts, typhoons, etc., which makes it difficult for families living in these fragile environments to meet their basic human needs.

In Asia-Pacific, women and young girls perform 60% of the agricultural work and are also responsible for the majority of the household work, although their contributions are largely not recognized and are not fairly paid. Women also have less access to financial resources and an unequal share in the decision-making within their households, due to imbalances in certain cultural structures that impede on them from realizing their rights to equal participation, access, and control over resources. Due to unequal access to resources, as well as during humanitarian crisis and disasters that further deepens this divide, women and girls become more vulnerable to sexual violence and gender-based violence.



by climate change, and thus combating climate change is key to achieving women's rights and universal access. Recognizing and acknowledging the relationship between climate change and gender equality and acting upon the need to address the increased vulnerabilities brought upon by climate disasters can have a far reaching and a more sustainable impact on the climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts." Link: <http://arrow.org.my/why-more-women-are-needed-in-the-climate-negotiations/>

"As most vulnerable populations, women and young girls must be included in all national, regional and global level negotiations on climate change, and they should also be placed at the heart of local and national level implementation. Ensuring that women and young girls are viewed as active stakeholders will allow climate-related funds and mechanisms to be redirected to prioritize gender-sensitive, rights-based policies and technologies that would benefit women and enhance their resilience, while at the same time reducing carbon emissions, and hence will result in transformational and more environmentally sustainable changes."



- Mary Robinson, Head of Mary Robinson Foundation for Climate Justice
<http://www.mrfcj.org/our-work/areas-of-work/womens-leadership-on-gender-and-climate-change/>

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7 October: Claim your right to mitigate and adapt to climate change - Main Theme (cont'd)

Useful Resources

- PRINCIPLES OF CLIMATE JUSTICE
<http://www.mrfcj.org/principles-of-climate-justice/>
- Climate 2020: Facing the Future
<http://www.una.org.uk/news/15/06/climate-2020-facing-future>
- Goal 13 of the SDGs
sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg13
- 2015 Paris Agreement
unfccc.int/resource/docs/2015/cop21/eng/l09r01.pdf
- Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment
<http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?documentid=97&articleid=1503>
- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Fifth Assessment Report <http://www.ipcc.ch>
- Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development: Our Common Future
<http://www.un-documents.net/our-common-future.pdf>
- Rio Declaration on Environment and Development
<http://www.un.org/documents/ga/conf151/aconf15126-1annex1.htm>
- Women and Climate Change-Time to change
<http://cdkn.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/CDKN-gender-and-cc-final.pdf>



Photo: UN Women Watch

Ideas for Action

- **Lobby** your government to provide rural women equal access to the necessary tools and resources needed to adopt sustainable agricultural techniques
- **Raise awareness** in your local or national government about rural women's unique role and indigenous knowledge and expertise in conserving and protecting the earth and its resources
- **Educate** yourself and others about the 2015 Paris Agreement, climate change and the need to mitigate and adapt to its effects
- **Ensure** equitable representation of women in all decisions relating to climate change, and that a gender perspective is adopted in development and environment policies and programs
- **Seek training** in methods for increasing productivity in a changing climate, and share this knowledge with others in your community
- **Advocate** to your government the need for efficient and green technologies in your communities, such as fuel-efficient stoves, which require fewer resources
- **Identify** opportunities to adopt and scale-up green policies, practices, and sustainability initiatives
- **Hold** rallies, conferences, and events to advocate and show your government that you demand climate change be acknowledged and accounted for in local & national legislation
- **Brainstorm** national climate change strategies so that they are inclusive of the capabilities, rights and vulnerabilities of all women, especially older women
- **Organize** WALK THE TALK roundtables to discuss issues of climate change and how to combat it

Paris Agreement (2015) Annex

"Acknowledging that climate change is a common concern of humankind, Parties should, when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on human rights, the right to health, rights of indigenous peoples, local communities, migrants, children, persons with disabilities and people in vulnerable situations and the right to development, as well as gender equality, empowerment of women and intergenerational equity."

Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (1992) Principle 20

"Women have a vital role in environmental management and development. Their full participation is therefore essential to achieve sustainable development."

World Charter for Nature (1982) Annex part B

"[Humankind] can alter nature and exhaust natural resources by [an] action or its consequences and, therefore, must fully recognize the urgency of maintaining the stability and quality of nature and of conserving natural resources."

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8 October: Claim your right to economic development and financial autonomy

Photo credit: DANIEL FUHRER/WWSF

Dear Partners and Friends,

Women spend twice as many hours each day as men do, cooking, cleaning, collecting water and firewood, and four times as many hours caring for the ill, elderly, and children, yet they do not get paid for it.¹ It is estimated that if such care work were assigned a monetary value, it would constitute between 10-39% of GDP, depending on the country.²

Unpaid care work is a result of gender inequality and gender stereotyping, which construes that a women’s place is in the home and that it is her duty to maintain it. However, care work is real work, regardless of the setting in which it is performed. Unpaid care work limits women’s basic human rights to an education, political participation, decent work, and leisure. Caregivers have rights, and it is the duty of the state to regulate the rights and responsibilities of caregivers.

In addition to limiting women’s enjoyment of rights, heavy, unequal, and unpaid care work keeps women in poverty.³ It is nearly impossible for women to find paid work when the majority of the day is spent tending the home and children, where this time spent is even further increased if basic resources are inadequate. Women must put pressure on their governments to provide access to basic resources such as clean water, fuel, and electricity to reduce the time spent procuring such resources.

As care underpins social development and economic growth and productivity, it is essential that women are properly compensated for such work and that they are allowed the same opportunities as those who do not perform as much care work. Long unpaid care workloads create **time deficits**, which limit the time both women and girls can spend accessing education, participating in income-earning activities, and accumulating retirement incomes and savings⁴. States must provide women with the necessary resources and public services to allow them to provide efficient care and receive monetary compensation for it.

Women’s spending countless hours on unpaid work is not sustainable – women deserve equal access to paid work and should not be unequally burdened by taking care of the home. The post 2015 development goals must transform the unsustainable economic model. We must work to eliminate gender inequality and allow all women equal opportunities to engage in paid labor activities.



Sustainable Development Agenda 2030

Goal 1, Target: 1.4

“By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of poverty, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance.”

Goal 8, Target 8.5

“By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value.”

1 NO POVERTY

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

- Selected Facts and Figures**

 - Women in sub-Sahara Africa spend a total of 40 billion hours a year collecting water, equivalent to a year’s worth of labor by the entire workforce in France.⁵
 - Women earn between 10 to 30% less than men in most countries.⁶
 - In developing countries in Africa, Asia, and the Pacific, women typically work 12-13 hours more per week than men. Yet, women’s contributions are often “invisible” and unpaid.⁷
 - Of the 865 million women worldwide who have the potential to contribute more fully to their national economies, 812 million live in emerging and developing nations.⁸
 - On average, women make up 43% of the agricultural labor force in developing countries. If these women had the same access to productive sources as men, they could increase yields on their farms by 20 to 30 percent.⁹
 - As of 2011, the share of income earned by women rests at 38%, where women make up 47% of the workforce.¹⁰

¹ [http://www.unrisd.org/unrisd/website/document.nsf/\(httpPublications\)/25697FE238192066C12576D4004CFE50?OpenDocument](http://www.unrisd.org/unrisd/website/document.nsf/(httpPublications)/25697FE238192066C12576D4004CFE50?OpenDocument)

² [http://www.unrisd.org/unrisd/website/document.nsf/\(httpPublications\)/25697FE238192066C12576D4004CFE50?OpenDocument](http://www.unrisd.org/unrisd/website/document.nsf/(httpPublications)/25697FE238192066C12576D4004CFE50?OpenDocument)

³ <http://www.unwomen.org/~media/headquarters/attachments/sections/csw/58/op1-magdalena-sepulveda.pdf.pdf>

⁴ idem

⁵ <http://www.unwomen.org/~media/headquarters/attachments/sections/csw/58/op1-magdalena-sepulveda%20pdf.pdf>

⁶ <http://beijing20.unwomen.org/en/infographic/human-rights>

⁷ <http://ifad-un.blogspot.ch/2010/09/world-is-fed-on-backs-of-rural-women.html>

⁸ <https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/sdn/2013/sdn1310.pdf>

⁹ <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/feature/ruralwomen/facts-figures.html>

¹⁰ <http://www.policyalternatives.ca/publications/monitor/women's-work-what-s-it-worth-you>

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8 October: Claim your right to economic development & financial autonomy (cont'd)

Useful Resources

- Goal 1, 8 of the SDGs
<http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/>
- Facts and Figures
<http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/economic-empowerment/facts-and-figures>
- International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CESCR.aspx>
- Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CEDAW.aspx>
- International Remuneration Convention (ILO)
http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::P12100_ILO_Code:C100
- Discrimination Convention (ILO)
http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::P12100_ILO_CODE:C111
- Workers with Family Responsibilities Convention (ILO)
http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::2100:P12100_INSTRUMENT_ID:312301:NO

Ideas for Action

- **Put pressure** on your local and national officials to implement gender responsive budgeting at all levels and in all policy domains
- **Educate** others on the right to paid, decent work, to education, and to health
- **Ensure** that labor market policies and practices recognize and value motherhood and family care work
- **Utilize** the media, including social media, and your creativity to have your rights and needs realized on a national level regarding financial autonomy
- **Lobby** your local and national government for better resources and services surrounding gender inequality and intensive labor hours spent on care work
- **Promote** women's entrepreneurship and economic autonomy through education, training, resources, and innovation
- **Coordinate** cross cutting policies, programs, and initiatives in order to eliminate the gender pay gap
- **Organize** WALK THE TALK roundtables to discuss your right to economic empowerment, and the gender pay gap with your local leaders

Source: CSW-NGO-Geneva Declaration/Recommendations, Review Forum of the ECE - Beijing +20



The Addis Ababa Accord of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (2015)

"We reaffirm that achieving gender equality, empowering all women and girls, and the full realization of their human rights are essential to achieving sustained, inclusive, and equitable economic growth and sustainable development."

IFAD – Investing in Rural People (2014)

"Greater equality between men and women means higher economic growth and better quality of life for all."

Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) (1979) Article 13

"State Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in other areas of economic and social life in order to ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women, the same rights."

International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Reform (1966) Article 3

"The State Parties to the present Covenant undertake to ensure the equal right of men and women to the enjoyment of all economic, social and cultural rights set forth in the present Covenant."

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) Article 23

"(1) Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favorable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment. (2) Everyone, without any discrimination, has the right to equal pay for equal work."

2016 WWSF Campaign - Rural Women Rise and Claim Your Rights - Beijing+21 & SDGs+1
9 October: Claim your right to information & communication technology

Dear Partners and Friends,

The United Nations declared in 2011 that access to the Internet is a basic human right and is a component of the right to information and freedom of expression and opinion.¹ The Internet and other technologies such as mobile phones, radios, computers, and email are all included in **Information Communication Technology (ICT)**. ICT provides vital tools and information about subjects such as politics, science, healthcare, and human rights at an extremely low cost. However, women have unequal access to ICT compared to men.



Photo: NEIL PALMER (CIAT)

Now is the time to fight for your basic human right to Internet access and other ICT. It is almost impossible to advance and develop in the modern world without adequate access to information. ICT is a powerful tool for improving maternal health, combatting HIV/AIDS and other diseases, reducing child mortality, eradicating poverty and hunger, and empowering women, amongst many others.² Rural women can use ICTs to call local marketplaces to check on the proper selling prices for their goods, to access healthcare information on medical websites, and to research local and national legislation. **Women must be given equal access to information as part of their basic human rights.**

Rural women must take advantage of the resources made available via ICTs and use them to empower themselves. Without access to the Internet, women lack access to tools, resources, and opportunities, which often stems from poverty, illiteracy, and discrimination when receiving training and education³. **Rural women must lobby their local governments** to provide them with equal access to new technologies so that they too can have the same opportunities to advance and develop, as men do.

Living in the modern world greatly depends on technology and information. As stated in the *Beijing +20 Platform for Action*, "Women should be empowered by enhancing their skills, knowledge, and access to information technology."

Rural women of the world, you must demand equal access to ICTs and use it as a tool for your empowerment.

Sustainable Development Agenda 2030

Goal 5, Target 5.b

"Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women."

Goal 9, Target 9.c

"Significantly increase access to information and communications technology and strive to provide universal and affordable access to the internet in least developed countries by 2020."



Selected Facts and Figures

- Women are far less likely to be able to access the Internet affordably than men. Research has shown that women, on average, earn 30-50% less than men. This income disparity diminishes the ability of women to afford access, adopt, and benefit from a broadband connection.⁴
- Women are 30-50% less likely to use the Internet to increase their income or participate in public life.⁵
- There are 600 million women and girls in developing countries using the internet today, which is nearly 25% fewer than men.⁶
- Women on average are 14% less likely to own a mobile phone than men.⁷
- 90% of future jobs will require ICT skills. But out of 102 economies, only 2 had as many women as men graduates in engineering, manufacturing and construction.⁸
- Closing the mobile phone gender gap could open a USD \$170 billion market to the mobile phone industry over the next 5 years.⁹

¹ http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/docs/17session/A.HRC.17.27_en.pdf

² http://www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-s/md/03/wsis/doc/S03-WSIS-DOC-0004!!PDF-E.pdf

³ <http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/2014/05/women-ict-africa-new-digital-ga-201452210244121558.html>

⁴ a4ai.org/affordability-report/report

⁵ webfoundation.org/2015/10/new-report-womens-rights-online

⁶ dalberg.com/documents/Women_Web.pdf

⁷ http://www.gsma.com/connectedwomen/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/GSM0001_02252015_GSMAReport_FINAL-WEB-spreads.pdf

⁸ <http://www.empowerwomen.org>

⁹ http://www.gsma.com/mobileeconomy.com/GSMA_Global_Mobile_Economy_Report_2015.pdf

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9 October: Claim your right to information & communication technology (cont'd)

Useful Resources

- Goal 5, 9 of the SDGs
sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs
- Intel Foundation Report: *Women and the Web*
<http://www.intel.com/content/dam/www/public/us/en/documents/pdf/women-and-the-web.pdf>
- Beijing Platform for Action
<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/pdf/BDPfA%20E.pdf>
- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights
<http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/>
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CEDAW.aspx>
- World Summit on the Information Society Geneva Declaration of Principles
http://www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-s/md/03/wsis/doc/S03-WSIS-DOC-0004!!PDF-E.pdf
- Report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression (2011)
<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/docs/17session/A>



Photo credit: HRC

Ideas for Action

- **Lobby** your government to provide rural women and girls equal access to information and communication technology
- **Put pressure** on your local and national officials to resource community-based safe spaces for inclusive, continuing, and lifelong communication
- **Educate** others on the wealth of free information available online that can be accessed by anyone with an Internet connection
- **Ensure** that you are selling your goods for fair prices by checking marketplace prices online
- **Utilize** the media, social media, and your creativity to create campaigns for the inclusion of women in information and communication technology
- **Promote** the use of information and communication technologies in schools
- **Coordinate** free information and training sessions on how to utilize information and communication technologies
- **Advocate** through rallies, conferences and events, the social and economic importance of equal access to technology in your communities
- **Organize** WALK THE TALK roundtables to discuss your right to information and technology with your community leaders

Source: NGO – CSW - Geneva Declaration and Recommendations, Beijing+20 Review Forum

Report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression (2011)

“The Special Rapporteur reminds all States of their positive obligation to promote or to facilitate the enjoyment of the right to freedom of expression and the means necessary to exercise this right, including on the Internet.”

