

# 17

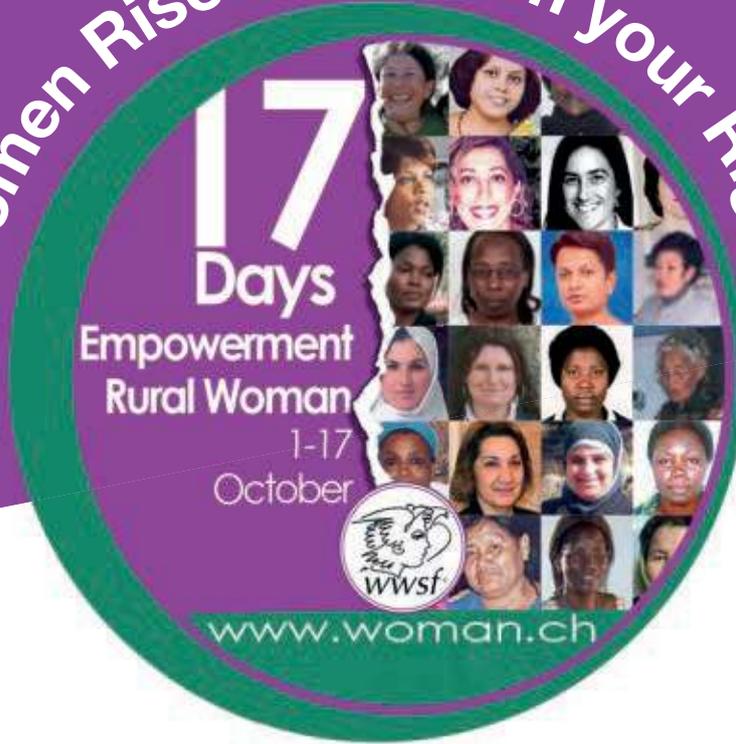
Days of Activism for the empowerment of rural women  
Jours d'Activisme pour l'autonomisation des femmes rurales  
Dias Activismo para el empoderamiento de las mujeres rurales  
Tage Aktivismus für die Stärkung der Frauen im ländlichen Raum



1-17 October

Edition 2019

## Rural Women Rise and Claim your Rights



# 17 Days Empowerment Kit 2019

for rural women leaders & their communities - Agenda 2030  
Beijing+24 - SDGs+4

- |  |   |   |  |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|---|--|
| <b>1</b><br>Development as a woman's right       | <b>2</b><br>Education for you and your children         | <b>3</b><br>Safe water  | <b>4</b><br>Health and wellbeing   | <b>5</b><br>Adequate housing                    | <b>6</b><br>Live in a clean environment                    |
| <b>7</b><br>Mitigate and adapt to climate change | <b>8</b><br>Economic development and financial autonomy | <b>9</b><br>Information & communication technology            | <b>10</b><br>Land and inheritance  | <b>11</b><br>Decision-making and leadership     | <b>12</b><br>Security, safety and an end to violence       |
| <b>13</b><br>Right to Peace                      | <b>14</b><br>Right to hold your leaders accountable     | <b>15</b><br>Celebrate Rural Women and the International Day! | <b>15</b> Oct. 2019<br>INTERNATIONAL DAY OF RURAL WOMEN<br> | <b>16</b><br>Participate in the World Food Day! | <b>17</b><br>Adequate standard of living. End Poverty Day! |



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WWSF, a Swiss Foundation and an International empowerment network for women, children and youth, serves with its annual initiatives, campaigns, world days and prize awards the implementation of women and children's rights and the United Nations Development Agenda 2030

WWSF has consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations:  
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## FOR NEWCOMERS TO 17 DAYS OF ACTIVISM CAMPAIGN

- 1991 Creation of Women's World Summit Foundation (WWSF) in Geneva
- 1994 Launch of the Prize for women's creativity in rural life
- 1995 Launch World Rural Women's Day – 15 October (declared UN Day in 2007)
- 1994-2014 20th Anniversary of the Prize for women's creativity in rural life
- 2015 Launch 1st edition 17 Days Activism for the empowerment of rural women and their communities: Main Theme: Violence against Women
- 2016 Launch 2nd edition 17 Days Activism, Main theme: Climate Change
- 2017 Launch of 3rd edition 17 Days Activism, Main theme: Right to Peace
- 2018 Launch 4th edition 17 Days Activism, Main theme: Hold Leaders to account
- 2019 Launch 5th edition 17 Days Activism, Main theme: Right to development



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# Introduction by WWSF President / CEO Rural Women Rise and Claim Your Rights

17 Days Activism for the Empowerment of Rural Women and their Communities

1-17 October 2019

July 2019



**Dear Campaign Partners and Friends,**

We are pleased to announce the launch of the 5th edition of the annual WWSF campaign Kit “17 Days of Activism for the empowerment of rural women leaders and their communities 1-17 October - Rural Women Rise and Claim your Rights!”.

The 17 Days campaign draws its energy and inspiration from close to 30 years of selecting and awarding rural women leaders with our annual “Prize for women’s creativity in rural life” (442 Laureates awarded to-date), from active members’ activity reports about the status of development in their respective countries, from commemorations of the annual International Day of Rural Women-15 October, and from the new vision provided by the Sustainable Development Goals – UN Agenda 2030, leaving no one behind.

In this edition, we present you some new developments, which you may wish to share with your communities and mobilize them into action. However, we decided to keep specific references from the 62nd session of the UN Women Commission on the Status of Women-VSW 2018 “Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls” as they address specifically rural women’s lives and needs.

(<http://undocs.org/en/E/CN.6/2018/L.8>)

### Objectives of the WWSF 17 Days Campaign

The Campaign aims to build a movement for the empowerment of rural women leaders and their communities and empower them to demand from their state leaders urgent action to implement the universal adoption of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the unfinished business of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995), the Resolution on Women, Peace and Security/UNSCR 1325, and the newly adopted post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda 2030, and in particular Goals 1 and 5.

By mobilizing local actors who work for the improvement of the quality of life in rural areas, WWSF hopes that the campaign will increase linkages with other groups, the formation of new platforms for action and strong advocacy for robust implementation.

### How to register

As always, to join the 17 Days campaign, download the Empowerment Kit from our website and follow the instructions on how to register your program of action online, in order to be included in the annual coalition list of active campaign members. We stay available for any questions you may have and look forward to hearing from you.

<http://womensection.woman.ch/index.php/en/how-to-register-2/login-en>

**In solidarity and partnership,**

**Ely Pradervand**, WWSF President/CEO & UN Representative in collaboration with Lubna Allam and Deborah Marolf, members of the campaign team.

**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)

# Important developments to share with your network and movement.

## 1) 2018 Adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas

“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. 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!



©FAO/Riccardo Gangale - A woman stands in a cassava field in Mbaiki, Central African Republic. The ACDL group of women she belongs to sells food products from the harvested cassava. 23 May 2012.

### Links

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

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

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

2019 - 17 Days Campaign for the Empowerment of Rural Women and their Communities 1-17 Oct.

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# Important developments to share with your network and movement.

(Cont'd)

## 2) We share with you an extraordinary People's March for Peace and Justice from India to Geneva starting on 2 October 2019, and arriving in Geneva in September 2020.

“The Jai Jagat campaign is based on a vision of ahimsa (nonviolence) that guides and motivates human action. People are encouraged to move...to march and to use different channels, such as art, music, drama, social networking, literature, journalism, and education, to counter the violent political economy with nonviolence and positive change.

Social movements bring people together to courageously press for agendas of change for the weakest sections of the population. The effort is to build new nonviolent structures that can foster a model of development based on ethics, justice and peace. This draws deeply from Gandhi's idea that self-governance is important and makes state(s) and global policy makers accountable. Social movements that are nonviolent are not meant to provoke power-holders rather they preempt opposition as much as possible. Social movements that are nonviolent are open to dialogue wherever possible. If there is no dialogue, and there are just demands, then struggle is justified.

Jai Jagat also comes out of the contemporary experience of an Indian people's movement, known as Ekta Parishad (Unity Forum) that has been widely acclaimed for its long marches that bring together the poorest and most marginalized people to challenge existing power relations, and to urge governments for policy change through nonviolent action.”



### Links

<https://www.jaijagat2020.org/>

[www.ektaparishad.in](http://www.ektaparishad.in)

# Important developments to share with your network and movement.

(Cont'd)

## 3) Last, but not least, we share with you the Beijing +25 Review process

In 1995, at the UN Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing, catalyzed a bold declaration signed by 189 countries, calling for improving the rights of women across the globe.

**October 2019** - Every day, key decisions that save and improve people's lives are taken in Geneva. The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) will undertake a regional review and appraisal. UNECE is to hold its Beijing+25 Regional Review Meeting on 29-30 October 2019 in Geneva. An ngo-csw-Beijing+25 Review Agenda is in preparation for 28 October in Geneva.

In 2020, the global community will mark the 25th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. It also marks five years of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which aims as one of its Sustainable Development Goals to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. <http://www.genderequality.ie/en/GE/Pages/WP19000002>

**The March 2020** UN Women 64th session of the Commission of the Status of Women will assess progress in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. A high-level meeting of the UN General Assembly is expected to be held in September 2020. Plans are also underway for a Global Gender Equality Forum, which will galvanize civil society activists from the world over in the summer of 2020. <http://www.unwomen.org/en/get-involved/beijing-plus-25>

**The 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in 2020** is a unique time in history to rally around finally realizing the human rights of all women and girls and will be organized as a global mobilization. It will also bring together other key moments in the 21st century women's rights movement including the 20th anniversary of the UN Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace and security; the 10th anniversary of UN Women's establishment as the global champion for the empowerment of women and girls; and the 5th anniversary of the global Sustainable Development Goals, which put gender equality at the heart of sustainable development.

### Beijing CSW64 / Beijing+25 (2020)

In 2020, the global community will mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995). A five-year milestone will be reached towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. 2020 is therefore a pivotal year for the accelerated realization of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, everywhere.



The sixty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women is planned to take place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 9 to 20 March 2020. Representatives of Member States, UN entities, and ECOSOC-accredited non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from all regions of the world are invited to attend the session.

### Themes

The main focus of the session will be on the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the 23rd special session of the General Assembly. The review will include an assessment of current challenges that affect the implementation of the Platform for Action and the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and its contribution towards the full realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

### Preparations

- National-level reviews: States are called upon to undertake comprehensive national-level reviews of the progress made and challenges encountered.
- Regional 25-year review processes: The regional commissions of the United Nations are invited to undertake regional reviews and convene regional intergovernmental meetings. These will feed into the sixty-fourth session of the Commission.



## Ideas for Action

The 17 Days Kit includes information and definitions, facts and figures, and resources for each of the 17 themes, with a special focus on a main theme, which is this year “The right to development as a woman's right.”

### ● Mobilizing

rural women leaders, organizations and grassroots groups to RISE and claim their rights

### ● Integrating

the UN SDG Agenda 2030 platform into everyday life in order to create a world of peace and equality

### ● Raising

awareness of the multi-faceted problems still facing rural women communities

### ● Understanding

that rural women provide a context for change towards a more integrative and understanding society

### ● Showing

the inequalities and absence of progress in numerous rural communities; the multi-faceted aspects of poverty and the need to solicit from your government support for the improvement of the quality of life in rural areas

### ● Strengthening

local/national initiatives in rural communities and creating new women's groups for compliance

### ● Educating

for advocacy and providing empowerment tools

### ● Lobbying

governments to implement UN declarations and recommendations for rural women and their communities

### ● Linking

rural women and their communities to the CEDAW Convention

### ● Creating

new synergies at many levels between diverse actors (youth and faith-based leaders included) to empower communities

## How to register and participate in the 17days Campaign (1-17 Oct.)

- **Register** your organization or rural women's group online (<http://www.woman.ch> - Women's Section). Your activity plans will be included on our website under committed actors creating change in rural communities, and will be shared with all other registered active members.

