

# 2021 - WWSF Prize Brochure presenting 10 Laureates

+ Campaign «17 Days of Activism» & Day of Rural Women 15 Oct.

Organizer: Women's World Summit Foundation WWSF - FSMF

Women & Children First : 75% of the world's population.



**Prize for  
Women's  
Creativity in  
Rural Life,  
awarded since  
1994 to 472  
Prizewinners  
around the  
world**



**Empowered rural women can change  
the world & help realise the UN SDG Agenda 2030**



**2021  
10 Laureates  
receive the WWSF  
Prize  
(1994-2021)**



[www.woman.ch](http://www.woman.ch)

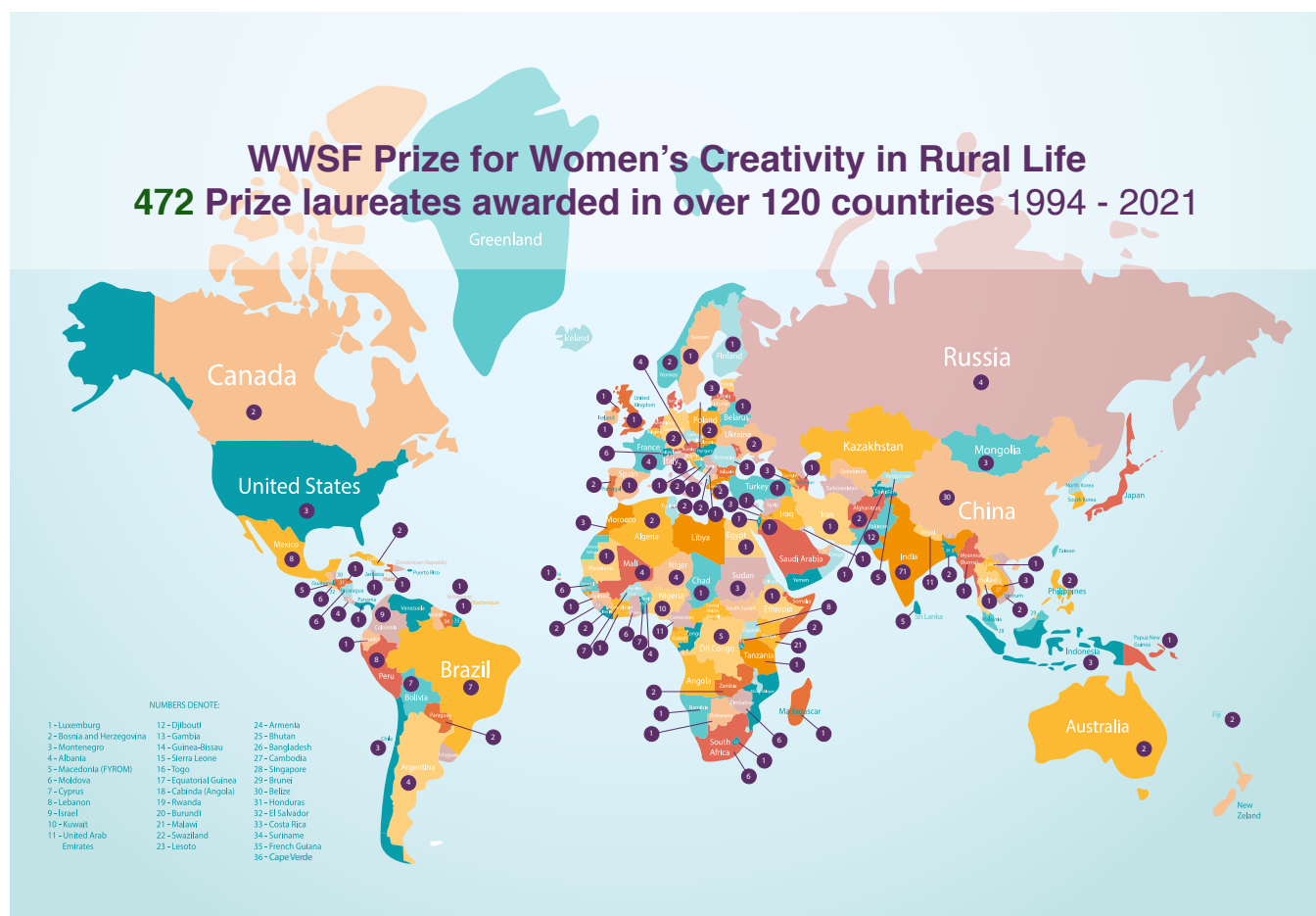


# Table of contents

• Open Letter to Rural Women of the world! _____	p.3
• Introduction to relevant UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) _____	p.4
• Facts about Rural Women and Girls _____	p.5
• Presentation of the 10 Prizewinner in 2021 _____	p.6 - 11
• Selected exemples of messages from Laureates _____	p.12 - 13
• Call for Prize Nominations 2022 _____	p.14 - 16

## Annexes:

1) UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW65) 2021 _____	p.17 - 18
2) Link to the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) _____	p.19
3) Link to the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas _____	p.20
4) About the Prize and WWSF empowerment campaigns _____	p.21
5) International Day of Rural Women - 15 October 2021 - Poster _____	p.22







## Open Letter to Rural Women of the world 2021!

**Dear Sisters in rural areas, Partners and Friends,**

**1) “Prize for Women’s Creativity in Rural Life”** As you may know, the WWSF (created in 1994), annually awards creative and courageous rural women leaders and groups that help to advance and improve the quality of life in rural communities. To date, 472 prizes have been awarded in over 140 countries to selected candidates. In some cases, the WWSF Prize enhances the status of unknown, active, creative rural women and as a result some prizewinners attain national recognition and sometimes move into positions of decision-making at local/or national level. The award (US\$ 1000 per laureate) represents our solidarity contribution for their efforts and obstacles overcome and is not meant to be a project fund, although in many cases the prize money is re-invested in the laureates’ projects. To achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Agenda by 2030, rural women are key in delivering results with courage and compassion. They need our solidarity support as they face increased challenges with a changing climate and the COVID-19 pandemic.

**WWSF expresses gratitude for all the nominations received in 2021 from which we selected again 10 finalists presented in this Prize brochure.** We also express our gratitude to our sponsors who make our empowerment programs possible; as well as to the staff, consultants and university interns who serve in our secretariat.

**In partnership, solidarity and peace,**

*Elly Pradervand, WWSF President/CEO, in collaboration with Board Directors: Gulzar Samji, Vice-President, Canada / Jyoti Macwan, India / Anne Pélagie Yotchou Tzeudjom / Cameroon.*

**Additional WWSF Programs for the empowerment of Rural Women include:**



**2) The International Day of Rural Women - 15 October (see 2021 poster on page 22),** co-created in 1995 at the Beijing 4th World Conference on Women by WWSF, which took the lead to lobby governments around the world for its recognition. The Day serves to empower Rural Women’s groups around the world to claim their rights. In 2007, the UN declared this Day an official UN Day for all governments to address the situation of rural women in their countries. WWSF awards its annual Prize for women’s creativity in rural life on that day.