World Summit on the Information Society, Geneva Declaration of Principles (2003)

“We affirm that development of ICTs provides enormous opportunities for women, who should be an integral part of, and key actors, in the Information Society.”

Beijing +21 Platform for Action (1995)

“It is essential that women not only benefit from technology, but also participate in the process from the design to the application, monitoring and evaluation stages.”

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)

“Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression: this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.”

2016 WWSF Campaign - **Rural Women Rise and Claim Your Rights** - Beijing+21 & SDGs+1

10 October: Claim your right to land and inheritance

Dear Partners and Friends,

Rural women, you perform the bulk of agricultural work in your communities, yet you are unable to fully enjoy your rights. You need genuine land reform. Now is the time to lobby your government to fully realize your right to land, as they have agreed to do so in many international treaties, conventions, and instruments. Do not let your human rights be ignored because of cultural norms or discriminatory attitudes and practices. Ensure your economic livelihood and food security and empower yourself by demanding that your government recognizes your right to land and inheritance.

The **right to land and inheritance** is an internationally recognized human right. It is a necessary condition for development and allows people to meet their basic needs through subsistence farming, water collection, and the harvesting of natural resources. Women's full and equal access to and control over land is essential to their everyday survival, economic security, and empowerment. **Rural women of the world, you must claim your just inheritance and access to land.**

Despite the fact that there have been countless international treaties signed by your governments, in practice women are still not guaranteed land and inheritance rights. This is because of various obstacles including inadequate legal standards and implementation of laws and discriminatory social norms, attitudes, customs, traditions, and programs. In rural areas, inheritance claims are often poorly handled and dominated by males who base their decisions on discriminatory views rather than a legal basis. Women across all developing countries are consistently less likely to own or operate land or to have access to rented land, and the land they do have access to is often of poorer equality in smaller plots.

Women must be afforded their equal right to land and inheritance. No woman should lose property rightfully owed to her purely based on gender. If women were granted the same access to fertile land as men, they could increase agricultural productivity by up to 20-30%. Equal access to land empowers rural women to be agents of their own development, gives them a greater status in the home, and supports them and their family's wellbeing. Achieving the right to land can empower women, provide greater food security, and help to break the cycle of poverty.

Sustainable Development Agenda 2030

Goal 2, Target 2.3

“By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment.”

Goal 5, Target 5.b

“Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws.”



Selected Facts and Figures

- Due to a range of legal and cultural constraints in land inheritance, ownership and use, less than 20% of landholders are women.¹
- Women represent fewer than 5 percent of all agricultural landholders in North Africa and West Asia, and 15 percent of agricultural landholders across sub-Saharan Africa.²
- Women with strong property and inheritance rights earn up to 3.8 times more income.³
- Children whose mothers own land are up to 33% less likely to be severely underweight.⁴
- Where women's property and inheritance rights are stronger, women's individual savings are up to 35% greater.⁵
- If women were given the same access to productive resources as men, the number of hungry people in the world would be reduced by 12-17% (100-150 million people).⁶
- In 26 of 143 countries, statutory inheritance laws differentiate between women and men.⁷
- Children whose mothers own land are up to 33% less likely to be severely underweight and children in households where women own land are up to 10% less likely to be sick.⁸
- Families with secure land rights are more likely to have a greater income.⁹

¹ <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/feature/ruralwomen/facts-figures.html>

² <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/feature/ruralwomen/facts-figures.html>

³ <http://www.iied.org/securing-indigenous-community-land-rights-future-we-want>

⁴ <http://www.unep.org/post2015/Portals/50240/Documents/landesa-womens-infographic.pdf>

⁵ Idem.

⁶ <http://www.fao.org/docrep/013/i2050e/i2050e.pdf>

⁷ <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/family/docs/IDF2015/backgroundnote.pdf>

⁸ <http://www.unep.org/post2015/Portals/50240/Documents/landesa-womens-infographic.pdf>

⁹ <http://www.wunrn.com>

2016 WWSF Campaign - Rural Women Rise and Claim Your Rights - Beijing+21 & SDGs+1
10 October: Claim your right to land and inheritance (cont'd)

Useful Resources

- Goal 2, 5 of the SDGs sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs
- Universal Declaration of Human Rights
<http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/index.shtml> - atop
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
<http://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/ccpr.aspx>
- Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)
<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/text/econvention.htm>
- Rome Declaration and Plan of Action
<http://www.fao.org/docrep/003/w3613e/w3613e00.HTM>
- UN Women: Facts and Figures
<http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/commission-on-the-status-of-women-2012/facts-and-figures>
- UN Women: Realizing Women's Rights to Land and other Productive Resources
<http://www.ohchr.org/documents/publications/realizingwomensrightstoland.pdf>



Ideas for Action

- **Lobby** your government to provide equal access for rural women to land and inheritance
- **Put pressure** on your local and national officials to revise national constitutions relating to land and inheritance rights
- **Encourage** women to ensure their right to land and use it to become agents of their own development
- **Utilize** the media, social media, and your creativity to lobby your government for equal inheritance rights.
- **Address and work** to eliminate patriarchal inheritance laws
- **Promote** awareness of the right for women to own land and gain inheritance to land, focusing on raising awareness among traditional authorities in order to enhance their comprehension of gender issues
- **Coordinate** cross-cutting policies, programs, and initiatives in order to establish a system for monitoring land administration institutions
- **Hold** rallies, conferences, and events to advocate and show your government that equal access to land is a necessary condition for development
- **Give space** for two names on land registration forms
- **Organize WALK THE TALK** roundtables to discuss issues of land rights and land inheritance with your local leaders

The United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (2010)

"Women have a right to own, use or otherwise control housing, land, property on an equal basis with men, and to access necessary resources to do so."

Rome Declaration and Plan of Action, (1996) Objective 1.4 (b)

"Enact or strengthen policies to combat discrimination against members of socially vulnerable and disadvantaged groups...with particular attention to their rights to land and other property..."

Convention on the Elimination and Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) (1979) Article 15.2

"States Parties shall accord to women, in civil matters, a legal capacity identical to that of men and the same opportunities to exercise that capacity. In particular, they shall give women equal rights to conclude contracts and to administer property and shall treat them equally in all stages of procedure in courts and tribunals."

Universal Declaration of Human Rights - Article 17 (1948)

"(1) Everyone has the right to own property alone as well as in association with others. (2) No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his property."

2016 WWSF Campaign -

Rural Women Rise and Claim Your Rights -

Beijing+21 & SDGs+1

11 October: Claim your right to decision-making and leadership

Dear Partners and Friends,

The SDGs have also offered a new platform to claim your rights within your government, by empowering women to achieve equal leadership status to men.

As important gatherers of food, water, and other resources, rural women have a vast knowledge of their communities and what would best benefit them. Yet, far less women than men hold positions where they can make decisions and legislation regarding rural development.¹ Under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, women have the same access as men to take part in and serve their governments. **Rural women must empower themselves and claim their right to decision-making in order to create a better life for their family, community, and country.**

Rural women of the world, you account for a quarter of the world’s population – this gives you immense bargaining power.² You must harness this power by participating in the elaboration and implementation of development planning. You know what is best for your communities. You spend countless hours a day gathering water, collecting firewood, growing food, and cooking for your family. **You are experts in your communities.** Yet, you still are not afforded the same rights as men. Even today, women do not have the same access as men to loans, education, land, healthcare, or skill training.

Your government committed to ensuring you equal rights and decision-making power when it signed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, CEDAW, the Beijing Platform for Action and the SDGs. You have the right, and the responsibility, to lobby your government for access to adequate health care facilities, equal resources, adequate living conditions, access to agricultural credit and loans, your right to land inheritance, and more. Your voice can promote accountability and combat neglect from your government and donors.

Until you are fully represented at both local and national levels of leadership, your voice cannot be fully heard and your rights cannot be fully enjoyed. Now is the time to act and ensure sustainable rural development and equal rights for women in future generations. We urge you to **rise and claim your right** to be part of the decision-making process and ensure that your government is affording you the resources that you and your sisters deserve.



Photo credit: KEITH KRISTOFFER BACONGO

Sustainable Development Agenda 2030

Goal 5, Target 5.5

“Ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life.”

Goal 10, Target 10.2

“By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status.”

Target 10.6

“Ensure enhanced representation and voice for developing countries in decision-making in global international economic and financial institutions in order to deliver more effective, credible, accountable and legitimate institutions.”

Goal 16, Target 16.7

“Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels.”



Selected Facts and Figures

- As of January 2015, women only held 22% of parliamentary seats.³
- In developing countries, 79% of economically active women spend their working hours producing food through agriculture.⁴
- Women account for nearly half of the world’s farmers, but this number is more than 60% in some countries.⁵
- If women had the same access to productive resources as men, they could increase yields on their farms by 20-30 percent.⁶
- In North Africa and West Asia, rural women represent fewer than 5% of all agricultural landholders, and fewer than 15% in sub-Saharan Africa.⁷

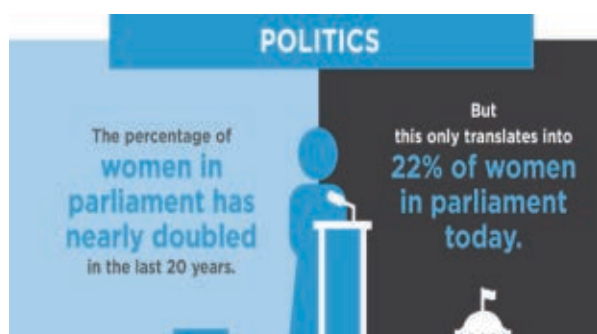
¹ <http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/leadership-and-political-participation/facts-and-figures>
² <http://www.fao.org/docrep/014/am719e/am719e00.pdf>
³ annualreport.unwomen.org
⁴ <http://www.wfp.org/stories/10-facts-about-women-and-hunger>
⁵ <http://www.fao.org/docrep/013/i2050e/i2050e.pdf>
⁶ <http://www.fao.org/sofa/gender/key-facts/en/>
⁷ <http://www.globalagriculture.org/report-topics/women-in-agriculture.html>

2016 WWSF Campaign - Rural Women Rise and Claim Your Rights - Beijing+21 & SDGs+1

11 October: Claim your right to decision-making and leadership (cont'd)

Useful Resources

- Goal 5, 10 and 16 of the SDGs
sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs
- Convention Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)
<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/text/econvention.htm>
- FAO at Work – Women – key to food security
<http://www.fao.org/docrep/014/am719e/am719e00.pdf>
- Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action
[http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/pdf/BDPfA E.pdf](http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/pdf/BDPfA%20E.pdf)
- Intl. Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CESCR.aspx>
- FAO – Rural women and access to justice
<http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/CEDAW/AccessToJustice/FAO.pdf>
- Geneva Declaration for Rural Women <http://www.un-documents.net/gdrw.htm>



UN source

Ideas for Action

- **Lobby** your government to provide rural women equal access to decision-making and leadership
- **Expand** women’s citizenship and participation in leadership: Advance women as decision-makers
- **Put pressure** on your local and national officials to include rural women in the decision-making process, in the design of development, and implementation of rural development strategies and programs
- **Ensure** that rural women are involved in the decision-making and peace processes at all levels and that your voices are being heard
- **Utilize** the media, social media, and your creativity to bring priority attention to policies and legislation to guarantee your right to be heard
- **Address** and work to eliminate gender discrimination in policy-making and legislation
- **Coordinate** crosscutting policies, programs, and initiatives in order to alleviate discrimination against rural women in leadership positions
- **Hold** rallies, conferences, and events to advocate and demand your government provide you equal access to decision-making processes
- **Organize** *WALK THE TALK* roundtables to discuss ideas of entrepreneurship, leadership and decision-making within your communities

Beijing+21 Platform for Action (1995) Article 181

“The empowerment and autonomy of women and the improvement of women’s social, economic and political status is essential for the achievement of both transparent and accountable government and administration and sustainable development in all areas of life.”

Geneva Declaration for Rural Women (1992)

“Rural women have extensive knowledge of indigenous food crops, plants, animals, farming methods and ecosystems. Therefore, they should be involved in the discussions about what technologies and other resources they need.”

Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) (1979) Article 14

“State parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in rural areas in order to ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women, that they participate in and benefit from rural development.”

2016 WWSF Campaign - **Rural Women Rise and Claim Your Rights** - Beijing+21 & SDGs+1

12 October: **Claim your right to security, safety and an end to violence** (4 Pages)

Dear Partners and Friends,

In the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, violence against women is declared to both violate and impair or nullify the enjoyment by women of their human rights and fundamental freedoms. According to the UN GA 69, violence against women is defined as “any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual, or psychological harm or suffering to women and girls, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life, and also notes the economic and social harm caused by violence.”

