



Policy Recommendations by the Women's Major Group on global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Post-2015 Development Agenda

10 Recommendations for the Sustainable Development Agenda and the Post-2015 Development Agenda

1. Ensure Human rights, Women's rights and gender equality as a basis of Post2015 and SDGs

- Use the human rights architecture as the basis for SDGs and Post2015
- Prioritise gender equality and women's human rights throughout the SDG and post2015 frameworks.
- Ensure meaningful participation of women's and social movements in the design, delivery, monitoring and evaluation of SDG and development policies and programs.
- Guarantee women's equitable access to and control over resources that promote fair asset redistribution among different social groups regarding the use of land, ocean, credits, technology, intellectual and cultural property. **Possible target: move towards 50% ownership/control by women, 50% by men, of land and resources**
- Affirm the human rights of women, girls and people with diverse sexual orientations and gender identities to bodily integrity. Eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence based on misogynist, homophobic, lesbian phobic, and trans-phobic ideas. Specific attention is also needed to address the violence faced by women human rights defenders, sex workers, and women working in conflict and militarized contexts, among others. **Possible targets: 100% end to violence against women, children and people with diverse gender identities**
- Guarantee sexual and reproductive rights and universal access, to quality, comprehensive, integrative sexual and reproductive health services, including contraception, safe abortion, STI and HIV prevention and treatment, and maternity care, with an emphasis on equity and respect for diversity. Ensure that adolescent girls and boys, young women and men, have the knowledge and the skills to know about their bodies and their rights, negotiate sexual and reproductive decision-making, access health services, and be free from violence and discrimination.

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2. Economic models that do not deplete natural resources and the earth carrying capacity, Post2015 and SDGs should:

- **Recognize that there are ecological limits to the 'growth' paradigm** and that sustainable development must be safeguarded from corporations and States that prioritise profit over all. Reaffirm that poverty and economic injustice cannot be alleviated by more 'GDP growth', but through increased economic-social inclusion human wellbeing in equilibrium with the environment as the key focus of development.
- Reassert **states' responsibility to uphold**, through policy regulation and enforcement, the **interests of the public and of the environment** over that of corporate industry. **Possible target: 100% use of adjusted GDP figures incorporating indicators for unpaid work and natural resource depletion**
- **Transform systemic inequalities driven by current international monetary, financial and trading systems**, and give ecology and equality priority as a basis for equitable economic development.
- **Ensure all macroeconomics policies are in compliance with human rights, and social and ecological justice**, and include a reduction in volatility and debt burdens; endogenous, employment and food-security focused development; and policies focused on gender-related redistribution of assets including land, credits, technology and resources.
- **Respect and build upon the overarching principle of equitable sharing** of atmospheric space, between and also within States, taking into account intergenerational justice. It also implies respecting the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, which considers historic economic, ecological and social debt responsibility.
- **Protect global environmental commons including oceans**, strengthen **accountability mechanisms, resources and capacity of UNCLOS**, as the only international multilateral UN governance mechanism on oceans, and **strengthen planetary systems measurement and monitoring** through both satellites and ground-based initiatives **that are open and available to all states and publically and democratically controlled**;

3. Ensure environmental health for all - phase out economic activities incompatible with human health and sustaining nature's carrying capacity

- **Phase-out**, eliminate financial support, and impose moratoria **on harmful economic activities which affect the health of people and the environment, particularly in the areas of mining, nuclear energy, and chemicals.**



- **Re-orient national development plans away from extractive industries and export-oriented agribusiness** toward local women-led and small-holder agro-ecology practices.
- **Provide full information on costs** including **externalities** of the full nuclear energy cycle, including the costs of decommissioning nuclear power plants and long-term safe storage of nuclear waste, create publically controlled funds for these **future liabilities to be paid by the nuclear industry, hold polluters accountable, ensure full redress** and damage payment to affected populations, apply the precautionary principle, abolish legislation which frees nuclear industry from insurance payments for accidents and ensure equal participation of women and men in decision making.
- **Phase-out hazardous chemicals¹**, including **endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs)**, and harmful **pesticides and biocides**, as well as other hazardous substances such as chrysotile **asbestos**, and **heavy metals** in all uses by 2030, thus eliminating the main source of toxic waste, including toxics in e-waste.
- **Guarantee access to all information** on hazardous substances in products, environment and the workplace, and **enact legislation to protect public health and workers health** from exposure to hazardous substances, including an immediate ban on production and exports of all substances which have been banned for health risks in more than one country. **Levy a global charge** on chemical/heavy metals industry turnover of 0,01% to contribute to clean up, health costs and damage payments linked to pollution from hazardous substances. **Possible target: 100% phase-out of hazardous and ionizing substances in all uses and waste streams**