**3) WWSF Annual Campaign: “17 Days of activism for the empowerment of rural women leaders and their communities 1-17 October”** - Kit for Rural Women to Rise and Claim their Right to Sustainable Development, equality and peace. The time has come to leave no one behind in global development, including rural women and their communities. **The annual 17 campaign themes, presented below, and an annually revised Empowerment Kit (in English) is published on our website [www.woman.ch](http://www.woman.ch).**

**Women’s World Summit Foundation-Call to Action!**

**Rural Women Rise & Claim your Rights!**

Right to Development

Right to Education

Right to Safe Water

Right to Health

Right to Housing

Clean Environment

Climate Change

Economic Development

Right to Information ICTs

Land and Inheritance

Decision-making

Security & Safety End Violence

Right to Peace

Leader’s Accountability

Empowerment Rural Women’s Day

Right to Food

End Poverty

17 Days Campaign for the Empowerment of Rural Women & Communities 1-17 Oct. - Kit available at: [www.woman.ch](http://www.woman.ch)



**4) Rural Women Movements Award.** This additional award was created in 2017 as an occasional prize for **Rural Women’s Movements** (US\$ 10’000 when funds permit). Our first Award in 2017 went to SEWA - India.

# Empowered rural women can change the world & help realise UN Sustainable Development Goals - Agenda 2030

A dozen of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) relate to rural women's activities. **SDG 1, SDG 2, and SDG 5 are the most important Goals to be reached for their empowerment.**

Link here: <https://sdgs.un.org/2030agenda>

## ✓ SDG # 1: No Poverty

**Target 1.1: End poverty** in all its forms everywhere

**Target 1.2: 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

**Target 1.4: 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 property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology, and financial services including microfinance

Link here: <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/poverty/>

## ✓ SDG # 2: Zero Hunger

**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: End** all forms of malnutrition

**Target 2.3: Double** the productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers

**Target 2.4: Sustainable** Food production and resilient agricultural practices

**Target 2.5: Maintain** the genetic diversity in food production

**Target 2.A: Invest** in rural infrastructure, agricultural research, technology and gene banks

**Target 2.B: Prevent** agricultural Trade Restrictions, Market Distortions and export subsidies

**Target 2.C: Ensure** stable food commodity markets and timely access to information

Link here: <https://www.globalgoals.org/2-zero-hunger>



## ✓ SDG # 5: Gender Equality

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

**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 5.6: 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

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

**Target 5.B: Enhance** the use of enabling technology in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women

**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

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



**The UN Sustainable Development Goals Report 2021, by António Guterres, Secretary General of the United Nations.**



**Excerpt:** « As the pandemic continues to unfold, The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2021 outlines some significant impacts in many areas that are already apparent. The global extreme poverty rate rose for the first time in over 20 years, and **119 to 124 million people were pushed back into extreme poverty in 2020**. There is a risk of a generational catastrophe regarding schooling, where an additional 101 million children have fallen below the minimum reading proficiency level, potentially wiping out two decades of education gains. Women have faced increased domestic violence, child marriage is projected to rise after a decline in recent years, and unpaid and underpaid care work is increasingly and disproportionately falling on the shoulders of women and girls, impacting educational and income opportunities and health. Notwithstanding the global economic slowdown, concentrations of major greenhouse gases continue to increase. With the global average temperature reaching about 1.2°C above pre-industrial levels, the climate crisis has well and truly arrived, and its impacts are being felt across the world. The pandemic has also brought immense financial challenges, especially for developing countries – with a significant rise in debt distress and dramatic decreases in foreign direct investment and trade...». Read more : <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2021/The-Sustainable-Development-Goals-Report-2021.pdf>

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## Some facts about rural women and girls

**Rural women provide food security** for their communities, strengthen climate resilience and economies. However, gender inequalities, such as discriminatory laws and social norms, associated with a rapid economic, technological and environmental landscape, limit their potential, leaving them far behind men and their urban counterparts.

- **Labor** - The share of women working in agriculture by region:  
*South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa 60% / Rest of Asia & the Pacific and North Africa 30% / Arab States 20% / Latin America and the Caribbean and East Europe 10% / Rest of Europe+North America 5%*
- **Agriculture** - remains the most important employment sector for women in developing countries and rural areas, a sector that largely falls within the informal economy with little or no social protection and labor rights. Consequences are lower standards of living, poor wages and major health challenges, limited access to social services; restricted upward mobility, lack of collective voice and agency.
- **Land rights** - Less than 13% of agricultural landholders are women. Consequences: Less income security; less decision-making power in households and communities; inability to access credit to start a business or improve agricultural productivity.
- **Reproductive Health** - A rural woman is 38% less likely to give birth with a health care worker than an urban woman in low-income countries. Consequences: Increased chances of life-threatening complications, severe bleeding, infection and higher maternal mortality.
- **Water** - Population with access to safe drinking water: Rural areas 20% - Urban areas 68%  
Women and girls are often responsible for fetching water in rural areas. Consequences: more unpaid domestic work; higher risk of maternal mortality; psychosocial stress.
- **Child Marriage** - A rural girl is 2x more likely to get married as a child than her urban counterpart in some African, Latin American and Caribbean countries. Consequences: Barrier to education and employment; greater risk for intimate partner violence; early pregnancy; maternal complications; vulnerability to STDs, including HIV. Early pregnancy; maternal complications; vulnerability to sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV.
- **Literacy** - More than half of all poor rural women lack basic literacy skills. Consequences: Barriers to employment and decision-making; lower income; lower-quality jobs; increased health challenges because less informed; decreased individual and social well-being.
- **ICT - Information Communications Technologies** - Most of the 3.9 billion people not connected to the Internet tend to be poorer, less educated, and rural women and girls. Consequences: Limited means of getting new skills, information and knowledge; decreased livelihoods, well-being and resilience; limited economic opportunities.

### Empowering rural women and girls requires:

1. Decent work and social protection
2. Education and training
3. Sustainable energy and technology
4. Clean water and sanitation
5. Eliminating violence and harmful practices
6. Including women in decision-making and leadership
7. Increasing women's climate-resilience

Source: UN Women - Report of the UN Secretary-General:

*Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls (E/CN.6/2018/3), UN ECOSOC, 2018; World Employment Social Outlook, ILO, 2017; Sustainable Development Goals Report, UN Women, 2018; Ending Child Marriage: Progress and Prospects, Unicef, 2016.*

Updated link here: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/multimedia/2018/2/infographic-rural-women>





# WWSF PRIZE

for Women's  
Creativity in Rural Life  
[www.woman.ch](http://www.woman.ch)



## List of 10 Laureates honored in 2021 with the Prize for Women's Creativity in rural life

(472 Prizes awarded to-date 1994-2021)

### BURKINA FASO



**BALBONE Salimata**  
Exceptional courage and  
perseverance

### KENYA



**KIDULAH Phillipine**  
Lifting Women and Girls out of  
poverty and illiteracy

### MOZAMBIQUE



**BAPTISTA Eulalia Fernando**  
A fish trader with integrity  
and passion

### COLOMBIA



**MOVEMENT OF WOMEN  
FOR LIFE**  
A custodian for Peace, Land,  
and Seeds

### COLOMBIA



**SERNA SALINAS Marylèn**  
Speaking out for peasants,  
indigenous groups & women

### COLOMBIA



**AMAYA MACIAS Maria Cristina**  
An example of humility,  
humanity and solidarity

### ECUADOR



**CORDOVA Ximena**  
Gender & Environmental  
Justice Through Girls' Education

### HONDURAS



**NORALES RAMIREZ Martha**  
Encourages Banks of Hope  
for Garifuna Women

### INDIA



**Sr JESSY Maria BS**  
Dedicated to Rural People,  
their Land, their Youth

### NEPAL



**ROKA MAGAR Dil Kumari**  
From Maoist Fighter to  
Women's Champion

### POSTER 2021



### PRIZE SPONSORS



A big thank-you  
to all the WWSF  
members,  
sponsors and  
volunteers.



Our  
special  
thanks  
go to  
Madeleine & Jacques Maire  
(Edition Jouvence SA) for  
sponsoring the prize awards.