Each day, thousands of women suffer from various types of violence. According to recent global estimates by the World Health Organization, 35% of women worldwide have experienced either physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence or non-partner violence in their lifetime. While this percentage varies across different regions, violence against women remains unacceptably high in all parts of the world. No matter the type of violence suffered, **violence against women is a violation of the most basic and fundamental human rights.**

Selected types of violence against women:

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sexual Violence 2. Domestic Violence 3. Psychological Violence Mutilation 4. Early and Forced Marriages 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. FGM – Female Genital Mutilation 6. Crimes in the name of honor 7. Elder Abuse
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1. **Sexual violence** is defined by the WHO as “Any sexual act, attempt to obtain a sexual act, unwanted sexual comments or advances, or acts to traffic, or otherwise directed, against a person’s sexuality using coercion by any person regardless of their relationship to the victim, in any setting, including but not limited to home and work.” Sexual violence against women and girls is a grave violation of human rights and is a crime. You must lobby your government to prevent and respond in a timely manner to cases of sexual violence and enforce legislation to protect women from sexual violence.
2. **Domestic violence** means “all acts of physical, sexual, psychological, or economic violence that occur within the family or domestic unit between former or current spouses or partners, whether or not the perpetrator shares or has shared the same residence with the victim.” Domestic violence is globally the most common form of violence in women’s lives. The time has come to make ending violence against women a global priority. Urge your government to adopt a human rights based approach in responding to domestic violence.
3. **Psychological violence** involves “trauma to the victim caused by acts, threats of acts, or coercive tactics,” when there has also been prior or sexual violence, or the threat of physical or sexual violence, according to the Center for Disease Control. It is time to stop intimidation and abuse and exercise your right to live free of abuse and coercion. Pressure your government to protect women from violence.
4. It is estimated that today about one in three girls in the developing world under the age of 18 have entered into **Child Early and Forced Marriages**. Child marriage is prohibited by CEDAW in Article 16.2. We must push for the advancement of gender equality. Petition your government to enforce CEDAW and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
5. **FGM–Female Genital Mutilation** violates women’s right to health, security and physical integrity; the right to be free from torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment; and the right to life when the procedure results in death (WHO). FGM is a harmful practice that affects 733 million girls and women worldwide. We must enforce human rights laws to protect women and girls from harmful traditional practices.
6. **Crimes in the name of honor** are “acts of violence committed by male family members against female family members who are perceived to have brought dishonor upon the family.” There is no honor in killing a woman for her personal choices. We must lobby our governments to protect our right to life and stop this inhumane practice.
7. **Elder abuse** can take the form of physical, psychological, emotional, and/or financial abuse. Many women experience heightened inequality and discrimination, as they grow older, resulting in a lack of basic resources rights.

Sustainable Development Agenda 2030

Goal 5, Target 5.1

“End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere.”

Target 5.2

“Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.”

Target 5.3

“Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation.”

Goal 16, Target 16.b

“Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development.”

5 GENDER
EQUALITY

16 PEACE, JUSTICE
AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS

2016 WWSF Campaign - Rural Women Rise and Claim Your Rights - Beijing+21 & SDGs+1

12 October: Claim your right to security, safety and an end to violence (cont'd)

- Selected Facts and Figures**

 - Violence causes more deaths and disability worldwide amongst women aged 15-44 than war, cancer, malaria and traffic accidents combined.¹
 - 1 in 3 women have experienced physical or sexual violence – mostly by an intimate partner.²
 - 603 million women live in countries where domestic violence is not a crime.³
 - As many as one in four women suffer physical or sexual violence during pregnancy.⁴
 - It is estimated that of all women killed in 2012, almost half were killed by intimate partners or family members.⁵
 - Around 120 million girls worldwide have experienced forced intercourse or other forced sexual acts at some point.⁶
 - The first sexual experience of some 30% of women was forced.⁷
 - Women and girls make up 55% of those victim to forced labor, and 98% of those forced into sexual exploitation.⁸
 - The rate of HIV infection is 14 times higher among prostituted women than other women.⁹
 - It is estimated that, worldwide, one in five women will become a victim of rape or attempted rape in her lifetime.¹⁰
 - An average of 36 women and girls are raped each day globally, totaling 1,100 reported rapes per month.¹¹
 - Survivors of rape are 6.2 times more likely to develop post-traumatic stress disorder [PTSD] and experience severe anxiety, stress, and fear than women who have never been victims of crime.¹²
 - Worldwide, more than 700 million women alive today were married as children (under 18 years of age). More than one in three – or 250 million – were married before 15.¹³
 - More than 133 million girls and women have experienced some form of FGM in the 29 countries in Africa and the Middle East where the harmful practice is most common, and another 30 million are at a risk of FGM in the next decade.¹⁴
 - If current trends continue, 15 million additional girls between ages 15 and 19 will be subjected to FGM by 2030. (UNFPA)
 - In Africa, 91.5 million girls and women aged 10 years and above have been subjected to FGM.¹⁵
 - The annual worldwide number of so-called ‘honor killing’ victims may be as high as 5,000 women.¹⁶

Photo: World Health Organization (WHO)



- The High Financial Cost of Violence (Source: UN Women)**
- Annual costs of intimate partner violence have been calculated at USD \$5.8 billion in the United States in 2003 and GBP £22.9 billion in England and Wales in 2004.
 - A 2009 study in Australia estimated the cost of violence against women and children at AUD \$13.6 billion per year. A recent estimation of the costs of domestic violence against women at the household level to that economy in Viet Nam suggests that both out-of-pocket expenditures and lost earnings represent nearly 1.4% of GDP in that country.

¹ http://www.womensaid.ie/download/pdf/unifem_vaw_factsheet.pdf

² <http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/facts-and-figures>

³ <http://www.halftheskymovement.org/issues/gender-based-violence>

⁴ <http://www.un.org/en/women/endviolence/situation.shtml>

⁵ <http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/facts-and-figures>

⁶ <http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/facts-and-figures>

⁷ <http://www.endvawnow.org/en/articles/299-fast-facts-statistics-on-violence-against-women-and-girls-.html>

⁸ http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---declaration/documents/publication/wcms_182004.pdf

⁹ <http://www.aidsmap.com/Female-sex-workers-have-14-times-the-risk-of-having-HIV-as-other-women/page/2457223/>

¹⁰ <http://www.un.org/eng/women/endviolence/pdf/VAW.pdf>

¹¹ <http://www.un.org/en/women/endviolence/situation.shtml>

¹² <http://www.ngocsw-geneva.ch/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/Advocacy-Brief-on-Sexual-Violence-FINAL-VERSION-21-November-2013.pdf>

¹³ http://www.unicef.org/media/files/Child_Marriage_Report_7_17_LR..pdf

¹⁴ <http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/facts-and-figures>

¹⁵ apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/70638/1/WHO_RHR_11.18_eng.pdf

¹⁶ <http://www.un.org/eng/women/endviolence/pdf/VAW.pdf>

2016 WWSF Campaign - **Rural Women Rise and Claim Your Rights** - Beijing+21 & SDGs+1
 12 October: **Claim your right to security, safety and an end to violence** (cont'd)



Oxfam (2015)

"Violence against women is not a trivial issue in relation to development, and is one of the most widespread barriers to end poverty"

UN GA 59 Session item 98 A/C.3/69/L.19/Rev. 1 (2014)

"States have an obligation to exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate and punish the perpetrators of crimes committed against women and girls in the name of honor."

"'Violence against women' means any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual, or psychological harm or suffering to women and girls, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life, and also notes the economic and social harm caused by violence."

WHO interagency statement on eliminating FGM (2008)

"Female genital mutilation of any type has been recognized as a harmful practice and a violation of the human rights of girls and women."

Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, (1995) Paragraph 112

"Violence against women both violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment by women of their human rights and fundamental freedoms."

Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, (1995) Paragraph 119

*"Developing a holistic and multidisciplinary approach to the challenging task of promoting families, communities and States that are free of violence against women is **necessary and achievable**."*

Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (1993)

"States should condemn violence against women and should not invoke any custom, tradition or religious consideration to avoid their obligations with respect to its elimination."

Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, (1979) (CEDAW)

"Gender-based violence is a form of discrimination that seriously inhibits women's ability to enjoy rights and freedoms on a basis of equality with men."

CEDAW Article 6

"States Parties shall take all appropriate measures, including legislation, to suppress all forms of traffic in women and exploitation of prostitution of women".

Universal Declaration of Human Rights, (1948) Article 3

"Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person."

Universal Declaration of Human Rights, (1948) Article 5

"No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment."

Universal Declaration of Human Rights, (1948) Article 16

"Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses."

2016 WWSF Campaign - Rural Women Rise and Claim Your Rights - Beijing+21 & SDGs+1
12 October: Claim your right to security, safety and an end to violence (cont'd)

Useful Resources

- Goal 5, 16 of the SDGs sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs
- Declaration Elimination of Violence against Women
<http://www.un.org/documents/ga/res/48/a48r104.htm>
- Report Special Rapporteur on violence against women 2016
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Women/SRWomen/Pages/SRWomenIndex.aspx>
- Convention against torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CAT.aspx>
- Handbook Legislation on Violence Against Women (UN)
<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/vaw/handbook/Handbook%20for%20legislation%20on%20violence%20against%20women.pdf>
- Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action
<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/pdf/BDPfA%20E.pdf>
- WHO interagency statement on eliminating FGM
<http://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/publications/fgm/9789241596442/en/>
- Declaration Elimination of Violence Against Women
<http://www.un.org/documents/ga/res/48/a48r104.htm>
- UN Women 2013 Commission Status of Women Agreed Conclusions
<http://www.unwomen.org/~media/headquarters/attachments/sections/csw/57/csw57-agreedconclusions-a4-en.pdf>
- Report Special Rapporteur violence against women, its causes and consequences
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Women/SRWomen/Pages/SRWomenIndex.aspx>
- Girls Not Brides – The Global Partnership to End Child Marriage <http://www.girlsnotbrides.org>

Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Conv.)

The convention calls on all members of society, in particular men and boys, to help reach its goal of creating a Europe free from all forms of violence against women and domestic violence.



http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/conventionviolence/brief_en.asp

Ideas for Action

- **Lobby** your government to enforce legislation to protect women from physical, sexual, and psychological violence
- **Put pressure** on your local and national officials to:
 - Fulfill the promises they made to realize your right to safety, security, and dignity
 - Address gender inequality and gender norms and stereotypes, which reinforce violence against women, irrespective of the circumstances or culture
- **Educate** others on
 - Their human right to life, liberty, and security.
 - The devastating effects that violence against women has on society
- **Utilize** the media, including social media, and your creativity to:
 - Have your rights and needs realized on a national level
 - Bring to light the effects of gender discrimination on creating a culture of violence.
- **Address** and work to **eliminate**
 - Gender discrimination, as it breeds a culture of violence against women
 - Harmful traditional practices against women, such as FGM and crimes in the name of honor
- **Promote** and **strengthen**
 - Accountability for gender equality and the realization of human rights for everyone
 - Women-driven spaces for healing and rehabilitation of women survivors of sexual- and gender-based violence
- **Coordinate**
 - Medical services for women to get help if they have been abused, including a legal framework
 - Support programs for women survivors of violence to open up and rebuild themselves in a safe space
 - **Hold** rallies, conferences, and events to Advocate for an end to violence against women and prosecution for those that violate your right to—safety, equality and security.
- **Organize** **WALK THE TALK** roundtables to discuss issues of violence against women and how it impacts your community
- **Establish** **ONE-STOP** centers that provide medical, legal and relevant services, catering to the urgent need of women who have suffered sexual and physical violence

2016 WWSF Campaign - **Rural Women Rise and Claim Your Rights** - Beijing+21 & SDGs+1

13 October: **Claim your Right to Peace**

UN Source

Dear Partners and Friends,

Every person and all peoples have the human right to peace and are entitled to the promotion, protection and respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, free from fear and want. The influence of the people of goodwill in words, deeds and lives can bring a readjustment of values and a new standard of living for humanity.



Update on the Promotion of the Right to Peace

A new draft for a 'UN Declaration on the Human Right to Peace' has been prepared by the Spanish Society for International Human Rights Law (*In special consultative status with the United Nations*), inviting all stakeholders to embrace the philosophy of peace for development and the sacred commitment to preserve future generations from the scourge of war and continued oppression by endemic economic and structural violence, proclaims the following "Universal Declaration of the Human Rights to Peace". It intends to submit the new draft declaration to the 32nd session of the Human rights Council and to the fourth session of the Working Group (July 2016).

Selected excerpts of the draft Declaration

- "Recognizing that the legal bases of the human right to peace are formulated in the Charter of the United Nations, the Security Council, General Assembly, ECOSOC and Human Rights Council resolutions, the Constitutions of specialized agencies (UNESCO, ILO, FAO and WHO), as well as in international treaties including the International Covenant on Civil And Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.
- "Recognizing also that the right to peace is part of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (1981) and its Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa (2003); the Ibero-American Convention on Young People's Rights (2005); and the ASEAN Declaration of Human Rights (2012).
- "Emphasizing the obligation of all Member States to negotiate and settle all disputes through peaceful means (UN Charter Art. 2(3) and to refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State (Art. 2(4).
- "Recalling the commitment to nuclear disarmament contained in Article 6 of the Non Proliferation Treaty; recalling also the Arms Trade Treaty (2013) and endorsing the work of the Conference on Disarmament in the spirit of promoting development through disarmament and reallocation of resources.
- "Reaffirming that everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the International Human Rights Covenants can be fully realized, and that the rule of law demands the uniform application of norms and rejects selectivity, privilege, impunity and discrimination..."

Selected Facts and Figures

- Annual Global Military Expenditure (2014) \$ 1776 billion¹
- From 1992 to 2011, only 9 % of people at the table in peace negotiations were women.²
- In 2000, the pioneering UN Security Council resolution 1325 recognized that war impact women differently and stressed the need to increase women's participation in peace talks.³
- No women were present at the ministerial meeting for Syria Talks in mid-December 2015.⁴
- In 1993, the UN General Assembly launched the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against women, and provided a framework for action on the pandemic.
- At the 1995 Beijing Women's conference, 189 countries committed to gender equality.
- More than 740'000 men, women and children die each year as a result of armed violence; the majority of these deaths occur in countries that are not affected by armed conflict.⁵
- In the USA, it is estimated that 30'000 individuals are killed by gun violence every year⁶

¹ <https://www.sipri.org/yearbook/2015/09>

² UN Women 2012 report

³ <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/wps/>

⁴ tribune.com.pk/story/1011628/no-women-seated-around-the-table-at-syria-talks-in-paris

⁵ www.smallarmssurvey.org, 'Global Burden of Armed Violence'

⁶ www.cnn.com

2016 WWSF Campaign - **Rural Women Rise and Claim Your Rights** - Beijing+21 & SDGs+1

13 October: Claim your right to peace (cont'd)

Useful Resources

- Goal 16 of the SDGs
sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg16
- Please find below links to research guides containing resources (UN Documents, non-UN publications, databases, and websites) by type of weapon: **Biological** weapons, **Chemical** weapons, **Nuclear** weapons, **Conventional** weapons, **Landmines** and **Explosive Remnants of War**.
<http://libraryresources.unog.ch/disarmament/global>

What is needed?

