

Compilation document

**Women's Major Group**

Policy statements on the

**Means of Implementation and  
Monitoring**

**Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda**

**It is time** to move beyond gender-blind international cooperation. The Post-2015 agenda must ensure its means of implementation and monitoring mechanisms strengthen gender equality and women's rights. This compilation document summarizes the results of consultations, policy analysis and policy recommendations by the members of the Women's Major Group in the months leading up to the final agreements on the Post-2015 sustainable development agenda.

**Trade, Debt and Tax are not gender-neutral**

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.

As the OECD points out, "women account for roughly half of the world's population, but...comprise the majority of the poor and excluded."<sup>1</sup> Worldwide seven out of ten people living below the poverty line (US\$1.25 per day) are women; the same is true for seven out of ten

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<sup>1</sup> See OECD, Promote gender equality and empower women, 2010, p. 11.

people dying from starvation.<sup>2</sup> The feminization of poverty is a direct result of the current economic model which is predicated on power imbalances.

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 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, which is exacerbated by a decrease in access to essential services; and are the most vulnerable group to natural disasters.

- ➔ **ACT:** Recognize in the Post-2015 declaration and the Financing for Development opening paragraphs that the current macro economic structures that have led to economic austerity programs have increased the unpaid care burden on women, and that systems need to be **transformed towards redistribution of wealth** to reduce inequalities.

### **Gender Responsive budgeting and disaggregated indicators are essential**

It is therefore essential that financing for development is adequate to achieve sustainable, equitable development that fulfils women's human rights. All Means of Implementation policies should therefore be formulated in light of their human rights and gender equality impacts.

The Financing for Development and Post-2015 agenda should recognize the centrality of gender equality and women's human rights, and agree to apply Gender Responsive Budgeting and Gender Disaggregated Indicators to all implementation and monitoring plans.

- ➔ **ACT:** Add a reference to "**Gender Responsive Budgeting**" to the Financing for Development outcome document (Addis Accord).
- ➔ In light of the universality of the Sustainable Development Goals, **Gender Responsive Budgeting should be applied to ODA budgets as well as throughout national budgets**, in all countries.

### **Full participation and social protection floor as a prerequisite**

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.

Before women can access their right to participate equally in the economy and labour market, the burden of unpaid care and domestic work needs to be reduced and redistributed, shared more equally within the family and with the state, through universal access to a social protection floor.

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<sup>2</sup> See UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Report, 2011.

Social protection is a core human right under international law,<sup>3</sup> and an extremely powerful tool for combating poverty, promoting income distribution and building resilient societies.

### BOX

#### GOOD PRACTICES FROM BRAZIL: the BOLSA FAMILIA<sup>1</sup> Example

One of the most successful examples to show that the Floors are both effective and economically feasible is the 'Bolsa Familia' Programme of Brazil. Roughly translated as 'family grant,' it is the largest conditional cash transfer program worldwide. Launched in 2003, Bolsa Familia provides income support to poor families, subject to their fulfilling certain human development requirements (such as ensuring child school attendance, take up of vaccinations, nutritional monitoring, and participation in prenatal and postnatal testing). It currently reaches 13 million families — about a quarter of Brazil's population — at a cost of 0.4% of Brazil's GDP (US\$3.9 billion in its 2010 budget). About 90% of the beneficiaries with whom the contracts are signed are women. In addition to a basic income, the beneficiaries receive support for housing, health care, education and water supply. In terms of income distribution, Bolsa Familia is estimated to have accounted for 15% of the improvement in the Gini Coefficient for Brazil between 1999 and 2009. Moreover, its positive effects in terms of poverty reduction and income redistribution also helped Brazil cope with the current multiple crises.

*Source: ILO Bachelet Report, 2011, p. 13, 38, 47; ILO Social Security Report 2010-2011, p. 76. Official Bolsa Familia webpage in Portuguese: <http://www.mds.gov.br/bolsafamilia>.*

The Women's Major Group is calling for the implementation of national Social Protection Floors as part of the implementation of Post-2015, in order to guarantee that all women in need have the right to income security and access to essential services (such as health, including reproductive health, education, housing, and water and sanitation). Social Protection Floors provide a useful and effective tool to help reverse gender-based power imbalances.

Social protection floors are a not a great budget burden, with a cost of some 0,4% of GDP in emerging economies like Brazil to 1-2% of GDP in Least Developed Countries. There is no budget argument not to ensure universal access to the social protection floor as defined in ILO's Social Protection Floors Recommendation (No.202, June 2012). At the same time, the Women's Major Group calls for the establishment of a Global Fund for Social Protection, in order to boost SPF implementation in the least developed countries<sup>4</sup>.