**Organization: Women's  
World Summit Foundation**  
WWSF - [www.woman.ch](http://www.woman.ch)



## BALBONE Salimata (43) Burkina Faso

### EXCEPTIONAL COURAGE AND PERSEVERANCE



Originally from Tenkodogo, Boulgou province, mother of two, continued her studies after her primary school at the CEG of PAMA/Burkina Faso until the third grade.

Salimata is a fighter, a woman who travels great distances in the bush under very difficult climatic conditions on her motorcycle (torrential rains, dust, heat, crossing of rivers, slippery tracks) to get to schools. Through her multiple interventions she manages to be accepted and appreciated by the educational community. They become her partners with whom she can build on the long term, because the goal of her interventions is to bring about lasting behavioral changes.

It is in the field that she has been trained in the themes of hygiene and health in rural life. Examples:

✓ For AVORB (an association of widows and orphans in the Bittou region) on the themes of hygiene and sanitation, prenatal health, child health, food and child nutrition (fight against malnutrition), preparation of different enriched porridges, education of the young girl, family planning, sexually transmitted infections and AIDS, excision, stepping stones for

couples' journey, malaria, tuberculosis, drugs, prostitution, and bird flu.

✓ For the health district of Bittou as ASBC (a Community Based Health Agent) for hygiene and sanitation in food and nutrition for the small child, sexually transmitted diseases and AIDS, prenatal health, and child health.

In January 2017, she was hired by FASODEV durable, the partner association of Graine de Baobab, as a school trainer where she currently works with 15 priority schools. She has accompanied 31 additional schools that have all benefited from her interventions and are able to continue what she has transmitted.

During school breaks, she works with the agro-ecological project by accompanying projects for women: financial education, market gardening, food processing, soap making, etc.

Her work contributes to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals-Agenda 2030  
Targets #2, #3, #4, #5, #6, #15



## KIDULAH Phillipine (40) Kenya

### LIFTING WOMEN & GIRLS OUT OF POVERTY & ILLITERACY



While studying for her Master's degree in the United States, Philippine Chepkoech Kidulah (Pini) was elaborating her plans to go back home to West Pokot County in Kenya and start her non-governmental organization to help girls and women face their many challenges, including poverty, and the growing threat of climate change consequences. In 2012, with the name (Jitokeze Wamama Wagrika) and logo (a butterfly) in her hands, she set up to tackle the tasks she has assigned herself.

Among her goals were the reduction of genital female mutilations and forced early marriages, as well as women's economic empowerment.

She developed a Farmers' Empowerment Program and a Girls' Empowerment Program and encouraged women and girls to join self-help groups. It was not an easy journey, as Philippine met resistance from local leaders, tribal chiefs, and elders, and her life was threatened twice.

Unfazed, and inspired by an upbringing valuing courage, determination, and purposefulness, she persisted and managed to become a respected figure in her community.

Having first-hand experience in her childhood of poverty, marginalization, and discrimination with the dual challenge of being a woman, and belonging to a minority tribe, Pini engaged in many women empowerment projects, training young women in the community, providing them with skills such as sewing, running a sewing business, tending and harvesting vegetables, and to become literate.

Her work contributes to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals-Agenda 2030  
Targets #1, #2, #4, #5, #13







## BAPTISTA Eulalia Fernando (60)

### Mozambique

#### A FISH TRADER WITH INTEGRITY AND PASSION



With the country independence from Portuguese rule, Eulalia Baptista took adult education and concluded 6th grade. Since her young age she has grown to understand the need to work to support herself and her family. After many years of marriage, she became a widow in 1986. With little education, artisanal fishing has been the obvious livelihood activity in her poor coastal hometown. She currently owns a small fish selling business in the Inhassoro district, Inhambane province, where she is the single provider of her household composed of 8 people, mostly children aged 6-18 among them grandsons and granddaughters.

Having witnessed declines in the fish catch in her community, Baptista started to promote social cohesion among her fellow fishers, fish processors and fish traders by mobilizing them to join fisheries associations and management units. She became the founding member of the **Fisheries Community Council (CCP)** of Fequete in 2011, an organization that is legally recognized and tasked with small scale fisheries co-management in support of the local government.

Given her passion and dedication to sustainable fishing, in 2013 she was chosen to represent the fish traders of the entire Inhambane Province in a seminar conducted by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Mozambique to collect information for the elaboration of Guidelines to ensure sustainable and responsible small-scale fisheries. Her dedication to the community has led her to being elected Deputy Secretary of the CCP, one of the most active CCPs in Mozambique with 248 active members.

Baptista is a strong advocate of sustainable fishing and transparent and informed decision making. To attest to this, she has volunteered to be one of the 30 pioneers using the digital registration through the «OurFish app» introduced by the NGO Rare-Mozambique. Learn more : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zo9vzCoovdl>

Her work contributes to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals-Agenda 2030  
**Targets #1, #2, #5, #14**



## Movimiento de Mujeres por la Vida (4)

### Movement of Women for Life

### Colombia

#### A CUSTODIAN FOR PEACE, LAND, AND SEEDS



The formation of the Movement Cajibío, MOMUVIC, took place in June 2017, when a national and international Caravan of solidarity with women victims of violence was organized. This process to defend rights, denounce violence and demand decent living conditions for rural women and their families is strengthened with dialogues and reunions of peasants, indigenous and afro-descendant women producers, community mothers, leaders of community centers, seed caregivers, and young people; located in 23 rural communities and one urban center.

Among its objectives are to recognize the contributions that women have made to family and community life and to society; claim that women have organized to seek a life in justice and equality. It has a coordination team of delegates from the communities participating in the process, and has a support team for organizational, training, dialogue, and political advocacy.

To achieve its objectives, the MoMuViC has three mandates:

1. We declare ourselves women for a Life free of violence
2. We declare ourselves Women Builders of peace
3. We declare ourselves Defenders and builders of the territory.

Difficulties overcome: Seven years ago, the first people interested in installing coca crops (cocaine) in town, arrived. They bought land and co-opted workers from the same communities. Today, they have expanded in such a way that they are a threat to the food sovereignty of traditional crops such as coffee, sugar cane, bananas, and vegetables.

This means that almost all the products must be bought for the subsistence of the families, and therefore total control of community life by the armed actors, with direct effects on women. Despite all the above, the MoMuViC continues to work to improve the living conditions of rural communities.

Their work contributes to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals-Agenda 2030  
**Targets #1, #2, #8, #15, #16**







## SERNA SALINAS Marylèn (55) Colombia

### ***SPEAKING OUT FOR PEASANTS, INDIGENOUS GROUPS & WOMEN***



The last decades of Colombian history have been particularly harsh for small peasants and indigenous communities, between land grabbing, systematic deforestation, displacements, conflicts, persecutions, and multinational companies' voracity. Marylèn Serna Salinas has been advocating for peasants' and women's rights since she was in her early 20s. A great convener, her social and political commitment was instrumental in the establishment of several human rights-focused community organizations.

Marylèn Serna Salinas, a native of the Cauca department, was born in a peasant community and part of a family of community leaders. She has been dedicating her life to defending and reclaiming the land, defending women's rights, denouncing the murder of peasant leaders, and human rights defenders.

As early as the 1990s, in collaboration with other peasants, she started a movement of the peasantry in the region. A victim of death threats with her family in the early 2000s, she had to flee to safety and continue her advocacy work from the city.

Designated as a public spokesperson for diverse social movements, such as the Minga of Social and Community resistance, she also is part of the National Steering Committee of the National Council of peace, reconciliation, and coexistence, and a frequent speaker in international fora. Congratulations!