- **Build** broad alliances with grassroots groups and networks to campaign with you on a given topic or several of them

- **Arrange** meetings with government representatives and advocate for legislative changes necessary **for compliance with CEDAW, the Beijing Platform for Action, and the Post - 2015 Sustainable Development Goals - Agenda 2030.**

## What is a Coalition?

Coalitions are often the main advocates for women's rights acting on behalf of or with women and young people in the realization of their rights. Credibility and authority gained from a collective membership or group generally outweigh individual action. Coalitions provide a focus for human rights work by acting for change and share concerns for the advancement of women's wellbeing, outlined in the CEDAW Convention and the General recommendation No. 34 on the rights of rural women.

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/cedaw.htm>

## What is Activism?

It is quite simply put taking action to effect social change. It's the action that counts, not the individual that does the action. Often we ask ourselves “how to change the world?” through social, political, economic and environmental change. This can be lead by individuals but is often done collectively through social movements. It's not who we are, but what we do or don't do that creates our world.

# Reminder of the Sustainable Development Goals



The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a new, universal set of goals, targets and indicators that UN member states are expected to use to frame their agendas and political policies over the next 12 years.

For your information, SDG 1 and SDG 5 are the most important themes we focus on in the 17 days Empowerment Kit.



## SDG # 1: “End poverty in all its forms everywhere”



(<http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/poverty/>)

### Targets 1.2 and 1.4

**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.

**Ensure** that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access.

## SDG # 5 Gender Equality



### Target 1: “End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere”

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

**Target 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 3: Eliminate all harmful practices** such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation

**Target 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: 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 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 7: 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 8: Enhance the use of enabling technology** in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women

**Target 9: 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

# Rural Women Rise and Claim Your Rights

Beijing+24 - SDG+4

**WALK**  
the  
**TALK**  
Agenda  
SDG 2030

## A proposal for action – Roundtables “Walk the Talk”

**Roundtables** can bring community members and leaders together and discuss issues that are important to you and rural communities. It is a time to share your ideas with your leaders and have a discussion around issues of concern to you.

## Selected relevant Sustainable Development goals to include in your local and national action plans:

	<b>By 2030</b> End Poverty in all its forms everywhere	<a href="http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/poverty/">http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/poverty/</a>
	<b>By 2030</b> End Hunger, Achieve Food Security and Improved Nutrition - Promote Sustainable Agriculture	<a href="http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/hunger/">http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/hunger/</a>
	<b>By 2030</b> Ensure Healthy Lives and Promote Well-being for all to all Ages	<a href="http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/health/">http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/health/</a>
	<b>By 2030</b> Ensure Inclusive - Equitable Quality Education and Promote Lifelong Learning Opportunities for all	<a href="http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/education/">http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/education/</a>
	<b>By 2030</b> Achieve Gender Equality and Empower all Women and Girls	<a href="http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/gender-equality/">http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/gender-equality/</a>
	<b>By 2030</b> Ensure Availability and Sustainable Management of Water Sanitation for all	<a href="http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/water-and-sanitation/">http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/water-and-sanitation/</a>
	<b>By 2030</b> Ensure Access to Affordable, Reliable, Sustainable and Modern Energy for all	<a href="http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/energy/">http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/energy/</a>
	<b>By 2030</b> Take Urgent Action to Combat Climate Change and its Impacts	<a href="http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/climate-change-2/">http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/climate-change-2/</a>
	<b>By 2030</b> Promote Peaceful and Inclusive Societies for Sustainable Development, Provide Access to Justice for all and Build Inclusive Institutions at all levels	<a href="http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/peace-justice/">http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/peace-justice/</a>
	<b>By 2030</b> Strengthen the Means of Implementation and Revitalize the Global Partnership for SDGs	<a href="http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/globalpartnerships/">http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/globalpartnerships/</a>

17

Days of Activism for the empowerment of rural women  
Jours d'Activisme pour l'autonomisation des femmes rurales  
Días Activismo para el empoderamiento de las mujeres rurales  
Tage Aktivismus für die Stärkung der Frauen im ländlichen Raum

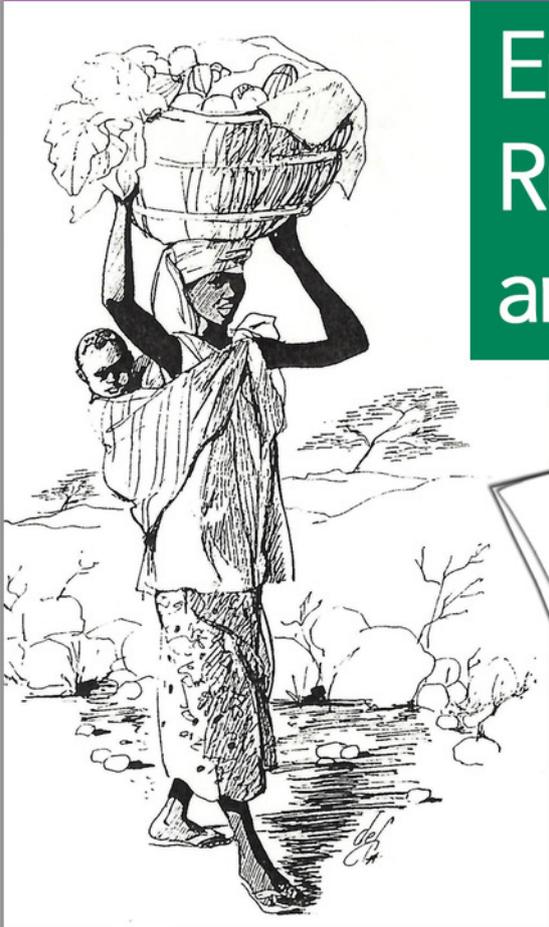
1-17 October



The annual 17 Days Campaign poster 2019 can be used for your local events and to announce your program of activities for the empowerment of Rural Women in your country

# 1-17 October 2019

## 17 Days Activism



### Empowerment of Rural Women and communities



Campaign organization  
**Women's World Summit Foundation - WWSF**  
Women's Section  
PO.BOX 5490 - 1211 Geneva 11  
Switzerland  
<http://www.woman.ch>

Organizing for change  
**Supporting UN SDG Agenda 2030 #17DaysWWSF**

17

Days of Activism for the empowerment of rural women and their communities  
Jours d'Activisme pour l'autonomisation des femmes rurales et leurs communautés  
Días Activismo para el empoderamiento de las mujeres rurales y sus comunidades  
Tage Aktivismus für die Stärkung der Frauen im ländlichen Raum und  
in Ihren Gemeinden

1-17 October



# 1 Claim your right to development as a woman's right

1st day of the Campaign (Main theme 2019)

Updated version 2019

Dear Partners and Friends,

The right to development is one of the most fundamental and core human rights afforded to you. In 1986 your governments signed the Declaration on the Right to Development, the first in a series of legislation stating the international community's commitment to ensuring the right to development for all people.

Now with the SDGs in their 5th years, rural women must band together and lobby their governments to fulfill their commitments. Your governments have been given the primary responsibility of implementing your right to development. You must petition them to fulfill their promise and ensure you the full and equal enjoyment of all of your human rights to which you are entitled.

This right is dependent on your right to food, health, education, adequate housing, employment, and other basic and interdependent human rights. As you know, however, you are not yet able to fully enjoy these rights.

We highly recommend the outcome document "**Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls**", 62nd UN session of the Commission on the Status of Women-CSW 2018  
<http://undocs.org/en/E/CN.6/2018/L.8>

The Commission affirms that Governments have the primary responsibility for the follow-up to and review of the 2030 Agenda at the national, regional and global levels with regard to progress made.

### Selected excerpts of Agreed conclusions

9. "The Commission reaffirms that the promotion and protection of, and respect for, the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all women and girls, including the right to

development, which are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated, are crucial for women's economic empowerment and should be mainstreamed into all policies and programs aimed at the eradication of poverty and women's economic empowerment, and also reaffirms the need to take measures to ensure that every person is entitled to participate in, contribute to and enjoy economic, social, cultural and political development, and that equal attention and urgent consideration should be given to the promotion, protection and full realization of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights."

11. "The Commission reiterates that the 2030 Agenda needs to be implemented in a comprehensive manner, reflecting its universal, integrated and indivisible nature, taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting each country's policy space and leadership while remaining consistent with relevant international rules and commitments, including by developing cohesive sustainable development strategies to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls."

### Sustainable Development Agenda 2030



**Target 16.7** "Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels."

**Target 16.8** "Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance."

**Target 16.10** "Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements."

**2/3** of the 781 million adults over the age of 15 estimated to be illiterate i.e. 496 million were women.<sup>1</sup>

**266 million hours** – women and girls spend this time everyday finding a place to go in search for safe water. They spend up to 6 hours everyday collecting water.<sup>2</sup>

Only 10% of the total aid for agriculture, forestry and fishing goes to women.<sup>4</sup>

**60%** of the world's hungry are women.<sup>3</sup>

On average men do 34% of the unpaid work that women do.<sup>5</sup>

830 women (approximately) died every single day due to complications during pregnancy or childbirth in 2015.<sup>8</sup>

On average, women spend 1-3 hours more per day on housework than men do.<sup>7</sup>



Saharan Africa women make up 50% of the agricultural labor force. Yet they own less than 20% of the agriculture plots. Even more alarmingly, women in Cameroon contribute more than 75% of agricultural labor yet own just 10% of land.<sup>6</sup>

1 - [https://unstats.un.org/unsd/gender/News/English/The%20Guardian\\_Two-thirds%20of%20world's%20illiterate%20adults%20are%20women.%20report%20finds%20%20Global%20development.pdf](https://unstats.un.org/unsd/gender/News/English/The%20Guardian_Two-thirds%20of%20world's%20illiterate%20adults%20are%20women.%20report%20finds%20%20Global%20development.pdf). 2 - <https://water.org/our-impact/water-crisis/>. 3 - <http://www.thp.org/knowledge-center/know-your-world-facts-about-hunger-poverty/>. 4 - <https://www.globalcitizen.org/en/content/how-empowering-women-could-end-world-hunger/>. 5 - <http://reports.weforum.org/global-gender-gap-report-2016/gender-parity-and-human-capital/#notes>. 6 - <https://www.globalcitizen.org/en/content/how-empowering-women-could-end-world-hunger/>. 7 - [https://unwomen.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/IWD\\_2017\\_factsheet\\_ARTweb.pdf](https://unwomen.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/IWD_2017_factsheet_ARTweb.pdf). 8 - <http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/255336/9789241565486-eng.pdf;jsessionid=807D2FB1C6C09EEA06EB74A502075403?sequence=1>

# 1 Claim your right to development as a woman's right (Cont'd)

1st day of the Campaign (Main theme 2019)



## Presentation of the Peasant Declaration

“As the most basic rights of rural people continue to be trampled on in many parts of the world, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, welcomed the adoption by the UN General Assembly of a new declaration to help safeguard them (18.12.2018).”

Link to the Declaration: <https://undocs.org/en/A/C.3/73/L.30>

“Globally, peasants feed the world, but their own enjoyment of their human rights is challenged, including their own right to food,” Ms. Bachelet said, as she stressed the importance of the new text.

The document, titled “**Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas**”, was drafted in October by the Third Committee, which handles human rights issues, among others, and adopted on Monday by the UN General Assembly, in which all 193 Member States are represented.

