

Gender, Economic, Social and Ecological Justice for Sustainable Development A Feminist Declaration for Post 2015

As the United Nations decide on the future course of international development post 2015, women of all ages, identities, ethnicities, cultures and across sectors and regions, are mobilizing for gender, social, cultural, economic and ecological justice, sustainable development and inclusive peace. We seek fundamental structural and transformational changes to the current neoliberal, extractivist and exclusive development model that perpetuates inequalities of wealth, power and resources between countries, within countries, and between men and women. We challenge the current security paradigm that increases investments in the military-industrial complex, which contributes to violent conflict between and within countries.

We demand a paradigm transformation from the current development neoliberal economic model, which prioritizes profit over people, and exacerbates inequalities, war and conflict, militarism, patriarchy, environmental degradation and climate change. Instead, we call for economic models and development approaches that are firmly rooted in principles of human rights and environmental sustainability, that address inequalities between people and states, and that rebalance power relations for justice so that the result is sustained peace, equality, the autonomy of peoples, and the preservation of the planet.

This transformational shift requires the redistribution of unequal and unfair burdens on women and girls in sustaining societal wellbeing and economies, intensified in times of violence and conflict, as well as during economic and ecological crises. It also must bring attention to the kind of growth generated and for this growth to be directed toward ensuring wellbeing and sustainability for all. It must tackle intersecting and structural drivers of inequalities, and multiple forms of discrimination based on gender, age, class, caste, race, ethnicity, place of origin, cultural or religious background, sexual orientation, gender identity, health status and abilities.

A development model that will work for women and girls of all ages and identities must be firmly rooted in international human rights obligations, non-retrogression, progressive realization, and the Rio principles, including common but differentiated responsibilities, as well as the fulfillment of the Extraterritorial Obligations of States as outlined in the Maastricht Principles. It also requires states to have ratified and implemented international human rights treaties, including on economic and social rights and women's human rights, and multilateral environmental agreements. Any sustainable development framework Post 2015 must aim for social inclusion and equity, human security and sustainable peace, the fulfillment of human rights for all and gender equality. It requires reviewing the current security paradigm of investing heavily in militarized peace and security; respecting the secularity of the State where this is enshrined in national norms; reverse the current model of over-consumption and production to one of sustainable consumption, production, and distribution; and ensure a new ecological sustainability plan that applies a biosphere approach and respect for planetary boundaries and ecological sustainability.

We aim to build political commitment and to overcome financial and legal obstacles to sustainable development, peace, and the respect, protection and fulfillment of all women's human rights. We urge the international community to address the unjust social, economic and environmental conditions that perpetuate armed conflict, violence and discrimination, the feminization of poverty, commodification of natural resources, and threats to food sovereignty that impede women and girls from becoming empowered, realizing their human rights, and achieving gender equality. **Specifically, we call for:**

1. Gender equality to be cross-cutting across all sustainable development goals, strategies, and objectives, as well as a **stand alone goal to achieve gender equality and the full realization of women's human rights** that contributes to the redistribution of the current concentration of power, wealth and resources, including information and technology. We call for an enabling environment that will empower all women and girls; an end to all forms of gender-based violence including early and forced marriages, honor killings and sexual violence, especially during and after conflict and natural disasters; an end to all forms of discrimination based on gender, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity,

cultural background and health status; guarantee women's equal, full and effective participation at all levels of political and public life, leadership and decision-making, including in all peace processes; guarantee women's equal rights to land and property; guarantee all women's sexual, bodily and reproductive autonomy free from stigma, discrimination and violence; and collect data and statistics, disaggregated by, among others, gender, age, race, ethnicity, location, disability and socio-economic status to inform the formulation, monitoring and evaluation of laws, policies and programs.

2. Any goal on **education** must include specific means to address the social, cultural and community practices that prevent girls, adolescents and women across the lifecourse from accessing and completing education and lifelong learning; create enabling environments for girls' learning, including safety, hygiene, and mobility; achieve universal access to quality early childhood, primary, secondary and tertiary education for all children and eliminate gender gaps, with a focus on transitions between primary-secondary and secondary-tertiary in order to ensure retention and completion by girls, adolescents and young people; provide formal and non-formal education for all women to be aware of and able to exercise their human rights; comprehensive sexuality education programs that promote values of respect for human rights, freedom, non-discrimination, gender equality, non-violence and peace-building; education curricula that are gender-sensitive and eliminate gender stereotypes, sexism, racism and homophobia, and that provide teacher training to enable the delivery of un-biased, non-judgmental education