- **Total** and **universal** disarmament
- A **new economic order**, which prioritizes the protection of people and the planet
- A **reformed** and **multilateral system** to fulfill and improve the Charter of the United Nations
- The **ending of male supremacy** and a radical change in the way we live gender. (WILPF)

“Anti-personnel landmines have no place in our world. I renew my call on all States that have not yet done so to accede to the Mine Ban Convention as soon as possible. And I urge all countries to secure the resources necessary to realize the Convention’s goals. The United Nations will do everything possible to realize our vision of a mine-free world. Toward this end, I wish you a great success.”

- Message from the UN Secretary-General to the Fourteenth meeting of States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of Anti-Personnel Mines



Ideas for Action

- **Celebrate** World Peace Day – 21 September, a great way to make a difference and stand up for peace
- **Get information** about military spending in your country and lobby to reduce the defense budget
- **Elaborate** guidelines to build a culture of peace based on the right of peoples to peace
- **Educate** others on their human right to peace including clean, healthy, and adequate food, a prerequisite to live in peace
- **Utilize** the media, including social media and your creativity to rise and organize for peace
- **Mobilize** young people to reject armed militias and prevent wars; **train** them to build peaceful relations across the divides of war
- **Train** government services, men, women and schools in conflict resolution
- **Put pressure** on your local and national officials to fulfill the promises made in 1995 at the Beijing Women’s conference and deliver your right to equality, development and peace
- **Organize** Walk the Talk Roundtables that address peace and security issues, with your government
- **Support** organizations and individuals working for peace and disarmament

Thematic Debate of the GA “Ensuring Stable and Peaceful Societies” (24 April 2014) – UN Trusteeship Council Chamber

“... It is critical to ensure that the post-2015 agenda enables national infrastructures for peace, which are established on a permanent basis not only in times of crisis ...”

Women, Peace and Security Resolution 1325 (2000)

“Recognizing that an understanding of the impact of armed conflict on women and girls, effective institutional arrangements to guarantee their protection and full participation in the peace process can significantly contribute to the maintenance and promotion of international peace and security”

2016 WWSF Campaign - Rural Women Rise and Claim Your Rights - Beijing+21 & SDGs+1

14 October: Claim your right to hold your leaders accountable



Dear Partners and Friends,

The Goal 17 – ‘By 2030: Strengthen the Means of Implementation and Revitalize the Global Partnership for SDGs. Governments have signed countless resolutions, declarations and documents committing themselves to ensuring the fulfillment of your basic human rights. All governments have adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and most of them have adopted the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). Most governments also had a hand in drafting the new Post-2015 Development Agenda. **Accountability** is the cornerstone of the human rights framework.

Sustainable Development Agenda 2030

Goal 17, Target 17.9

“Enhance International Support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all sustainable development goals, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation”

Goal 5, Target 5.c

“Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels.”



Your governments have made commitments to end armed conflicts, improve healthcare systems, ensure better access to education, and provide you with social security. Yet, they have not fulfilled these commitments. Today, we urge you to **claim your right to and petition your governments to comply with treaties they have ratified guaranteeing your rights.**

According to the United Nations, “accountability” is the obligation of those in authority to take responsibility for their actions, answer for them and be subject to some form of sanction if and when needed.¹ Even though the definition of accountability has been clearly laid out, many governments are not held accountable to all of the commitments they make, which affect your human rights.

You must provide them with the necessary information to identify your needs, and ensure that they track progress in their efforts to fulfill these needs and ensure your rights.

In order to assess compliance, find out what the status of rural women’s rights is in your country. Identify key social institutions, groups and systems responsible for implementing women’s rights, assess the position of these social institutions and groups towards rural women’s rights, and list possible options for action undertaken by national coalitions.

The accountability of your leaders has a direct effect on the lives of you and your family. Your governments have the ability to eradicate poverty, but they must make doing so a top priority. You deserve to be treated on an equal basis with men; you deserve the right to land, to remunerated work, to clean water and sanitation, adequate housing, health care, and more.

Rural women of the world, you must lobby our governments to **comply** with the commitments that they have made to ensure our rights.

Selected Facts and Figures

- 836 million people are still living in extreme poverty.²
- 757 million adults still lack basic reading and writing skills, and more than 63% of them are women.³
- Only half of women in developing regions receive the recommended amount of health care.⁴
- Gender inequality persists and women continue to face discrimination in access to education, work and economic assets, and participation in government.⁵
- Women in Northern Africa hold less than one in five paid jobs in the non-agricultural sector.⁶
- Gas emissions from human activities are now at their highest levels in history. Global emissions of carbon dioxide have increased by almost 50% since 1990.⁷
- Children born into poverty are almost three times as likely to die before the age of five as those from wealthier families.⁸
- The maternal mortality ratio in developing regions is still 14 times higher than in the developed regions.⁹
- At the end of 2013, 240,000 children were newly infected with HIV.¹⁰
- 2.5 billion people in developing countries still lack access to basic sanitation facilities.¹¹
- More than four billion people do not use the Internet, and 90% of them are from the developing world.¹²

¹ <http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/WhoWillBeAccountable.pdf>

² <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/poverty/>

³ <http://www.uis.unesco.org/literacy/Documents/fs32-2015-literacy.pdf>

⁴ <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/health/>

⁵ <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/gender.shtml>

⁶ <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/gender-equality/>

⁷ http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/Factsheet_Summit.pdf

⁸ <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/childhealth.shtml>

⁹ <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/feature/ruralwomen/facts-figures.html>

¹⁰ <http://www.avert.org/professionals/hiv-social-issues/key-affected-populations/children>

¹¹ http://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/hygiene/en/

¹² http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/Factsheet_Summit.pdf

2016 WWSF Campaign - **Rural Women Rise and Claim Your Rights** - Beijing+21 & SDGs+1

14 October: **Claim your right to hold your leaders accountable** (cont'd)

Useful Resources

- Goal 5, 17 of the SDGs
sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg5
- Universal Declaration of Human Rights
<http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/>
- Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)
<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/text/econvention.htm>
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESR)
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CESCR.aspx>
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
<http://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/ccpr.aspx>
- Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties
[https://treaties.un.org/doc/Publication/UNTS/Volume 1155/volume-1155-I-18232-English.pdf](https://treaties.un.org/doc/Publication/UNTS/Volume%201155/volume-1155-I-18232-English.pdf)
- Who Will Be Accountable? Human Rights and the Post-2015 Development Agenda (UN)
<http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/WhoWillBeAccountable.pdf>



Photo credit: OHCHR

Ideas for Action

- **Lobby** your government to fulfill the promises they have made and ensure rural women and their families and communities the basic human rights they deserve
- **Educate** others on the obligations of your government to fulfill the commitments they have made in various conventions, treaties, and covenants
- **Ensure** that your government develops frameworks for guaranteeing your rights and monitors its progress
- **Put pressure** on your local and national officials to sign and ratify any existing international conventions, treaties, and covenants that have not yet been signed and ratified
- **Urge** Member States to incorporate recognition of women's human rights into constitutions/state legislation
- **Utilize** the media, social media and your creativity to have your rights realized and needs fulfilled on a national level
- **Promote** respect for International human rights including labor rights, the right to adequate food, shelter, health care, and social justice.
- **Organize** *WALK THE TALK* roundtables to discuss women's rights issues with leaders in your community and to hold them accountable for their promises

Excerpt from "Who Will Be Accountable?" Human Rights and the Post-2015 Development Agenda (2012)

"Shortfalls have occurred not because the goals are unreachable, or because time is too short. We are off course because of unmet commitments, inadequate resources and a lack of focus and accountability." — UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (1979) (CEDAW) Article 3

"States Parties shall take in all fields, in particular in the political, social, economic and cultural fields, all appropriate measures, including legislation, to ensure the full development and advancement of women, for the purpose of guaranteeing them the exercise and enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms on a basis of equality with men."

International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (1966) (ICESR) Article 3

"The States Parties to the present Covenant undertake to ensure the equal right of men and women to the enjoyment of all economic, social and cultural rights set forth in the present Covenant."

2016 WWSF Campaign - Rural Women Rise and Claim Your Rights - Beijing+21 & SDGs+1
15 October: Celebrate Rural Women and the International Day!
 Including celebrating the winners of the 2016 Prize for women's creativity in rural life

Dear Sisters living in rural communities,

The Women's World Summit Foundation (WWSF) is among many other global voices for rural women's empowerment and calls upon civil society, governments and the private sector to ensure that the world community acknowledges and supports the contributions rural women make in providing household food security, peace-building and development. The time has come that your empowerment becomes a key target of the **new UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted in 2015 and to be achieved by 2030.**

Since 1994, WWSF selects candidates and awards the **Prize for women's creativity in rural life**. This year again prizewinners are awarded on **15 October – International Day of Rural Women**, with a monetary award of US\$ 1000 per laureate for their creativity, courage and innovation in advancing and improving the quality of life in rural communities. 413 awards have been given since the inception of the Prize in 1994, and we hope that our humble empowerment will encourage many among you to continue efforts and move forward in your work to serve your families and communities.

Sustainable Development Agenda 2030

Goal 5, Target 5.c

"Adopt and Strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels."

Goal 17, Target 17.9

"Enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the sustainable development goals, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation."



To read about prizewinners, check out our website <http://www.woman.ch> and send us candidates for future annual awards.



Since 1995, WWSF and many network partners mark the annual **International Day of Rural Women - 15 October**, a Day, which was originally launched at the 1995 4th UN Women's Conference in Beijing. WWSF took the lead in making the World Rural Women's Day known by publishing, starting 1996, an annual Open Letter to Rural Women of the world highlighting particular themes related to the lives and work of rural women around the world.

In 2015, WWSF decided to expand its rural women's programs and outreach campaign beyond the Prize and World Day 15 October by initiating the **17 Days campaign for the empowerment of rural women and their communities 1-17 October**. The annual **Kit for Action** invites you to rise and demand from your governments to deliver the unfinished **promises made at the 1995 Beijing conference** and the newly adopted Sustainable Development Goals for 2030.

In the **21st century**, the global community must put an end to continued discrimination of rural women and end extreme poverty. Investing in rural women and especially in farmers is a vital additional step towards meeting the challenges of food production and ending hunger. WWSF aims to empower you to increase support of your network, partners, local authorities, national governments and bring your priorities and practices to the forefront of policy and programing in order to reduce vulnerabilities to disasters, climate change and poverty.



We thank you for your participation in celebrating **15 October - International Day of Rural Women**, and for registering your activities online <http://webmaster@woman.ch>.

We are your partners! Claim your right to peace, development and equality.
The WWSF Board of Directors send you solidarity and gratitude.



2016 WWSF Campaign - Rural Women Rise and Claim Your Rights - Beijing+21 & SDGs+1
15 October: Celebrate Rural Women and the International Day! (cont'd)
 & the winners of the 2016 Prize for women's creativity in rural life announced early October

CEDAW Article 14

(Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of
Discrimination against Women)

States Parties shall take into account the particular problems faced by rural women and the significant roles which rural women play in economic survival of their families, including their work in the non-monetized sectors of the economy, and shall take all appropriate measures to ensure the application of the provisions of the present Convention to women in rural areas.

States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in rural areas in order to ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women, that they participate in and benefit from rural development and, in particular, shall ensure to such women the right:

- a. **To participate** in the elaboration and implementation of development planning
- b. **To have access** to adequate health care facilities, including information, counseling and services in family planning
- c. **To benefit** directly from social security programs
- d. **To obtain** all types of training and education, formal and non-formal, including that relating to functional literacy, as well as, inter alia, the benefit of all community and extension services, in order to increase their technical proficiency
- e. **To organize** self-help groups and co-operatives in order to obtain equal access to economic opportunities through employment or self-employment
- f. **To participate** in all community activities
- g. **To have access** to agricultural credit and loans, marketing facilities, appropriate technology and equal treatment in land and agrarian reform as well as in land resettlement schemes
- h. **To enjoy** adequate living conditions, particularly in relation to housing, sanitation, electricity and water supply, transport and communications

By ratifying the CEDAW Optional Protocol, a State recognizes the competence of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women—the body that monitors States parties' compliance with the Convention—to receive and consider complaints from individuals or groups within its jurisdiction.
<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/protocol/>

Women's Right to Equality: The Promise of CEDAW

<http://cedawsouthasia.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/12/The-Promise-of-CEDAW-final-pdf.pdf>

Ideas for Action

- **Raise** the profile of rural women and their communities
- **Educate** both government and civil society organizations to their crucial yet largely unrecognized roles
- **Promote** action in their support. Initiatives on how to celebrate the International Day for Rural Women are left to individual organizations and communities, according to their own traditions. Action undertaken by rural and farming women in all parts of the world on the very same day, in a spirit of solidarity and cooperation, will strengthen the impact for solidarity and cooperation
- **Recognize** rural women actors, leaders and communities around the world, to start giving credit where it is due, on the World Day 15 October
- **Organize WALK THE TALK** roundtables to discuss issues rural women face and hold your leaders accountable for their promises

Facts on Rural women (Taken from FAO: the State of Food and Agriculture)

- Rural women, mainly farmers, are at least 1.6. billion and represent more than a quarter of the total population.
- Rural women produce on average more than half of all the food that is grown: up to 80% in Africa, 60% in Asia, between 30 and 40% America and Western countries.
- Women own only 2% of the land, and receive only 1% of all agricultural credit.
- Only 5% of all agricultural extension resources are directed to women.
- Women represent two thirds of all illiterate people. The number of rural women living in poverty has doubled since 1970.

