

17

Days of Activism for the empowerment of rural women
 Jours d'Activisme pour l'autonomisation des femmes rurales
 Dias Activismo para el empoderamiento de las mujeres rurales
 Tage Aktivismus für die Stärkung der Frauen im ländlichen Raum



1-17 October

Edition 2017

Rural Women Rise and Claim your Rights



Empowerment Kit 2017

for rural women & their communities - Agenda 2030
 Beijing+22 - SDGs+2

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Women's World Summit Foundation

POBox 5490, CH - 1211 Geneva 11

Tel +41 (0) 22 738 66 19

Fax + 41 (0) 22 738 82 48

wwsf@wwsf.ch - www.woman.ch

WWSF, a Swiss Foundation and an International empowerment network for women, children and youth, serves with its annual initiatives, campaigns, world days and prize awards the implementation of women and children's rights and the United Nations Development Agenda 2030

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Editor and Contributors

Elly Pradervand, Editor

Elise Delley

Alisson Pierok

Deborah Marolf

Graphist

Benoît Ecoiffier

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FOR NEWCOMERS TO 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 World Rural Women's Day – 15 October (declared UN Day in 2007)

1994-2014 20th Anniversary of the Prize for women's creativity in life

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, Main theme: Climate Change

2017 Launch of 3rd edition 17 Days Activism, Main theme: Right to Peace



Follow us!



Introduction letter by the President Rural Women Rise and Claim Your Rights

17 Days Activism for the Empowerment of Rural Women and their Communities

1-17 October 2017



Dear Campaign Partners and Friends,
 June 2017

We are pleased to launch the 3rd edition of the WWSF campaign « 17 Days of Activism for the empowerment of rural women and their communities 1-17 October ». We present you an upgraded presentation format of the Empowerment Kit by using the InDesign format to make it more user-friendly and easier for us to edit statistics, provide news and new ideas for action.

The 17 Days campaign for civil society activism draws its energy and inspiration from over 23 years of awarding rural women leaders with our annual Prize for women's creativity in rural life (422 Laureates to-date), from celebrating and promoting the International Day of Rural Women on 15 October, and as of 2015, by promoting via our campaign the relevant Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – Agenda 2030 – Transforming our world.

Every year we work with coalition partners, women's rights- and development organizations, grassroots groups and the media, to mobilize community leaders, rural women and men, girls and boys, to work for continued change and ensure that especially rural women Rise and Claim their basic human rights to development, equality and peace – an idea whose time has come.

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals and targets demonstrate the scale and ambition of this new universal UN Agenda. They seek to realize human rights for 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 SDG Goals and targets will stimulate action over the next thirteen years in areas of critical importance for humanity and the planet...". <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>

The WWSF 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 2017 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 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.

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 **40 billion hours a year** collecting water

Women are key to achieving the **UN Sustainable Development Goals 2030**

Source: UN

To join the 17 Days Campaign download the Empowerment Kit for information and ideas for action and regularly remind your government of their SDG commitments 2030 and International Human Rights Laws.

We wish to remind you of the WWSF Motto for our action: To regularly remind ourselves that our campaigns, prize awards, world days and various empowerment programs only make sense if local partners use them and create change in the lives of the marginalized and abused, knowing that they are the real actors to transform their communities and nations!

Cont'd

Introduction (cont'd)

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 1, 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, the formation of many new platforms for action and advocacy for robust implementation.

17 Days Action Kit

As an additional empowerment tool with strategies and recommendations, the Action Kit is meant to empower 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**, included in the 17 Days period.

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.

We thank you for your solidarity and look forward to your registrations online

➔ <http://womensection.woman.ch/index.php/en/how-to-register-2/login-en>

and to your action plans for all coalition members to see and appreciate.

Sincerely, **Elly Pradervand**, WWSF President / UN Representative / 17 Days Campaign Convener

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 leaders.

What are the 17 Days Campaign Themes?

17 Days

1-17 October

Activism & World Days



www.woman.ch

- 1 Oct. Claim your right to development as a woman's right
- 2 Oct. Claim your right to education
- 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 a clean environment
- 7 Oct. Claim your right to mitigate climate change
- 8 Oct. Claim your right to economic development
- 9 Oct. Claim your right to ICTs
- 10 Oct. Claim your right to land / inheritance
- 11 Oct. Claim your right to decision-making
- 12 Oct. Claim your right to an end to violence
- 13 Oct. Claim your right to peace
- 14 Oct. Claim your right to hold your leaders accountable
- 15 Oct. Claim your right - Celebrate Rural Women / Intl. Day of Rural Women
- 16 Oct. Claim your right to food / **World Food Day**
- 17 Oct. Claim your right to an adequate standard of living / Intl. Day for the Eradication of Poverty

Convener: WWSF - Women's World Summit Foundation

Empowerment of Rural Women & their communities

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 Peace" on 13 October.

● Mobilizing

rural women leaders, organizations and grassroots groups to RISE and claim their rights cateurs à tous les niveaux dans la problématique des discriminations de genre

● 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 under 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 - Agenda 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 our world.

Introduction to the Sustainable Development Goals



The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a new, universal set of goals, targets and indicators that UN member states are expected to use to frame their agendas and political policies over the next 13 years.

For your information SDG 1 and SDG 5 are the most important themes we focus on in the Empowerment Kit.



SDG # 1: « End poverty in all its forms everywhere »

(<http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/poverty/>)

Targets 1.2 and 1.4

Reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to regional definitions.

Ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access.



SDG # 5

(Link: <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/gender-equality/>)

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, 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

Rural Women Rise and Claim Your Rights

Beijing+22 - SDG+2

WALK
the
TALK
Agenda
SDG 2030

A proposal for action – Roundtables ‘Walk the Talk’

Roundtables can bring members and leaders together and 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 of concern to you.

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

	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/

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

Entry into force 3 September 1981



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, counselling and services in family planning;
- (c) To benefit directly from social security programmes;
- (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.

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.