Her work contributes to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals-Agenda 2030  
**Targets #1, #2, #5, #15, #16**



## AMAYA MACIAS Maria Cristina (54) Colombia

### ***AN EXAMPLE OF HUMILITY, HUMANITY AND SOLIDARITY***



A woman of peasant roots, born in the San Andrés district of Tello, department of Huila in Colombia. After finishing high school, she joined the ranks of the FARC-EP (Revolutionary armed forces of Colombia – EP) until September 2016 when the peace agreement was signed. She then rejoined civil life, doing work with rural communities, especially in areas where there was armed conflict, Maria Cristina started to work with peasant women, victims of the armed conflict, women in the process of reincorporation, girls, boys, youth and single mothers rebuilding the social fabric in the territory.

Once the Peace process was signed, Maria Cristina went again to the Department of Huila in search of her family roots and while there she joined with 63 reincorporated persons and formed, in 2018, the Cooperative of solidarity economy COOAGROPAS in the Municipality of Neiva – Huila. Currently 836 people are part of it as partners, including reincorporated persons, peasants, victims of armed conflict and mothers who head households in the Department of Huila, Cundinamarca and southern Tolima.

Maria Cristina serves as President of the Cooperative and has been working with the communities, especially with women on the land. In addition, Maria Cristina has formed the women's committee in the Cooperative with 52 women and has been managing projects such as:

- The project of laying hens, in the Santa Lucia district, Municipality of Neiva-Huila;
- The project with the Mayor's Office of Meiva - 5 kitchen gardens, a project carried out with women from Piedra Marcada Township, Municipality Neiva-Huila.
- The fish farming project for reincorporated persons with the cooperation of the European Fund and the Mondragón Cooperative of Spain.
- Supporting the efforts carried out by five colleagues from the women's committee of the Cooperative in the project called bamboo shoots with the NGO LAS NANAS, presented to the Embassy of Japan for the construction of a Rehabilitation Center for people injured in the Armed Conflict...
- Supporting the peasant market of FUNDAUTRAHUILCA for two and a half years, and more.

We can say Maria Cristina works to help the community to be more successful and does everything by acting with humility. She values the potential of people and connects with them through her charismatic leadership.

Her work contributes to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals-Agenda 2030  
**Targets #2, #13, #15, #16**





## **CORDOVA Ximena (55)** Galapagos, Ecuador

### **GENDER & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE THROUGH GIRLS' EDUCATION**



The picture-perfect pristine waters, long sandy beaches, and exotic wildlife of the Galapagos Islands hide a much darker reality: the prevalence of gender-based violence due to systemic gender inequalities.

Ximena Cordova, a resident of Isabela Island, personally experienced the endemic issue as she struggled for years at the hands of a violent husband, a fate shared by more than half the women on the islands.

Out of that ordeal came a strong desire to help the women in the Galapagos Islands. At the same time, the young woman who was trained in visual arts and graphic design started working for the Charles Darwin Research Station, further becoming a naturalist guide for the Galapagos National Park Services.

Through this experience, she realized that the urgent need to protect the fragile ecosystem of the island.

She created the Emma Darwin Foundation, "created by women, for women, and for the planet". The foundation, named after Charles Darwin's wife in recognition of her role in her husband's research and writing, seeks to empower girls through education.

The foundation also provided a meeting place for women for exploring their creative potential, as well as awareness-raising events for children to learn about native plants and animals.

Her work contributes to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals-Agenda 2030  
**Targets #4, #5, #13**



## **NORALES RAMIREZ Martha (24)** Honduras

### **ENCOURAGES BANKS OF HOPE FOR GARIFUNA WOMEN**



It took guts and a lot of determination for Martha Norales Ramirez to leave her Garifuna community, a Honduran ethnic group of mixed African and indigenous heritage in Iriona to go study in the city, and remain focused on her goal despite discrimination, sexism, and financial distress. She came out victorious, with what had been an unattainable goal for generations of women before her, a college degree.

After her study in natural resource management and environment, she came back to Iriona intending to empower her community and protecting natural resources. The young woman immediately set to work and fostered the creation of saving clubs for Garifuna women. Six groups are now active with 150 members.

The saving clubs give access to financial services such as small loans and provide a safety net for communities in times of shock or crisis, such as the Covid-19, financing education and health costs.

The saving clubs act as banks where rules are set by the community, the interests are shared, and allow women «to set dates for their dreams and projects.»

Coordinator of the municipality's environmental unit, she also leads and supports initiatives to protect Iriona's natural resources, including its marine ecosystems, mangroves, and forests, participating in projects such as the creation of Honduras' first-ever community-led marine protected area.

Her work contributes to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals-Agenda 2030  
**Targets #5, #8, #13, #14, #15**





**Sr JESSY Maria BS (50)**  
India

***DEDICATED TO RURAL PEOPLE,  
THEIR LAND, THEIR YOUTH***



It was along the way to school, the three kilometers she walked each day from her small village in Mangalore and back, that Sister Maria Jessie developed a love for rural life, its people, and the environment. Ever since she joined the Bethany Sisters at age 15, she dedicated her life to helping the disadvantaged, like educating the street children in the slums of Delhi, or working to improve the lives of rural people in Jharkhand.

In Maluka, Jharkhand, the forest was being cut down to make firewood. Sister Maria Jessie established a program "Social Forestry" that won the support from the government, and through awareness-raising and skills development programs, led to the replacement of hundreds of trees and the development of an entire forest economy independent on firewood.

She also engaged in water management, in Badibahal Sambalput, and piloted a project to collect rainwater for irrigation through a pond system.

Appalled by the unscrupulous and criminal human trafficking of rural people, she established the Damruhat Project, sparing no efforts, selflessly facing danger, and tirelessly advocating. After 6 years her work in the 112 villages of Damruhat has pushed back the efforts of traffickers, and drastically curbed the trafficking. The program provides young people with training and income generation programs to make it possible for them to remain in their village and earn a living.

Her work contributes to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals-Agenda 2030  
**Targets #4, #6, #13, #15**



**ROKA MAGAR Dil Kumari (51)**  
Nepal

***FROM MAOIST FIGHTER TO  
WOMEN'S CHAMPION***



Dil Kumari Roka Magar was a young woman when the Nepalese civil war broke out in 1996. At that time, after marrying at 17, she was the mother of three small children, and living in the remote village of Khumil, in Rolpa. Her husband became an active combatant, soon wanted by the Nepalese security forces.

After he went underground, his family, back in the village, was submitted to psycho-social and physical abuse. Forced to flee in 2004, Dil had to leave her three children with her husband's parents. She later took up arms and joined the Maoists.

When the Comprehensive Peace Accord was signed in 2006, Dil settled in Tinau, Palpa, and focused on a way to sustain her family. She turned to agricultural activities, in particular mushroom production.

She also was determined to improve the condition of women, with a strong conviction that financial independence was one of their ways to freedom.

She started commercial mushroom farming and vegetable gardening as a means to achieve social change and formed women's groups, cooperatives and production groups. The women have become economically independent and can support their family.

Relentless, Dil also turned her attention to community forest and resource management, and mobilized rural women to take charge and leadership of community forestry.