2016 WWSF Campaign - Rural Women Rise and Claim Your Rights - Beijing+21 & SDGs+1

16 October: Claim your right to food! Participate in the World Food Day!

Dear Partners and Friends,

Empowering rural women is crucial for ending hunger and poverty. “Rural Women produce much of the world’s food, care for the environment and help reduce the risk of disaster in their communities. Yet they continue to face disadvantages and discrimination that prevent them from realizing their potential. For too many rural women, their reality is one in which they do not own the land they farm, are denied the financial services that could lift them out of poverty, and live without the guarantee of basic nutrition, health services and amenities such as clean water and sanitation. Rural women’s roles are fundamental to addressing household food security and nutrition goals.” <http://www.cepal.org/en/articles/international-day-rural-women>

On this day, we wish to inform you of your **right to food**. This invaluable basic human right has been acknowledged by national, regional, and international entities on a number of occasions since the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights. For thousands of years rural women have been the ones to feed their families, communities and the world. Yet, you do not receive the recognition, respect, support and protection you deserve.

Women make up 43% of the agricultural labor force in the developing world, and in some countries women account for 80% of the agricultural force¹. Now is the time to remind your governments that in order to continue feeding your children, your communities and yourselves, they must fulfill the promises made and obligations they have to realize the right to food.

Throughout the world, an estimated **795** million people still suffer from chronic hunger, and over 2 billion people suffer with micronutrient deficiencies from a lack of iron, vitamin A, vitamin C, and other important nutrients.² The right to food means that you have the right to availability and access to food that is adequate in both quantity and quality, fulfilling, corresponds with cultural diets, and helps you and your family grow both physically and mentally.

A primary reason so many people throughout the world are either starving or malnourished is due to a basic lack of sufficient resources – such as seeds, water, tools, technology, credit and fertile land. Without a healthy and sufficient food supply physical and mental energy decreases, the immune system is compromised, human potential and productivity declines, and children are unable to develop to their full potential.

On 16 October, World Food Day, WWSF encourages rural women’s groups to use the 17 Days campaign to advocate for the human right to food, and to show their community the impact that they have on the world’s food production.



UN Source

Sustainable Development Agenda 2030

Goal 2, Target 2.1

“By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round.”

Target 2.2

“By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons.”

Selected Facts and Figures

- If women were provided equal access to productive resources, food production would increase by 20-30%.³
- Hunger is the major cause of low birth weight and poor growth among children in the developing world.⁴
- Women produce 50% of the world’s food; in Africa women produce close to 80% of the regional food.⁵
- 60% of the world’s hungry are women and girls.⁶
- In some countries, tradition dictates that women eat last, after all the male members and children have been fed.⁷
- Now, more than ever**, we need to help educate, motivate, prepare, and support the world’s next generation of agricultural leaders and farmers (IFAD). Africa counts for 74.2 million unemployed young people this year (ILO).
- 793 million people are chronically undernourished. The world already has enough food to feed everyone. Insufficient access to food is the main cause of hunger (FAO).

¹ Nierenberg, D. “The Future of Family Farming: Empowerment and Equal Rights for Women and Youth.” *FAO* 8 June, 2014.

² www.worldhunger.org/articles/Learn/world%20hunger%20facts%202002.htm

³ <http://www.fao.org/sofa/gender/key-facts/en/>

⁴ [http://www.undp.org/content/dam/rba/docs/Working Papers/Nutrition Challenge.pdf](http://www.undp.org/content/dam/rba/docs/Working%20Papers/Nutrition%20Challenge.pdf)

⁵ <http://www.fao.org/docrep/013/am307e/am307e00.pdf>

⁶ <http://www.thp.org/knowledge-center/know-your-world-facts-about-hunger-poverty/>

⁷ <http://www.wfp.org/stories/10-facts-about-women-and-hunger>

2016 WWSF Campaign - Rural Women Rise and Claim Your Rights - Beijing+21 & SDGs+1

16 October: Claim your right to food! Participate in the World Food Day! (cont'd)

Useful Resources

- Goal 2 of the SDGs
sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg2
- Second International Conference on Nutrition, Rome Declaration on Nutrition 2014 <http://www.fao.org/3/a-ml542e.pdf>
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CEDAW.aspx>
- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights
<http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/>
- The Global Gender Gap Report 2014
http://www3.weforum.org/docs/GGGR14/GGGR_CompleteReport_2014.pdf
- Beijing Platform for Action
<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/pdf/BDPfA%20E.pdf>
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/ICESCR.aspx>
- IFAD 2014 Annual Report
<http://www.ifad.org/story/feature/ar2014/index.htm>
- Website UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food

Women & the Right to Food—Intersectionalities of Rights

Poverty, Extreme Poverty/Nutrition/Malnutrition
 Health—Physical & Mental/Reproductive Health
 Maternal & Infant Mortality/Disabilities
 Water & Sanitation/Education/Child Labor/ Child Marriage & Motherhood
 Forced Marriage/Preference for Males
 Land, Housing/Shelter/Land-Grabbing, Forced Evictions
 Homelessness—slums/War & Conflict
 Refugee Status/Internal Displacement
 Safety—Violence—Rape/Prostitution
 Trafficking/Lack of Social Support
 Political Volatility/Migration/Statelessness/Minority/Indigenous issues
 Culture & Traditions/Climate Change Issues/Natural Disasters
 Widows discrimination—Lifespan—Ageing Women—Survival
http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/RegularSession/Session22/AHRC2250_English.PDF

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Food/Pages/FoodIndex.aspx>

Ideas for Action

- **Lobby** your government to provide rural women equal access to the necessary tools and resources needed to combat starvation and malnutrition
- **Put pressure** on your local and national officials to fulfill the promises they made to realize your right to food
- **Educate** others on their human right to food and let them know that they deserve clean, healthy, and adequate food
- **Ensure** that food and its prices are not used as a means of political or economic pressure
- **Utilize** the media, including social media, and your creativity to have your rights and needs for adequate food realized on a national level
- **Promote** and educate others on healthy, diversified, and balanced diets throughout the life cycle
- **Coordinate** crosscutting policies, programs, and initiatives in order to alleviate food insecurity
- **Organize** *WALK THE TALK roundtables to discuss ideas surrounding the right to food within your community*

FAO – Second International Conference on Nutrition (2014)

“We reaffirm that the elimination of malnutrition in all its forms is an imperative for health, ethical, political, social and economic reasons, paying particular attention to the special needs of children, women, the elderly, persons with disabilities, other vulnerable groups as well as people in humanitarian emergencies.”

Declaration of the Rights of Peasants – Women and Men (2009) La Via Campesina

“Recognizing and reaffirming that peasants are entitled without discrimination to all human rights recognized in International law.”

International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (1966) General Comment No. 12

“The right to adequate food is realized when every man, woman and child, alone or in community with others, have physical and economic access at all times to adequate food or means for its procurement.”

2016 WWSF Campaign - Rural Women Rise and Claim Your Rights - Beijing+21 & SDGs+1

17 October: Claim your right to an adequate standard of living. End Poverty!

17 OCTOBER

Participate in the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty!

Dear Partners and Friends,

Poverty amongst rural women is the highest in the world. We call on you today, 17 October, to **commemorate the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty**, which promotes awareness of the need to eradicate poverty and destitution in all countries, and honors those affected by poverty. “Women around the world are more likely to live in poverty – just because they are women. They have less access to land, education, income and decision-making – all of which keep them poor.”

The number of people living in extreme poverty has been halved since 1990, yet worldwide 1.3 billion people still live in extreme poverty, with women suffering disproportionately compared to men.¹ Women of the world, we urge you today on the last day of the Campaign to call on your governments to recognize your **right to an adequate standard of living**. Now is the time to petition your government to eradicate poverty once and for all.

Rural women need better access to natural resources, improved agricultural technologies, financial services, employment opportunities, and competitive markets. Without access to these elements, it becomes nearly impossible for rural women and their families to enjoy adequate healthcare and sanitation, quality education, decent housing, and the jobs and skills to respond to market demands. **In order to eradicate poverty, rural women must lobby their governments to create and strengthen social protection floors to enable their communities to break out of the cycle of poverty².**

Social protection floors form the first level of national social protection systems. Included in social protection floors are basic social rights derived from various human rights treaties signed by your governments, and include access to essential human services such as education, healthcare, income security, and food security.³ States have the ability to eradicate poverty in your communities and countries if they make it a top priority. It is up to you to lobby your government to do so.

Each of the **17 Days** themes is directly related to poverty and an adequate standard of living; many of the major problems rural women face today are wrought or exacerbated by poverty. Your governments have made countless promises and recognize your basic human right to an adequate standard of living, but these have not yet been fulfilled. Rural women must band together to petition for a human-rights based approach to development that grants better and equal access to education, healthcare, financial autonomy, information and communication technology, safety, decision-making, and food, amongst many others. Your quality of life matters. **Ensure that your government respects your basic human rights by providing you an adequate standard of living and remember that powerful coalitions are critical to your success.** Poverty and inequality must be considered as interconnected parts of the same problem.



Photo credit: TON RULKENS

Sustainable Development Agenda 2030

Goal 1, Target 1.1

“By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day.”

Target 1.2

“By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions.”

Target 1.3

“Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measure for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable.”

Target 1.b

“Create sound policy frameworks at the national, regional and international levels, based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies, to support accelerated investment in poverty eradication actions.”



Selected Facts and Figures

- 85% of the world’s poor live in rural areas; 70% of the poor are women.⁴
- 1.4 billion people in developing countries live on \$1.25 a day; rural areas account for 3 out of every 4 living on less than a \$1 a day.⁵
- 795 million people worldwide do not have enough food to eat.⁶ Malnourishment and unbalanced diets are the result.
- 663 million people lack access to clean drinking water.⁷
- One-quarter of all humans live without electricity – approximately 1.6 billion people.⁸
- Since 2000, the poorest half of the global population received only 1% of the increase in global wealth. OXFAM

¹ <http://www.un.org/en/events/povertyday/>

² <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=15219&LangID=E>

³ http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/features/WCMS_141818/lang-en/index.htm

⁴ <http://www.ophi.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Poverty-in-Rural-and-Urban-Areas-Direct-Comparisons-using-the-Global-MPI-2014.pdf>

⁵ <http://www.globalissues.org/article/26/poverty-facts-and-stats>

⁶ <http://www.wfp.org/hunger/stats>

⁷ <http://www.unicef.org/wash/>

⁸ <http://www.globalissues.org/article/26/poverty-facts-and-stats>

2016 WWSF Campaign - **Rural Women Rise and Claim Your Rights** - Beijing+21 & SDGs+1

17 October: Claim your right to an adequate standard of living. End Poverty!

Participate in the International Day for the **Eradication of Poverty!** (cont'd)

Useful Resources

- Goal 1 of the SDGs
sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg1
- Universal Declaration of Human Rights
<http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/> - atop
- Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CEDAW.aspx>
- Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (1992)
<http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=78&ArticleID=1163>
- Report of the World Summit for Social Development (1995) <http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N95/116/51/PDF/N9511651.pdf?OpenElement>
- Guiding Principles on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights (2012)
http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/OHCHR_ExtremePovertyandHumanRights_EN.pdf
- 2014 Report of the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights <http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N14/501/65/PDF/N1450165.pdf?OpenElement>
- 2007 Report of the Secretary General: The centrality of employment to poverty eradication
<http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N05/476/33/PDF/N0547633.pdf?OpenElement>

UN Source



Ideas for Action

- **Lobby** your government to accelerate implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action as well as regional-level declarations on poverty reduction
- **Educate** others on their human right to social services and right to development
- **Ensure** that you are granted the same economic opportunities and benefits from your local and national governments as men
- **Address and work to eliminate** discrimination in loans, resource allocation, inheritance, health benefits, educational opportunities, skill training, and employment
- **Promote** anti-poverty programs that improve access to food and water for women living in poverty
- **Demand** that strong linkages between the Beijing Platform for Action, post-2015 agenda, and the Sustainable Development Goals are maintained and promoted
- **Hold** rallies, conferences, and events to advocate and show to your government that you demand to have your rights realized.
- **Inform** your communities on the growing inequality gap between rich and poor and demand your governments to take action

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015) Preamble 24

"All people must enjoy a basic standard of living, including through social protection systems."

Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) (1979) Article 14.2 (h)

"States Parties shall undertake all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in rural areas in order to ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women, that they participate in and benefit from rural development and, in particular, shall ensure to such women the right ... (h) to enjoy adequate living conditions, particularly in relation to housing, sanitation, electricity and water supply, transport and communications."

2016 WWSF Campaign - Rural Women Rise and Claim Your Rights - Beijing+21 & SDGs+1

Additional Resources

“Rural women are active agents of economic and social change and environmental protection who are, in many ways and to various degrees, constrained in their roles as farmers, producers, investors, caregivers and consumers. They play crucial roles ensuring food and nutrition security, eradicating rural poverty and improving the well-being of their families yet continue to face serious challenges as a result of gender-based stereotypes and discrimination that deny them equitable access to opportunities, resources, assets and services.”