3. Any goal on **health** must include: the achievement of the right to the highest attainable standard of health, including sexual and reproductive health and rights. Health services must be integrated and comprehensive, free from violence, coercion, stigma and discrimination, and emphasize equitable access, especially for adolescents, to contraception, including emergency contraception, information on assisted reproduction, maternity care, safe abortion, prevention and treatment of STIs and prevention, treatment, care and support of HIV, as well as services for those suffering from violence and in situations of emergencies and armed conflict. All services must be accessible, affordable, acceptable and of quality. New investments and strategies for health and the development of goals, targets and indicators must be firmly based on human rights, including sexual and reproductive rights.

4. To ensure **economic justice** we call for: an enabling international environment for development that upholds the extra-territorial obligation of states to ensure macroeconomic and financial policies meet economic and social rights as enshrined in the Maastricht principles. This includes development-oriented trade, fiscal, monetary and exchange rate policies, progressive tax measures, a sovereign debt workout mechanism, and ending trade and investment treaties that impoverish nations and people; challenging global intellectual property rights frameworks; eliminating harmful subsidies; boosting productive capacity through an inclusive and sustainable industrialization strategy of diversified economic sectors moving from carbon intensive to safe and environmentally sound societies; transforming the gendered division of labour and assuring the redistribution of paid and unpaid work, while ensuring decent work and a living wage for all; implementing a universal social protection floor for persons of all ages to access basic services such as health care, child and elder care, education, food, water, sanitation, energy, housing and employment; recognition and account for the value of care work and protect the rights of care workers throughout the global care chain and guarantee women's equal access to resources; promotion of technology transfer, financing, monitoring, assessment, and research in line with the precautionary principle; increased financing for gender equality and women's human rights and re-directing investments in the warfare industry from militarized security to human security.

5. To promote **ecological justice**, we call for: ensuring the health of ecosystems and ecosystem services are protected and restored and that the intrinsic value of nature is recognized and respected; an end to the commodification of nature; securing safe, sustainable and just production and consumption patterns and eliminating hazardous substances and technologies; ensuring food and water sovereignty for all, paying particular attention to small holder farmers and fisherfolk who are often women, as key economic actors whose right to use and own land and access forests, grass and waste-lands, rivers, lakes, seas and oceans should be protected through legally binding safeguards, including against land

and resource grabbing; respect for the unique knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities, including peasant and coastal communities, and ensure the right to free, prior and informed consent in any development projects that may affect the lands, territories and resources which they own, occupy or otherwise use; address the inequality, pressure and exploitation of women living in poverty within urban and rural communities, including through reversing rapid and unsustainable urbanization to prevent degradation of ecosystems and exploitation of resources that exacerbates injustice in urban, peri-urban and rural areas. Ecological justice requires a strengthened United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, fulfillment of the Maastricht Principles on Extraterritorial Obligations of States, and a clear recognition of the cultural and ecosystem losses that climate change has already failed to save- and the crises faced by small island developing states- particularly by strengthening the newly established Loss and Damage mechanism under the UNFCCC.

With regard to **governance and accountability** and **means of implementation** of the sustainable development framework, we call for a prioritization of public financing over public-private partnerships as well as transparency and accountability in both public and private actions related to sustainable development. Private sector is profit-oriented by nature and not required to invest in social needs and global public goods. Thirty-seven of the world's 100 largest economies are corporations that are not bound by international human rights or environmental obligations. The public sector—whose crucial roles include the financing of social needs towards poverty eradication and finance global public goods—thus remains essential for a sustainable development financing strategy. All public budgets need to be transparent, open to public debate, gender responsive, and allocate adequate resources to achieving these priorities. We must ensure the meaningful participation of women in the design, delivery, monitoring and evaluation of the development goals, policies and programs as well as during peace-building efforts, protect all women human rights defenders, and guarantee their safety and non persecution. There must be access to effective remedies and redress at the national level for women's human rights violations. Monitoring and evaluation should include reporting of states on their obligations before the Universal Periodic Review, CEDAW and its Optional Protocol, and other human rights mechanisms and under multilateral environmental agreements. Regulation, accountability and transparency of non-state actors, particularly trans-national corporations and public-private partnerships, are critical for achieving sustainable development. Justice will be possible without effective governance mechanisms, for which it is necessary to guarantee the respect for, enforceability and justiciability of all human rights, as well as ensuring the rule of law and the full participation of civil society, in conditions of equality between men and women.