She is a strong advocate of raising the role of women in society as the basis for the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Her work contributes to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals-Agenda 2030  
**Targets #2, #5, #8, #13**





## WWSF PRIZE for Women's Creativity in Rural Life

### List of Selected Messages from Prizewinners

(472 Prizes awarded to-date 1994-2021)

Examples of messages received (all profiles & photos are published on our website)



**Laureate 2017 from Mongolia,  
Tugrug UUGan-Erdene**

*«Wonderful! Thank you so much! Our NGO team and I are so glad that I became one of the 10 prizewinners of the 2017 Prize for women's creativity in rural life. This is a big surprise to me. I'm so excited and I feel very happy. It is a great opportunity for me at the Sain Tus NGO Center and the community of people. I will continue my work for rural women by engaging them in the UN Sustainable Development Agenda 2030. Again and again we would like to thank you and the Women's World Summit Foundation Team.»*



**Laureate 2017 from Uganda,  
Esther Nakajjigo**

*«It is with great pleasure and excitement that we received the Prize for Esther Nakajjigo. I thank you for tremendous work you have done and identifying her as a young girl impacting rural lives in rural Africa. This is a great motivation and I am pretty sure not even the sky shall limit her. Thank you once again.»*

Wilson Jaga Child Care & Rescue Programme (Nominator of Esther Nakajjigo).

**Laureate from Uganda, Petty Angida-Omagor** *«...the Prize has brought me recognition in my district and in my country at large and the cash helped expand the growing of soya beans and training of single mothers in childcare. I pray that more rural women from Uganda will be awarded this kind of award.»*

**Laureate from Nigeria, Ethek Nne Ekeke** *«...the Prize is pushing me into more action to improve the life of women and children. I will use the Prize money for the training of young girls & boys who have dropped out of school.»*

**Laureate from Armenia, Nune Sarukhanyan** *« I wish to thank you once again, which obliges me to even serve better the development of Armenian villages and the improvement of the quality of life of Armenian rural women and the protection of their rights.»*

**Laureate from USA, Hermila Trevino Saucedo** *« Thank you very, very much for your notice and providing me the opportunity to be among the Laureates of the WWSF Prize for Women's Creativity in Rural Life 2016. I am so excited and feel so honored to be selected by you...»*

**Laureate from Kenya, Eva Darare Gonche** *«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 a dignified life for the voiceless women and girls...»*

**Laureate from Sierra-Leone, Lois Thompson** *«... words are not enough to express the joy and surprise when I received your letter, the badge and the prize money... May God bless you all and your families...»*

**Laureate from Canada, Peggy Carswell** brought small-scale tea growers and farmers in Assam, India, together and showed them how to grow tea and vegetables organically. She says *« I want to let you know that being recognized by WWSF for my work 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...»*

**Laureate from Nigeria, Aku Anagbogu - AWKA** *« I'm happy to inform you that following the award I became the chairman of the Traditional village council for women and children to give women more strength and determination in the eradication of archaic practices in their community...»*

**Laureate from Kenya, Bamako Initiative Women's Group** *«... this prize has given our group a new sense of direction. More than ever, the group members feel challenged to contribute in the preservation of peace in Kenya...»*

**Laureate from Cameroon, Mary Pekokeh** *«...the award has made me to be more recognized in the community and also enabled me to get a job as a social worker in the department of social services...»*

**Laureate from Zambia, Cecilia Makota – Zambian Women in Agriculture** *« As an impact of the prize I was nominated in 1999 to the highest policy making body to the agriculture sector in my country, which formulates agriculture policies for the endorsement by the Ministry of Agriculture. I am now the focal point for rural women...»*

**Laureate from India, Dr. Lata Kachchawah – Society to uplift Rural Economy (SURE)** *«...I'm deeply indebted to WWSF for awarding me with a prize for my work with rural women. The prize has encouraged me to a great extent to work vigorously with the downtrodden rural population of this backward desert area of western Rajasthan...»* **cont'd.**

## Continued selected messages from laureates:

**Laureate from Pakistan, Rural Women Welfare Organization** «...The WWSF prize money was not only an honor for the organization but an appreciation and recognition of our uneducated but qualified rural women activists who achieved the deserving status in society. We utilized the prize money for surgical operations of 10 poor and needy women who were suffering from the worst gynecological problems...»

**Laureate from Philippines, Portia Navye-Rossi** «... I was almost discouraged and was planning to end this 20 year old farm project demonstration due to lack of funds but your support gave me renewed energy and inspiration...»

**Laureate from Jordan, Al Hadja** «...The award event was best celebrated with the special meeting held under the patronage of HRH Princess Basma Bint Talal, Chairperson of the Jordan Hashemite Fund for Human Development. By nominating me the Fund has upheld the cause of rural women in Jordan and in the world and brought to the attention the status of rural women and their achievements...»

**Laureate from Chile, Rosalia Jara** «...The prize was a great help for me and my family, as well as my community because part of the prize money was invested to implement my first aid kit with some medicine to benefit my community. The message that I would give to other laureates is that we have to double our efforts to serve and participate in community action...»

**Laureate from Nicaragua, Gladys Caceres**  
« After receiving the prize, Gladys initiated an annual Central American Forum for women's creativity in rural life, convinced MAELA, the AgroEcological Movement of Latin America to focus on rural and indigenous women as one of their priorities...»

**Laureate from India, Narmada Bai**  
« A voice against corruption... Narmada Bai will attribute the prize money to the Chilghat school, and says with appreciation that "with Ekta Parishad (a mass-based peoples' movement for land rights), we discovered another world, we were really ignorant... From slaves destined to live in shanty towns of Delhi and Bombay, we have become proud human beings who fight for our rights...»

**Laureate from Cameroon, Fomunbod Stella Anne** « Vous ne pouvez pas imaginer à quel point le soutien psychologique et moral de ces reconnaissances affecte ma vie et mon travail. Une fois de plus, merci pour cet honneur décerné par la WWSF. Je vous suis entièrement reconnaissante, d'autant plus que votre prix a maintenant un impact sur tous mes engagements...»

**Laureate from India, Bukkawar Rajesh Prathiba** «...Nous avons le plaisir de vous informer que le prix 2010 a été présenté par l'Honorable Consul Général de la Suisse à Bombay le 15 octobre. La chaîne de TV indienne Doordarshan s'est entretenu avec le Consul Général et la lauréate Prathiba lors d'un débat télévisé en direct le même jour...» (message du nominateur de Bukkawar Rajesh Prathiba)

**Laureate from Ghana, Joyce Vida Donkor** «...will use the prize money in collaboration with the Youth Club for Nature Conservation to acquire bee harvesting equipment and other material to exhibit on 15 October – International Day of Rural Women to boost the women's morale and encourage them to support future initiatives. »

**Laureate from Mali, Aïssata Guindo**  
«...Après avoir reçu le prix, elle est devenue membre de la Fédération des femmes rurales et a été élue trésorière de l'Union des femmes rurales Ouest africaines. Elles ont élaboré un plan d'action de trois ans. »

**Laureate from Zimbabwe, Virginia Mupanduki** «...who became an Ashoka fellow because of her outstanding work in the field of education. She is building a broad national organization consisting of over 40'000 previously illiterate women aiming at eradicating illiteracy, teaching development skills and creating a political voice for women. »

**Laureate from India, M. Rani**  
«...Visited WWSF in Geneva and shared the beautiful handicraft work done by 1'300 rural women of the SHARE association of which she is president. M. Rani explained what a difference the prize made in her personal life and how grateful she is to WWSF to have given her this recognition. »

**Laureate from India, Vikas Mahila Multipurpose Cooperative Society** «... we are very much encouraged by the recognition and appreciation of our struggle for a just society where women are given the deserved respect and opportunities...»

**Laureate from Vietnam, Do Thuy Dien** «...What a wonderful global project to recognize these dear workers for a better world right in their own communities...»