2016

Publications

- FAO. International year of Pulses - <http://www.fao.org/pulses-2016/resources/fao-publications/en/>
- FAO. A Journey through all regions of the planet and recipes from some of the most prestigious chefs in the world - 2016
- IFAD. <https://www.ifad.org/pub/overview>
- CEDAW. 2016. *General Recommendation No.34 on the Rights of Rural Women*
http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CEDAW/Shared%20Documents/1_Global/INT_CEDAW_GEC_7933_E.pdf
- SDGS. 2016. Sustainable Development Goals - <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs>
- UN Special Rapporteur on torture. 2016. Torture of Women and Girls Report 2016

2015-2000

- UNCTAD. 2015. *World's Poorest Nations Battle Rising Rural Poverty - Rural Women*
- IFAD. 2015 Beijing+20: *IFAD's work to empower rural women*
- IFAD. <http://www.ifad.org/gender/pub>
- IFAD. International Land coalition (ILC) *focus on women's land rights*
- IFAD. 2015. *The Gender Advantage: women on the front line of climate change*
- IFAD. 2010-2013. *Rural Women's Leadership Program - Madagascar, Nepal, the Philippines and Senegal: Good practices and lessons learnt*
- IFAD. 2012. *Gender equality and women's empowerment*
- IFAD. 2012. *Transforming agricultural development and production in Africa - closing gender gaps and empowering rural women in policy and practice*
- FAO. 2012. *Passport to mainstreaming gender in water programmes*
- FAO. 2011. *Mainstreaming gender into project cycle management in the fisheries sector: A field manual*
- FAO. 2011. *Notes on livestock, food security and gender equity*
- FAO. 2011. *Social Analysis for Agriculture and Rural Investment Projects*
- FAO. 2011. *Training guide: Gender and climate change research in agriculture and food security for rural development*
- UNCTAD. 2011. *Gender Equality & Trade Policy*
- UNCTAD. 2011. *Who is benefiting from trade liberalization in Bhutan? A gender perspective*
- UNDP. 2011. *Leading Resilient Development: Grassroots Women's Priorities, Practices and Innovations*
- FAO. 2010. *Does gender make a difference in dealing with climate shifts?*
- FAO. 2010. *Farmers in a changing climate: Does gender matter?*
- FAO. 2010. *Gender and Land Rights: Understanding Complexities; Adjusting Policies*
- FAO 2010-2011. *FAO at work 2010-2011: Women key to food security*
- FAO. 2010-2011. *The State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA). Women in agriculture: Closing the gender gap for development*
- FAO. 2010. *UN Joint Programmes: Integrating gender issues in food security, agriculture and rural development*
- FAO. IFAD. ILO. 2010. *Gender dimensions of agricultural and rural employment: Differentiated pathways out of poverty. Status, trends and gaps*
- IFAD. 2010. *Lightening the load: Labour saving technologies for rural women*
- IFAD. 2010. *Promoting women's leadership in farmers' and rural producers' organizations*
- UNDP. 2010. *Executive Summaries : Migration, Remittances and Gender-Responsive Local Development. Case Studies: Albania, the Dominican Republic, Lesotho, Morocco, the Philippines and Senegal*
- UNDP. 2010. *Gender, Climate Change and Community-Based Adaptation: A Guidebook for Designing and Implementing Gender-Sensitive Community-Based Adaptation Programmes and Projects*
- UNDP. 2010. *Policy Brief: Gender Equality and Unpaid Care Work*
- FAO. 2009. *Bridging the gap: FAO's programme for gender equality in agriculture and rural development*
- FAO. 2009. *Policy Brief: Women and Rural Employment: Fighting Poverty by Redefining Gender Roles*
- FAO, IFAD, World Bank. 2009. *The Gender in Agriculture Sourcebook*
- IFAD. 2009. *Gender and rural microfinance: Reaching and empowering women, a guide for practitioners*
- UNCTAD. 2009. *Mainstreaming gender in trade policy*
- IFAD. 2008. *Gender and non-timber forest products*
- UNCTAD. 2008. *Mainstreaming gender in trade policy: case studies*
- UNDP. 2008. *Innovative Approaches to Promoting Women's Economic Empowerment*
- UNDP. 2007. *Supporting Capacities for Integrated Local Development.*
- IFAD. 2007. *Gender and water*
- IFAD. 2007. *Polishing the stone: A journey through the promotion of gender equality in development projects*
- IFAD. 2006. *Gender and desertification: Expanding roles for women to restore drylands*
- IFAD. 2004. *Rural women's access to land and property in selected countries*
- IFAD. 2003. *Women as agents of change*
- IFAD. 2002. *An IFAD approach to gender mainstreaming: The experience of Latin America and the Caribbean*
- UNDP. 2000. *Changing Policy and Practice from Below: Community Experiences in Poverty Reduction*

2016 WWSF Campaign - Rural Women Rise and Claim Your Rights - Beijing+21 & SDGs+1
Selected World Days to use for advocacy work

“Human rights matter because they are dependent on only one thing: being human.”

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/HRDay2015/Pages/HRD2015.aspx>



Every day is Human Rights Day. “...With three billion people living on less than \$ 2.50 a day, it’s clear that they haven’t got the same rights that should apply to everyone. By becoming more aware of our universal rights, we can tackle some of our greatest challenges...”.
 says Sir Richard Branson, who is supporting Barefoot Against Poverty to mark International Human Rights Day on 10 December.

- **06 February** – International Day of Zero Tolerance of FGM
- **10 February** – Safer Internet Day
- **13 February** – World Radio Day: Women & Radio
- **8 March** - International Women’s Day
- **22 March** – World Earth Day
- **10 May** – Mother’s Day
- **16 May** – Global Day of Citizen Action
- **21 May** – World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development
- **19 June** – International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict
- **26 June**– International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking
- **30 July**– World Day against Trafficking in Persons
- **12 August**– International Youth Day
- **8 September** – International Literacy Day
- **21 September** – International Day of Peace
- **02 October** – International Day of Non-Violence
- **11 October** – International Day of the Girl Child
- **15 October** – International Day of Rural Women (Day to celebrate Rural Women and their communities)
- **16 October** – World Food Day (Day to celebrate Women food producers)
- **17 October** – International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (Day to make ending extreme poverty a priority)
- **18 October** – European Anti-Trafficking Day
- **24 October** – UN Day
- **25 November** – International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women
- **01 December** – World AIDS Day
- **03 December** – International Day of Persons with Disabilities
- **10 December** – Human Rights Day
- **12 December** – World Health Coverage Day
- **20 December**– International Human Solidarity Day

2016 WWSF Campaign - Rural Women Rise and Claim Your Rights - Beijing+21 & SDGs+1
Selected videos to support campaign activities

CEDAW

- CEDAW – A Superhero for Women in Scotland
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uP3d4DOoqLo>
 Relevant Themes: Violence against Women (12 Oct)

- Principle of Non Discrimination—CEDAW
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OBdDB5PKrmk>
 Relevant themes: All

- Principle of State Obligation—CEDAW
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FKYM7g_gFRA
 Relevant themes: All

- Principle of Substantive Equality—CEDAW
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SZR0RJtghyY>
 Relevant themes: All

UN Women

- Empowering Women – Empowering Humanity: Picture it!—UN Women
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dBbWcL87rDU> Relevant themes: All

- Putting the Women’s Agenda as a Priority—UN Women
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=co3-Uech1Fc>

FAO

- Women: Key to Achieving food security in Cambodia
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kWXKzBOhdbE&spfreload=5>
 Relevant Themes: Food (16 Oct); Development (1 Oct); Health (4 Oct
 Economic Development, Credit, Fair Pay, Financial Autonomy (8 Oct);
 Decision-making (11 Oct); Security and Safety (12 Oct); Peace (13 Oct)

- Safe Markets for Women Vendors in Papua New Guinea—UN Women
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e_ZQ3_kziEg
 Relevant themes: Economic Development, Credit, Fair Pay, Financial Autonomy
 (8 Oct (Security and Safety (12 Oct), Peace (13 Oct)

IFAD

- In particular Papua: Woman Power
 Nepal: Sunita Weaves
 Burkina Faso: Waiting for the rain
 Gambia: The Chief
 Burundi: Justice for Maura
 Madagascar: Abeline’s field of gold / Rose’s new job / Dream Weaver / Teatime with Bernadette /
 Faustina’s Fortune / Howa’s Chance: Three Sisters
<http://www.ifad.org/media/>

2016 WWSF Campaign - **Rural Women Rise and Claim Your Rights** - *Beijing+21 & SDGs+1* **Selected Relevant Themes** (cont'd.)

Housing

Relevant themes: Adequate Housing (5 Oct)

- Cambodia: Women Protecting Their Properties

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D23U0wPYy24>

Economic Empowerment

- Oxfam Novib (Balanced trees bear richer fruit)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ZWgm6ZYMUU>

Land (10 Oct), Decision-making (11 Oct), Celebrate rural women (15 Oct)

- Empowering Women in Rural India—BBC

<http://www.bbc.com/news/business-23194487>

Relevant themes: Education (2 Oct); Economic Development, Credit, Fair Pay, Financial Autonomy (8 Oct)

Information and Communication technology

- Women and Media: Christiane Amanpour

http://www.unesco.org/archives/multimedia/?s=films_details&pg=33&id=2978

(9 Oct); leadership (11 Oct); economic empowerment (8 Oct)

Land

- My Community: Field or Famine—WorldFish

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SOm5bVtNjrU>

Relevant themes: Education (2 Oct); Land and Inheritance (10 Oct)

- Rural Women: Face the Facts—WorldFish

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kfQ27Dx3k8Y>

Relevant themes: Education (2 Oct); Land and Inheritance (10 Oct.); Food (16 Oct.)

Violence Against Women

- Ted Talks – We Need to Talk about Sexual Violence

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HPJfBqoNH7Q>

Relevant Themes: All

- Violence Against Women—It's a Men's Issue

http://www.ted.com/talks/jackson_katz_violence_against_women_it_s_a_men_s_issue?language=en

Relevant themes: Security and Safety (12 Oct.) Peace (13 Oct.)

- Too Young to Wed: The Secret World of Child Brides – tooyoungtowed.org

<http://tooyoungtowed.org/-/videos>

Relevant Themes: Security and Safety (12 Oct); Peace (13 Oct); education (2 Oct); Health and well being (4 Oct)

Food

- Rethink World Hunger – thp

http://www.thp.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Rethink-World-Hunger_FINAL.mp4

Relevant Themes: Food (16 Oct); Development (1 Oct); Rural Women (15 Oct)

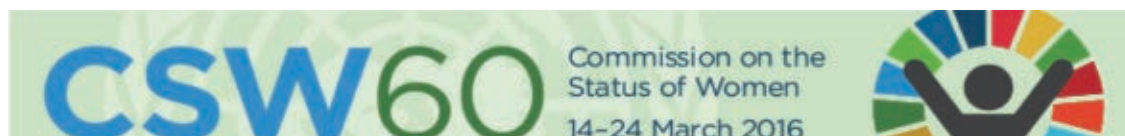
Poverty

- The Clock is Ticking – The girl Effect

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1e8xgF0JtVg>

Relevant Themes: All

2016 WWSF Campaign - **Rural Women Rise and Claim Your Rights** - *Beijing+21 & SDGs+1*



2016 Commission on the Status of Women - CSW 60 – New York, NY (14-24 March 2016)

The main theme for this year's 60th session of the Commission on the status of women was **Women's empowerment and its link to sustainable development**

UN Women New York – Press Release

"The 60th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women concluded with UN Member States committing to the gender-responsive implementation of Agenda 2030. A set of agreed conclusions called for enhancing the basis for rapid progress, including stronger laws, policies and institutions, better data and scaled-up financing. The Commission recognized women's vital role as agents of development. It acknowledged that progress on the Sustainable Development Goals at the heart of Agenda 2030 will not be possible without gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.

UN Women Executive Director, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, welcomed the agreement and commitment of UN Member States to make the **2030 Agenda**, adopted last September, a reality in countries around the world.

She said: "Countries gave gender inequality an expiry date: 2030. Now it is time to get to work. These agreed conclusions entrench and start the implementation of a gender-responsive agenda 2030 with which we have the best possibility to leave no one behind."

<http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2016/3/press-release-csw60-urges-gender-responsive-implementation-of-agenda-2030#sthash.7yVlpNvD.dpuf>

- Agreed conclusions: http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/2016/27&Lang=E

The Commission on the Status of Women takes place in New York every year, and entails a large-scale expert discussion held by the United Nations relating to women rights issues. Female experts from all over the world came together from the 14 to 24th March 2016 in order to discuss Women's Empowerment.



Photo: UN Women/Ryan Brown. A view of the room during the closing plenary meeting of the 60th Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women

Selected Excerpts of Messages in support of WWSF initiatives

1997 - Hon. Gertrude Mongella, SG of the Fourth UN International Women's Conference, Beijing 1995

Dear Elly, Your work with WWSF is recognized worldwide. You have worked tirelessly for the advancement of women in different regions promoting and rewarding successful initiatives of women particularly in community based rural areas..."

1997 - UNESCO

"... The Director of the UNESCO Women and Culture of Peace Program, Ms. Ingeborg Breines, would like to congratulate the Women's World Summit Foundation for organizing the eventful celebrations to mark the World Rural Women's Day on 15 October..."

1997 - President of the United States of America, Bill Clinton

"... Our world has been continually uplifted and renewed by the contributions of women of courage and conscience, women of strength and compassion, women of vision and talent have enriched every aspect of international society. (...) I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim October 15, 1997, as International Rural Women's Day in the United States...Hillary joins me in extending best wishes to all."

1998 - Former High Commissioner for Human Rights - Mary Robinson

"... I am grateful to you for having dedicated this Rural Women's Day to the 50th Anniversary, and to human rights at large. It highlights the importance of the Declaration for rural women and manifests its universal nature... I offer you my best wishes for productive and rewarding results of your meeting and wish you happiness and satisfaction..."

1998 - M. Robert Kramer, Minister of Agriculture and the Environment of the Geneva State Council

"... Au nom du Conseil d'Etat de la République et Canton de Genève, je tiens tout d'abord à vous saluer et à vous dire à quel point nous sommes honorés que vous ayez choisi Genève pour distribuer ce prix qui distingue chaque année un certain nombre de femmes pour leurs actions en milieu rural. Je tiens à vous dire que nous sommes honoré par votre présence et que nous nous sentons modestes lorsque nous voyons ce que les lauréates qui sont distinguées aujourd'hui ont accompli..."

1998 - Angela E.V. King, Assistant UN SG-Special Adviser on Gender Issues & Advancement of Women

"... The celebration of World Rural Women's Day - 15 October provides an opportunity to honor women who have contributed to the spirit of the Beijing Platform for Action and to remind the world how much we owe to rural women and to give credit and value to their work. I hope it will proclaim the essential message to the need for immediate and determined actions for the advancement of rural women ..."

1998 and 2000 - Dr. Nafis Sadik, former Executive Director United Nations Population Fund

"... I wish to extend my congratulations to the Women's World Summit Foundation on organizing the World Rural Women's Day. Such a day is an important opportunity to recognize the contributions that rural women make to the welfare of their families.... On behalf UNFPA, and on my own behalf, I would like to convey my best wishes to all the participants who have come to Geneva to celebrate this day... This is a first necessary step on the way to empowering women."

"... Keep up the good work! Advance the dignity of women. Help them to achieve their goals! We applaud you, and in our own way, we support every single woman, wherever she lives, however she is managing to improve lives of those around her..."

2002 - Letter from James T. Morris, former Director, World Food Program

"...Thank you for your continued collaboration in addressing and meeting the needs of hungry poor people..." Let me take this opportunity to congratulate the prize winners and express my appreciation for their achievements in favor of rural women..."

2002 - Statement by the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva, Mr. Vladimir Petrovsky, at the opening of the WWSF

Exhibition "Vision de Femmes" "... It is a great pleasure to welcome you all to the Palais des Nations for the opening of this exhibition honoring the recipients of the Women's World Summit Foundation's **Prize for Women's creativity in rural life** and celebrating the vision and talent of women in rural areas in developing countries... The empowerment of women is a means of empowering whole nations..."