➔ **ACT:** Commit to universal implementation of **the ILO Social Protection Floors Recommendation (No.202, June 2012)** in the Financing for Development and Post-2015 outcome documents.

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<sup>3</sup> Under human rights law, States are legally obligated to establish social protection systems. This duty flows directly from the right to social security, which is articulated most prominently in Article 9 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR).  
<http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/EPoverty/HumanRightsApproachToSocialProtection.pdf> (see p20)

<sup>4</sup> Recommendations by the Women's Major Group as prepared by Giulia Massobrio, SustainLabour See [www.sustainlabour.org](http://www.sustainlabour.org). and published in the WMG publication "Gender Equality, Women's Rights and Women's Priorities" [http://www.womenmajorgroup.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/Womens\\_priorities\\_SDG.pdf](http://www.womenmajorgroup.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/Womens_priorities_SDG.pdf)

## **Domestic resource mobilisation should not burden women in poverty most**

Calls to broaden the tax base should not result in an increase in regressive taxes, which disproportionately impact women as consumers of most staples and basic goods. Introduction of consumer taxes (Value Added Taxes) has been a favourite and rather easy way to increase domestic tax revenue, but VAT is a regressive tax, it hits women living in poverty disproportionately hard. Research shows that Women are in majority responsible for providing basic food and medicines for their families<sup>5</sup>. It is often already difficult enough to buy food, medicines or sanitary napkins. When the price increases with 10-20% because of the introduction of consumer taxes, women living in poverty might no longer be able to ensure basic supplies such as food and medicines.

Domestic resource mobilization systems should shift taxation from the poor to the wealthy, and reduce the tax burden on women living in poverty. We therefore welcome proposed language for the Financing for Development outcome: “promote equity, including gender equality as an objective in all tax and revenue policies, including incentives we give to domestic and foreign investors and tax treaties and agreements.”

- ➔ ACT: Agree to **shift the burden of taxes away from women, people living in poverty and other commonly marginalized groups including LGBT, towards corporations and wealthy individuals.**

## **Create intergovernmental tax cooperation body and ensure full transparency**

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.

- ➔ Agree on the need to **close tax havens and review bi-lateral investor agreements** to ensure that foreign corporations stop avoiding paying taxes.
- ➔ Developed countries **should lead by example, and ensure full transparency** of existing investor and tax rulings.
- ➔ Establish a well-resourced **intergovernmental body on tax** under the auspices of the UN with the necessary technical support, including gender expertise.
- ➔ Increase domestic resource mobilisation via a **Financial Transaction Tax** (on speculative activities etc.) and taxation of other harmful activities, and by phasing out perverse subsidies.

## **Developed countries to take the lead, application of CBDR**

The Women Major Group wants a transit towards **a world that is not based in donor-recipient dynamic** but one that **recognizes historical** responsibilities, **where developed countries take**

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<sup>5</sup> according to the [Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights](#), **women, who tend to use larger portions of their income on basic goods because of gender norms that assign them responsibility for the care of dependents, bear the regressive brunt of consumption taxes"** (A/HRC/26/28, 2014, p. 12).

**the lead** in providing means of implementation for global sustainability, continue to provide 0,7% of their GDP to development cooperation, **where developed countries take the lead in changing their unsustainable** consumption and production patterns, reducing their CO2 faster, and ensure their companies are held accountable for their social and environmental impact, especially for extraterritorial practices or large companies.

- ➔ Developed countries should “commit” to meet the 0.7% ODA deadline by 2020 through binding timetables. Aid is difficult to enforce and hold accountable without binding timetables.
- ➔ Developed countries should **take the lead in shifting** consumption and protection patterns to ensure human rights and respect planetary boundaries. All financing for climate and biodiversity must be additional and untied.

### **Apply binding criteria for Private finance and private sector partnerships**

The Women’s Major Group is extremely concerned about the prominent role given to private finance and public-private partnerships (PPPs). 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. In PPP’s, the large international **private sector tends to keep the benefits** while the **public sector absorbs the risks and costs**. This is particularly a problem **when blended finance from ODA is given to PPPs**. And when there is **no regulation and binding accountability** for the private sector. It can create unfair conditions for local companies in developing countries. **Already now international companies have many advantages** local companies do not, they have access to **low-cost capital**, which local companies don’t. Further, modalities for private financing such as blended financing **increase public debt burdens**. Private finance must be conditioned on **ex ante assessments of its alignment with human rights and sustainable development** objectives, and with binding accountability frameworks.