UN Declaration on the Right to Development

(4 December 1986)

<http://www.un.org/documents/ga/res/41/a41r128.htm>

Bearing in mind the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations relating to the achievement of international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian nature, and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Recognizing that development is a comprehensive economic, social, cultural and political process, which aims at the constant improvement of the well-being of the entire population and of all individuals on the basis of their active, free and meaningful participation in development and in the fair distribution of benefits resulting therefrom,

Considering that under the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in that Declaration can be fully realized,

Recalling the provisions of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,

Recalling further the relevant agreements, conventions, resolutions, recommendations and other instruments of the United Nations and its specialized agencies concerning the integral development of the human being, economic and social progress and development of all peoples, including those instruments concerning decolonization, the prevention of discrimination, respect for and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms, the maintenance of international peace and security and the further promotion of friendly relations and co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter,

Recalling the right of peoples to self-determination, by virtue of which they have the right freely to determine their political status and to pursue their economic, social and cultural development,

Recalling also the right of peoples to exercise, subject to the relevant provisions of both International Covenants on Human Rights, full and complete sovereignty over all their natural wealth and resources,

Mindful of the obligation of States under the Charter to promote universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction of any kind such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status,

Considering that the elimination of the massive and flagrant violations of the human rights of the peoples and individuals affected by situations such as those resulting from colonialism, neo-colonialism, apartheid, all forms of racism and racial discrimination, foreign domination and occupation, aggression and threats against national sovereignty, national unity and territorial integrity and threats of war would contribute to the establishment of circumstances propitious to the development of a great part of mankind,

Concerned at the existence of serious obstacles to development, as well as to the complete fulfilment of human beings and of peoples, constituted, inter alia, by the denial of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, and considering that all human rights and fundamental freedoms are indivisible and interdependent and that, in order to promote development, equal attention and urgent consideration should be given to the implementation, promotion and protection of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights and that, accordingly, the promotion of, respect for and enjoyment of certain human rights and fundamental freedoms cannot justify the denial of other human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Considering that international peace and security are essential elements for the realization of the right to development,

Reaffirming that there is a close relationship between disarmament and development and that progress in the field of disarmament would considerably promote progress in the field of development and that resources released through disarmament measures should be devoted to the economic and social development and well-being of all peoples and, in particular, those of the developing countries,

Recognizing that the human person is the central subject of the development process and that development policy should therefore make the human being the main participant and beneficiary of development,

Recognizing that the creation of conditions favourable to the development of peoples and individuals is the primary responsibility of their States,

Aware that efforts at the international level to promote and protect human rights should be accompanied by efforts to establish a new international economic order,

Confirming that the right to development is an inalienable human right and that equality of opportunity for development is a prerogative both of nations and of individuals who make up nations,

Proclaims the following Declaration on the Right to Development:

Article 1

1. The right to development is an inalienable human right by virtue of which every human person and 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.

2. The human right to development also implies the full realization of the right of peoples to self-determination, which includes, subject to the relevant provisions of both International Covenants on Human Rights, the exercise of their inalienable right to full sovereignty over all their natural wealth and resources.

Cont'd.

UN Declaration on the Right to Development (cont'd)

Article 2

1. The human person is the central subject of development and should be the active participant and beneficiary of the right to development.

2. All human beings have a responsibility for development, individually and collectively, taking into account the need for full respect for their human rights and fundamental freedoms as well as their duties to the community, which alone can ensure the free and complete fulfilment of the human being, and they should therefore promote and protect an appropriate political, social and economic order for development.

3. States have the right and the duty to formulate appropriate national development policies that aim at the constant improvement of the well-being of the entire population and of all individuals, on the basis of their active, free and meaningful participation in development and in the fair distribution of the benefits resulting therefrom.

Article 3

1. States have the primary responsibility for the creation of national and international conditions favourable to the realization of the right to development.

2. The realization of the right to development requires full respect for the principles of international law concerning friendly relations and co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

3. States have the duty to co-operate with each other in ensuring development and eliminating obstacles to development. States should realize their rights and fulfil their duties in such a manner as to promote a new international economic order based on sovereign equality, interdependence, mutual interest and co-operation among all States, as well as to encourage the observance and realization of human rights.

Article 4

1. States have the duty to take steps, individually and collectively, to formulate international development policies with a view to facilitating the full realization of the right to development.

2. Sustained action is required to promote more rapid development of developing countries. As a complement to the efforts of developing countries, effective international co-operation is essential in providing these countries with appropriate means and facilities to foster their comprehensive development.

Article 5

States shall take resolute steps to eliminate the massive and flagrant violations of the human rights of peoples and human beings affected by situations such as those resulting from apartheid, all forms of racism and racial discrimination, colonialism, foreign domination and occupation, aggression, foreign interference and threats against national sovereignty, national unity and territorial integrity, threats of war and refusal to recognize the fundamental right of peoples to self-determination.

Article 6

1. All States should co-operate with a view to promoting, encouraging and strengthening universal respect for and observance of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without any distinction as to race, sex, language or religion.

2. All human rights and fundamental freedoms are indivisible and interdependent; equal attention and urgent consideration should be given to the implementation, promotion and protection of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.

3. States should take steps to eliminate obstacles to development resulting from failure to observe civil and political rights, as well as economic, social and cultural rights.

Article 7

All States should promote the establishment, maintenance and strengthening of international peace and security and, to that end, should do their utmost to achieve general and complete disarmament under effective international control, as well as to ensure that the resources released by effective disarmament measures are used for comprehensive development, in particular that of the developing countries.

Article 8

1. States should undertake, at the national level, all necessary measures for the realization of the right to development and shall ensure, inter alia, equality of opportunity for all in their access to basic resources, education, health services, food, housing, employment and the fair distribution of income. Effective measures should be undertaken to ensure that women have an active role in the development process. Appropriate economic and social reforms should be carried out with a view to eradicating all social injustices.

2. States should encourage popular participation in all spheres as an important factor in development and in the full realization of all human rights.

Article 9

1. All the aspects of the right to development set forth in the present Declaration are indivisible and interdependent and each of them should be considered in the context of the whole.

2. Nothing in the present Declaration shall be construed as being contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations, or as implying that any State, group or person has a right to engage in any activity or to perform any act aimed at the violation of the rights set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the International Covenants on Human Rights.

Article 10

Steps should be taken to ensure the full exercise and progressive enhancement of the right to development, including the formulation, adoption and implementation of policy, legislative and other measures at the national and international levels.

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

16 Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

Dear Partners and Friends,

Now with the new SDGs adopted, rural women must band together and lobby their governments to fulfill their 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 rights 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 people.

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, 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, clean energy and water.

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.

Sustainable Development Agenda 2030



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."