To endorse this statement, please send an email with the organization's full name and country to:
feministspost2015@gmail.com

List of Signatories (as of February 15, 2014)

Association for Liberty and Equality for Gender (ALEG)- Romania
Articulación Regional de Organizaciones de la Sociedad Civil de América Latina y el Caribe hacia Cairo más 20
Alianza LAC juventudes rumbo a Cairo +20
Articulación Feminista Marcosur
ASTRA Network
Asociación Latinoamericana de Población-ALAP
Balance, Promoción para el desarrollo y la juventud- Mexico
Campaña 28 de Septiembre por la Despenalización del Aborto de América Latina y el Caribe
Campaña por una Convención Interamericana de los Derechos Sexuales y Reproductivos
Caribbean DAWN
Centro Feminista de Estudios e Assessoria: CFEMEA
Círculo de Juventud Afrodescendiente de las Américas-CJAA
Coalición Caribeña Población y Desarrollo
Coalición Contra el Tráfico de Mujeres y Niñas en América Latina y El Caribe
Coalición Salvadoreña de Mujeres rumbo a Cairo + 20
Coalición Nacional de SC hacia Cairo más 20
Coalición por la Salud de las Mujeres en México
Comisión Nacional de Seguimiento Mujeres por Democracia, equidad y ciudadanía- CNSmujeres
Comité de América Latina y El Caribe para la Defensa de los Derechos de la Mujer- CLADEM
Congo Men's Network (COMEN)- Congo
Consejo Latinoamericano y del Caribe de organizaciones no gubernamentales con servicio en VIH/SIDA- LACASSO
Consortio Latinoamericano contra el aborto inseguro-CLACAI
Consortio Latinoamericano de Anticoncepción de Emergencia-CLAE
Consejo Latinoamericano de Iglesias-CLAI
Coordinación de Mujeres del Paraguay
Coordinación Red Feminista Centroamericana contra la Violencia hacia las Mujeres-CEMUJER
Coordinadora de la Mujer de Bolivia
Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era - DAWN
Education as Vaccine EVA- Nigeria
El Closet de Sor Juana
Enlace Continental de Mujeres Indígenas de las Américas
Espacio Iberoamericano de Juventud Fundación para Estudio e Investigación de la Mujer-FEIM
Grupo de Seguimiento a Cairo- Bolivia
Grupo de Trabajo en Sexualidades y Géneros Argentina
Grupo Internacional de Mujeres y SIDA-IAWC International Community of Women living with HIV-AISD-
ICW Latina
International Planned Parenthood Federation-IPPF
IPAS
International Women's Health Coalition- IWHC
Instituto de Liderazgo Simone de Beauvoir- Mexico
Lesbianas, Gays, Bisexuales, Trans e intersexuales de América Latina y El Caribe
ILGA LAC
KULU- Women and Development- Denmark
Mesa de Vigilancia por la Defensa de los Derechos Sexuales y Reproductivos Perú
Movimiento Latinoamericano y del Caribe de Mujeres Positivas, MLCM+
Plataforma Juvenil Salvadoreña por los derechos sexuales y derechos reproductivos
Polish Federation for Women and Family Planning (FEDERA)- Poland
Realizing Sexual and Reproductive Justice-RESURJ
Red de Educación Popular entre Mujeres-REPEM
Red de masculinidad por la igualdad de género
Red de mujeres Afrolatinoamericanas, Afrocaribeñas y de la Diáspora
Red de Salud de las Mujeres Latinoamericanas y El Caribe- RSMLAC
Red Latinoamericana y Caribeña de Juventudes por los derechos sexuales y reproductivos REDLAC
Red Latinoamericanas de Católicas por el Derecho a Decidir -CDD
Red Mundial de Mujeres por los Derechos Reproductivos
RMMDR Red Nacional de Jóvenes y Adolescentes por la Salud Sexual y Reproductiva- Argentina
Red de Mujeres Trabajadoras Sexuales de Lationamerica y el Caribe-REDTRASEX
ROZAN- Pakistan
Youth Coalition for Sexual and Reproductive Rights
CONAMI-ECMIARS-ECMIA
Sí Mujer - Nicaragua
Taller Salud - Puerto Rico
TIYE International- The Netherlands
The YP Foundation- India
WIDE- Network for Women's Rights and Feminist Perspectives (Austria)
Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECF)

Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO)

Women in Development Europe (WIDE)

Women's Peacemakers Program (WPP)- Netherlands