Private sector participation is important but their role should not be elevated above that of the states’ role. **Governance and accountability systems over PPP** and multi-stakeholder partnerships must be established before any partnership are sanctioned and carried out. **There need to be clear criteria, applied ex ante**, to determine whether a specific private sector actor is fit for a partnership in pursuit of the post-2015 goals. This is not only in the **interest of human rights, but in the interest of the UN**. The UN as an institution might never recover **from the reputational shock** if chief private financiers it engages with are also chief violators of its most cherished principles.

- ➔ **Agree on a criterion-based accountability and governance framework**, including oversight, regulation, independent third-party evaluation, and transparent monitoring and reporting for partnerships with the private sector as part of Post-2015

All private partners seeking to engage in a PPP for Post-2015 should be assessed on whether the private actor has a history or current status of:

- serious **allegations of abusing human rights** or the **environment**, including in their cross-border activities;

- whether the private sector actor has previous involvement in **acts of corruption** with government officials; and
- whether the private actor is fully transparent in its financial reporting and fully respecting **existing tax responsibilities** in all countries within which it operates.

International financial institutions, including those from the North and those emerging from the South, need to properly integrate human rights criteria into their safeguard policies and procedures, and be held accountable for violations of human rights resulting from any harmful policies and practices.”<sup>6</sup>

- ➔ **ACT:** As a matter of urgency, states should create a **binding corporate accountability** mechanism to monitor the human rights impacts of private sector activity overall, and particularly in the context of the Post-2015 Agenda.

### **Assess trade agreements on their potential negative gender equality impact**

The WMG calls for **trade treaties that do not prevent states** to promote clean and safe industry, or in which decent work is not a reason for which foreign capital will leave a country. All **trade** and investment agreements should be subject to ex ante and periodic, gender, human rights, and environmental impact assessments. All trade policies should be oriented towards the creation of **decent work and support local enterprise in particular citizen-controlled cooperatives**.

The Women’s Major Group welcomes the reference in the Financing for Development draft to ensure trade and investment agreements are negotiated transparently and do not increase inequality, harm the environment, and that ISDS clauses (Investor rights above human rights) are subject to proper review to ensure the right to regulate in areas critical for sustainable development.

- ➔ **ACT:** add language which says that it is necessary for all trade and investment agreements to be subject to ex ante and period gender, human rights, and environmental impact assessments, and that all trade policies should be oriented towards the creation of decent work and productive diversification

### **Ensuring support for endogenous and sustainable local technology solutions**

It is essential for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals that cooperation, transfer, assessment and development on technologies strengthen gender justice.

The Women’s Major Group is concerned that a number of member states seem to believe that there is no role for the state in the technology area. But, it is evident that the “market” has not been able to ensure that women are equally involved in technology development and decision-making, or in closing the technology gender gap.

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<sup>6</sup> Post-2015 Human Rights Caucus, *Letter to the President of the General Assembly Sam Kutesa* (20 September 2014).

The core objective of technology in the two processes must be the transfer of **environmentally safe**, socially appropriate, gender sensitive and economically equitable technologies to developing countries.

- **ACT:** Establish a global technology facilitation mechanism at the UN for monitoring and assessment of potential impacts of technologies, with the active participation of women and affected communities. This inclusive technology assessment should be an **integral component of the technology cycle and a key function of a technology facilitation mechanism**.
- **ACT:** Address systemic obstacles to access technology must be addressed such as restrictive **intellectual property rights, corporate control and trade regimes**

We need **full recognition and protection of indigenous knowledge and technologies**, we also need to address the **gender gap in the technology sector**, and women's decision making of technology choices.

Local innovations, **indigenous knowledge and endogenous technologies** that are **mostly held by women** have enormous contributions, sustainable development thus must be scaled out: recognizing and protecting community rights over traditional knowledge systems as embodied in international instruments.

- **ACT:** An **Innovations Fund** must be established to **support the grassroots to bridge the technology divide** and to facilitate the deployment of locally-appropriate, environmentally sustainable and proven technologies.

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. The technologies that will be transferred through the Technology Bank must **not be limited to formal innovations** and proprietary technologies, but should equally give attention to traditional technologies and knowledge systems.