1/3 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

50% of pregnant women in developing countries lack proper maternal care, resulting in 240,000 maternal deaths annually from childbirth.⁴

60% of the world's hungry are women.³

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

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

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



Saharan Africa women make up 50% of the agricultural labor force. Yet they own less than 20% of the agriculture plots. Even more alarmingly, women in Cameroon contribute more than 75% of agricultural labor yet own just 10% of land.⁶

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> 6 - <https://www.globalcitizen.org/en/content/how-empowering-women-could-end-world-hunger/> 7 - <http://www.empowerwomen.org>. 8 - <http://www.fao.org/docrep/013/i2050e/i2050e.pdf>

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



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

● 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

Useful Resources

➔ International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Reform

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CESCR.aspx>

➔ Vienna Declaration and Program of Action

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/Vienna.aspx>

➔ Rio Declaration on Environment and Development

<http://www.un.org/documents/ga/conf151/aconf15126-1annex1.htm>

➔ ICPD Beyond 2014 Framework of Action

<http://www.unfpa.org/fr/node/9006>

➔ 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](http://www3.weforum.org/docs/GGGR14/GGGR_CompleteReport_2014.pdf)

▷ 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 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."

2 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. Infrastructure issues—including long commutes, poorly maintained roads, or unsafe routes to a schooling facility—may block women from attending tutoring 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, because 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



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."

757 million adults worldwide lack basic literacy skills.¹

As of 2015, **82.1%** of the female adult world population are illiterate.²

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

Recent estimates show that one-third of girls in the developing world are married before age 18, and one-third of women in the developing world give birth before age 20. If all girls had secondary education in sub-Saharan Africa and South and West Asia, child marriage would fall by 64 per cent, from almost 2.9 million to just over 1 million.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://uis.unesco.org/> 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 - https://www.unicef.org/education/bege_70640.html 6 - <http://en.unesco.org/gem-report/sites/gem-report/files/girls-factsheet-en.pdf> 7 - <http://egirlpower.org/blog/10-facts-status-girls-education-developing-countries-today>

2 Claim your right to education for you and your children



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

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>

▷ 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."

2017 - 17 Days Campaign

WWSF - Women's World Summit Foundation, POB 5490 - 1211 Geneva 11 - Switzerland

Tel.: +41 (0) 22 738 66 19 - E-mail: webmaster@woman.ch - www.woman.ch

3 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 preventing 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



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.”

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

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

By 2025 water scarcity is expected to affect more than 1.8 billion people—hurting agricultural workers and poor farmers the most. (UNDP)

Involving women can make water projects 6 to 7 times more effective.⁷

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.

3 Claim your right to safe water



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

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

➔ IPS Inter Press Service

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2017/03/featured-video-world-water-day/>

▷ 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."

4 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.

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 Zika virus. 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 preven-

tion 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



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."

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

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.⁷

An estimated 200 million girls and women alive today in Africa and the Middle East have undergone some form of FGM.⁸

1 - <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Health/Pages/SRRightHealthIndex.aspx>. 2 - <http://blog.humanitasglobal.com/health/page/2/> (en anglais) 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.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/hiv-and-aids/facts-and-figures>. 8 - <http://www.unfpa.org/resources/female-genital-mutilation-fgm-frequently-asked-questions>

4 Claim your right to health and wellbeing

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

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>

▷ 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."

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Tel.: +41 (0) 22 738 66 19 - E-mail: webmaster@woman.ch - www.woman.ch

5 Claim your right to adequate housing

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 just about 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.

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 beings, 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.

Sustainable Development Agenda 2030



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.”

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/FS25.Rev.1.pdf>. 7 - http://www.huffingtonpost.com/bill-quigley/ten-facts-about-homelessn_b_5977946.html

5 Claim your right to adequate housing



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 or themselves and their families
- **Organize**
WALK THE TALK roundtables to discuss rights to housing and adequate living with local leaders and hold them accountable

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>
- ➔ **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
- ➔ **The Right to Housing – CETIM**
<http://www.cetim.ch/en/documents/bro7-log-A4-an.pdf>



- ▷ **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.”

6 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



Target 7.1

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



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."

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

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

1 - http://www.who.int/healthinfo/global_burden_disease/GlobalHealthRisks_report_part2.pdf. 2 - <http://www.unep.org/ecosystems/freshwater/resources/publications/water-quality-snapshot>. 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://eprints.lse.ac.uk/3040/1/Gendered_nature_of_natural_disasters_\(LSERO\).pdf](http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/3040/1/Gendered_nature_of_natural_disasters_(LSERO).pdf)

An analysis of 141 countries found that natural disasters lower the life expectancy of women more than that of men.⁶

14 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

6 Claim your right to live in a clean environment



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

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/jburgdec.htm>

▷ 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."

2017 - 17 Days Campaign

WWSF - Women's World Summit Foundation, POB 5490 - 1211 Geneva 11 - Switzerland

Tel.: +41 (0) 22 738 66 19 - E-mail: webmaster@woman.ch - www.woman.ch

7 Claim your right to mitigate and adapt to climate change

(This theme was the main theme in 2016. We decided to leave this text because of its urgency and pertinence - 6 pages in total)

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

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/parisagreementsin-gatures/>

Sustainable Development Agenda 2030



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

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



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 ope-

rates 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.

Rural women, we urge you to demand inclusion and the right to participate in the process of adaptation and mitigation. 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. Climate Change is 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>

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

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

refers to taking “urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.”

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

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.oxfam.ca/our-work/climate-change>. 9 - <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/climate-change-2/>

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

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

Global emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂) have increased by almost 50 per cent since 1990.⁹

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.⁸

More than 3 billion people rely on open fires and traditional cooking stoves utilizing biofuels.⁵

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



Sustainably managed soils

When managed sustainably soils can play an important role in climate change mitigation through carbon sequestration (C) and by decreasing greenhouse gas emissions in the atmosphere.



By restoring degraded soils and adopting soil conservation practices...



...there is major potential to decrease the emission of greenhouse gases from agriculture, enhance carbon sequestration and build resilience to climate change.

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

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

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.

The conclusion is undeniable

Women and young girls are facing disproportionate impacts of natural disasters brought 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/>



"Africa Day, celebrates African unity, a unity that will be central to the global fight against climate change"

Mary Robinson

« 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/>

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



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

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>

- ▷ **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."

8

Claim your right to economic development and financial autonomy

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 work 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 savings.⁴ 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 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



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."



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."

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-mag-dalena-sepulveda.pdf.pdf>. 4 - Idem. 5 - <http://www.unwomen.org/~media/headquarters/attachments/sections/csw/58/op1-mag-dalena-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>

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

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:12100:P12100_INSTRUMENT_ID:312301:NO

▷ 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."

9 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.