It aims to protect the rights of rural workers, including fishermen, nomads, indigenous peoples, pastoralists and other agricultural workers, such as peasants, which are defined in the declaration as “any person who engages in small-scale agricultural production”.

“Peasants face dire situations that are aggravated by an imbalance of power in economic relations,” stated the High Commissioner, as she explained that “policies that could promote peasants’ rights are largely absent, and in some cases have suffered due to austerity measures”.

Among the many hardships and rights violations faced by rural workers listed in the declaration, are: the increasing number of forcible evictions they face; their difficulties in accessing courts, police services, prosecutors and lawyers for protection against violence, exploitation and abuse; and the “high incidence of suicide” among peasants “in many countries”. They are also particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and land degradation.

Ms. Bachelet explained in her statement that “women are particularly vulnerable, given widespread unlawful discrimination restricting their access to, use of and control of land, as well as unequal payment for their work.”

“I hope this Declaration will serve to enhance States’ commitment at all levels to uphold and protect the rights and dignity of peasants and other people working in rural areas,” she said. “They play a critical role in preserving our culture, environment, livelihood and traditions, and must not be left behind as we implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,” Ms. Bachelet added.



“This is a victory above all for the peasants themselves, who had been asking for this through their representatives for years, and we welcome this historic recognition by Member States of what peasantry has brought and continues to bring to humanity.”

- Melik Özden, the director of CETIM, one of the NGOs engaged in this issue at the UN, told UN News. “But the work does not end here. The next step is the effective implementation of this declaration, hand in hand with rural populations,” he added.



# 1 Claim your right to development as a woman's right (cont'd)

1st day of the Campaign



## According to the Women's Major Group (WMG)\* 2019 High-Level Political Forum Position Paper

“We cannot continue the trend of having the transformative vision of the SDGs continually watered down. We need a revolution in responsibility and accountability, not business as usual. The WMG stresses the need to recognise the challenge of properly addressing interlinkages at all levels in the implementation as well as in the follow-up and review in order to honor the ambition of the 2030 Agenda.”

“Realising the 2030 Agenda requires strengthening leadership to ensure holistic policy coordination and coherence, aligning the budget with priorities for people and planet with a focus on gender equality, climate justice, and peace, and building data that enable more responsive governance. In Sweden, political leadership by Minister for Foreign Affairs, Margot Wallström, resulted in the country becoming in 2014 the first country in the world to launch a feminist foreign policy. <https://www.government.se/reports/2018/08/handbook-swedens-feminist-foreign-policy/>”

“The Sustainable Development Goals and 2030 Agenda is the articulation of a new kind of development for people and planet that must start with existing commitments to human rights, environmental protection and international law. It was not drafted in a political or legal vacuum, but in the context of international agreements and conventions such as the Convention CEDAW, the Beijing Platform for Action, the Intl. Conference on Population and Development and the outcomes from processes on social development, urban development/cities, disasters, population, Indigenous Peoples, Women, Peace and Security, disarmament, climate change and from regional bodies. These benchmark decisions come from the backs of hard-fought women social movements around the world. Ensuring policy coherence must therefore be aligned based on existing commitments...”

“Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality”, there are more than 700 million people, mostly women and young girls, living below the poverty line with 1.90 US\$ a day, accounting for about 10% or more of the world's population (in sub-Saharan Africa and in South Asia people living in poverty are about half and one-third of the total population, respectively). On average, income inequality increased by 11% in developing countries between 1990 and 2010. These figures show that outcomes of economic growth are not distributed equally to all people... Inequalities also lead to more migration and movements of people from South to North, which imposes risk on their lives. This income inequality is on the rise, with the richest 10% earning up to 40% of the total global income. The poorest 10% earn only between 2% and 7% of the total global income. Therefore, and at the current rate of progress, it may take 217 years to close the gender gap in employment opportunities and pay. These widening disparities require the adoption of sound policies to empower women, who are deemed as the bottom percentile of income earners, and promote economic inclusion of all... **80% of those affected by poverty live in rural areas, 40% are under 14 years old, and 40% lack access to formal education...**”

\* The Women's Major Group (WMG) was created as one of nine Major Groups after the 1992 UN Conference on Environment & Development held in Rio. This listserv of the WMG provides information on Agenda 2030 & the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Organizing Partners (OPs) rotate periodically every 2 years. The current WMG OPs for Sustainable Development are the African Women's Network for Community management of Forests (REFACOF) based in Cameroon, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) based in New York, Women Engage for a Common Future (WECF) based in Germany, Foundation for Studies and Research on Women (FEIM) based in Argentina, Equidad de Género based in Mexico, Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law & Development (APWLD) based in Thailand, Kenana Association for Sustainable Development and Women Empowerment based in Egypt, and ENERGIA International Network on Gender and Sustainable Energy based in Botswana.



# 1 UN Declaration on the Right to Development

(4 December 1986)

Bearing in mind the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations relating to the achievement of international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian nature, and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Recognizing that development is a comprehensive economic, social, cultural and political process, which aims at the constant improvement of the well-being of the entire population and of all individuals on the basis of their active, free and meaningful participation in development and in the fair distribution of benefits resulting therefrom,

Considering that under the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in that Declaration can be fully realized,

Recalling the provisions of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,

Recalling further the relevant agreements, conventions, resolutions, recommendations and other instruments of the United Nations and its specialized agencies concerning the integral development of the human being, economic and social progress and development of all peoples, including those instruments concerning decolonization, the prevention of discrimination, respect for and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms, the maintenance of international peace and security and the further promotion of friendly relations and co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter,

Recalling the right of peoples to self-determination, by virtue of which they have the right freely to determine their political status and to pursue their economic, social and cultural development,

Recalling also the right of peoples to exercise, subject to the relevant provisions of both International Covenants on Human Rights, full and complete sovereignty over all their natural wealth and resources,

Mindful of the obligation of States under the Charter to promote universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction of any kind such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status,

Considering that the elimination of the massive and flagrant violations of the human rights of the peoples and individuals affected by situations such as those resulting from colonialism, neo-colonialism, apartheid, all forms of racism and racial discrimination, foreign domination and occupation, aggression and threats against national sovereignty, national unity and territorial integrity and threats of war would contribute to the establishment of circumstances propitious to the development of a great part of mankind,

Concerned at the existence of serious obstacles to development, as well as to the complete fulfilment of human beings and of peoples, constituted, inter alia, by the denial of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, and considering that all human rights and fundamental freedoms are indivisible and interdependent and that, in order to promote development, equal attention and urgent consideration should be given to the implementation, promotion and protection of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights and that, accordingly, the promotion of, respect for and enjoyment of certain human rights and fundamental freedoms cannot justify the denial of other human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Considering that international peace and security are essential elements for the realization of the right to development,

Reaffirming that there is a close relationship between disarmament and development and that progress in the field of disarmament would considerably promote progress in the field of development and that resources released through disarmament measures should be devoted to the economic and social development and well-being of all peoples and, in particular, those of the developing countries,

Recognizing that the human person is the central subject of the development process and that development policy should therefore make the human being the main participant and beneficiary of development,

Recognizing that the creation of conditions favourable to the development of peoples and individuals is the primary responsibility of their States,

Aware that efforts at the international level to promote and protect human rights should be accompanied by efforts to establish a new international economic order,

Confirming that the right to development is an inalienable human right and that equality of opportunity for development is a prerogative both of nations and of individuals who make up nations,

Proclaims the following Declaration on the Right to Development:

## Article 1

1. 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.

2. The human right to development also implies the full realization of the right of peoples to self-determination, which includes, subject to the relevant provisions of both International Covenants on Human Rights, the exercise of their inalienable right to full sovereignty over all their natural wealth and resources.

Cont'd.

# 1 UN Declaration on the Right to Development (Cont'd)

(4 December 1986)

## Article 2

1. The human person is the central subject of development and should be the active participant and beneficiary of the right to development.

2. All human beings have a responsibility for development, individually and collectively, taking into account the need for full respect for their human rights and fundamental freedoms as well as their duties to the community, which alone can ensure the free and complete fulfilment of the human being, and they should therefore promote and protect an appropriate political, social and economic order for development.

3. States have the right and the duty to formulate appropriate national development policies that aim at the constant improvement of the well-being of the entire population and of all individuals, on the basis of their active, free and meaningful participation in development and in the fair distribution of the benefits resulting therefrom.

## Article 3

1. States have the primary responsibility for the creation of national and international conditions favourable to the realization of the right to development.

2. The realization of the right to development requires full respect for the principles of international law concerning friendly relations and co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

3. States have the duty to co-operate with each other in ensuring development and eliminating obstacles to development. States should realize their rights and fulfil their duties in such a manner as to promote a new international economic order based on sovereign equality, interdependence, mutual interest and co-operation among all States, as well as to encourage the observance and realization of human rights.

## Article 4

1. States have the duty to take steps, individually and collectively, to formulate international development policies with a view to facilitating the full realization of the right to development.

2. Sustained action is required to promote more rapid development of developing countries. As a complement to the efforts of developing countries, effective international co-operation is essential in providing these countries with appropriate means and facilities to foster their comprehensive development.

## Article 5

States shall take resolute steps to eliminate the massive and flagrant violations of the human rights of peoples and human beings affected by situations such as those resulting from apartheid, all forms of racism and racial discrimination, colonialism, foreign domination and occupation, aggression, foreign interference and threats against national sovereignty, national unity and territorial integrity, threats of war and refusal to recognize the fundamental right of peoples to self-determination.

## Article 6

1. All States should co-operate with a view to promoting, encouraging and strengthening universal respect for and observance of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without any distinction as to race, sex, language or religion.

2. All human rights and fundamental freedoms are indivisible and interdependent; equal attention and urgent consideration should be given to the implementation, promotion and protection of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.

3. States should take steps to eliminate obstacles to development resulting from failure to observe civil and political rights, as well as economic, social and cultural rights.

## Article 7

All States should promote the establishment, maintenance and strengthening of international peace and security and, to that end, should do their utmost to achieve general and complete disarmament under effective international control, as well as to ensure that the resources released by effective disarmament measures are used for comprehensive development, in particular that of the developing countries.

## Article 8

1. States should undertake, at the national level, all necessary measures for the realization of the right to development and shall ensure, inter alia, equality of opportunity for all in their access to basic resources, education, health services, food, housing, employment and the fair distribution of income. Effective measures should be undertaken to ensure that women have an active role in the development process. Appropriate economic and social reforms should be carried out with a view to eradicating all social injustices.

2. States should encourage popular participation in all spheres as an important factor in development and in the full realization of all human rights.

## Article 9

1. All the aspects of the right to development set forth in the present Declaration are indivisible and interdependent and each of them should be considered in the context of the whole.

2. Nothing in the present Declaration shall be construed as being contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations, or as implying that any State, group or person has a right to engage in any activity or to perform any act aimed at the violation of the rights set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the International Covenants on Human Rights.

## Article 10

Steps should be taken to ensure the full exercise and progressive enhancement of the right to development, including the formulation, adoption and implementation of policy, legislative and other measures at the national and international levels.

<http://www.un.org/documents/ga/res/41/a41r128.htm>

# 1 Claim your right to development as a woman's right (Cont'd)



## General Ideas for Action

### ● Lobby

your national government and local authorities to fulfill the promises made in the declaration on the Right to Development and to develop and implement policies that follow the guidelines set by the Sustainable Development Goals on gender equality.

### ● Educate

others on their human right to development and let them know that they deserve access to all essential services

### ● Utilize

the media, including social media, and your creativity to push for gender mainstreaming in development policies.