### **Overcoming gender bias in technology governance**

**National innovation systems and strategies** must give equal recognition to the contributions of formal innovations and traditional knowledge systems. **Science and technology education** must be **gender-sensitive and dismantle gender stereotypes**. The **role of women**, especially the youth, as technology producers, innovators, entrepreneurs and knowledge holders must be mainstreamed and supported.

Access to the Internet must be made universal as a means to increase access to education, information, health and basic services **particularly among women**. Experiences on the use of ICT, such as the use of mobile phones to link women to health workers that has contributed to the reduction of maternal mortality in Bangladesh, must be widely disseminated and scaled



up. National, regional and even global platforms for technology sharing and exchange among communities must be established and facilitated by governments in partnership with civil society women's organisations and communities.

### **Regulated hazardous technologies**

Regulatory frameworks on hazardous technologies, including wastes and substances of technological innovations, must be strictly enforced and must include stringent requirements on life-cycle analysis of technological products. Dangerous technologies should be banned, such as nuclear, GMOs, synthetic biology and geo-engineering.

### **Capacity building for gender equality in sustainable development**

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.

### **Dedicated funding for Women, Gender Equality and Feminist organisations**

Without the tireless work of civil society organizations and especially women's rights organizations, women's rights and gender equality would still be at a very low level around the world. Women's rights activists continue to be persecuted around the world. However, dedicated funding for local and global women's organisations hardly exists.

To successfully implement the post-2015 agenda, dedicated funding for human rights and women rights organizations is needed, to support advocacy work as well as local implementation.

All financial mechanisms must have **specific windows to ensure access for women and women's organisations**. As civil society women's organisations have been structurally underfinanced as women's rights have not been a policy priority, all funds should have micro size funding so as be accessible to women's organisations.



- ➔ **ACT:** Create **dedicated funding for local, national and international women’s organisations** working for women’s rights, gender equality and sustainable development
- ➔ **ACT:** All multilateral and bilateral funding instruments and programs must contain **criteria** that take into account a complete integration of gender equitable financing aspects.
- ➔ **ACT:** Agree to have micro-funding as part of **Green Climate Fund**, to ensure accessibility for women’s organisations

## Accountability and monitoring for Post-2015 agenda

Although the SDGs will not be legally binding, **robust monitoring and accountability should be an integral part of the Agenda, not an optional add-on.** The lack of a systematic and well-defined accountability architecture has been commonly identified as a key reason for some major shortfalls in achieving the MDGs, including commitments under MDGs 3 (gender equality), 5 (maternal health), and 8 (the global partnership).<sup>7</sup>

All States also have Extraterritorial obligations, as enshrined in the Maastricht principles, to ensure that their economic and financial policies meet economic, social and cultural rights and do not hinder the right to development. Robust, transparent and participatory monitoring and accountability mechanisms can improve the **credibility, ownership and effectiveness** of the Post-2015 Agenda for people and for states, and make the entire process more transformative and responsive to peoples’ needs and for the sustainability of our planet. As the Secretary-General has said, a new paradigm of accountability is in fact “the real test of people-centred, planet-sensitive development.”<sup>8</sup>

The Post-2015 agenda requires strong mechanism to review state implementation of the Agenda, including robust systems for collecting data to effectively monitor and evaluate progress. It also requires that non-state actors—including the private sector, international financial institutions, UN agencies, and civil society—are also held accountable to their development commitments.

All review mechanisms should be grounded in principles of respect for and protection and fulfilment of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including sexual and reproductive rights, in accordance with the principles of equality and equity, gender equality, **free, prior and informed consent**, transparency, accountability and rule of law. They should create linkages with existing human rights accountability mechanisms, and draw from the best practices used in those mechanisms—such as the Human Rights’ Council’s Universal Periodic Review (UPR)—to inform the HLPF’s own methods of work in this area.

## Key Principles of Accountability for the Post-2015 Agenda

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<sup>7</sup> CESR and OHCHR, *Who Will Be Accountable? Human Rights and the Post-2015 Development Agenda* (2013).