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 education.³ **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.”**

Sustainable Development Agenda 2030



Target 5.b

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



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.”

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

200 million fewer women than men own a mobile phone across low and middle income countries.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 - <http://a4ai.org/affordability-report/report/2017/>. 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/>

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

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>

▷ 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."

10

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 quality on 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



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."



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."

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.landesa.org/wp-content/uploads/Womens-Land-Rights-Infographic-Landesa-11-14.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.landesa.org/wp-content/uploads/Womens-Land-Rights-Infographic-Landesa-11-14.pdf>. 9 - <http://www.wunrn.com>

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

Useful Resources

- ➔ **Objectif 5 des ODD**
<http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/fr/gender-equality/>
- ➔ **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>

- ▷ **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."

11

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.

Sustainable Development Agenda 2030



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."



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."

Target 16.7

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

As of end of 2016, women only held 23.3% 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 - <http://www.ipu.org/pdf/publications/WIP2016-e.pdf>. 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>

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

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>

- ▷ **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.”

12

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.”

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

- 1 - Sexual Violence
- 2 - Domestic Violence
- 3 - Psychological Violence Mutilation
- 4 - Early and Forced Marriages

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 per-

Sustainable Development Agenda 2030



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.”



Target 16.b

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

Violence causes more deaths and disability worldwide amongst women aged 15-44 than war, cancer, malaria and traffic accidents combined.¹

1/3 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

In Africa, 91.5 million girls and women aged 10 years and above have been subjected to FGM.¹⁵

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

- 5 - FGM – Female Genital Mutilation
- 6 - Crimes in the name of honor
- 7 - Elder Abuse

petrator 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.

12

Claim your right to security, safety and an end to 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.

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

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

The annual worldwide number of so-called 'honor killing' victims may be as high as 5,000 women.¹⁶

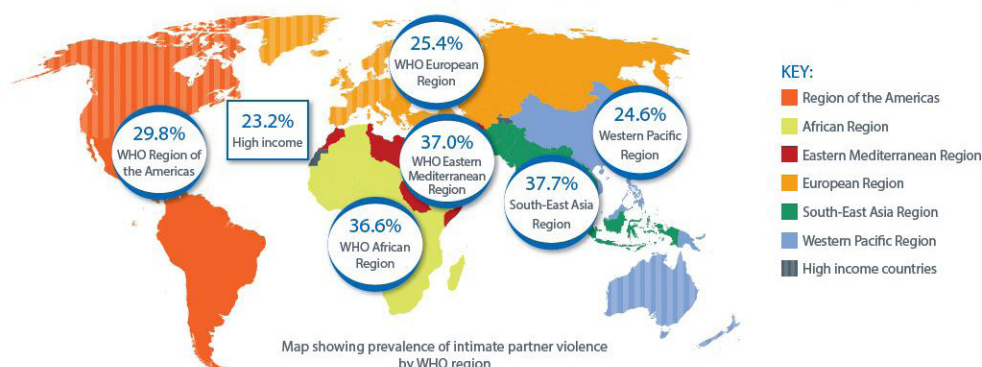
If current trends continue, 15 million additional girls between ages 15 and 19 will be subjected to FGM by 2030. (UNFPA)

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 in 3 women

throughout the world will experience physical and/or sexual violence by a partner or sexual violence by a non-partner



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.halithesky.com/movement.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/en/women/endviolence/situation.shtml>. 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/en/women/endviolence/situation.shtml>

12

Claim your right to security, safety and an end to violence

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

In 1993, the
UN General Assembly
**Declaration on
the Elimination
of Violence
against Women**
provided a framework for
action on the pandemic.



But
more than 20 years later,
**1 in 3 women
still experience
physical or
sexual violence,**
mostly by an intimate partner.



CHILD MARRIAGE



**Child marriage
rates are among
the world's highest
in many conflict
countries.**

Percentage of women aged 20-24
who were married before age 18, 2014



UN WOMEN **#1325at15**
unwomen.org

- ▷ **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."

12

Claim your right to security,
safety and an end to violence



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

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>

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Claim your Right to Peace

(Main theme 2017 - 6 pages)

Dear Partners and Friends,

Ushering in the year 2017, new United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres called on the world to join him in making a shared resolution for the year ahead. "Let us resolve to put peace first," he urged.



António Guterres

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. Now is the time for action.

Women all over the world have a right to peace according to the resolution 1325 calling for peace talks involving women. The resolution reaffirms the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, peace negotiations, peace-building, peacekeeping, humanitarian response and in post-conflict reconstruction and stresses the importance of their equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security.

Resolution 1325 urges all actors to increase the participation of women and incorporate gender perspectives in all United Nations peace and security efforts. It also calls on all parties to conflict to take special measures to protect women and girls from gender-based violence, particularly rape and other forms of sexual abuse, in situations of armed conflict.

Without women in peace talks, we will never have a peaceful world. Women stand your ground and involve yourselves in your communities' decisions. We must all work together to achieve this goal.

In 2013, the UN Security Council has reaffirmed resolution 1325, acknowledging armed conflict affects women differently than men. The following are excerpts of the reaffirmation:

- «Recognizes the need for consistent implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) in its own work and intends to focus more attention on women's leadership and participation in conflict resolution and peacebuilding, including by monitoring progress in implementation, and addressing challenges linked to the lack and quality of information and analysis on the impact of armed conflict on women and girls, the role of women in peacebuilding and the gender dimensions of peace processes and conflict resolution.

- Requests the Secretary-General and his Special Envoys and Special Representatives to United Nations missions, as part of their regular briefings, to update the Council on progress in inviting women to participate, including through consultations with civil society, including women's organizations, in discussions pertinent to the prevention and resolution of conflict, the maintenance of peace and security and post-conflict peacebuilding.»

<https://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/wps/>



Annual Global Military Expenditure (2014) \$ 1776 billion.¹

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.⁵

At the 1995 Beijing Women's conference, 189 countries committed to gender equality.⁶

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.⁷

In the USA, it is estimated that 30'000 individuals are killed by gun violence every year.⁸

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

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Claim your Right to Peace
(cont'd)**HISTORY IS MADE: THE UNITED NATIONS VOTES IN FAVOUR OF BANNING NUCLEAR WEAPONS!**

On 7 July 2017, 122 states at the United Nations voted in favour of a legally binding instrument banning nuclear weapons.