### ● Coordinate

crosscutting policies, programs, and initiatives in order to ensure universal access to essential services like water and hygiene

### ● Organize

*WALK THE TALK* roundtables to advocate and demand from your governments that your basic right to development is realized

### ● Regularly remind

your local and national leaders to implement the Beijing Platform for Action and the new Sustainable Development Goals - Agenda 2030. Rural Women of the World are waiting for their basic human rights to development, equality and peace. **The time is now!**



## WHAT YOUTH CAN DO

- ✓ **Operationalize** the full force of social media. Create hashtags and start campaigns, or simply use ours!
- ✓ **Feel inspired** by stories of organizations such as the Road to Rights, Sri Lanka<sup>1</sup>, which are youth based organizations that work hard towards education, empowerment and advocating for human rights.
- ✓ **Information** is the path to emancipation. Know what the status of rural women is in your society and more importantly, know which institutions and policies can help empower them. Spread the information to them too!

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.roadtorights.org/www>

#17daysWWSF #WomanR2D #SDG16

## WHAT MEN CAN DO



*"If men care about women's rights the world will be a better place." – John Legend*

- **Help** your partner, daughter or sister with the task of collecting water. Share the responsibility and give her more time to focus on her overall development.
- **Ensure** for your partner the maternal health she needs! Keep her and your children safe!
- **Taking care** of the household, the elderly and the sick is not her responsibility alone. You are sharing the benefits of building a life together; share the responsibility of building it too!

### **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015) Preamble (UN MINISTERIAL REPORT ON DEVELOPMENT)**

"Peace: There can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development."

### **ICPD Program of Action (1994) Principle 4**

"Advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women, and the elimination of all kinds of violence against women, and ensuring women's ability to control their own fertility, are cornerstones of population and development-related programs. The human rights of women and the girl child are inalienable, integral and indivisible part of universal human rights. The full and equal participation of women in civil, cultural, economic, political and social life, at the national, regional and international levels, and the eradication of all forms of discrimination on grounds of sex, are priority objectives of the international community."

2019 - 17 Days Campaign for the Empowerment of Rural Women and their Communities 1-17 Oct.

WWSF - Women's World Summit Foundation, POB 5490 - 1211 Geneva 11 - Switzerland

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# 2 Claim your right to education for you and your children

Updated version 2019

Dear Partners and Friends,

**Goal 4 of the SDGs ensures equal, inclusive and quality education for both men and women. State governments are encouraged and required to provide this.**

*If one rural woman demands the equal, accessible, and fair education she is entitled to, she can energize her community to do the same. In doing so, she promotes the needs and concerns of women everywhere. If many women within their rural communities do the same, they can begin to transform their communities, and societies to demand equality in all aspects of life!*

We highly recommend the outcome document "**Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls**", 62nd UN session of the Commission on the Status of Women-CSW 2018 <http://undocs.org/en/E/CN.6/2018/L.8>

## Selected excerpts of Agreed conclusions

20. "The Commission reaffirms the right to education and stresses that equal access to high quality and inclusive education contributes to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, including those in rural areas.

It notes with concern the lack of progress in closing gender gaps in access to, retention in and completion of secondary and tertiary education and emphasizes the importance of technical and vocational training and lifelong learning opportunities.

It recognizes that new technologies are, inter alia, changing the structure of labour markets and that they provide new and different employment opportunities that require skills ranging from basic digital fluency to advanced technical skills in science, technology, engineering and mathematics and in information and communications technology, and **in this regard, emphasizes the importance of all rural women and girls having the opportunity to acquire such skills.**"

21. "The Commission recognizes that, despite gains in providing access to education, rural girls are still more likely than rural boys, and girls and boys in urban settings, to remain excluded from education, and recognizes also that among gender-specific barriers to girls' equal enjoyment

of their right to education are the feminization of poverty, child labour undertaken by girls, child, early and forced marriage, female genital mutilation, early and repeat pregnancies, all forms of gender-based violence in and outside of school, including sexual violence and harassment on the way to and from, and at school, the lack of safe and adequate sanitation facilities, the disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work, and gender stereotypes and negative social norms that lead families and communities to place less value on the education of girls than that of boys.

Rural women in particular face the greatest challenges in fully realizing the right to education. Infrastructure issues—including long commutes, poorly maintained roads, or unsafe routes to a schooling facility—may block women from attending tutoring sessions or literacy lessons. Beyond these logistical complications, rural women may be challenged to access education on account of conflicting customary attitudes, early marriage and childbearing, and domestic responsibilities."

## On Education and Lifelong Learning

"Ensure that your state, as the duty bearer, provides accessible, relevant, participatory, democratic, publicly-funded, and scientific-based education as a public good."  
(WVG 2019 Position Paper, p.20)

## Sustainable Development Agenda 2030



**Target 4.1** "By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes."

**Target 4.5** "By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations."

**Target 4.7** "By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development."

Over the age of 65, 30% of women compared to only 19% of men were found to be illiterate.<sup>1</sup>

Every additional year of primary school increases girls' eventual wages by 10-20 percent. It also encourages them to marry later and have fewer children, and leaves them less vulnerable to violence.<sup>3</sup>

According to global statistics, just 39 percent of rural girls attend secondary school. This is far fewer than rural boys (45 percent), urban girls (59 percent) and urban boys (60 percent).<sup>4</sup>

One third of girls in the developing world are married before the age of 18 and 1 in 9 are married before the age of 15.<sup>5</sup>

Out of approximately 31 million girls of primary school age out of school, roughly 17 million are expected to never enroll in school. Moreover, there are also 34 million female adolescents out of school.<sup>6</sup>

41 million girls across the world are still denied primary education and women account for nearly two-thirds of the world's 780 million people who do not read.<sup>7</sup>

1 - <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2015/oct/20/two-thirds-of-worlds-illiterate-adults-are-women-report-finds> 3 - <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/commission-on-the-status-of-women-2012/facts-and-figures> 4 - <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/commission-on-the-status-of-women-2012/facts-and-figures> 5 - <http://egirlpower.org/blog/10-facts-status-girls-education-developing-countries-today> 6 - <https://en.unesco.org/gem-report/sites/gem-report/files/girls-factsheet-en.pdf> 7 - <http://egirlpower.org/blog/10-facts-status-girls-education-developing-countries-today>

# 2 Claim your right to education for you and your children

## General Ideas for Action



### ● Lobby

your government to provide rural women and their children equal access to quality and sufficient education and school facilities

### ● Inform

others of their human right to education

### ● Ensure

that young girls are not kept from school due to early marriage or pregnancy, unsafe travel conditions, violence, or traditional practices

### ● Utilize

the media, including social media, and your creativity to have your rights and needs realized on a national level

### Develop and implement

- policies, strategies and programs that will promote and provide safe and inclusive education programs

### ● Hold

rallies, conferences, and events to advocate and show your government that you demand to have your rights realized. Also hold meetings to pass on literacy and other skills to women in your community!

### ● Raise

awareness within your community on the gender gaps in education, and help young women understand the importance of education and literacy

### ● Organize

WALK THE TALK roundtables to discuss adequate school facilities and quality education systems with leaders in your community



## WHAT YOUTH CAN DO

- ✓ **Be Creative!** Create street plays help create awareness about the social issues faced by women.
- ✓ **Volunteer!** Join an organisation that helps educate rural women and children.
- ✓ **Feel inspired** by stories of the women's movement in Pakistan<sup>1</sup> that is working very hard to advocate for education for girls in rural communities.
- ✓ **Start small!** Take a field trip to the rural neighbourhood closest to you.
- ✓ **Operationalize** the full force of social media. Create hashtags and start campaigns, or simply use ours!  
<sup>1</sup> <https://in.reuters.com/article/pakistan-women-education-idINKCNOVB0B8>

## WHAT MEN CAN DO



*"If men care about women's rights the world will be a better place." – John Legend*

- **Help** ensure that all the daughters and sisters you know, especially your own, attend primary school at least !
- **Take** a stand against child marriage ! Do your part by condemning the practice and creating awareness about the problems associated with it.
- **Rally** against gender stereotypes! Education is a basic human right that needs to be guaranteed to members of all sexes equally. Help create a more conducive environment for female education!

#17daysWWSF #WomanR2E #SDG4

### **Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) (1979)**

"States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in order to ensure to them equal rights with men in the field of education.

### **International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966)**

"...Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and the sense of its dignity, and shall strengthen the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms...Education shall enable all persons to participate effectively in a free society, promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations and all racial, ethnic or religious groups..."

2019 - 17 Days Campaign for the Empowerment of Rural Women and their Communities 1-17 Oct.

WWSF - Women's World Summit Foundation, POB 5490 - 1211 Geneva 11 - Switzerland

Tel.: +41 (0) 22 738 66 19 - E-mail: webmaster@woman.ch - www.woman.ch



# 3 Claim your right to safe water

Updated version 2019

Dear Partners and Friends,

Today, we call upon rural women to defend their right to safe water. Water is the resource upon which all life relies.

Agriculture, health and hygiene depend on the provision of water supply that is adequate both in terms of quantity and quality.

As general comment No. 15 in the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights asserts, access to water “is a prerequisite to the realization of other human rights”.

This is to say that a host of fundamental human rights hinge on this most basic necessity, without which the rights to adequate housing, education, and health—among others—cannot be attained.

*Rural women of the world, we urge you to demand action and inclusion in efforts to reform water and sanitation systems. Not only do you have much to gain from access to safe water, but you possess the power to improve your communities, countries, and the world.*

*According to UN-Water, “with the same access to productive resources as men, including water, women could increase yields on their farms by 20-30% and lift 150 million people out of hunger.”*

We highly recommend the outcome document “**Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls**”, 62nd UN session of the Commission on the Status of Women-CSW 2018  
<http://undocs.org/en/E/CN.6/2018/L.8>

**Selected excerpts of Agreed conclusions**

18. “The Commission stresses the importance of investing in gender-responsive, quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including in rural areas, inter alia, infrastructure for safe drinking water and sanitation, energy, transport, water for

irrigation, and technology, including information and communications technology, and other physical infrastructure for accessible public services.”

**Selected CSW ideas for implementation**

(x) “Invest in the provision of and access to quality, resilient and gender-responsive infrastructure and time- and labour-saving technologies, information and communications technology, safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems, affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy and safe drinking water and sanitation for all, including through technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, to improve the lives, livelihoods and well-being of all rural women and girls.”

(y) “Promote the leadership of women and their full, effective and equal participation in decision-making on water and sanitation and household energy management to ensure that a gender-based approach is adopted in relation to water and sanitation and energy programmes, through, inter alia, measures to reduce the time spent by women and girls on collecting household water and fuel, and to address the negative impact of inadequate water and sanitation and energy services on the access of girls to education, and to protect women and girls from being physically threatened or assaulted and from sexual violence while collecting household water and fuel and when accessing sanitation facilities outside of their home or practising open defecation.”

## Sustainable Development Agenda 2030



### Target 6.1

“By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all.”

### Target 6.6 b

“Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management.”