2003 - Graca Machel - Fundacao Para Desenvolvimento Da Comunidade

"I salute you today, the 15 October 2003, World Rural Women's Day, which is being celebrated world wide. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the important efforts made by the Women's World Summit Foundation (WWSF) to galvanize the commemoration of this day globally. The use of the annual Open Letter to Rural Women of the world is an important instrument to educate the community at large and remind rural women of their rights. I commend the Prize awarded for women's creativity in rural life, awarded since 1994 to creative and courageous community leaders who take on education and training of thousands of rural women who are the actors of local and national development and food production. Rural women need to become visible and reckoned with if governments want to eradicate poverty since 70% of the poor live in rural communities..."

2003 - Thoraya Ahmed Obaid, former Executive Director of UNFPA - United Nations Population Fund

"... UNFPA salutes the past and present prizewinners for women's creativity in rural life. Working together we can build a world where the creativity and diversity of humankind are celebrated, and the human rights of women and children are fully respected..."

2003 - Bertrand G. Ramcharan, former Acting UN High Commissioner for Human Rights - Palais Wilson, Geneva

"... The empowerment of women requires that we give priority to the obligation Governments have accepted to guarantee to all full access to education, as education is not only a right in itself, but an indispensable means of realizing all other human rights..."

2011 - Michelle Bachelet, former CEO of UN Women "... I congratulate the Women's World Summit Foundation on your 20th anniversary as you celebrate women's creativity in rural life. ... There is no limit to what women can accomplish when we set our minds to it. And the women honored tonight are a case in point, and they are an inspiration to all of us..."

2015 - Message from IFAD

2016 WWSF Campaign - **Rural Women Rise and Claim Your Rights** - Beijing+21 & SDGs+1 Useful publications by CETIM

<http://www.cetim.ch/blog/en>

The Human Right Program of the CETIM is dedicated to the defense and promotion of all human rights, a commitment based on the principle that human rights are totally inseparable and indivisible. Within that commitment, however, the CETIM has a particular focus on economic social and cultural rights and the right to development, still much neglected in our times, even if not denied completely. Its objective includes combating the impunity accompanying the numerous violations of these rights and helping the communities, social groups and movements victimized by these violations to be heard and to obtain redress.

Through this series of informational brochures, the CETIM hopes to provide a better knowledge of the documents (conventions treaties, declarations, etc.) and existing official instruments to all those engaged in the struggle for the advancement of human rights.

Already published in the CETIM Series:

- *The Right to Food (2005)*
- *Transnational Corporations and Human Rights (2005)*
- *The case for a Protocol to the ICESCR) (2005)*
- *The Right to Health (2006)*
- *Internally Displaced Persons (2007)*
- *The Right to Development (2007)*
- *The Right to Housing (2007)*
- *Debt and Human Rights (2007)*
- *War on Terrorism and respect for Human Rights (2007)*
- *The Right to Work (2008)*
- *The Right to Education (2009)*
- *The Right of Peoples to Self-Determination (2010)*
- *The Right to Non-Discrimination (2011)*
- *The Right to Social Security (2012)*
- *Cultural Rights (2013)*
- *The Right to Land (2014)*
- *Le commerce, c'est la guerre (2015)*

WWSF Disclaimer

WWSF encourages the use and dissemination of materials contained in the 17 Days Empowerment Kit. Except, where otherwise indicated, material may be copied, downloaded and printed for active, registered coalition member organizations' study use, research and teaching purposes, or for the use of non-commercial services, provided that appropriate acknowledgement and the WWSF logos as convener of the **17 Days Campaign** and copyright holder is given and that WWSF endorsement of users' views, production of materials or services is not implied in any way. WWSF cannot be held financially or morally responsible for any loss or damage occurring during local and/or national **17 Days Campaign** events and initiatives. We thank you for your kind understanding and compliance with the WWSF Disclaimer.

2016 WWSF Campaign - **Rural Women Rise and Claim Your Rights** - Beijing+21 & SDGs+1

Attention to all registered Coalition Members:

We thank you in advance for sending us a brief report of your 2016 activities for the 17 Days Campaign.

Guidelines

We thank all registered coalition members in advance for sending WWSF a brief activity report of your participation in the 17 Days Campaign 1-17 October. WWSF will select and publish excerpts from your reports on its website and promote activities at United Nations events and lobby UN member states to comply with promises made to rural women of the world.

In order to learn more about the activities of coalition member organizations, and to share the impact of your advocacy work Beijing+21 and activities, WWSF kindly asks that each registered organization submits an Activity Report to be sent via email to webmaster@woman.ch.

WWSF will include a summary of your activities in the **17 Days Global Impact Report 2016** and publish it online together with selected photos, videos, and press releases from your events. These materials may also be shared via other outlets to increase awareness of your local and national campaigns for the advancement of rural women's rights to equality, development and peace.

Please be sure to address the following points in your report

- Name of organization (and acronym), city and country, telephone number, email address, website (if applicable)
- What theme(s) you selected (amongst the 17 campaign themes), and the relevance of the chosen theme(s) in your community
- What type of activities you organized (i.e. social media campaigns, press conferences, lobby sessions with your local and/or national government officials, seminars, awareness-raising sessions, public conferences/events, film screenings, press conferences, etc.)
- Description of activities (max. 2 pages) with photographs or videos of your transformative program providing highlights, including youth participation
- What 17 Days campaign materials from the Kit were used and disseminated, and how was your event advertised
- The estimated number of people reached by your activities, including the media, radio, TV, and government officials, etc.
- Collaboration/participation with other civil society organizations, NGOs, youth clubs, schools, UN agencies, business partners, government officials, media, etc.
- The impact of your activities in your community towards empowering rural women
- Plus any additional information you may wish to include in your 2016 activity report

We look forward to hearing from you and thank you for your kind cooperation. WWSF Campaign Team



2016 WWSF Campaign - **Rural Women Rise and Claim Your Rights** - Beijing+21 & SDGs



Creating the power for change!

Holding Governments Accountable for Beijing+21 and SDGs+1



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Rural Women's Section

11 av. de la Paix, 1202 Geneva, Switzerland
Tel.: +41 (0)22 738 66 19 - E-mail:
webmaster@woman.ch
www.woman.ch



How to donate:

http://www.woman.ch/index.php?page=ways-to-contribute&hl=en_US
Contributions: IBAN: CH 92 0027 9279 C811 2823 0 - CCP 12-100651-8

Annexe 1: Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)

"Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status."

PREAMBLE

Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world,

Whereas disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts, which have outraged the conscience of mankind, and the advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want has been proclaimed as the highest aspiration of the common people,

Whereas it is essential, if man is not to be compelled to have recourse, as a last resort, to rebellion against tyranny and oppression, that human rights should be protected by the rule of law,

Whereas it is essential to promote the development of friendly relations between nations,

Whereas the peoples of the United Nations have in the Charter reaffirmed their faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women and have determined to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,

Whereas Member States have pledged themselves to achieve, in co-operation with the United Nations, the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Whereas a common understanding of these rights and freedoms is of the greatest importance for the full realization of this pledge,

Now, Therefore THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY proclaims THIS UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations, to the end that every individual and every organ of society, keeping this Declaration constantly in mind, shall strive by teaching and education to promote respect for these rights and freedoms and by progressive measures, national and international, to secure their universal and effective recognition and observance, both among the peoples of Member States themselves and among the peoples of territories under their jurisdiction.

Article 1.

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

Article 2.

Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty.

Article 3.

Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.

Article 4.

No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.

Article 5.

No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Article 6.

Everyone has the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law.

Article 7.

All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law. All are entitled to equal protection against any discrimination in violation of this Declaration and against any incitement to such discrimination.

Article 8.

Everyone has the right to an effective remedy by the competent national tribunals for acts violating the fundamental rights granted him by the constitution or by law.

Article 9.

No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.

Article 10.

Everyone is entitled in full equality to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal, in the determination of his rights and obligations and of any criminal charge against him.

Article 11.

- (1) Everyone charged with a penal offence has the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law in a public trial at which he has had all the guarantees necessary for his defense.
- (2) No one shall be held guilty of any penal offence on account of any act or omission, which did not constitute a penal offence, under national or international law, at the time when it was committed. Nor shall a heavier penalty be imposed than the one that was applicable at the time the penal offence was committed.

Article 12.

No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to attacks upon his honor and reputation. Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.

Article 13.

- (1) Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state.
- (2) Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country.

Article 14.

- (1) Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution.
- (2) This right may not be invoked in the case of prosecutions genuinely arising from non-political crimes or from acts contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

Article 15.

- (1) Everyone has the right to a nationality.
- (2) No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality nor denied the right to change his nationality.

Article 16.

- (1) Men and women of full age, without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry and to found a family. They are entitled to equal rights as to marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution.
- (2) Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses.
- (3) The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State.

Article 17.

- (1) Everyone has the right to own property alone as well as in association with others.
- (2) No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his property.

Article 18.

Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.

Article 19.

Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

Article 20.

- (1) Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.
- (2) No one may be compelled to belong to an association.

Article 21.

- (1) Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives.
- (2) Everyone has the right of equal access to public service in his country.
- (3) The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures.

Article 22.

Everyone, as a member of society, has the right to social security and is entitled to realization, through national effort and international co-operation and in accordance with the organization and resources of each State, of the economic, social and cultural rights indispensable for his dignity and the free development of his personality.

Article 23.

- (1) Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favorable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment.
- (2) Everyone, without any discrimination, has the right to equal pay for equal work.
- (3) Everyone who works has the right to just and favorable remuneration ensuring for himself and his family an existence worthy of human dignity, and supplemented, if necessary, by other means of social protection.
- (4) Everyone has the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of his interests.

Article 24.

Everyone has the right to rest and leisure, including reasonable limitation of working hours and periodic holidays with pay.

Article 25.

- (1) Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.
- (2) Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance. All children, whether born in or out of wedlock, shall enjoy the same social protection.

Article 26.

- (1) Everyone has the right to education. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages. Elementary education shall be compulsory. Technical and professional education shall be made generally available and higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit.
- (2) Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It shall promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups, and shall further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace.
- (3) Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children.

Article 27.

- (1) Everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits.
- (2) Everyone has the right to the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary or artistic production of which he is the author.

Article 28.

Everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration can be fully realized.

Article 29.

- (1) Everyone has duties to the community in which alone the free and full development of his personality is possible.
- (2) In the exercise of his rights and freedoms, everyone shall be subject only to such limitations as are determined by law solely for the purpose of securing due recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others and of meeting the just requirements of morality, public order and the general welfare in a democratic society.
- (3) These rights and freedoms may in no case be exercised contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

Article 30.

Nothing in this Declaration may be interpreted as implying for any State, group or person any right to engage in any activity or to perform any act aimed at the destruction of any of the rights and freedoms set forth herein.

Annexe 2: CEDAW – Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (1979)

Preamble

The States Parties to the present Convention,

Noting that the Charter of the United Nations reaffirms faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women,

Noting that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights affirms the principle of the inadmissibility of discrimination and proclaims that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights and that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth therein, without distinction of any kind, including distinction based on sex,

Noting that the States Parties to the International Covenants on Human Rights have the obligation to ensure the equal rights of men and women to enjoy all economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights,

Considering the international conventions concluded under the auspices of the United Nations and the specialized agencies promoting equality of rights of men and women,

Noting also the resolutions, declarations and recommendations adopted by the United Nations and the specialized agencies promoting equality of rights of men and women,

Concerned, however, that despite these various instruments extensive discrimination against women continues to exist,

Recalling that discrimination against women violates the principles of equality of rights and respect for human dignity, is an obstacle to the participation of women, on equal terms with men, in the political, social, economic and cultural life of their countries, hampers the growth of the prosperity of society and the family and makes more difficult the full development of the potentialities of women in the service of their countries and of humanity,

Concerned that in situations of poverty women have the least access to food, health, education, training and opportunities for employment and other needs,

Convinced that the establishment of the new international economic order based on equity and justice will contribute significantly towards the promotion of equality between men and women,

Emphasizing that the eradication of apartheid, all forms of racism, racial discrimination, colonialism, neo-colonialism, aggression, foreign occupation and domination and interference in the internal affairs of States is essential to the full enjoyment of the rights of men and women,

Affirming that the strengthening of international peace and security, the relaxation of international tension, mutual co-operation among all States irrespective of their social and economic systems, general and complete disarmament, in particular nuclear disarmament under strict and effective international control, the affirmation of the principles of justice, equality and mutual benefit in relations among countries and the realization of the right of peoples under alien and colonial domination and foreign occupation to self-determination and independence, as well as respect for national sovereignty and territorial integrity, will promote social progress and development and as a consequence will contribute to the attainment of full equality between men and women,

Convinced that the full and complete development of a country, the welfare of the world and the cause of peace require the maximum participation of women on equal terms with men in all fields,

Bearing in mind the great contribution of women to the welfare of the family and to the development of society, so far not fully recognized, the social significance of maternity and the role of both parents in the family and in the upbringing of children, and aware that the role of women in procreation should not be a basis for discrimination but that the upbringing of children requires a sharing of responsibility between men and women and society as a whole,

Aware that a change in the traditional role of men as well as the role of women in society and in the family is needed to achieve full equality between men and women,

Determined to implement the principles set forth in the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and, for that purpose, to adopt the measures required for the elimination of such discrimination in all its forms and manifestations,

Have agreed on the following:

PART I

Article 1.

For the purposes of the present Convention, the term "discrimination against women" shall mean any distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex which has the effect or purpose of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by women, irrespective of their marital status, on a basis of equality of men and women, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field.

Article 2.

States Parties condemn discrimination against women in all its forms, agree to pursue by all appropriate means and without delay a policy of eliminating discrimination against women and, to this end, undertake: (a) To embody the principle of the equality of men and women in their national constitutions or other appropriate legislation if not yet incorporated therein and to ensure, through law and other appropriate means, the practical realization of this principle;

(b) To adopt appropriate legislative and other measures, including sanctions where appropriate, prohibiting all discrimination against women;

(c) To establish legal protection of the rights of women on an equal basis with men and to ensure through competent national tribunals and other public institutions the effective protection of women against any act of discrimination;

(d) To refrain from engaging in any act or practice of discrimination against women and to ensure that public authorities and institutions

shall act in conformity with this obligation;

(e) To take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women by any person, organization or enterprise;

(f) To take all appropriate measures, including legislation, to modify or abolish existing laws, regulations, customs and practices which constitute discrimination against women;

(g) To repeal all national penal provisions which constitute discrimination against women.