<sup>8</sup> UN Secretary-General, *The Road to Dignity by 2030: Ending Poverty, Transforming All Lives and Protecting the Planet* (2015)

The Women's Major Group considers that there are several key principles underlying accountability architecture for the Post-2015 Agenda. States must ensure that this accountability structure is:

- **Universal:** Accountability for the Post-2015 Agenda should be about ensuring universality, and grounded in the principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR). All states—high-, middle-, and low-income—and other development actors should be held accountable to their commitments in the Post-2015 Agenda, and any review mechanisms established to monitor the implementation of the Post-2015 Agenda should ensure that all states participate.
- **Open, democratic, transparent, and participatory:** Those affected by development—in particular women of all ages, girls, and people from other marginalized groups and their representative organizations—should have the primary voice in holding states and other actors accountable to development commitments. They should be involved in the design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of all development programs that affect them. With this in mind, people and civil society organizations should play a key role in any review mechanisms created to monitor implementation of the Post-2015 Agenda, including at national, regional, and global levels. This includes **well-resourced and equipped independent civil society accountability mechanisms**.
- **Human rights-based:** States must ensure that they are implementing their development commitments in line with their international, regional, and national human rights obligations under relevant laws and treaties. Information from reviews and expert assessments issued by human rights bodies—including the UN Human Rights Council and treaty monitoring body system—should guide state implementation of the Post-2015 Agenda.
- **Data-driven, evidence-based, and verifiable:** Monitoring and evaluation of implementation of the Post-2015 Agenda should be based on disaggregated data collected by the state and verified by independent experts, including civil society organizations.
- **Regular, timely, and results-oriented:** The process of holding states accountable to their development commitments should occur regularly and often enough to ensure adequate monitoring of implementation. Accountability processes should be focused on ensuring results—namely, the full implementation of the Post-2015 Agenda in line with human rights obligations.

- **Promotes joint or mutual accountability:** States and others involved in global development partnerships should be able to hold each other accountable for development commitments and respect Extra-territorial obligations for the enjoyment of social, economic and cultural rights. This mutual accountability should include non-state actors, particularly international financial institutions, who should be held accountable to the roles they play in implementing the agenda.

### BOX

#### *GOOD PRACTICE FROM GEORGIA: the gender-equitable NAMA*

In Georgia’s rural areas, women and children make up the majority of the economically poor people and are most severely affected by “energy poverty”. Factors contributing to energy poverty are a poorly maintained infrastructure, rising fuel costs, extreme weather conditions, and the increasing unpredictability of the climate. The lack of access to safe and affordable energy has made that poor families have increasingly started to use unsafe fuel, such as plastic waste, biomass and fuel wood. This has led to respiratory diseases created by exposure to dangerous substances and indoor air pollution. As women and children spent more of their time indoors, they are most effected by indoor air pollution. Alternative safe energy systems were developed by civil society organisations including WECF International. A locally appropriate solar heater technology was developed. 400 solar warm water heaters have been installed and are monitored by locally trained men and women, using local materials and creating local income for women from energy services. It also has avoided deforestation and CO2 emissions. To scale up these results, the CSO have developed in cooperation with the authorities, a proposal for a National Appropriate Mitigation Action (NAMA). Four NAMAs have been prepared for Georgia, and this is the only “gender-equitable” one, unique worldwide. The proposed gender-equitable NAMA will install 20,000 units of solar heaters or energy-efficient stoves for rural households, ensuring that all conditions are created for women to equally participate in the implementation and monitoring of the energy systems. The social benefits of the NAMA will be monitored, including in how far it will reduce the burden of unpaid work on women in target villages of Georgia. This will contribute to target 5.4. of the “Sustainable Development Goals” which aim at redistributing unpaid care work.

*Source: WECF International “Lessons from an example of an energy project on solar water heaters with a gender approach in Georgia – lessons learnt and recommendations for further upscaling via a gender-sensitive national appropriate mitigation activity (NAMA)” <http://www.wecf.eu/english/publications/2015/gendersensitive-NAMA.php>*

## **Gender Equitable national planning process**

National-level reviews should be the cornerstone of accountability for the Post-2015 Agenda. States must first develop national-level targets and indicators, in line with global-level targets and indicators and create a **national action plan** for implementation of the Post-2015 Agenda. As part of these national action plans, states should establish a new body or appoint an existing body or bodies that is dedicated to conduct monitoring and review.

At national-level the planning process should ensure institutional space for women’s organisations, similar to the Women Major Group space at the global level.

The national plans should be designed to be gender-equitable throughout, ensuring that benefits reach women and men, and that those most in need are prioritised, e.g. the needs and priorities of low-income rural and remote communities should be a priority. One of few examples of a national plan which was designed to take women’s priorities, benefits and role

equally into account, is the “gender sensitive National Appropriate Mitigation Action” developed for Georgia (see box).

- **ACT:** ensure that best practices are shared and that all national implementation plans for Post-2015 will be designed and implemented in a gender-equitable manner and that they contribute to achieving the targets of Sustainable Development Goal 5 on “Gender Equality and the Empowerment of all Women and Girls”.