About 90% of sewage and 70% of industrial waste in developing countries are discharged untreated into watercourses, often polluting the usable water supply.<sup>1</sup>

In Africa, 90% of the work of gathering water and wood, for the household and for food preparation, is done by women.<sup>2</sup>

Women and girls living without a toilet spend 266 million hours each day finding a place to go.<sup>3</sup>

A study in Tanzania showed a 12 percent increase in school attendance when water was available within 15 minutes compared to more than half an hour away.<sup>4</sup>

More than 5 billion people could suffer water shortages by 2050.<sup>5</sup>

361 000 children under 5 years die due to diarrhea, as a result of poor access to clean water, sanitation, and hygiene.<sup>6</sup>

Today, 1 in 9 people lack access to safe water; 1 in 3 people lack access to a toilet. More people have a mobile phone than a toilet.<sup>8</sup>

Involving women can make water projects 6 to 7 times more effective.<sup>7</sup>

1 - [http://www.unesco.org/new/en/member-states/single-view/news/sanitation\\_facts\\_and\\_figures/](http://www.unesco.org/new/en/member-states/single-view/news/sanitation_facts_and_figures/). 2 - [http://www.gender.cawater-info.net/what\\_is/facts\\_e.htm](http://www.gender.cawater-info.net/what_is/facts_e.htm). 3 - <https://www.waterforpeople.org/stories/girls> 4 - [https://www.unicef.org/esaro/7310\\_Gender\\_and\\_WASH.html](https://www.unicef.org/esaro/7310_Gender_and_WASH.html). 5 - <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/mar/19/water-shortages-could-affect-5bn-people-by-2050-un-report-warns>. 6 - <https://www.vsointernational.org/news/blog/youth-volunteers-restore-access-to-clean-water-for-community-in-rural-ghana>. 7 - <https://www.waterforpeople.org/stories/girls> 8 - <https://water.org/our-impact/water-crisis/>

# 3 Claim your right to safe water

## General Ideas for Action



- **Lobby**  
your government to provide rural women equal access to the necessary tools and resources needed to combat barriers to safe water acquisition
- **Train**  
yourselves in operating and maintaining village-level water systems
- **Participate**  
in designing water and sanitation programs that are relevant, appropriate, and sustainable for your community
- **Utilize**  
the media, including social media, and your creativity to have your rights and needs realized on a national level
- **Address**  
and work to eliminate sanitation practices that threaten the quality of your water, such as open defecation
- **Create**  
powerful coalitions to protect your water sources, resist privatization, and demand adequate disposal of industrial waste by corporations
- **Coordinate**  
crosscutting policies, programs, and initiatives in order to improve access to water.
- **Denounce**  
unsuitable farming techniques that use pesticides and chemicals that pollute your water.



### WHAT YOUTH CAN DO

- ✓ **Operationalize** the full force of social media. Create hashtags and start campaigns, or simply use ours!
- ✓ **Feel inspired** by stories of other volunteers<sup>1</sup> who worked hard to restore access to clean water for a rural community in Ghana.
- ✓ **Find** innovative ways to generate awareness about the practices that are degrading the water systems such as open defecation and overuse of pesticides and chemicals.
- ✓ **Be a Researcher!** Gather information about water systems in any particular rural area and spread the information: how the system functions, where does the water come from, where does it go.  
<sup>1</sup> <https://www.vsointernational.org/news/blog/youth-volunteers-restore-access-to-clean-water-for-community-in-rural-ghana>



### WHAT MEN CAN DO

*"If men care about women's rights the world will be a better place." – John Legend*

- **Become inclusive!** Help ensure that women's voices are present in the process of creating water projects.
- **Ensure** that farming practices are compatible with the water system in your area.
- **Help** reduce the distance to the water source in your community ! It will go a long way in helping your partners, sisters and daughters free-up time wasted in water collection, which can then be used judiciously.
- **Denounce** unhealthy practices such as open defecation that make the environment around you unhygienic resulting in the spread of various infectious diseases!

#17daysWWSF #WomanR2W #SDG6

#### **Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (2003) General Comment 15**

"Water is a limited natural resource and a public good fundamental for life and health. The human right to water is indispensable for leading a life in human dignity. It is a prerequisite for the realization of other human rights... The continuing contamination, depletion and unequal distribution of water is exacerbating existing poverty. State parties have to adopt effective measures to realize, without discrimination, the right to water..."

#### **Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) (1979) Article 14**

"States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in rural areas in order to ensure... that they participate in and benefit from rural development and, in particular, shall ensure to such women the right... to enjoy adequate living conditions, particularly in relation to housing, sanitation, electricity and water supply, transport and communications."

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Tel.: +41 (0) 22 738 66 19 - E-mail: webmaster@woman.ch - www.woman.ch



# 4 Claim your right to health and wellbeing

Updated version 2019

## Dear Partners and Friends,

Rural women of the world, it is time to exercise your full right to health. While it is important to lobby governments and hold them accountable through UN processes such as 3rd Goal within the 2015 Sustainable Development Goals, the fact that governments have signed a document will not in itself guarantee women's and girls' rights. The shift from policy to individuals, families and communities respecting women's rights must also be led by women's rights leaders and advocates, in alliance with other constituencies.

## The human right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/issues/health/pages/srrihealthindex.aspx>

"The right to health is an inclusive right, extending not only to timely and appropriate health care, but also to the underlying determinants of health, such as access to safe and potable water and adequate sanitation, healthy occupational and environmental conditions, and access to health-related education and information, including on sexual and reproductive health.

The right to health contains both freedoms and entitlements. Freedoms include the right to control one's health, including the right to be free from non-consensual medical treatment and experimentation. Entitlements include the right to a system of health protection (i.e. health care and the underlying determinants of health) that provides equality of opportunity for people to enjoy the highest attainable standard of health.

The right to health is a broad concept that can be broken down into more specific entitlements such as the rights to: maternal, child and reproductive health; healthy workplace and natural environments; the prevention, treatment and control of diseases, including access to essential medicines; access to safe and potable water."

We highly recommend the outcome document "**Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls**", 62nd UN session of the Commission on the Status of Women-CSW 2018  
<http://undocs.org/en/E/CN.6/2018/L.8>

## Selected excerpts of Agreed conclusions

"The Commission reaffirms the right of every human being to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, without

distinction of any kind, and recognizes that its full realization is vital to women's and girls' lives and well-being and for their ability to participate in public and private life, and that it is crucial for achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls, including in rural areas. It recognizes that targeting and eliminating the root causes of gender inequality, discrimination, stigma and violence in health-care services, including the unequal and limited access to public health services, is important for all women and girls, including those living in rural areas and especially those who are vulnerable or in vulnerable situations."

23. "The Commission emphasizes the need to accelerate progress towards the goal of universal health coverage that comprises universal and equitable access to gender-responsive, quality health services and quality, essential, affordable and effective medicines for all, including for rural women and girls, and that it is critical to promote physical and mental health and well-being, especially through primary health care, health services and social protection mechanisms, including the promotion thereof through community outreach and private sector engagement and with the support of the international community. It stresses the importance of strengthening health systems in terms of availability, accessibility, acceptability and quality in order to better respond to the needs of all women and girls, including those living in rural areas, and enabling the active participation of rural women in the design and implementation of health systems."

24. "The Commission expresses its deep concern that, as a result of the lack of or limited access to essential health-care services and information and limited agency over their own lives, rural women experience significant disparities in health, including reproductive health outcomes, such as higher rates of maternal and infant mortality and morbidity and obstetric fistula, as well as more limited options for family planning, than women in urban areas. It expresses further concern that those disparities are exacerbated by multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination."

## Sustainable Development Agenda 2030



### Target 3.1

"By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births."

### Target 3.7

"By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programs."

At least one in ten married or in-union women in most regions of the world has an unmet need for family planning.<sup>3</sup>

Inadequate care during pregnancy and delivery was largely responsible for the annual deaths of an estimated 303,000 mothers and 2.7 million newborns in 2015.<sup>4</sup>

Every day, approximately 830 women die from preventable causes related to pregnancy and childbirth.<sup>5</sup>

Each year in developing countries, there are 89 million unintended pregnancies, 48 million abortions, 10 million miscarriages and 1 million stillbirths.<sup>6</sup>

58 per cent of new HIV infections among young persons aged 15-24 in 2015 occurred among adolescent girls and young women.<sup>7</sup>

Globally, it is estimated that at least 200 million girls and women alive today have undergone some form of FGM.<sup>8</sup>

1 - <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Health/Pages/SRRRightHealthIndex.aspx> 3 - <http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/family/trendsContraceptiveUse2015Report.pdf> 4 - <http://www.thp.org/knowledge-center/know-your-world-facts-about-hunger-poverty/> 5 - <http://www.who.int/en/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/maternal-mortality> 6 - [https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/sowp/downloads/UNFPA\\_PUB\\_2017\\_EN\\_SWOP.pdf](https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/sowp/downloads/UNFPA_PUB_2017_EN_SWOP.pdf) 7 - <http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/hiv-and-aids/facts-and-figures> 8 - <http://www.un.org/en/events/femalegenitalmutilationday/>

# 4 Claim your right to health and wellbeing

## General Ideas for Action



- **Lobby**  
your government to provide rural women equal access to necessary health information needed to live a healthy and full life
- **Educate**  
others on their human right to health and let them know that they deserve timely and appropriate health care
- **Ensure**  
that you have the proper information to make your own decisions regarding your sexual and reproductive health
- **Utilize**  
the media, including social media, and your creativity to have your rights and needs realized on a national level
- **Create**  
care alliances to allow care providers to share knowledge, skills, and resources on health-related topics
- **Encourage**  
other women to talk about health, preventing unwanted pregnancies and childcare
- **Organize**  
*WALK THE TALK* roundtables in order to discuss health-related issues concerning rural women and to hold your leaders accountable



### WHAT YOUTH CAN DO

- ✓ **Operationalize** the full force of social media. Create hashtags and start campaigns, or simply use ours !
- ✓ **Feel inspired** by reading about organizations like the Youth Coalition<sup>1</sup> that works creatively by holding panels on research done towards difficult subjects like including abortions in Comprehensive Sexuality Education for developing countries.
- ✓ **Volunteer** for organizations that help rural women with family planning. Educate yourself and also find creative ways to spread the information!
- ✓ **Fight against** female genital mutilation. Advocate against this practice by lobbying not only your local and national government but also the communities themselves.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.youthcoalition.org/un-processes/without-abortion-not-comprehensive-sexuality-education-rural-youth/>



### WHAT MEN CAN DO

*"If men care about women's rights the world will be a better place." – John Legend*

- **Feel inspired** by stories such as that of Sileshi Deguale<sup>2</sup>, from Ethiopia, who proves that family planning is not just a women's issue.
- **Fight against** female genital mutilation. Practices that damage the body of your daughter, your sister or your partner are not practices that are beneficial to anyone, including and especially to you.
- **Help** in ensuring that women have access to services that allow them to understand their bodies and choices better and stay in good health.
- **Create** networks of practitioners and experts that would help disseminate useful information about women's wellbeing. Educate yourself and educate others!

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.unfpa.org/fr/news/men-rural-ethiopia-show-family-planning-not-just-women%E2%80%99s-issue>

#17daysWWSF #WomanR2H #SDG3

#### **Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) (1979) Article 12.1**

"State parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the field of healthcare."

#### **International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (1966)**

"Health is a fundamental human right indispensable for the exercise of other human rights."

Every human being is entitled to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health conducive to living a life in dignity."

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# 5 Claim your right to adequate housing

Updated version 2019

Dear Partners and Friends,

**Women of the world, you have a right to live in a home that is safe, secure, sanitary and resource-plenty.**

In the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, every person is guaranteed the right to “an adequate standard of living”, which includes “adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions”.

These elements constitute the foundation of the right to live a life with dignity. **Yet 1.6 billion live in inadequate shelter around the world**, and an additional 100 million or more are homeless. How do we begin to make sense of the violation of this fundamental principle?

The right to adequate housing is not just about having a roof over one’s head. This right is not fulfilled unless individuals have access to basic needs and services. Because women often bear the brunt of unpaid domestic and care work—activities which are centered around the home—the issue of inadequate housing disproportionately affects them.

Housing can also be considered inadequate when women face violence within or outside the home. The absence of safety or security outside the home can put women at risk of sexual or other forms of assault, and the absence of safety or security within the home can make women vulnerable to homelessness, sustained violence, or further maltreatment.