«This treaty is an incredible new piece of international law, achieved despite the opposition of the most militarized and powerful countries in the world,» said Ray Acheson, director of WILPF's disarmament program Reaching Critical Will. «It marks a turning point in the struggle against these genocidal weapons, in which the vast majority of governments and civil society have united to create law that can change policies and practices of nuclear deterrence and help facilitate nuclear disarmament.»

What does it include?

The treaty makes it illegal to use, threaten to use, acquire, stockpile, or test nuclear weapons, among other activities. It includes strong provisions to assist the victims of nuclear weapons use and testing, as well to repair affected environments. It sets out a basic and flexible framework for the future accession of nuclear-armed or umbrella states. Only one country voted against the treaty: the Netherlands, which hosts US nuclear weapons on its soil. The Netherlands was the only nuclear-alliance country to participate in the negotiations. Singapore abstained.

What have we done?

This is the result of decades of campaigning for the abolition of nuclear weapons by the Women's International

League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) and other civil society organizations. Since 2007, WILPF has been part of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) which has worked with governments, international organizations, academics, and activists to bring this ban to fruition (a coalition of non-government organizations in one hundred countries advocating for a strong and effective nuclear weapon ban treaty). Negotiations on this new global agreement took place at the United Nations in New York on 7 July 2017.

Reaching Critical Will, the disarmament program of WILPF, has provided daily analysis from the negotiations and has posted all relevant documents online. This follows on from the successful public mobilization WILPF organized at the outset of the conference, the Women's March to Ban the Bomb. Several WILPF members and sections have offered their support to the ban treaty negotiations including through advocacy with their own national governments.

Looking ahead

The ban treaty will open for signature in New York this September, and requires 50 states to ratify it in order to enter into force and become binding as law. More information about these exciting milestones and further analysis of the treaty's provisions are to come.

WILPF's mission is to end and prevent war, ensure that women are represented at all levels in the peace-building process, defend the human rights of women, and promote social, economic and political justice. <http://wilpf.org/membership/>

Women's March To Ban The Bomb!
Saturday June 17th 2017 in NYC



The Women's March to Ban the Bomb is a women-led initiative building on bringing together people of all genders, sexual orientations, ages, races, abilities, nationalities, cultures, faiths, political affiliations and backgrounds to march and rally in New York City and around the world in support of negotiations taking place at the United Nations for a treaty banning nuclear weapons.

Learn more:
www.womenbanthebomb.org



WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR
PEACE & FREEDOM

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Claim your Right to Peace (cont'd)

HISTORY IN MAKING: UN DECLARATION ON THE RIGHT TO PEACE

http://unipd-centrodirittiumani.it/public/docs/Declaration_RightToPeace_24062016.pdf

The General Assembly, welcoming the adoption by the Human Rights Council, through its resolution of the Declaration on the Right to Peace:

Declaration on the Right to Peace

The General Assembly,
 Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,
 Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,

Recalling also the Declaration on the Right to Development, the United Nations Millennium Declaration, including the Sustainable Development Goals, and the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

Recalling further the Declaration on the Preparation of Societies for Life in Peace, the Declaration on the Right of Peoples to Peace and the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace, and other international instruments relevant to the subject of the present declaration,

Recalling the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,

Recalling also that the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations solemnly proclaimed the principle that States shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations; the principle that States shall settle their international disputes by peaceful means in such a manner that international peace and security and justice are not endangered; the duty not to intervene in matters within the domestic jurisdiction of any State, in accordance with the Charter; the duty of States to cooperate with one another in accordance with the Charter; the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples; the principle of the sovereign equality of States; and the principle that States shall fulfil in good faith the obligations assumed by them in accordance with the Charter,

Reaffirming the obligations of all Member States, as enshrined in the Charter, to refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations, and to settle their international disputes by peaceful means in such a manner that international peace and security and justice are not endangered,

Acknowledging that the fuller development of a culture of peace is integrally linked to the realization of the right of all peoples, including those living under colonial or other forms of alien domination or foreign occupation, to self-determination enshrined in the Charter and embodied in the International Covenants on Human Rights, as well as in the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960,

Convinced that any attempt aimed at the partial or total disruption of the national unity and territorial integrity of a State or country or at its political independence is incompatible with the purposes and principles of the Charter, as stated in the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, contained in General Assembly resolution 2625 (XXV) of 24 October 1970, A/HRC/32/L.183

Recognizing the importance of the settlement of disputes or conflicts through peaceful means,

Deeply deploring all acts of terrorism, recalling that the Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism recognizes that acts, methods and practices of terrorism constitute a grave violation of the purposes and principles of the United Nations and may pose a threat to international peace and security, jeopardize friendly relations among States, threaten the territorial integrity and security of States, hinder international cooperation and aim at the destruction of human rights, fundamental freedoms and the democratic bases of society, and reaffirming that any acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable regardless of their motivations, whenever and by whomsoever committed,

Stressing that all measures taken in the fight against terrorism must be in compliance with the obligations of States under

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Claim your Right to Peace

(cont'd Declaration on the Right to Peace)

international law, including international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law, as well as those enshrined in the Charter,

Urging all States that have not yet done so to consider, as a matter of priority, becoming parties to international instruments related to terrorism,

Reaffirming that the promotion and protection of human rights for all and the rule of law are essential to the fight against terrorism, and recognizing that effective counterterrorism measures and the protection of human rights are not conflicting goals, but are complementary and mutually reinforcing,

Reaffirming also the determination of the peoples of the United Nations as expressed in the Preamble to the Charter to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom, and to practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbours,

Recalling that peace and security, development and human rights are the pillars of the United Nations system and the foundations for collective security and well-being, and recognizing that development, peace and security and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing,

Recognizing that peace is not only the absence of conflict but also requires a positive, dynamic participatory process where dialogue is encouraged and conflicts are solved in a spirit of mutual understanding and cooperation, and socioeconomic development is ensured,

Recalling that the recognition of the inherent dignity and the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world, and recognizing that peace is promoted through the full enjoyment of all inalienable rights derived from the inherent dignity of all human beings,

Recalling also 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 can be fully realized,

Recalling further the world commitment to eradicate poverty and to promote sustained economic growth, sustainable development and global prosperity for all, and the need to reduce inequalities within and among countries,

Recalling the importance of the prevention of armed conflict in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter and

of the commitment to promote a culture of prevention of armed conflict as a means of effectively addressing the interconnected security and development challenges faced by peoples throughout the world,

Recalling also 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,

Reaffirming that, since wars begin in the minds of human beings, it is in the minds of human beings that the defence of peace must be constructed, and recalling the importance of the settlement of disputes or conflicts through peaceful means,