4. Technology: moratoria on unsustainable technologies and independent assessment and monitoring

- **Reaffirm the moratorium on geo-engineering²** in order to prevent the unsustainable technological and market based fixes that attempt the large-scale manipulation of the earth's climate such as managing solar radiation, extracting carbon from the atmosphere, and modifying the weather.
- **Enact** multilateral bans on new technologies including fracking, experimental seabed mining and black sands mining.
- **Ensure that Agenda 21 and Rio+20 commitments on technology transfer, monitoring and assessment, skills development and research are explicit** in all investment and trade regimes, and in line with the

¹ Hazardous chemicals such as those which are persistent, bio-accumulative, toxic (PBT), very Persistent and very Bio-accumulative (vPvB), carcinogenic, mutagenic and toxic to reproduction (CMR), endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs), heavy metals, allergens or neurotoxins

² Decision of the 10th Conference of Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity taken in Nagoya, concerning an ongoing global ban on geo-engineering, <http://www.iisd.ca/vol09/enb09544e.html>



precautionary principle and principle of free, prior informed consent as critical ecosystem protection.

5. Finance & Trade: strengthen role of democratic and transparent state and end corporate power over public resources and governance, including reversing BITs (Bilateral Investment Treaties)

- **Include concrete means of implementation (MOI) that prioritize public financing over public-private partnerships** in order to realise states obligation to allocate the maximum availability of resources.
- **Promote innovative, democratic financing mechanisms**, including long-term, flexible support for civil society organizations, including women's organizations.
- **Urgently reform monetary, financial and trade rules globally in line with human rights obligations**, that ensure policy space at the national level to implement macroeconomic policies, trade and investment agreements to achieve gender and social justice.
- **Create global and national binding rules and safeguards** including by applying the **Maastricht Principles on Extraterritorial Obligations of States in the area of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights**. For instance, this is central to the protection of bio-cultural users of land and natural resources from negative impacts of extractive industries, and large-scale monocultures.
- **Move away from Freedom of Investment Models (FOI) toward Investment for Sustainable Development Models (ISD)** that recognise that foreign direct investment benefits to host countries are not automatic, and that regulations are required to balance the economic requirements of investors and states' needs. Refrain from entering into future bilateral trade agreements on extractives products wherever possible, and phase out first generation trade agreements. Strengthen sub-regional and regional trade alignments and agreements for increased negotiating strength, especially for SIDS, AOSIS, and LDCS regarding extractives products; Strengthen national legislation with respect of protection offered to foreign investors by codifying typical BIT-provisions into domestic law so that they are far better clarified and accountable in terms of overall alignment with the National Constitution.

Possible targets: phase-out trade agreements which go against sovereignty, human rights and gender equality

6. Safe and sustainable energy and global climate protection

- **Promote safe and sustainable energy solutions** that prevent negative impacts on the health of people and of the planet and that do not further deplete existing community resources, enact at national level prioritisation of renewable energy **access for rural communities and the urban poor**.
- **Cut greenhouse gas emissions (GHCs)** linked to the energy, heating and transportation sector immediately, directly and deeply and agree on developed countries to re-pay their climate debt by

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transferring environmentally-sound technologies and financial resources required for south states to shift to low-carbon growth

- **End financialization of emissions management** caused by trading, outsourcing, and subsidies;
- **Advance policies relating to 'Loss and Damage'**, as advanced at COPs 16, 17 and at the recent UNFCCC COP18 in Doha (Dec 2012), with particular attention **to gendered analysis of levels of loss and damage** associated with adverse effects of climate change and global warming, and attention to added vulnerabilities and responsibility arising through delayed state action;³
- **Increase the global and local transparency of all climate-related programs, measurements, and technologies** through a UN technology assessment facility as proposed at Rio +20⁴ and establishment of an independent, broadly-supported and representative civil society oversight body with the right, agreed by governments, to comment on all phases and aspects of intergovernmental climate change negotiations;