This issue is closely linked to that of land ownership. For indigenous and rural women in particular, the looming threat of dispossession of land; violent conflict; forcible movement to settlements; denial of the right of self-determination; and discriminatory laws depriving women of land ownership can impose significant obstacles on attaining the right to adequate housing.

It is important to note that while socially and culturally “women and the home are still in many places closely connected”, the need to realize this right should not reinforce the old and discriminatory adage that ‘a woman’s place is in the home’. This is to say that this right is a human right. Though women tend to face greater challenges related to the realization of this right, it should be accorded to them not because they are women, but because they are human beings, and because women’s rights are human rights.

**2018 Report of the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context**

<https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G18/007/65/PDF/G1800765.pdf?OpenElement>

**We highly recommend that you familiarize yourself with this report as it explains “Key principles of a rights-based housing strategy”.**

**Excerpts from this report:**

1. “We are at a critical moment. Globally, housing conditions are fraught. Homelessness is on the rise, including in affluent countries; forced evictions continue unabated; in the absence of affordable housing options, increasing numbers of individuals and families resort to living in informal settlements without secure tenure or basic services; climate change-related disasters and responses are displacing poor communities; resource extraction is forcing indigenous peoples from their culturally significant or historic lands; and housing in many cities is simply unaffordable even for the middle class. What is perhaps most worrying of all is that these assaults on dignity and life are being accepted as fixed features of a new global economic order.”

4. “If the historic commitments made through the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda are to be taken seriously, each State must design and implement a human rights-based housing strategy. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights has made it clear that this is a central obligation with respect to the right to adequate housing,<sup>3</sup> because it is through the development and implementation of human rights-based strategies that the right to housing can be achieved.”

61. “Rights-based housing strategies must firmly commit to ensuring meaningful participation of affected persons at every stage, from design to implementation to monitoring. Participation is central to human rights-based housing strategies because it challenges exclusion and silencing. Strategies must recognize that violations of the right to housing and other human rights emanate from failures of democratic accountability to people.”

## Sustainable Development Agenda 2030



### Target 11.1

“By 2030, ensure access for all adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums.”

### Target 11.c

“Support least developed countries, including through financial and technical assistance, in building sustainable and resilient buildings utilizing local materials.”

1.6 billion people live in inadequate housing, one billion of whom reside in slums and informal settlements.<sup>1</sup>

The last time a global survey was attempted – by the United Nations in 2005 – an estimated 100 million people were homeless worldwide.<sup>2</sup>

Approximately 50% of all women who are homeless report that domestic violence was the immediate cause of their homelessness.<sup>3</sup>

About one in four people live in conditions that harm their health, safety, prosperity and opportunities.<sup>4</sup>

The housing challenge the world is facing today is likely to persist with six out of every ten people expected to reside in urban areas by 2030.<sup>5</sup>

During forced evictions, people are frequently harassed or beaten and occasionally even subjected to inhumane treatment or killed. Women and girls are particularly vulnerable to violence, including sexual violence, before, during and after an eviction.<sup>6</sup>

84% of homeless women have experienced severe physical or sexual abuse at some point in their lives.<sup>7</sup>

1 - <https://news.un.org/en/story/2017/10/567552-affordable-housing-key-development-and-social-equality-un-says-world-habitat>.

2 - <https://homelessworldcup.org/homelessness-statistics/>. 3 - <http://www.outreachcenterlafayette.org/blog/2017/6/12/homelessness-and-domestic-violence-leading-facts-and-statistics>. 4 - <https://unhabitat.org/up-for-slum-dwellers-transforming-a-billion-lives-campaign-unveiled-in-europe/>. 5 - <http://blogs.worldbank.org/psd/ppps/housing-center-sustainable-development-agenda>.

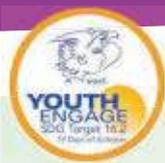
6 - [http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/FS21\\_rev\\_1\\_Housing\\_en.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/FS21_rev_1_Housing_en.pdf). 7 - <http://www.outreachcenterlafayette.org/blog/2017/6/12/homelessness-and-domestic-violence-leading-facts-and-statistics>

# 5 Claim your right to adequate housing

## General Ideas for Action



- **Lobby**  
your local and national government to provide women access to adequate housing units that are sanitary, secure, and proximate to resources by directing more resources towards the right to housing
- **Utilize**  
the media, including social media, and your creativity to have your rights and needs realized on a national level regarding adequate housing
- **Address and work**  
to eliminate forced evictions
- **Demand**  
your government to meet their obligation to respect, protect and fulfill the right to adequate housing
- **Ensure**  
accountability of those who threaten women's right to adequate housing through land deprivation, violence, or other means
- **Educate**  
rural women about their right to adequate housing for themselves and their families
- **Organize**  
*WALK THE TALK* roundtables to discuss rights to housing and adequate living with local leaders and hold them accountable



### WHAT YOUTH CAN DO

- ✓ **Operationalize** the full force of social media. Create hashtags and start campaigns, or simply use ours!
- ✓ **Feel inspired** by looking into initiatives such as the Civil Society Futures<sup>1</sup> that create spaces on gathering information and starting dialogues between all forms of organizations that might be involved in civic action from charities to faith-based organizations on topics including homelessness.
- ✓ **Volunteer** with organizations that help build shelters, especially shelters that take in victims of domestic abuse.
- ✓ **Find work** at places like the People's Emergency Center. If such Centers are not established where you live, create a network that might substitute it!

<sup>1</sup> <https://civilsocietyfutures.org/nowhere-call-home-englands-hidden-homeless/>

### WHAT MEN CAN DO



*"If men care about women's rights the world will be a better place." – John Legend*

- **Help** in building projects that work towards providing housing to women that are homeless.
- **Ensure** that women know there is a place where they can go in cases of emergency. Create a local network of emergency helpers or start a helpline!
- **Hold** the perpetrators accountable. If women are facing situations of force evictions, help them get in touch with the local authorities to ensure that complaints can be filed against the perpetrators and action is taken against them.
- **Make sure** your sister, daughter and/or your partner know of their right to adequate housing so that they know that there is a support system in place for their safety and wellbeing.

#17daysWWSF #WomanR2Housing #SDG11

#### **Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) (1979)**

"States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in rural areas in order to ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women, that they participate in and benefit from rural development and, in particular, shall ensure to such women the right... (h) to enjoy adequate living conditions, particularly in relation to housing, sanitation, electricity and water supply, transport and communications."

#### **International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966)**

"The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living for himself and his family, including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions. The States Parties will take appropriate steps to ensure the realization of this right, recognizing to this effect the essential importance of international cooperation based on free consent."



# 6 Claim your right to live in a clean environment

Updated version 2019

## Dear Partners and Friends,

“The human right to water, food and a healthy environment has been incorporated into many international legal instruments, such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and in resolutions by the by the United Nations General Assembly and the Human Rights Council, which many states have ratified worldwide.

Unfortunately, these instruments are rarely implemented. This lack of implementation and adherence to laws appears especially the case in countries which have weak governance structures and depend on the exploitation and exports of their natural resources as main revenue of the state.

While many governments around the world have recognised International Human Rights to Food, Water and a Healthy Environment, one can still note a clear gap in the translation into binding and applicable national laws and regulations. Governments need to do much more to work towards making these rights a reality.

## Civil society organisations

• In order to enable communities, and notably the women in these communities, to claim their rights, we need to raise awareness, build capacity and strengthen networks. Allowing women to develop an in-depth understanding of the impact of large-scale projects, such as how mining affects their right to water, food and a clean environment and how this leads to gender inequality, is essential if they are to successfully advocate policy change. For women to claim their rights, they need support so they can organize, jointly strategize in, campaign, lobby and initiate legal actions.

Empowering women to have their voices heard is the first step towards ensuring a stronger and durable presence in decisionmaking.”

<https://www.ciel.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Womens-Human-Rights-to-Water-Food-and-a-Healthy-Environment.pdf>

“Up to 13 million tonnes of plastic leak into the ocean every year. 89% of plastic litter found on the ocean floor are single-use items like plastic bags. This floating cluster of discarded plastic covers an estimated 1.6 million square kilometres, an area twice the size of Texas or three times the size of France.”

UNDP

“The impact of so much plastic pollution in the ocean is detrimental to marine wildlife, to the planet and to humans. UN Environment puts the economic costs at roughly US\$13 billion per year, including clean-up costs and financial losses in fisheries and other industries.”

“A problem on this scale may seem daunting, but that giant island of garbage in the Pacific is made up of individual pieces of plastic that wound up in the ocean through a series of deliberate actions. As we trace the journey of plastic to the ocean, we can see how human actions at every step along the way could bring about a sea change.”

## Air Quality

“The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that in 2012, air pollution led to around 7 million premature deaths (one out of eight total global deaths), more than double previous estimates. It is the leading cause of environmentally related deaths.”

## Sustainable Development Agenda 2030



### Target 7.1

“By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services.”



### Target 12.5

“By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse.”

### Target 12.8

“By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature.”

1 - [http://www.who.int/quantifying\\_ehimpacts/publications/preventingdisease7.pdf](http://www.who.int/quantifying_ehimpacts/publications/preventingdisease7.pdf). 2 - <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/environment/water/wwap/wwdr/>. 3 - <https://www.conserve-energy-future.com/various-water-pollution-facts.php>. 4 - <https://water.org/our-impact/water-crisis/>. 5 - [http://www.un.org/womenwatch/feature/climate\\_change/factsheet.html](http://www.un.org/womenwatch/feature/climate_change/factsheet.html). 6 - <http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/3040/>. 7 - <http://www.who.int/heli/risks/ehindevcoun/en/>. 8 - <https://www.rubiconglobal.com/blog-ocean-pollution-facts/>

Developing regions carry a disproportionately heavy share of the environmental disease burden.<sup>1</sup>

Globally, 80% of wastewater flows back into the ecosystem without being treated or reused.<sup>2</sup>

Fourteen billion pounds of garbage mostly plastic, is dumped into the ocean every year.<sup>3</sup>

Women are more vulnerable to the effects of climate change than men—primarily as they constitute the majority of the world’s poor.<sup>5</sup>

Indoor smoke – primarily from the use of solid fuels in domestic cooking and heating – kills an estimated 1.6 million people annually due to respiratory diseases.<sup>7</sup>

An analysis of 141 countries found that natural disasters lower the life expectancy of women more than that of men.<sup>6</sup>

Every 90 seconds a child dies from a water-related disease.<sup>4</sup>

Approximately every square mile of ocean has more than 45,000 pieces of plastic floating in it.<sup>8</sup>

# 6 Claim your right to live in a clean environment

## General Ideas for Action



### ● Lobby

governments to ensure that the needs for both women and men are included in environmental policies, plans and budgets

### ● Put pressure

on your local and national officials to consider and integrate rural and indigenous perspectives, knowledge and needs in environmental policies

### ● Demand

your government to recognize the right to a clean environment as a fundamental human right

### ● Provide and disseminate

information to educate others about the right to a clean environment

### ● Utilize

the media, including social media, and your creativity to demand environmental rights be delivered on local, national, and international levels

### ● Insist

that your government instill and observe guidelines prohibiting pollution by corporations

### ● Implement

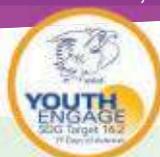
local programs to protect and conserve natural resources

### ● Advocate

to your government, through rallies, conferences and events, that you demand to have your rights realized for a clean environment

### ● Collect

and use women's local knowledge to protect, sustain and manage biodiversity



## WHAT YOUTH CAN DO

- ✓ **Operationalize** the full force of social media. Create hashtags and start campaigns, or simply use ours!
- ✓ **Feel inspired** by looking into initiatives such as the YOUTH- लक्षि<sup>1</sup> by Clean India which is an initiative that gives urban youth leaders a chance to do an excursion in the rural community of Bundelkhand and work on issues related to creating a clean environment, particularly water.
- ✓ **Gather information** about environmentally sustainable agricultural practices and find creative ways to spread it to the rural community.