Recalling the need for strengthened international efforts to foster a global dialogue for the promotion of a culture of tolerance and peace at all levels, based on respect for human rights and diversity of religions and beliefs,

Recalling also that development assistance and capacity-building based on the principle of national ownership in post-conflict situations should restore peace through rehabilitation, reintegration and reconciliation processes involving all those engaged, and recognizing the importance of the peace making, peace keeping and peace building activities of the United Nations for the global pursuit of peace and security,

Recalling further that the culture of peace and the education of humanity for justice, liberty and peace are indispensable to the dignity of human beings and constitute a duty that all nations must fulfil in a spirit of mutual assistance and concern,

Reaffirming that the culture of peace is a set of values, attitudes, traditions and modes of behaviour and ways of life, as identified in the Declaration on a Culture of Peace, and that all this should be fostered by an enabling national and international environment conducive to peace,

Recognizing the importance of moderation and tolerance as values contributing to the promotion of peace and security,

Recognizing also the important contribution that civil society organizations can make in building and preserving peace, as well as in strengthening a culture of peace,

Stressing the need for States, the United Nations system and other relevant international organizations to allocate resources to programmes aimed at strengthening a culture of peace and upholding human rights awareness through training, teaching and education,

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Claim your Right to Peace (cont'd Declaration on the Right to Peace)

Stressing also the importance of the contribution of the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training to the promotion of a culture of peace,

Recalling that respect for the diversity of cultures, tolerance, dialogue and cooperation, in a climate of mutual trust and understanding, are among the best guarantees of international peace and security,

Recalling also that tolerance is respect, acceptance and appreciation of the rich diversity of our world's cultures, our forms of expression and ways of being human, as well as the virtue that makes peace possible and contributes to the promotion of a culture of peace,

Recalling further that the constant promotion and realization of the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities as an integral part of the development of a society as a whole and within a democratic framework based on the rule of law would contribute to the strengthening of friendship, cooperation and peace among peoples and States,

Recalling the need to design, promote and implement, at the national, regional and international levels, strategies, programmes and policies, and adequate legislation, which may include special and positive measures, for furthering equal social development and the A/HRC/32/L.18 5 realization of the civil and political, economic, social and cultural rights of all victims of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance,

Recognizing that racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, where they amount to racism and racial discrimination, are an obstacle to friendly and peaceful relations among peoples and nations, and are among the root causes of many internal and international conflicts, including armed conflicts,

Inviting solemnly all stakeholders to guide themselves in their activities by recognizing the high importance of practicing tolerance, dialogue, cooperation and solidarity among all human beings, peoples and nations of the world as a means to promote peace; to that end, present generations should ensure that both they and future generations learn to live together in peace with the highest aspiration of sparing future generations the scourge of war,

Declares the following:

Article 1

Everyone has the right to enjoy peace such that all human rights are promoted and protected and development is fully realized.

Article 2

States should respect, implement and promote equality and non-discrimination, justice and the rule of law and guarantee freedom from fear and want as a means to build peace within and between societies.

Article 3

States, the United Nations and specialized agencies should take appropriate sustainable measures to implement the present Declaration, in particular the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. International, regional, national and local organizations and civil society are encouraged to support and assist in the implementation of the present Declaration.

Article 4

International and national institutions of education for peace shall be promoted in order to strengthen among all human beings the spirit of tolerance, dialogue, cooperation and solidarity. To this end, the University for Peace should contribute to the great universal task of educating for peace by engaging in teaching, research, post-graduate training and dissemination of knowledge.

Article 5

Nothing in the present Declaration shall be construed as being contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations. The provisions included in the present Declaration are to be understood in line with the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and relevant international and regional instruments ratified by States.

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

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>

▷ 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"

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

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Claim your right to hold your leaders accountable

Dear Partners and Friends,

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.**

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 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 equal to men; you deserve the right to land, to work, to clean water and sanitation, adequate housing, health care, and more.

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

Sustainable Development Agenda 2030



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”



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.”

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

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

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%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>

▷ 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.”

Celebrate Rural Women and the International Day!

Including the winners of the 2017 Prize for women's creativity in rural life & the new WWSF Empowerment Award for Rural Women's Movements

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(4 pages)



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 sustainable 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 10 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. 422 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.

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 4th UN Women's Conference in Beijing. WWSF took the lead in making the World Rural Women's Day known by publishing, starting in 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 initiated 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 2017, WWSF will launch a **new award: «Empowering rural Women's Movements, in support of «Ending poverty in all its forms everywhere» - Sustainable Development Goal # 1.**

WWSF selects rural women's movements that prioritize capacity building, training for self reliance, leadership skills and a strong commitment to literacy, equality and well being of rural families. The Prize award is US\$ 10'000, sponsored by WWSF donations. For more information, visit www.woman.ch

In the **21st century**, 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 and your network, partners, local authorities, to bring your priorities and practices to the forefront of policy and programming in order to reduce vulnerabilities to disasters, climate change and poverty.

We thank you for your participation in celebrating 15 October and for registering your activities online <http://webmaster@woman.ch>.

In partnership, **WWSF Board of Directors**

Stats & figures: FAO

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% in Latin 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.

Sustainable Development Agenda 2030



Goal 1. «End poverty in all its forms everywhere»
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 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.»



Days of Activism for the empowerment of rural women
Jours d'Activisme pour l'autonomisation des femmes rurales
Días Activismo para el empoderamiento de las mujeres rurales
Tage Aktivismus für die Stärkung der Frauen im ländlichen Raum

1-17 October



15

Selected Messages from 2016 Laureates receiving the Prize for Women's Creativity in Rural Life



Hermila Trevino Saucedo - USA

"... Thank you very, very much for your notice and providing me the opportunity to be one of the Laureates the WWSF Prize for Women's Creativity in Rural Life 2016. I am so excited and feel so honored to be selected by you. This is a great opportunity for myself and the women I have been working with in California and across the country in the USA. Please advise about the next steps. Gracias! I really appreciate this opportunity and I am thrilled to learn more about the Women's World Summit Foundation. If there is anything you feel I can personally do to support your work; I'd be very happy to do so..."