### **Inclusive and independent national monitoring mechanisms**

The **national-level monitoring mechanism(s)** should be representative of the people and independent from state agencies that have the main task of implementing the Agenda. For instance, national parliaments, if adequately representative, could serve as the bodies for monitoring and review.

In line with targets under proposed Goal 16 of the Open Working Group’s outcome document, states should ensure that all individuals, including environmental and human rights defenders, have **access to strong justice systems in line with human rights standards**, including for **remedy and redress** for violations of their rights in the implementation of development programs. In cases where national mechanisms are exhausted, regional and international human rights mechanisms can play an important role in responding to violations and seeking justice for human rights defenders.

### **Inclusive and robust regional and global planning and monitoring mechanisms**

Regional reviews should also have robust mechanisms for the participation of civil society organizations, other constituencies and major groups, similar to those described for a global review mechanism below.

A global-level review is a key for reinforcing the accountability of national governments to their populations, as well as fostering mutual accountability between states for their respective responsibilities in meeting their global commitments and Extra-territorial obligations.

It will allow states of all income levels and from all regions to talk to each other about implementation of the Post-2015 Agenda—including as part of global partnerships—as well as assess cross-border challenges that are caused by individual countries’ policies or programs.

It should allow space for examining the effectiveness and impact of partnerships, particularly those involving the private sector and international financial institutions, whose role in the implementation of the new commitments must be subject to rigorous scrutiny to guard against potential adverse human rights impacts.

The Women’s Major Group endorses the [proposals](#) of human rights organizations, led by the Center for Reproductive Rights, Amnesty International, the Center for Economic and Social Rights, and Human Rights Watch, that the universal peer review of the HLPF have the following characteristics:

- A culture of universal participation
- An interactive dialogue that reviews each State's progress in implementing the Post-2015 Agenda
- Review of every State three times between 2016 and 2030
- Comprehensive reporting that feeds into reviews, including member state reports that are developed through national accountability processes; reports from major groups, recognized constituencies and rights holders; as well as *United Nations reports*, summarizing the assessments of UN agencies as well as the outcomes of other relevant reviews
- Sufficient support and meeting time for the HLPF, including sufficient meeting time to conduct 40-50 reviews each year and an adequately staffed, permanent secretariat; and
- Open, participatory, and transparent modalities and a meaningful role for the major groups and recognized constituencies, and rights holders
- A web of effective monitoring and accountability where the HLPF review should be complemented and informed by efforts at the national and regional levels, as well as global thematic review bodies that are mandated to look at overall progress and bottlenecks on specific goals

It is essential that the global review mechanism produce specific recommendations to support and accelerate progress as required.

### **Civil society engagement & modalities for participation**

In the implementation of sustainable development policies, governments are the primary duty bearers, although corporations often play a duty-bearing role. Both hold a different level of power in terms of finance, decision-making and influence than civil society. On the other hand, civil society represents rights holders.

The Women's Major Group proposes the HLPF consider modalities for enhanced participation that recognizes Major Groups and other civil society constituencies, rather than simply the more generic term "stakeholders" as stated in the 67/290.

Civil society organisations must be involved at every stage of the accountability process, including as representatives on the accountability mechanism, key witnesses at any hearings or evidence-gathering sessions, and have the ability to publicly respond to reports or statements relating to the post-2015 framework.

- ➔ **ACT:** Ensure that **Civil society has a right to self-organize**, and review mechanisms at the national, regional and global levels should aim **to reach out to women's networks and other organized constituencies**, with particular emphasis on including women of all ages, girls, and marginalized groups.

### **Gender Disaggregated data Collection for the Post-2015 Agenda**

Accurate, timely, and disaggregated data collection and use is essential to assessing the implementation of the Post-2015 Agenda and the effectiveness of sustainable development programs. If comprehensive and in line with global goals and human rights obligations, data on

the implementation of the Post-2015 Agenda can help assess what projects are succeeding, where there are still gaps in progress, and who is being left behind. **At a minimum, data should be disaggregated by age, sex, gender, geography, income level, race and ethnicity to ensure that sustainable development programs are inclusive of people in all their diversity.**

Data should be quantitative and qualitative, assessing both development outcomes and processes by which those outcomes are achieved, in order to ensure conformance with human rights obligations. Furthermore, data must be ethically gathered, ensuring **free prior and informed consent**, with full confidentiality guarantees, in particular **where data relates to stigmatized** or marginalized groups.

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Compiled by WECF International, May 2015

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