Article 3.

States Parties shall take in all fields, in particular in the political, social, economic and cultural fields, all appropriate measures, including legislation, to ensure the full development and advancement of women, for the purpose of guaranteeing them the exercise and enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms on a basis of equality with men.

Article 4.

1. Adoption by States Parties of temporary special measures aimed at accelerating de facto equality between men and women shall not be considered discrimination as defined in the present Convention, but shall in no way entail as a consequence the maintenance of unequal or separate standards; these measures shall be discontinued when the objectives of equality of opportunity and treatment have been achieved.

2. Adoption by States Parties of special measures, including those measures contained in the present Convention, aimed at protecting maternity shall not be considered discriminatory.

Article 5.

States Parties shall take all appropriate measures: (a) To modify the social and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women, with a view to achieving the elimination of prejudices and customary and all other practices which are based on the idea of the inferiority or the superiority of either of the sexes or on stereotyped roles for men and women;

(b) To ensure that family education includes a proper understanding of maternity as a social function and the recognition of the common responsibility of men and women in the upbringing and development of their children, it being understood that the interest of the children is the primordial consideration in all cases.

Article 6.

States Parties shall take all appropriate measures, including legislation, to suppress all forms of traffic in women and exploitation of prostitution of women.

PART II

Article 7.

States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the political and public life of the country and, in particular, shall ensure to women, on equal terms with men, the right: (a) To vote in all elections and public referenda and to be eligible for election to all publicly elected bodies;

(b) To participate in the formulation of government policy and the implementation thereof and to hold public office and perform all public functions at all levels of government;

(c) To participate in non-governmental organizations and associations concerned with the public and political life of the country.

Article 8.

States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure to women, on equal terms with men and without any discrimination, the opportunity to represent their Governments at the international level and to participate in the work of international organizations.

Article 9.

1. States Parties shall grant women equal rights with men to acquire, change or retain their nationality. They shall ensure in particular that neither marriage to an alien nor change of nationality by the husband during marriage shall automatically change the nationality of the wife, render her stateless or force upon her the nationality of the husband.

2. States Parties shall grant women equal rights with men with respect to the nationality of their children.

PART III

Article 10.

States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in order to ensure to them equal rights with men in the field of education and in particular to ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women: (a) The same conditions for career and vocational guidance, for access to studies and for the achievement of diplomas in educational establishments of all categories in rural as well as in urban areas; this equality shall be ensured in pre-school, general, technical, professional and higher technical education, as well as in all types of vocational training;

(b) Access to the same curricula, the same examinations, teaching staff with qualifications of the same standard and school premises and equipment of the same quality;

(c) The elimination of any stereotyped concept of the roles of men and women at all levels and in all forms of education by encouraging coeducation and other types of education which will help to achieve this aim and, in particular, by the revision of textbooks and school programs and the adaptation of teaching methods;

(d) The same opportunities to benefit from scholarships and other study grants;

(e) The same opportunities for access to programs of continuing education, including adult and functional literacy programs, particularly those aimed at reducing, at the earliest possible time, any gap in education existing between men and women;

(f) The reduction of female student drop-out rates and the organization of programs for girls and women who have left school prematurely;

(g) The same Opportunities to participate actively in sports and physical education;

(h) Access to specific educational information to help to ensure the health and well-being of families, including information and advice on family planning.

Article 11.

1. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the field of employment in order to

ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women, the same rights, in particular: (a) The right to work as an inalienable right of all human beings;

(b) The right to the same employment opportunities, including the application of the same criteria for selection in matters of employment;

(c) The right to free choice of profession and employment, the right to promotion, job security and all benefits and conditions of service and the right to receive vocational training and retraining, including apprenticeships, advanced vocational training and recurrent training;

(d) The right to equal remuneration, including benefits, and to equal treatment in respect of work of equal value, as well as equality of treatment in the evaluation of the quality of work;

(e) The right to social security, particularly in cases of retirement, unemployment, sickness, invalidity and old age and other incapacity to work, as well as the right to paid leave;

(f) The right to protection of health and to safety in working conditions, including the safeguarding of the function of reproduction.

2. In order to prevent discrimination against women on the grounds of marriage or maternity and to ensure their effective right to work, States Parties shall take appropriate measures: (a) To prohibit, subject to the imposition of sanctions, dismissal on the grounds of pregnancy or of maternity leave and discrimination in dismissals on the basis of marital status;

(b) To introduce maternity leave with pay or with comparable social benefits without loss of former employment, seniority or social allowances;

(c) To encourage the provision of the necessary supporting social services to enable parents to combine family obligations with work responsibilities and participation in public life, in particular through promoting the establishment and development of a network of child-care facilities;

(d) To provide special protection to women during pregnancy in types of work proved to be harmful to them.

3. Protective legislation relating to matters covered in this article shall be reviewed periodically in the light of scientific and technological knowledge and shall be revised, repealed or extended as necessary.

Article 12.

1. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the field of health care in order to ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women, access to health care services, including those related to family planning.

2. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 1 of this article, States Parties shall ensure to women appropriate services in connection with pregnancy, confinement and the post-natal period, granting free services where necessary, as well as adequate nutrition during pregnancy and lactation.

Article 13.

States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in other areas of economic and social life in order to ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women, the same rights, in particular: (a) The right to family benefits;

(b) The right to bank loans, mortgages and other forms of financial credit;

(c) The right to participate in recreational activities, sports and all aspects of cultural life.

Article 14.

1. States Parties shall take into account the particular problems faced by rural women and the significant roles which rural women play in the economic survival of their families, including their work in the non-monetized sectors of the economy, and shall take all appropriate measures to ensure the application of the provisions of the present Convention to women in rural areas.

2. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in rural areas in order to ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women, that they participate in and benefit from rural development and, in particular, shall ensure to such women the right:

(a) To participate in the elaboration and implementation of development planning at all levels;

(b) To have access to adequate health care facilities, including information, counseling and services in family planning;

(c) To benefit directly from social security programs;

(d) To obtain all types of training and education, formal and non-formal, including that relating to functional literacy, as well as, inter alia, the benefit of all community and extension services, in order to increase their technical proficiency;

(e) To organize self-help groups and co-operatives in order to obtain equal access to economic opportunities through employment or self employment;

(f) To participate in all community activities;

(g) To have access to agricultural credit and loans, marketing facilities, appropriate technology and equal treatment in land and agrarian reform as well as in land resettlement schemes;

(h) To enjoy adequate living conditions, particularly in relation to housing, sanitation, electricity and water supply, transport and communications.

PART IV

Article 15.

1. States Parties shall accord to women equality with men before the law.

2. States Parties shall accord to women, in civil matters, a legal capacity identical to that of men and the same opportunities to exercise that capacity. In particular, they shall give women equal rights to conclude contracts and to administer property and shall treat them equally in all stages of procedure in courts and tribunals.

3. States Parties agree that all contracts and all other private instruments of any kind with a legal effect which is directed at restricting the legal capacity of women shall be deemed null and void.

4. States Parties shall accord to men and women the same rights with regard to the law relating to the movement of persons and the freedom to choose their residence and domicile.

Article 16.

1. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in all matters relating to marriage and family relations and in particular shall ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women: (a) The same right to enter into marriage;

- (b) The same right freely to choose a spouse and to enter into marriage only with their free and full consent;
 - (c) The same rights and responsibilities during marriage and at its dissolution;
 - (d) The same rights and responsibilities as parents, irrespective of their marital status, in matters relating to their children; in all cases the interests of the children shall be paramount;
 - (e) The same rights to decide freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of their children and to have access to the information, education and means to enable them to exercise these rights;
 - (f) The same rights and responsibilities with regard to guardianship, wardship, trusteeship and adoption of children, or similar institutions where these concepts exist in national legislation; in all cases the interests of the children shall be paramount;
 - (g) The same personal rights as husband and wife, including the right to choose a family name, a profession and an occupation;
 - (h) The same rights for both spouses in respect of the ownership, acquisition, management, administration, enjoyment and disposition of property, whether free of charge or for a valuable consideration.
2. The betrothal and the marriage of a child shall have no legal effect, and all necessary action, including legislation, shall be taken to specify a minimum age for marriage and to make the registration of marriages in an official registry compulsory.

PART V

Article 17.

1. For the purpose of considering the progress made in the implementation of the present Convention, there shall be established a **Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women** (hereinafter referred to as the Committee) consisting, at the time of entry into force of the Convention, of eighteen and, after ratification of or accession to the Convention by the thirty-fifth State Party, of twenty-three experts of high moral standing and competence in the field covered by the Convention. The experts shall be elected by States Parties from among their nationals and shall serve in their personal capacity, consideration being given to equitable geographical distribution and to the representation of the different forms of civilization as well as the principal legal systems.
2. The members of the Committee shall be elected by secret ballot from a list of persons nominated by States Parties. Each State Party may nominate one person from among its own nationals.
3. The initial election shall be held six months after the date of the entry into force of the present Convention. At least three months before the date of each election the Secretary-General of the United Nations shall address a letter to the States Parties inviting them to submit their nominations within two months. The Secretary-General shall prepare a list in alphabetical order of all persons thus nominated, indicating the States Parties which have nominated them, and shall submit it to the States Parties.
4. Elections of the members of the Committee shall be held at a meeting of States Parties convened by the Secretary-General at United Nations Headquarters. At that meeting, for which two thirds of the States Parties shall constitute a quorum, the persons elected to the Committee shall be those nominees who obtain the largest number of votes and an absolute majority of the votes of the representatives of States Parties present and voting.
5. The members of the Committee shall be elected for a term of four years. However, the terms of nine of the members elected at the first election shall expire at the end of two years; immediately after the first election the names of these nine members shall be chosen by lot by the Chairman of the Committee.
6. The election of the five additional members of the Committee shall be held in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of this article, following the thirty-fifth ratification or accession. The terms of two of the additional members elected on this occasion shall expire at the end of two years, the names of these two members having been chosen by lot by the Chairman of the Committee.
7. For the filling of casual vacancies, the State Party whose expert has ceased to function as a member of the Committee shall appoint another expert from among its nationals, subject to the approval of the Committee.
8. The members of the Committee shall, with the approval of the General Assembly, receive emoluments from United Nations resources on such terms and conditions as the Assembly may decide, having regard to the importance of the Committee's responsibilities.
9. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall provide the necessary staff and facilities for the effective performance of the functions of the Committee under the present Convention.

Article 18.

1. States Parties undertake to submit to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, for consideration by the Committee, a report on the legislative, judicial, administrative or other measures which they have adopted to give effect to the provisions of the present Convention and on the progress made in this respect: (a) Within one year after the entry into force for the State concerned;
- (b) Thereafter at least every four years and further whenever the Committee so requests.
2. Reports may indicate factors and difficulties affecting the degree of fulfillment of obligations under the present Convention.

Article 19.

1. The Committee shall adopt its own rules of procedure.
2. The Committee shall elect its officers for a term of two years.

Article 20.

1. The Committee shall normally meet for a period of not more than two weeks annually in order to consider the reports submitted in accordance with article 18 of the present Convention.
2. The meetings of the Committee shall normally be held at United Nations Headquarters or at any other convenient place as determined by the Committee.

Article 21.

1. The Committee shall, through the Economic and Social Council, report annually to the General Assembly of the United Nations on its activities and may make suggestions and general recommendations based on the examination of reports and information received from the States Parties. Such suggestions and general recommendations shall be included in the report of the Committee together with comments, if any, from States Parties.

2. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall transmit the reports of the Committee to the Commission on the Status of Women for its information.

Article 22.

The specialized agencies shall be entitled to be represented at the consideration of the implementation of such provisions of the present Convention as fall within the scope of their activities. The Committee may invite the specialized agencies to submit reports on the implementation of the Convention in areas falling within the scope of their activities.

PART VI

Article 23.

Nothing in the present Convention shall affect any provisions that are more conducive to the achievement of equality between men and women which may be contained: (a) In the legislation of a State Party; or
 (b) In any other international convention, treaty or agreement in force for that State.

Article 24.

States Parties undertake to adopt all necessary measures at the national level aimed at achieving the full realization of the rights recognized in the present Convention.

Article 25.

1. The present Convention shall be open for signature by all States.
2. The Secretary-General of the United Nations is designated as the depositary of the present Convention.
3. The present Convention is subject to ratification. Instruments of ratification shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.
4. The present Convention shall be open to accession by all States. Accession shall be effected by the deposit of an instrument of accession with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Article 26.

1. A request for the revision of the present Convention may be made at any time by any State Party by means of a notification in writing addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.
2. The General Assembly of the United Nations shall decide upon the steps, if any, to be taken in respect of such a request.

Article 27.

1. The present Convention shall enter into force on the thirtieth day after the date of deposit with the Secretary-General of the United Nations of the twentieth instrument of ratification or accession.
2. For each State ratifying the present Convention or acceding to it after the deposit of the twentieth instrument of ratification or accession, the Convention shall enter into force on the thirtieth day after the date of the deposit of its own instrument of ratification or accession.

Article 28.

1. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall receive and circulate to all States the text of reservations made by States at the time of ratification or accession.
2. A reservation incompatible with the object and purpose of the present Convention shall not be permitted.
3. Reservations may be withdrawn at any time by notification to this effect addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, who shall then inform all States thereof. Such notification shall take effect on the date on which it is received.

Article 29.

1. Any dispute between two or more States Parties concerning the interpretation or application of the present Convention which is not settled by negotiation shall, at the request of one of them, be submitted to arbitration. If within six months from the date of the request for arbitration the parties are unable to agree on the organization of the arbitration, any one of those parties may refer the dispute to the International Court of Justice by request in conformity with the Statute of the Court.
2. Each State Party may at the time of signature or ratification of the present Convention or accession thereto declare that it does not consider itself bound by paragraph 1 of this article. The other States Parties shall not be bound by that paragraph with respect to any State Party which has made such a reservation.
3. Any State Party which has made a reservation in accordance with paragraph 2 of this article may at any time withdraw that reservation by notification to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Article 30.

The present Convention, the Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish texts of which are equally authentic, shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

(23.6.)