Eva Darare Gonche – Kenya

"... I am humbled that the prize award committee has selected me for this precious award. My sincere gratitude goes to Mr. Hoko Funacha, my nominator, who knows the kind of work I was doing with women who are discriminated and looked down upon by society. I am so, so proud to be the first Gabbra woman, the first pastoralist woman of Marsabit county in Kenya, to receive this award and who still struggles to bring gender equality and dignified life for the voiceless women and girls. This award is not only for me but also for those forgotten women who want justice to prevail. I am here to stand up for their rights to a dignified life. Thanks once more. Long live WWSF, you have made me a heroine..."





Days of Activism for the empowerment of rural women
Jours d'Activisme pour l'autonomisation des femmes rurales
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15

Selected Messages from 2016 Laureates receiving the Prize for Women's Creativity in Rural Life



Peggy Carswell – Canada

“... I want to let you know that being recognized by WWSF for my work in Assam came as an unexpected surprise – and of course, is very much appreciated. Assam has become a very important part of my life, and the friendships, working relationships, culture and environment are inextricably connected to my heart and my soul. I consider it a great gift to have wandered off the better-travelled routes visitors to India often follow, and to have discovered this special part of the world. We sometimes hear about people who've found a « calling » in their lives, and it feels as though this reflects the kind of relationship that has developed for me in northeast India. Many years ago, a writer for a magazine here on Canada's west coast wrote that “... Peggy Carswell has a foot in two worlds...” and this comment resonates even more now than it did then. Living, working and travelling in India – and particularly in Assam – has opened many doors in my life. As a resource person, a woman, a Canadian and a friend, my own understanding of organic farming and of the challenges and successes faced by women and minorities around the world has increased significantly. And for all this, I will be eternally grateful...”.

Caroline Owashaba – Uganda

“... I very much appreciate this award and I am happy for being among the 2016 Laureates receiving the WWSF Prize for women's creativity in rural life. This is a motivation and an inspiring award to myself, my fellow women in Uganda and to Africa as well. I continue to work for rural women by engaging them in the UN Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 peacefully. I wish all women good deliberations on 15 October – International Day of Rural women.”



Celebrate Rural Women on the International Day!

and the winners of the 2017 Prize for women's creativity in rural life (announced on 1 October)

15

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

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>

FACTS ON RURAL WOMEN

(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% in Latin 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.



2017 - 17 Days Campaign

WWSF - Women's World Summit Foundation, POB 5490 - 1211 Geneva 11 - Switzerland
 Tel.: +41 (0) 22 738 66 19 - E-mail: webmaster@woman.ch - www.woman.ch

16

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--> put as annotation

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 force.¹ Now is the time to remind your governments that in order to continue feeding your children, your com-

munities 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 Day to advocate for the human right to food, and to show their community the impact that they have on the world's food production.



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)

Sustainable Development Agenda 2030



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."

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/docrep/013/am307e/am307e00.pdf> 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>

16

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



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

Useful Resources

→ Goal 16 of the SDGs

sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg2

→ Second International Conference on Nutrition, Rome Declaration on Nutrition 201

<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

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

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

▷ 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.”

2017- 17 Days Campaign

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Tel.: +41 (0) 22 738 66 19 - E-mail: webmaster@woman.ch - www.woman.ch

17

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

Dear Partners and Friends,

Women of the world, we urge you today 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.

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 extreme poverty and destitution in all countries, and honors those affected by it.

"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

You 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 you and your 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, you must lobby your government to create and

strengthen social protection floors to enable your communities to break out of the cycle of poverty.²

Social protection include: basic social rights derived from various human rights treaties signed by your government, 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 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 ending poverty and guaranteeing 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.

Use the World Day 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.



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. Malnourishment and unbalanced diets are the result.⁶

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

Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 Goal 1: «End poverty in all its forms everywhere»



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."

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>.

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

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>



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."

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.”

UN Women

UN WOMEN – ANNUAL REPORT 2016-2017

<http://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications>

UN WOMEN- Report of CSW61 and analysis of the agreed conclusions

<http://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2017/5/report-of-csw61-and-analysis-of-the-agreed-conclusions>

UN WOMEN - Issue brief: Making the SDGs count for women and girls with disabilities

<http://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2017/6/issue-brief-making-the-sdgs-count-for-women-and-girls-with-disabilities>

UN WOMEN - Understanding masculinities, results from the International Men and Gender Equality Study in the Middle East and North Africa

<http://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2017/5/understanding-masculinities-results-from-the-images-in-the-middle-east-and-north-africa>

UN WOMEN - Corporate evaluation of UN Women's strategic partnerships for gender equality and the empowerment of women: Final synthesis report

<http://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2017/5/corporate-evaluation-un-women-strategic-partnerships-for-gender-equality-and-empowerment-of-women>

<http://eca.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2017/07/a-day-in-the-life-of-a-rural-woman>

<http://www.unwomen.org/fr/digital-library/publications/2015/8/guide-book-cedawgeneralrecommendation30-womenpeacesecurity>

IFAD

Gender News: <https://www.ifad.org/home>

“Women's Economic Empowerment and Agribusiness: Opportunities for the Gender Transformative Agenda.”

2017 - ENGLISH PUBLICATIONS

IFAD and the future Striking at the roots of poverty and hunger

<https://www.ifad.org/documents/10180/81d36e02-79ce-4d6d-bb7f-0bd16338e616>

IFAD and you delivering results

<https://www.ifad.org/documents/10180/29b22166-673d-4abf-bce4-cfaa80c3e90>

IFAD – Sending Money Home

<https://www.ifad.org/documents/36783902/4a5640d9-e944-4a8c-8007-a1bc461416e6>

IFAD - Grant Results Sheet: CABI - Plantwise: A country-based approach to improve farmer livelihoods through reduced crop losses and increased productivity

<https://www.ifad.org/documents/10180/abaf25d5-8e6d-4f3e-866f-bfea21d0e6ce>

IFAD - Mapping Nutrition-Sensitive Interventions in East and Southern Africa (ESA)

<https://www.ifad.org/documents/10180/d697e143-e326-4b9a-b81e-c65e4277e468>

IFAD – Investing in rural people in India

<https://www.ifad.org/documents/10180/fc8d61ad-8f19-43de-b865-ae5e87e21f0d>

2017- PUBLICATIONS EN FRANCAIS

IFAD- Investir dans les populations rurales en République islamique de Mauritanie