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.cleanindia.org/index.php/what-we-do/?page\\_id=421](http://www.cleanindia.org/index.php/what-we-do/?page_id=421)

#17daysWWSF #WomanR2E #SDG7 #SDG12

## WHAT MEN CAN DO



*"If men care about women's rights the world will be a better place." – John Legend*

- **Feel inspired** by reading about men like Mr. Bunker Roy, founder of the Barefoot College<sup>2</sup>, who helps grandmothers from villages in Africa become trained solar engineers, who then return to their villages and help make them more environmentally sustainable<sup>3</sup>.
- **Find creative ways** to clean the local waterways. Go to the rivers with a group of volunteers and join the women of the community in ridding the lakes and rivers of plastic!
- **Gather information** about environmentally sustainable agricultural practices and find creative ways to spread the information

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.barefootcollege.org/about/where-we-work/>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.ciel.org/renewable-energy-technologies-for-rural-development-1/>

### **Paris Agreement (2015)**

"Noting the importance of ensuring the integrity of all ecosystems, including oceans, and the protection of biodiversity, recognized by some cultures as Mother Earth, and noting the importance for some of the concept of 'climate justice.'"

### **FAO Environmental Integrity, SAFA (2012)**

"Protecting the integrity of the Earth's system is a precondition of any development. Environmental integrity consists of maintaining life support systems essential for human survival by minimizing negative environmental impacts and fostering positive impacts."

2019 - 17 Days Campaign for the Empowerment of Rural Women and their Communities 1-17 Oct.

WWSF - Women's World Summit Foundation, POB 5490 - 1211 Geneva 11 - Switzerland

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# 7 Claim your right to mitigate and adapt to climate change

(For more information on UN Climate change, refer to the 2017 Kit online)

Updated version 2019

Dear Partners and Friends,

We highly recommend the outcome document "**Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls**", 62nd UN session of the Commission on the Status of Women-CSW 2018  
<http://undocs.org/en/E/CN.6/2018/L.8>

## Selected excerpts of Agreed conclusions

22. "The Commission is deeply concerned that climate change poses challenges for poverty eradication and the achievement of sustainable development, and that owing to gender inequalities, rural women and girls, especially in developing countries, including small island developing States, are often disproportionately affected by the adverse impacts of climate change, extreme weather events and natural disasters and other environmental issues, including land degradation, desertification, deforestation, sand and dust storms, persistent drought, sea level rise, coastal erosion and ocean acidification."

"It recalls the Paris Agreement and that the parties thereto acknowledged that they should, when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote and consider gender equality, the empowerment of women and intergenerational equity and, in this context, also recalls the adoption of a gender action plan by the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at its twenty-third session."

"It acknowledges the necessity for every person, including women and girls in rural areas, of present and future generations to have access to an environment adequate to their health, well-being and the critical importance of ensuring such access for the empowerment of rural women and girls and the sustainable development and resilience of rural communities."

36. "The Commission recognizes that indigenous women and girls living in rural and remote areas, regardless of age, often face violence and higher rates of poverty, limited access to health-care services, information and communications technology, infrastructure, financial services, education and employment, while also recognizing their cultural, social, economic, political and environmental contributions, including their contributions to climate change mitigation and adaptation."

37. "The Commission expresses its concern at the fact that women and girls with disabilities, particularly those living in rural and remote areas, experience stigmatization and an increased risk of violence, exploitation and abuse, including sexual violence and abuse, compared to those without disabilities, and that they face a lack of accessible and inclusive services in rural areas, limited access to justice and equal recognition before the law, as well as limited opportunities for productive employment and decent work, for participation in political and public life, for living independently and for inclusion in their communities, and limited freedom to make their own choices."

## Sustainable Development Agenda 2030



**13.1 Strengthen** resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries

**13.2 Integrate** climate change measures into national policies, strategies

and planning

**13.3 Improve** education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning

On the following pages, we share with you the remarks by the UN Secretary General, Mr. António Guterres, at the Climate Summit Preparatory Meeting in Abu Dhabi - 30 June 2019

Women farmers currently account for 45-80 per cent of all food production in developing countries depending on the region.<sup>2</sup>

About two-thirds of the female labour force in developing countries, and more than 90 percent in many African countries, are engaged in agricultural work.<sup>3</sup>

Each year, close to 4 million people die prematurely from illness attributable to household air pollution from inefficient cooking practices using polluting stoves paired with solid fuels and kerosene.<sup>4</sup>

As of May 2018, 195 UNFCCC members have signed the agreement, and 176 have become party to the Paris Agreement.<sup>8</sup>

Around 3 billion people still cook using solid fuels (such as wood, crop wastes, charcoal, coal and dung) and kerosene in open fires and inefficient stoves.<sup>5</sup>

The direct damage costs to health (i.e. excluding costs in health-determining sectors such as agriculture and water and sanitation), is estimated to be between USD 2-4 billion/year by 2030.<sup>9</sup>

1 - [unfccc.int/resource/docs/convkp/kpeng.pdf](http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/convkp/kpeng.pdf). 2 - [http://www.un.org/womenwatch/feature/climate\\_change/downloads/Women\\_and\\_Climate\\_Change\\_Factsheet.pdf](http://www.un.org/womenwatch/feature/climate_change/downloads/Women_and_Climate_Change_Factsheet.pdf). 3 - <http://www.who.int/en/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/household-air-pollution-and-health>. 4 - <http://www.who.int/en/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/household-air-pollution-and-health>. 5 - <http://www.who.int/en/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/household-air-pollution-and-health>. 6 - <https://www.epa.gov/ghgemissions/global-green-house-gas-emissions-data#Reference%201>. 7 - <http://www.who.int/en/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/climate-change-and-health>. 8 - [https://treaties.un.org/pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg\\_no=XXVII-7-d&chapter=27&clang=en](https://treaties.un.org/pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=XXVII-7-d&chapter=27&clang=en). 9 - <http://www.climatechangenews.com/2012/10/31/the-african-youth-group-driving-climate-adaptation-in-rural-communities/>

Between 2030 and 2050, climate change is expected to cause approximately 250 000 additional deaths per year, from malnutrition, malaria, diarrhea and heat stress.<sup>7</sup>

Since 1970, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions have increased by about 90%, with emissions from fossil fuel combustion and industrial processes contributing about 78% of the total greenhouse gas emissions increase.<sup>6</sup>

# 7 Claim your right to mitigate and adapt to climate change

## Remarks by the UN Secretary General at the Climate Summit Preparatory Meeting Abu Dhabi - 30 June 2019



**“Your Highness, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I am very pleased to join you today. I want to thank the leadership and people of the United Arab Emirates for hosting this important meeting, with the wonderful hospitality, and at the same time, I want to urge all participants to seize this opportunity to take bold climate action.

We are here because the world is facing a grave climate emergency. Climate disruption is happening now, and it is happening to all of us. It is progressing even faster than the world’s top scientists have predicted. It is outpacing our efforts to address it. Climate change is running faster than what we are.

*Every week brings new climate-related devastation. Floods. Drought. Heatwaves. Wildfires. Superstorms.*

Last month, I visited Tuvalu in the South Pacific and saw first-hand how people live in constant fear of inundation by rising seas. All around the world, people are losing their homes and being forced to migrate because of climate change.

The situation will only get worse unless we act now with ambition and urgency. Just last week, we saw reports that Himalayan glaciers are melting at double the rate since the turn of this century, threatening water supplies throughout Central, South and East Asia. We have also just learned that Arctic permafrost is melting decades earlier than even worst-case scenarios – threatening to unlock vast amounts of methane, a powerful greenhouse gas.

It is plain to me that we have no time to lose. Sadly, it is not yet plain to all the decision makers that run our world. On the plus side, we have the Paris Agreement on climate change and a work programme agreed last year in Katowice. But we know that even if the promises of Paris are fully met, we still face at least a 3-degree temperature rise by the end of the century – a catastrophe for life as we know it.

Even more worrying is that many countries are not even keeping pace with their promises under the Paris Agreement. That is why I am convening a Climate Action Summit in September.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, well known as IPCC, has said, and they are the best group of scientists available

# 7 Claim your right to mitigate and adapt to climate change

in the world, we have less than 12 years to limit global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels – beyond which we face irreversible climate disruption.

Keeping global warming to 1.5 degrees at the end of the century will require “rapid and far-reaching transitions” in how we manage land, energy, industry, buildings, transport and cities.

We need a post-carbon economy, a resilient society, and a climate-smart development pathway that can provide prosperity for all on a healthy planet. That can only be achieved if we all pull together – governments, businesses and civil society.

**My message today – and the message of the summit – is clear and simple. We are in a battle for our lives. But it is a battle we can win. New technologies are already delivering energy at a lower cost than the fossil-fuel driven economy. Solar, as we have seen, and onshore winds are now the cheapest sources of new power in virtually all major economies. On that subject, I am looking forward to seeing the Noor Abu Dhabi solar power plant today.**

I also commend the work of the International Renewable Energy Agency, hosted by Abu Dhabi, which is supporting countries in their transition to a sustainable energy future. More and more governments, cities and businesses are beginning to understand that climate solutions can protect our environment while strengthening our economies and enhancing our common security.

More and more voters and young people are making their voices heard. Norway’s Parliament has voted to divest the world’s largest sovereign wealth fund – worth \$1 trillion – from fossil fuels. Chile, Costa Rica, Finland, the Marshall Islands, and the United Kingdom have concrete, detailed and credible plans to achieve carbon neutrality by mid-century. I have just seen the even more ambitious plan of the United Arab Emirates. So, there is movement, but unfortunately, at the world level, not yet enough. That is what I hope to change with the Climate Action Summit. My message is clear. Solutions exist.

First, let’s shift taxes from salaries to carbon. We should tax pollution, not people.

Second, stop subsidizing fossil fuels. Taxpayers’ money should not be used to boost hurricanes, spread drought and heat waves, and melt glaciers.

Third, stop building new coal plants by 2020. We need a green economy, not a grey economy.

New infrastructure must be climate-smart and climate-friendly. And we must provide sustainable, clean and affordable energy for the

more than 800 million people who still live without access to power.

What we need is a rapid and deep change in how we do business, generate power, build cities and feed the world. And the past decade has shown that we have the tools to do it. I am asking all leaders, from governments and private sector, to present plans – at the summit or at the latest by December 2020 – to cut greenhouse emissions by 45 per cent by 2030 and get to carbon neutrality by 2050.

Yesterday, at the G20 meetings in Osaka, I appealed to the world’s main emitters to step up their efforts. The countries of the G20 represent 80 per cent of the world emissions of greenhouse gases. If we do not cut emissions quickly, it will become more and more difficult for already vulnerable nations and populations to adapt to climate disruption. I also underscored the centrality of climate financing. That means reaching the goal of \$100 billion dollars per year, from public and private sources, for mitigation and adaptation in the developing world. And it means a full replenishment and an effective functioning of the Green Climate Fund.

I am also asking all investors to scale up green ventures, to increase lending for low-carbon solutions and to stop, in effect, financing pollution. Here in Abu Dhabi we will take stock of progress across all our Summit Action Areas: From energy transformation to mobility, from industrial transition to nature-based solutions, from sustainable cities and infrastructure, to climate finance for both mitigation and adaptation.

I welcome the participation of civil society, businesses, and the global climate action community.

Our Summit must be open, inclusive and honest, and the work we take forward must be effective, just and fair – for those on the frontlines of the crisis today and especially for the generations to come.