**Laureate from Peru, Zoila Valdez Chaupi** « Mientras la premiada continua trabajando para encontrar ayuda en beneficio de los damnificados ocasionado por el terremoto del 23 de junio, la FCMM le otorga el mejor premio de su vida en reconocimiento a sus desvelos semejantes. Premio que por si solo mejora su autoestima y la obliga a multiplicar sus fuerzas...»

**Laureate from Italy, Martine Lintner** «... my experience at the prize ceremony in Geneva was that I felt that the women at WWSF and the other laureates invited are committed to the well-being of all people and that the good is stronger than the dark in the world. WWSF is organizing World Rural Women's Day for us farm women to stop for a while and think and be happy about ourselves and realize how important we are for our society...! »

**Laureate from Germany, Christa Off** «... Personally it was my special concern to help improve income situation and sustainability of our farms and specially to keep small family farms alive... We expect more than 1 million guests on Bavarian farms this year which is an enormous value increase for rural areas. My prize money will be for the benefit of a Bavarian Association, supporting rural families in need...»

**Laureate from France, Véronique Thev** «... Je vais continuer à faire vivre et valoriser le rôle des femmes en milieu rural et aider les enfants à grandir dans le souci du respect du vivant...»



## **2022 CALL FOR NOMINATIONS**

### **WWSF Prize for women's creativity in rural life**

*Deadline 30 April 2022*

Dear Partners and Friends,

The Women's World Summit Foundation (WWSF) cordially invites you to submit nominations for its 28th annual **Prize for women's creativity in rural life**, honoring and awarding creative and courageous women and women's groups around the world working to improve the quality of life and empower rural communities.

Since inception of the Prize program in 1994, **472** Laureates have been honored for their courage, commitment and creativity with a cash award of US\$ 1000. All prizewinners and a brief description of their work are published on our website: <https://www.woman.ch/campaign-17-days/wwsf-prize-for-womens-creativity-in-rural-life/>

Given your experience, interest and perspective with regard to issues of sustainable development, human rights, economic development, the environment and climate change, peace building, ending violence and advancing the empowerment of women, we would greatly appreciate your participation and thank you in advance for sending us your candidates. Between 5 to 10 prizewinners will again be selected in 2022 and will be announced to prizewinners and the media on **1 October** and **celebrated on 15 October** – International Day of Rural Women.

**Kindly note** that since 2015, the United Nations Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 – Transforming our world, empowers us to include this ambitious plan in all of our rural women programs. WWSF has therefore slightly modified its prize criteria for submitting nominations, which are presented online in order for you to follow our new guidelines. Your presentation of candidates, respecting the new guidelines, must reach our office no later than 30 April 2022 by post only. Nomination proposals, which are incomplete and not following the guidelines, will not be considered by the Prize Jury.

**Please note** that WWSF encourages rural women's groups and development organizations to join our annual campaign **"17 Days of Activism for the Empowerment of rural women and their communities 1-17 October – Rural Women Rise and Claim your right to development, equality and peace - Beijing+27 + SDG 7**, is one of our regular initiative, which provides 17 themes to organize for action. Join the campaign: [www.woman.ch](http://www.woman.ch)

We thank you in advance for your partnership and look forward to your candidate(s) in 2022.

Yours sincerely,

Elly Pradervand, WWSF President-CEO / UN Representative

- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/wwsf.geneva/>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/WWSFoundation>
- LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/elly-pradervand-20b57516/>
- Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/womensworldsummitfoundation/>
- Link to all Laureates: <https://www.woman.ch/campaign-17-days/wwsf-prize-for-womens-creativity-in-rural-life/>
- YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/WWSFoundation>



**WWSF** - Women's World Summit Foundation, P.O.BOX 1504, 1211 Geneva 1, Switzerland  
E-mail: [wdpca@wwsf.ch](mailto:wdpca@wwsf.ch) - Tel +41 (0) 22 738 66 19 - [www.woman.ch](http://www.woman.ch) - United Nations consultative status  
**Thank you for your contribution.** IBAN: CH1900 78800 005070 1412 - CCP: Swiss postal acct. 12-100651-8





## WWSF PRIZE FOR WOMEN'S CREATIVITY IN RURAL LIFE

Awarded since 1994 by WWSF Women's World Summit Foundation,  
Geneva, Switzerland

(472 awards given so far – all laureates are published on our website  
[www.woman.ch](http://www.woman.ch))



### Nomination Form **2022**

Guidelines available online [www.woman.ch](http://www.woman.ch)

Nomination materials should arrive no later than **30 April** through the post.  
E-mail nominations are no longer accepted.

#### CANDIDATE

Family Name: \_\_\_\_\_

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel. \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Internet \_\_\_\_\_

#### NOMINATOR

Family Name: \_\_\_\_\_

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel. \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Internet \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Required Documents :**

**Relationship to the Candidate**

**Description of the Candidate's work (2-3 pages)**

**List of supporting materials**

- ☐ Endorsement letters
- ☐ Newspaper articles
- ☐ Publications
- ☐ Other (photos of the candidate and videos, etc. if available)

#### **International Prize Jury:**

**Elly Pradervand (Switzerland); Gulzar Samji (Canada); Jyoti Macwan (India); Anne Pelagie Yotchout (Cameroon)**

#### **Next awards in 2022**

**Nomination materials should arrive no later than 30 April through the post and be addressed to:**

**WWSF Women's World Summit Foundation, P.O.BOX 1504, 1211 Geneva 1, Switzerland**  
**Tel.: +41 (0) 22 738 66 19 - [www.woman.ch](http://www.woman.ch) - [wdpca@wwsf.ch](mailto:wdpca@wwsf.ch) - UN Ecosoc consultative status**



## WWSF Prize for women's creativity in rural life

### Nomination Guidelines - Next prize awards in 2022

Awarded since 1994 by the Women's World Summit Foundation (WWSF), an international, non-profit, humanitarian NGO, serving the implementation of women's and children's rights and the UN development agenda - the Prize (US\$ 1000 per laureate) honors women and women's groups around the world exhibiting exceptional creativity, courage and commitment for the improvement of the quality of life in rural communities (472 prizes awarded so far). The Prize aims to draw international attention to laureates' contributions to sustainable development, household food security and peace, thus generating recognition and support for their projects. While rural women are vital in providing examples of sound practice in their communities, they still do not have full access to tools needed for development, such as education, credit, land and water rights and participation in decision making. By highlighting and awarding creative development models, innovations and experiences enhancing the quality of rural life, WWSF participates in addressing the eradication of rural poverty, gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment.

#### Eligibility

- Nominees should be women and women's groups currently active in rural life whose efforts have not yet been acknowledged by other awards. **They may not nominate themselves.**
- The nominating organization or individual must have direct experience of the nominee's work. The nominator may not nominate a family member, be a member of the nominated organization, nor can an organization nominate its senior officer (i.e. founder, president etc.). No more than three nominees may be presented by the same person/organization in the same year. The nominator commits to organize an award ceremony if the candidate is selected for the Prize and invites the media.

#### Nominations must include the following items:

- ① Original signed letter of nomination indicating how the nominator knows the nominee and for how long.
- ② Biographical data on the nominee (full name, age, education, place of work, background) and a detailed history of the nominee's creative project (written by the nominator) including her motivation, innovative aspects, any obstacles overcome, and the impact in the community. Nominations must specify whether the nominee has received or is currently being nominated for other awards.
- ③ At least two original and signed endorsement letters from organizations or individuals other than the nominator and, if possible, additional supporting materials such as newspaper articles or publications.
- ④ A few labeled photographs clearly showing the nominee(s) for possible publication.