<https://www.ifad.org/documents/10180/cba75158-f028-4e4e-b568-990a7ed78d44>

IFAD. <https://www.ifad.org/pub/overview>

FAO

<http://www.fao.org/3/b-i6407e.pdf>

FAO Publications Catalogue 2017

<http://www.fao.org/3/b-i6407e.pdf>

FAO - Climate change, agriculture and food security

<http://www.fao.org/publications/sofa/2016/en/>

FAO - Social protection and agriculture: breaking the cycle of rural poverty

<http://www.fao.org/publications/sofa/2015/en/>

Videos

FAO - The State of Food and Agriculture 2016 (SOFA)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2QGIs53_fdM

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

FAO - Dimitra@fao.org

Dimitra Newsletter

CEDAW

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

CEDAW Guidebook on General Recommendation n°30

<http://www.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/library/publications/2015/guidebook-cedawgeneralrecommendation30-womenpeacesecurity-en.pdf?vs=4201>

Selected World Days to use for advocacy

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



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

09 August – International Day of the Indigenous Peoples

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

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

FAO

- Women: Key to Achieving food security in Cambodia

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kWXKzBO-hdbE&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)

UN Women

- Empowering Women – Empowering Humanity: Picture it!—UN Women

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dBbWcL87r-DU>

Relevant themes: All

- Putting the Women's Agenda as a Priority—UN Women

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=co3-Uech1Fc>

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/>

Links to selected relevant themes

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=2ZWgm-6ZYMUU>

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

2017 Commission on the Status of Women

CSW 61 – New York, NY (13-24 March 2017)

The theme focused on **Women's empowerment in the changing world of work**

UN Women New York – Press Release

“The sixty-first session of the Commission on the Status of Women took place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 13 to 24 March 2017.

The Agreed Conclusions from the UN's largest gathering on gender equality, women's empowerment and women's rights highlight barriers that women face, such as unequal working conditions, women's over-representation in the informal economy, gender stereotypes and social norms that reinforce women's concentration in certain sectors, such as health and social sectors, and the uneven share of unpaid care work that women do.

Despite the long-standing existence of international labour standards on equal pay, the gender pay gap, which currently stands at 23 per cent globally, persists in all countries. Member States expressed concern over this and the persistently low wages paid to women, which are often below decent living wages. In the final agreement, they commit to the implementation of equal pay policies through social dialogue, collective bargaining, job evaluations and gender pay audits, among other measures.

At the same time, CSW members acknowledged that providing equal pay and social protection will create decent work for paid care and domestic workers. Fast developing new technologies and sectors present new employment opportunities for women, but that they need to be provided with access to relevant education and training.”

“This Commission has engaged strongly, comprehensively and constructively over the last two weeks in considering the most effective ways in which to bring about change for women in the world of work,” said Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcu-ka, UN Women Executive Director, in welcoming the Agreed Conclusions. “We have heard from all quarters the accepted imperative to put this knowledge into practice. It will take action throughout society; by all those who spoke to represent the commitment of young and older, of civil society and parliamentarians, of men and women alike, to embrace the great promise of finally making space for women to thrive. There has never been any excuse for the inequality that exists. Now we are seeing a healthy intolerance for inequality grow into firm and positive change.”

<http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2017/3/press-release-un-csw-provides-roadmap-to-womens-full-and-equal-participation-in-the-economy>



Excerpts of selected 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..."



Cont'd: Excerpts of selected messages in support of WWSF initiatives

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

Useful publications by CETIM

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

The Human Right Program of the **Centre Europe -Tiers Monde (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)*
- *Transnational corporations' impunity (2016)*

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.

Attention to registered Coalition Members:

We thank you in advance for sending us a brief report of your 2017 activities during the 17 Days Campaign.

Guidelines for your activity report

Dear Coalition Members,

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+22 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 2017** 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 proposed 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 2017 activity report



WWSF
Creating the Power
for Change

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

WWSF 17 Days Campaign Team

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Annex 1)

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1949)

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, colour, 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 defence.

(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

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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 honour 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 favourable 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 favourable 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

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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.

Annex 2)

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women CEDAW

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,

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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

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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 programmes 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 programmes of continuing education, including adult and functional literacy programmes, 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 programmes 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

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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, counselling and services in family planning;
- (c) To benefit directly from social security programmes;
- (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)

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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 fulfilment 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. (amendment, status of ratification)

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.

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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

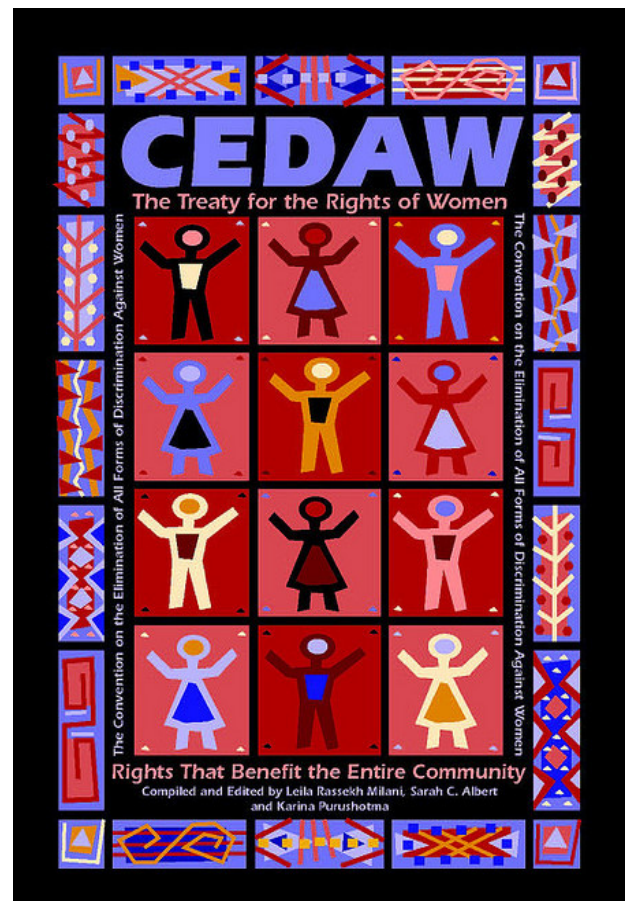
1. Any dispute between two or more States Parties concerning the interpretation or application of the present Convention which is not settled by negotiation shall, at the request of one of them, be submitted to arbitration. If within six months from the date of the request for arbitration the parties 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. IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, duly authorized, have signed the present Convention.



Women's Rights are Human Rights



Women's World Summit Foundation - WWSF
Rural Women's Section

POBox 5490, 1211 Geneva 11, Switzerland
Tel.: +41 (0)22 738 66 19 - E-mail: wwsf@wwsf.ch

www.woman.ch

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