

# Women's Major Group Key Overall Messages

## for Joint Session between FfD and Post-2015 Processes

April 21-24 2015

- We, as women's organizations recognise the complementarity between the FfD process and the means of implementation of the post-2015 development agenda. However, we are concerned that the current state of negotiations will be used to undermine the integrity of the FfD process, which has a broader agenda and critically, addresses systemic issues within global economic governance, significant for the MOI post-2015 development agenda. We therefore ask that the Addis Ababa Conference outcome document retain the structure of the Monterrey and Doha outcome documents, and that the follow up and review for the two processes remain separate, while mutually supportive and coherent.
- The Rio Principle of **common but differentiated responsibilities** (CBDR) is not adequately recognized or integrated into the current zero draft or the SDGs MoI goal and targets. CBDR embodies the trinity of universality, differentiation and responsibility. The principle of CBDR is indispensable for political legitimacy, as well as for the balance, coherence and impact of the Financing for Development agenda and the larger post-2015 development agenda.
- The current global financial, trade and investment architecture has entrenched the considerable constraints women face in realising their human rights and achieving gender equality. Women comprise the majority of people living in poverty; are the majority of informal and agricultural workers and workers in vulnerable or precarious forms of employment; bear the burden of unpaid care work; are denied equal ownership of and access to economic resources, including land and finance; and are denied equality in decision-making in most facets of political, economic and social life.
- Means of implementation are therefore not-gender neutral; they will reinforce or challenge the current economic and political structures that are at the root of gender inequality and violations of women's human rights.
- Women's equal rights to participation in the economy and labour market must be recognised as an entitlement based on their human rights, rather than contingent on their contribution to the profitability of business - we reject any instrumentalisation or commodification of women.
- The resolution of key development challenges that directly affect women's rights—such as debt sustainability and tax cooperation—should not be being shifted out of the UN and into less democratic institutions such as the IMF, where countries do not have an equal voice and vote.

### **Financing for development and financial means of implementation**

- Beyond financing for women's rights organisations (which is excluded from the FfD zero draft), FfD and MoI must provide for the full financing of national gender equality plans of action and strategies, including those mandated under the Beijing Platform for Action.
- We are extremely concerned about the prominent role given to private finance in the zero draft and to public-private partnerships (PPPs) in the SDGs. Private finance is profit-oriented and tends to invest with short-term horizons, which tends to be incompatible with the equitable provision of public goods, such as social services. Further, modalities for private financing such as blended financing increase public debt burdens and can shift risks to the public sector while privatising profits. Private

finance must be conditioned on ex ante assessments of its alignment with human rights and sustainable development objectives, and with binding accountability frameworks. Trade and investment agreements

- Domestic resource mobilisation should rely on progressive taxation and international tax cooperation overseen by an intergovernmental tax body within the UN to address tax evasion and avoidance, as well as the use of financial transaction taxes and other taxes on harmful activities.
- All countries must commit to binding timetables for ODA (0.7% of GNI) as well as new and additional financial support for the implementation of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biodiversity..

### **Technology Transfer, Capacity-building and other non-financial means of implementation**

- The core objective of the Technology section of the post-2015 agenda and FfD process must be the transfer of environmentally safe, socially appropriate, gender-sensitive and economically equitable technologies to developing countries to implement the post-2015 development agenda.
- Systemic obstacles to access these technologies must be addressed such as restrictive intellectual property rights, corporate control and trade regimes.
- Technology transfer that genuinely promotes sustainable development and addresses economic and gender inequalities stresses the importance of establishing a global technology facilitation mechanism at the UN.
- Monitoring and assessment of potential impacts of technologies with the active participation of women and affected communities should be an integral component of the technology cycle and a key function of a technology facilitation mechanism.
- The endogenous capacities of developing countries and local communities to adapt existing technologies and generate appropriate technologies to respond to specific needs and conditions must be strategically developed and supported.
- Collective actions of communities as a non-financial means of implementation, and the traditional governance structures and value systems supporting such collective actions must be promoted.
- Local innovations, indigenous knowledge and endogenous technologies that are mostly held by women have enormous contributions sustainable development and must be scaled out, taking into account the recognition and protection of rights over traditional knowledge systems as embodied in international instruments.
- The processes for the establishment of the Technology Bank for LDCs must actively involve civil society and communities who will ultimately be the end-users of technologies that will be transferred through this mechanism. The modalities and operation of the Technology Bank must be participatory and inclusive
- Regulatory frameworks on hazardous technologies, including wastes and substances of technological innovations, must be strictly enforced
- Access to the internet must be made universal not as an end by itself but as a means to increase access to education, information, health and basic services particularly among women
- All capacity building efforts must be guided by principles of equality and equity, respect and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including sexual reproductive health and rights and the right to development, gender equality, transparency, accountability and rule of law.
- Women have a unique role to play as beneficiaries, designers, implementers and recipients of capacity building efforts at the national level. Capacity building must:
  - prioritize gender equality and the human rights and empowerment of all women and girls;
  - secure the delivery of essential services and social protection;
  - secure respect for and protection of human rights and increase mechanisms for human rights protection and remedies for violations.
  - increase successful partnerships and effective engagement of governments with civil society;
  - improve capabilities for technology transfer and implementation;
  - enhance data management & implementation monitoring and evaluation.