#### Criteria

The long-term impact of the Prize depends on the integrity of the nominators and the quality of their nominations. The Prize is an award for successful accomplishments rather than a fund for future projects. The nominee's history, written by the nominator (2-3 pages) must demonstrate the creativity, courage and sometimes sacrifice in the efforts by the candidate at the grassroots level to improve life in rural communities. Descriptions should be as specific as possible.

#### Any of the following elements should be emphasized:

- \* Exceptional courage and perseverance in improving rural life
- \* Creativity in the approach
- \* Preservation of and respect for the environment (if the candidate is involved with the environment)
- \* Continuing impact in the community
- \* Participation in the WWSF 17 Days of Activism Campaign 1-17 October with 17 themes is encouraged
- \* Underline how the work of the candidate promotes the UN Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 – Transforming our world. Link: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?menu=1300>

Laureates are selected by an international Jury composed of WWSF Directors and Advisors; they are announced officially on 1 October and celebrated in their countries on **15 October – International Day of Rural Women**. WWSF has a commitment to award annually 5 - 10 creative rural women leaders and women's groups around the world. To read about past laureates, visit our web site [www.woman.ch](http://www.woman.ch)

**WWSF Women's World Summit Foundation, P.O.BOX 1504, 1211 Geneva 1, Switzerland**

**E-mail: [wwsf@wwsf.ch](mailto:wwsf@wwsf.ch) - [www.woman.ch](http://www.woman.ch)**

***Nomination materials must arrive no later than 30 April through the post only.***

# For your information: UN Report of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW65) / Beijing+26 (2021)

United Nations

E/CN.6/2021/L.3



## Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited  
30 March 2021

Original: English

### Commission on the Status of Women

#### Sixty-fifth session

15–26 March 2021

Agenda item 3 (a) (i)

**Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”: implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives: priority theme: women’s full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls**

### **Women’s full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls**

#### **Agreed conclusions**

1. The Commission on the Status of Women reaffirms the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,<sup>1</sup> the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly<sup>2</sup> and the declarations adopted by the Commission on the occasion of the tenth, fifteenth, twentieth and twenty-fifth anniversaries of the Fourth World Conference on Women.<sup>3</sup>
2. The Commission reiterates that the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women<sup>4</sup> and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution I, annexes I and II.

<sup>2</sup> General Assembly resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

<sup>3</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 7* and corrigendum (E/2005/27 and E/2005/27/Corr.1), chap. I, sect. A; *ibid.*, 2010, *Supplement No. 7* and corrigendum (E/2010/27 and E/2010/27/Corr.1), chap. I, sect. A; *ibid.*, 2015, *Supplement No. 7* (E/2015/27), chap. I, sect. C, resolution 59/1; and *ibid.*, 2020, *Supplement No. 7* (E/2020/27), chap. I, sect. A.

<sup>4</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.





**cont'd: UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW65) / Beijing+26 (2021)**

E/CN.6/2021/L.3

and the Optional Protocols thereto,<sup>6</sup> as well as other relevant conventions and treaties, such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,<sup>7</sup> the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,<sup>8</sup> the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities<sup>9</sup> and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination<sup>10</sup> provide an international legal framework and a comprehensive set of measures for realizing gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all women and girls, throughout their life course.

3. The Commission reaffirms that the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome documents of its reviews, and the outcomes of relevant major United Nations conferences and summits and the follow-up to those conferences and summits, have laid a solid foundation for sustainable development and that the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action will make a crucial contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development<sup>11</sup> and to achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.

4. The Commission recalls the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in New York on 1 October 2020, which demonstrated commitment to the full and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome documents of its reviews.

5. The Commission reaffirms the commitments to gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls made at relevant United Nations summits and conferences, including the International Conference on Population and Development and its Programme of Action<sup>12</sup> and the outcome documents of its reviews. It recognizes that the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway,<sup>13</sup> the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,<sup>14</sup> the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,<sup>15</sup> the New Urban Agenda<sup>16</sup> and the World Summit for Social Development contribute, inter alia, to women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life and the elimination of violence. The Commission also reaffirms the Paris Agreement,<sup>17</sup> adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.<sup>18</sup>

6. The Commission recognizes the importance of relevant International Labour Organization standards related to the realization of women's right to work and rights at work which are critical for women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life and the elimination of violence, and recalls the decent work agenda of the International Labour Organization and the International Labour

<sup>6</sup> Ibid., vol. 2131, No. 20378; and vols. 2171 and 2173, No. 27531; and resolution 66/138, annex.

<sup>7</sup> See General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid., vol. 660, No. 9464.

<sup>11</sup> General Assembly resolution 70/1.

<sup>12</sup> *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5–13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

<sup>13</sup> General Assembly resolution 69/15, annex.

<sup>14</sup> General Assembly resolution 69/283, annex II.

<sup>15</sup> General Assembly resolution 69/313, annex.

<sup>16</sup> General Assembly resolution 71/256, annex.

<sup>17</sup> See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.

<sup>18</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

## Women's Rights



### Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women

**The CEDAW Convention defines the right of women to be free from discrimination and sets the core principles to protect this right. It establishes an agenda for national action to end discrimination and provides the basis for achieving equality between men and women through ensuring women's equal access to, and equal opportunities in, political and public life as well as education, health and employment. CEDAW is the only Human Rights treaty that affirms the reproductive rights of women. The Convention has been ratified by 189 States, making it one of the most ratified treaties. States parties to the Convention must submit periodic reports on Women's status in their respective countries.**

#### «The States Parties to the present Convention,

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

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

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

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

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

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

Concerned that in situations of poverty women have the least

access to food, health, education, training and opportunities for employment and other needs,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Have agreed on the following: ...»

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To read about the 30 Articles of the Convention, visit the link:  
<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CEDAW.aspx>



# Reminder!

## United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants & Other People Working in Rural Areas

(Launched on 17 December 2018)

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2018/12/1028881>

**“This Declaration is an important tool which should guarantee and realize the rights of the peasants and other working people in rural areas. We urge all states to implement the Declaration in conscientiousness and transparent manner, guaranteeing peasants and rural communities the access to and control over land, peasant’s seeds, water and other natural resources. As peasants, we need the protection and the respect for our values and our role in society to achieve food sovereignty,”** said Elizabeth Mpofu, a peasant farmer from Zimbabwe and La Via Campesina General Coordinator.



Elizabeth Mpofu,  
General Coordinator  
La Via Campesina,  
“Building an International  
Movement for Food and  
Seed Sovereignty”

“As peasants all over the world, we are going to mobilize and we will join hands in our respective countries to lobby for the establishment of policies and strategies that contribute towards recognition, enforcement and accountability. Violations of our rights through land grabbing, forced evictions, gender discrimination, lack of social protection, failing rural development policies and criminalization can now, with the formal international recognition of this Declaration, be addressed with increased legal and political weight.