7. Ensure food sovereignty and halt “landgrabbing” – protect rights of sustainable small food producers!

- **Include strong protection of indigenous peoples, local free seed supply and distribution systems** in order to reverse the environmental and social impacts caused by food insecurity, soil degradation and land grabbing, on all affected communities including migrants, fisher, forest and indigenous peoples, pastoralists, and many other marginalized communities.
- **Keep** environmental services and **forests out of carbon markets** and other markets, **Redefine the FAO’s definition of forests** where forests are a holistic definition can include forest’s complex processes and cycles that hold a high biodiversity of animal and plant species upon which many creatures and life forms depend on, including humans. **Apply moratoria and bans on deforestation** in those areas where unsustainable forest and biodiversity use occurs, taking into account the needs and uses of local peoples who are dependent upon those resources for their livelihoods and wellbeing.
- **Reject** industrial-scale agricultural production of agro-chemical/biotechnology firms, **reverse** the concentration and misappropriation of land and **redistribute** lands held by feudal landlords, transnational corporations and financial investors **to small and landless farmers, with women as key beneficiaries.**

Possible targets: redistribute land to small and landless famers, with 50% to women farmers to insure food sovereignty

³ Neelormi, S and Ahmed, A U. Loss and damage in a warmer world: Whither Gender Matters? Gender Perspectives on the Loss and Damage Debate. Nov 2012. <http://www.lossanddamage.net/4807>

⁴ ETCGroup. 'The Artificial Intelligence of Geoengineering'. ETC Group Communiqué : Jan-Feb 2013. Issue 109. www.etcgroup.org

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- **Reinvigorate** and facilitate the continued maintenance of traditional seed banks by women, and support the reclamation of genetic resources from multilateral institutions **Ensure** that, as small producers, women have equal rights to access and control productive resources such as land, seed, water, and forests.

Possible target: 100% nutritious, GMO-free, toxic-free agro-ecological food

- **Set targets to achieve sustainable agriculture and agro-ecological production** processes, aiming at 100% by 2030, with a view to ensuring **nutritious, toxic-free, food** is available to communities. **Provide** financial support, including subsidies and interest-free loans, to encourage local, sustainable, organic agriculture that promotes food sovereignty.

8. Global Social Protection floor, Equal pay and Decent Jobs – the most effective measure for poverty elimination is to recognize the Care Economy

- **Recognise that care and social reproduction are intrinsically linked with the productive economy and therefore fully reflected in macroeconomic policy-making.** States should guarantee universal access to public care services and private sector regulation to ensure quality and decent working conditions and income for care providers. The post-2015 agenda should promote policies that shift patriarchal cultural norms in order to promote equitable distribution of care work between men and women and diverse families.

Possible target: 100% global social protection floor including maternity and paternity benefits and access to education, health care, water, sanitation, housing and food

- **Tackle gendered labour market segregation, and ensure universal and affordable access to social protection and public services** including housing, education, water and sanitation, health care and unemployment benefits.
- **Overcome inequalities through progressive income taxation and effective taxation of corporations,** incentivising small and medium enterprises over transnational corporations, and tackling structural discrimination and inequalities of labour markets, including horizontal and vertical segregation, and informality
- Develop legislation and strategies to **reduce the unemployment rate of women** to close to 0% by 2030, **create decent jobs for women** to achieve equal share of jobs as men, reduce the average pay gap to 0% by 2030, increase of women in professional training and retraining for those needing up to 100% by 2030 and **increase of women in decision-making** positions in companies and social dialogue to at least 50% by 2030

Possible target: 0% gender-pay gap and 0% gender-gap in private and public sector decision making positions



- Promote the **participation of fisherwoman** in all relevant the fora to discuss global and national actions concerning the conservation of marine ecosystems, support the process for the approval of the FAO International **Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries**, encourage community-based governance models for marine protected areas and **eliminate subsidies for industrial fishing fleets**.

9. Universal and popular Education – a basic value for life, once obtained it can never be taken away

- **Ensure equitable and universal access to formal and popular education** throughout the life cycle that includes comprehensive sexuality education, gender equality, human rights and environmental sustainability.

10. Eliminate asymmetries of power in the process of SDG and Post2015

- **Ensure transparent and democratic process** which addresses the **asymmetry of power**: where feminist, human rights, environmental and social justice movements' priorities are given equal/more space than these of politically and economically dominant elites and States.

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