**Peasants Rights are Human Rights! - Globalize the struggle! Globalize hope!”**

source: <https://www.eurovia.org/finally-un-general-assembly-adopts-peasant-rights-declaration-now-focus-is-on-its-implementation/>



### Introduction to the UN General Assembly announcement

«**Recalling** the principles proclaimed in the Charter of the United Nations, which recognize the inherent dignity and worth and the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family as the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world,

**Taking into account** the principles proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,<sup>2</sup> the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,<sup>3</sup> the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,<sup>4</sup> the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,<sup>4</sup> the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,<sup>5</sup> the Convention on the Rights of the Child,<sup>6</sup> the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families,<sup>7</sup> relevant conventions of the International Labour Organization and other relevant international instruments that have been adopted at the universal or regional level,

**Reaffirming** the Declaration on the Right to Development,<sup>8</sup> and that 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,

**Reaffirming** also the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,<sup>9</sup>

**Reaffirming** further that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interrelated, interdependent and mutually reinforcing and must be treated in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis, and recalling that the promotion and protection of one category of rights should never exempt States from the promotion and protection of the other rights,

**Recognizing** the special relationship and interaction between peasants and other people working in rural areas and the land, water and nature to which they are attached and on which they depend for their livelihood,

**Recognizing** also the past, present and future contributions of peasants and other people working in rural areas in all regions of the world to development and to conserving and improving biodiversity, which constitute the basis of food and agricultural production throughout the world, and their contribution in ensuring the right to adequate food and food security, which are fundamental to attaining the internationally agreed development goals, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>10</sup>

2. Resolution 217 A (III).

3. United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 660, No. 9464.

4. Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

5. United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

6. Ibid., vol. 1577, No. 27531.

7. Ibid., vol. 2220, No. 39481.

8. Resolution 41/128, annex.

9. Resolution 61/295, annex.

10. Resolution 70/1.

**To read about the full Declaration use this link:**

<https://undocs.org/en/A/C.3/73/L.30>

**Link to Universal Declaration Human Rights**

<https://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/>





## About the Prize for Women's Creativity in Rural Life & WWSF annual Empowerment Campaigns

The prize (US \$ 1,000 per winner) has been awarded since 1994 by the Women's World Summit Foundation (WWSF), a non-profit humanitarian, international NGO based in International Geneva, serving with its annual campaigns, world days, awards and calls to action the advancement of the rights of women and children. 472 prizes have been awarded in more than 140 countries over 28 years (1994-2021).



The annual award honors creative women leaders and women's groups from around the world, who demonstrate courage and exceptional commitment to improving the quality of life in rural communities.

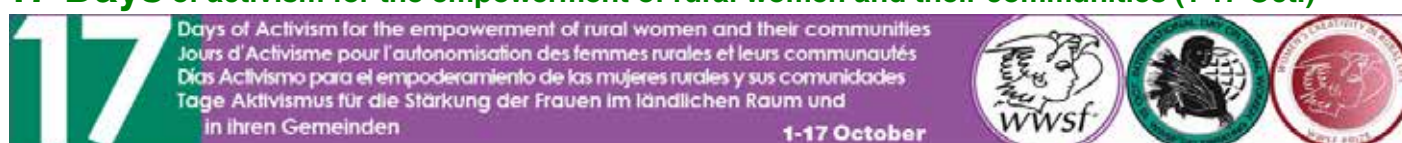
The prize attracts attention to the contributions by the laureates to sustainable development, household food security, peacebuilding, climate mitigation, thus generating recognition and support for their projects.

While rural women are essential in providing examples of good practice in their communities, they still do not have full access to tools necessary for sustainable development, such as education, credit, their right to land and clean drinking water, and participation in decision-making. By highlighting and rewarding creative models of development, innovations and experiences improving the quality of rural life, WWSF participates in the elimination of rural poverty, the need for gender equality and the empowerment of women in general. Most of the laureates are involved, directly or indirectly, to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – Agenda 2030.

To find out more about the prizewinners (all published online) and consult the Nomination guidelines for the 2022 candidates, visit our website: [www.woman.ch](http://www.woman.ch)

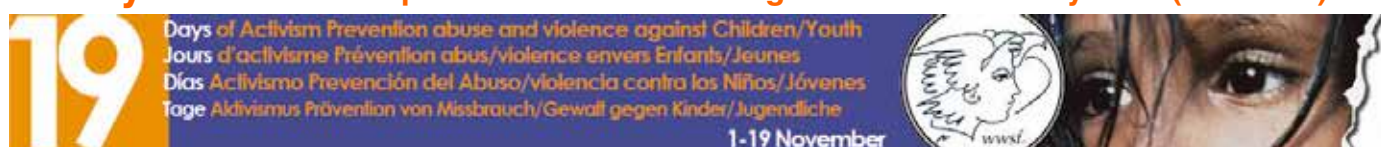
## WWSF convenes 3 campaigns, 2 prize awards & 2 World Days

### 1) 17 Days of activism for the empowerment of rural women and their communities (1-17 Oct.)



WWSF seeks to mobilize via its [17 Days of activism Kit](#) (17 themes) women leaders in rural areas and their communities. This annual empowerment campaign is designed to increase local and national activities and to lighten rural women's claim for their basic right to sustainable development, while connecting their local campaigns with the relevant SDG targets for 2030. WWSF awards an annual Prize (US\$ 1000 per prizewinner) to creative rural women leaders and grassroots groups, giving credit where it's due. Prizewinners are published at [www.woman.ch](http://www.woman.ch) (472 Laureates awarded to date). An additional occasional Prize ([Rural Women Movements award - US\\$10'000](#)) launched in 2017, to honor [Rural Women Movements](#) to flourish. In Beijing 1995, WWSF in collaboration with other NGOs took the leadership in promoting the International Day of Rural Women - 15 October.

### 2) 19 Days of activism for prevention of violence against children and youth (1-19 Nov.)



WWSF seeks to identify and mobilize through its [19 Days Prevention Kit](#) (including 19 themes) organizations and grassroots groups working for the implementation of the rights of the child and to mobilize its members to organize annual events and activities. The campaign is designed to increase local and national activities and encourages the implementation of the relevant UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially [Goal 16.2](#). WWSF also awards active coalition member organizations with an annual Innovation Prize for Innovative Prevention Programs (60 awards to date). 19 November is the WWSF World Day Prevention Child Abuse.

### 3) 365 Days of activism for the elimination of violence against women and youth in CH



WWSF organizes since 2009 the Swiss White Ribbon Campaign, which aims to eliminate violence against women and youth by 2030. The campaign publishes a Toolkit "365 Days of Activism" (including 16 themes) and seeks to mobilize men, women and youth to pledge online, or via our postcard: **"not to commit, excuse, or remain silent about violence against women and youth"**. The Swiss [Youth Engage](#)-White Ribbon program offers workshops & trainings to become [Youth Engage](#) representatives/ambassadors and take the campaign pledge into schools, universities, enterprises, clubs & institutions. For more information, visit our websites in French and German – [www.ruban-blanc.ch](http://www.ruban-blanc.ch) & [www.weisse-schleife.ch](http://www.weisse-schleife.ch)





You are invited to use the Poster for Local/National Activities & Celebrations!

15  
Oct.  
2021

# INTERNATIONAL DAY OF RURAL WOMEN



Journée internationale des femmes rurales  
Día internacional de la mujer rural  
Internationaler Tag der Landfrauen  
اليوم العالمي للمرأة الريفية  
世界农村妇女日

2021 Theme: Rural Women Rise and Claim your basic  
Right to sustainable development - SDG Agenda 2030



Photo by Kindel Media from Pexels

CREATED IN 1995 AT THE BEIJING WOMEN'S CONFERENCE BY THREE INTERNATIONAL NGOS,  
THE DAY HAS BECOME IN 2007 AN OFFICIAL ANNUAL UN DAY. WWSF PROMOTES  
AND AWARDS ITS ANNUAL PRIZE FOR WOMEN'S CREATIVITY IN RURAL LIFE ON THAT DAY.

WWSF-Women's World Summit Foundation/Fondation Sommet Mondial des Femmes  
P.O. Box 1504, 1211 Geneva 1 • Switzerland • [wwsf@wwsf.ch](mailto:wwsf@wwsf.ch) • [www.woman.ch](http://www.woman.ch)