Last month, I met Greta Thunberg, a young advocate for climate action. She is part of a growing wave of young people who have lost patience with the slow pace of progress from their leaders. It is they who will inherit our legacy. We have the power and the responsibility to build the world young people want and deserve.

The Climate Action Summit is an opportunity for political, business and civil society leaders to set an example. And here in Abu Dhabi, we are pointing the right direction. Let us accelerate the transformation the world needs, and usher in a new era of sustainability for all people on the planet.”

Thank you.

# 7 Claim your right to mitigate and adapt to climate change

## General Ideas for Action



### ● Lobby

your government to provide rural women equal access to the necessary tools and resources needed to adopt sustainable agricultural techniques

### ● Raise

awareness in your local or national government about rural women's unique role and indigenous knowledge and expertise in conserving and protecting the earth and its resources

### ● Educate

yourself and others about the 2015 Paris Agreement, climate change and the need to mitigate and adapt to its effects

### ● Ensure

equitable representation of women in all decisions relating to climate change, and that a gender perspective is adopted in development and environment policies and programs

### ● Seek

training in methods for increasing productivity in a changing climate, and share this knowledge with others in your community

### ● Advocate

to your government the need for efficient and green technologies in your communities, such as fuel-efficient stoves, which require fewer resources

### ● Identify

opportunities to adopt and scale-up green policies, practices, and sustainability initiatives

### ● Hold rallies

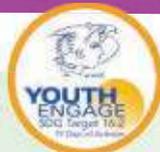
conferences, and events to advocate and show your government that you demand climate change be acknowledged and accounted for in local & national legislation

### ● Brainstorm

national climate change strategies so that they are inclusive of the capabilities, rights and vulnerabilities of all women, especially older women

### ● Organize

*WALK THE TALK* roundtables to discuss issues of climate change and how to combat it



## WHAT YOUTH CAN DO

- ✓ **Feel inspired** by reading about groups such as the Young Volunteers for the Environment<sup>1</sup>, based in The Gambia, who focus on climate change in Africa and advocate for energy access in rural communities.
- ✓ **Start** a seminar series on the local radio like the Climate Youth Initiative<sup>2</sup>! Lobby for a segment on air where you can talk to the local community about climate change.
- ✓ **Lobby** your local and national government to start an initiative that combines education, information and public awareness and climate change! Especially by looking into reports such as the UNICEF publication about Youth in Action on Climate Change<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.climatechangenews.com/2012/10/31/the-african-youth-group-driving-climate-adaptation-in-rural-communities/>

## WHAT MEN CAN DO



*"If men care about women's rights the world will be a better place." – John Legend*

- **Advocate** for women to have equitable representation at the local and national level when it comes to making decisions about climate change.
- **Lobby** for the creation of Green Jobs, especially for rural women, and ensure that wherever you work, your employer is taking the maximum number of steps (s)he can take towards being environmentally sustainable.
- **Fund** dedicated gender equality programming as a priority
- **Keep** global warming below 1.5 degrees
- **"All actors must** take responsibility for Agenda 2030, noting that States are duty bearers and the private sector adhere to human rights obligations!"

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.icccad.net/climate-youth-initiative/>

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.unicef.org/education/files/Publication\\_Youth\\_in\\_Action\\_on\\_Climate\\_Change\\_Inspirations\\_from\\_Around\\_the\\_World\\_English.pdf](https://www.unicef.org/education/files/Publication_Youth_in_Action_on_Climate_Change_Inspirations_from_Around_the_World_English.pdf)

#17daysWWSF #WomanR2CC #SDG13

### Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (1992) Principle 20

"Women have a vital role in environmental management and development. Their full participation is therefore essential to achieve sustainable development."

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## 8

# Claim your right to economic development and financial autonomy

Updated version 2019

## Dear Partners and Friends,

Women spend twice as many hours each day as men do, cooking, cleaning, collecting water and firewood, and four times as many hours caring for the ill, elderly, and children, yet they do not get paid for it.<sup>1</sup>

It is estimated that if such care work were assigned a monetary value, it would constitute between 10-39% of GDP, depending on the country.<sup>2</sup>

### “Avoid gender tokenism to achieve substantive equality”

say UN business and human rights experts  
<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=24742&LangID=E>

GENEVA (26 June 2019) - A group of United Nations experts\* have urged governments and businesses to take transformative measures to eliminate discrimination against women and girls and achieve substantive gender equality in the context of business-related activities. In a new report to the UN's Human Rights Council, the experts propose a gender framework and guidance which all states and businesses should consider in implementing the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

“In all world regions, women and girls not only experience adverse impacts of business activities differently and disproportionately but also face additional barriers in seeking effective remedies to redress such impacts,” said the Chair of the Working Group on Business and Human Rights, Surya Deva. “However, both states and businesses are mostly ignoring these gender-differentiated impacts. This must change in favor of a gender-responsive approach.”

“The experts highlighted business-related challenges faced by women: they are underrepresented in senior management positions and are impacted more by climate change. Women handle most care work, face pregnancy and maternity-related discrimination, and experience sexual harassment in all spheres of life. Marketing of products and services perpetuate gender stereotypes and objectifies women's bodies. Women human rights defenders face additional risks in challenging business-related human rights abuses. New technologies might also impact women and girls more adversely.”

“While there are some positive developments in mainstreaming gender in the business and human rights field, Governments and business enterprises must go beyond ‘gender tokenism’ and take

concrete measures to ensure systematic changes to discriminatory power structures, social norms and hostile environments that are barriers to equal enjoyment of human rights by women and girls in all spheres.”

The report by the Working Group – which has a mandate to promote the dissemination and implementation of the UN Guiding Principles – provides specific gender guidance for each of the 31 Principles.

The report also lists steps that governments and businesses should take to integrate a gender perspective in implementing their respective human rights obligations and responsibilities under the Guiding Principles.

The Working Group report emphasises that governments and business should ensure meaningful participation of women and women's organisations in their efforts to accomplish an equal enjoyment of human rights by women and girls.

“States and businesses should also recognise that women and girls are not a homogenous group, as they suffer from intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination,” Deva said.

“Addressing discrimination against women and girls in a business context is not only an integral part of States' obligations under international human rights law, it is also imperative in the context of the 2030 Agenda and its commitment to leave no one behind. Moreover, businesses cannot respect human rights of women and girls unless they contribute to achieving substantive gender equality.”

## Sustainable Development Agenda 2030



### Target: 1.4

“By 2030, 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 poverty, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance.”



### Target 8.5

“By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value.”

In South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, more than 60 per cent of all working women remain in agriculture—work that is poorly remunerated, seasonal and insecure.<sup>5</sup>

**Globally, the gender wage gap is about 23 per cent. In other words, women earn 77 per cent of what men earn.<sup>6</sup>**

**In developing countries, women spend an average of nine hours and 20 minutes per day on paid and unpaid work, compared with men, who spend an average of eight hours and seven minutes per day on paid and unpaid work.<sup>7</sup>**

According to the ILO, 865 million women in the world have the potential to contribute more fully to their national economies and 94% (812 million) of them live in emerging and developing economies.<sup>8</sup>

**Women make up about 43 percent of the agricultural labour force in developing countries. If these women had the same access to productive resources as men, they could increase yields on their farms by 20 to 30 percent.<sup>9</sup>**

Close to 60 per cent of women workers worldwide (nearly 750 million women) do not benefit from a statutory right to maternity leave.<sup>10</sup>

1 - [http://www.unrisd.org/unrisd/website/document.nsf/\(httpPublications\)/25697FE238192066C12576D4004CFE50?OpenDocument](http://www.unrisd.org/unrisd/website/document.nsf/(httpPublications)/25697FE238192066C12576D4004CFE50?OpenDocument).  
2 - [http://www.unrisd.org/unrisd/website/document.nsf/\(httpPublications\)/25697FE238192066C12576D4004CFE50?OpenDocument](http://www.unrisd.org/unrisd/website/document.nsf/(httpPublications)/25697FE238192066C12576D4004CFE50?OpenDocument).  
3 - <http://www.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/csw/58/op1-magdalena-sepulveda.pdf.pdf>. 4 - Idem. 5 - [https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/sowp/downloads/UNFPA\\_PUB\\_2017\\_EN\\_SWOP.pdf](https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/sowp/downloads/UNFPA_PUB_2017_EN_SWOP.pdf). 6 - [https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/sowp/downloads/UNFPA\\_PUB\\_2017\\_EN\\_SWOP.pdf](https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/sowp/downloads/UNFPA_PUB_2017_EN_SWOP.pdf). 7 - [https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/sowp/downloads/UNFPA\\_PUB\\_2017\\_EN\\_SWOP.pdf](https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/sowp/downloads/UNFPA_PUB_2017_EN_SWOP.pdf). 8 - <http://www.worldbank.org/en/events/2014/03/08/female-entrepreneurs-and-entrepreneurial-eco-system-gaps-and-new-approaches>. 9 - <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/feature/ruralwomen/facts-figures.html>. 10 - [http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/---publ/documents/publication/wcms\\_457317.pdf](http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/---publ/documents/publication/wcms_457317.pdf)

# 8

## Claim your right to economic development and financial autonomy



### General Ideas for Action

#### ● Put pressure

on your local and national officials to implement gender-responsive budgeting at all levels and in all policy domains

#### ● Educate

others on the right to be paid, decent work, to education, and to health

#### ● Ensure

that labor market policies and practices recognize and value motherhood and family care work

#### ● Utilize

the media, including social media, and your creativity to have your rights and needs realized on a national level regarding financial autonomy

#### ● Promote

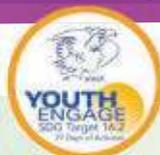
women's entrepreneurship and economic autonomy through education, training, resources, and innovation

#### ● Coordinate

cross-cutting policies, programs, and initiatives in order to eliminate the gender pay gap

#### ● Organize

WALK THE TALK roundtables to discuss your right to economic empowerment, and the gender pay gap with your local leaders



### WHAT YOUTH CAN DO

- ✓ **Find inspiration** in the motivating words of leaders like Lopa Banerjee, Rosaline Orwa and Indira Vargas who use the UN Commission on the Status of Women platform to ask for equal rights and opportunities for all rural women and girls.
- ✓ **Hold rallies** and marches to advocate for equal access to productive sources for women! Start online campaigns towards this goal and put pressure on your local and national government to bring about policy changes.
- ✓ **Gather information** about gender-based discrimination in the financial development sector and find creative ways to spread this information.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2018/3/news-csw62-civil-society-calls-to-leave-no-woman-or-girl-in-rural-communities-behind>

**GENDER DIMENSIONS OF THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES ON BUSINESS & HUMAN RIGHTS:** [https://www.awid.org/sites/default/files/atoms/files/g1914608\\_gender\\_dimensions\\_of\\_the\\_guiding\\_principles\\_en.pdf](https://www.awid.org/sites/default/files/atoms/files/g1914608_gender_dimensions_of_the_guiding_principles_en.pdf)

#### **The Addis Ababa Accord of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (2015)**

"We reaffirm that achieving gender equality, empowering all women and girls, and the full realization of their human rights are essential to achieving sustained, inclusive, and equitable economic growth and sustainable development."

#### **IFAD – Investing in Rural People (2014)**

"Greater equality between men and women means higher economic growth and better quality of life for all."



### WHAT MEN CAN DO

*"If men care about women's rights the world will be a better place." – John Legend*

- **Advocate** for paid maternity leave. Motherhood is hard, especially for would-be and newly become mothers, and your partner, sister and/or daughter needs all the support she can get.
- **Help** create networks of social and financial support for rural women entrepreneurs.
- **Find creative ways** to reduce the gender gap. Hold rallies, start marches and most importantly, gather information and use it to educate others and pressurize the government at both the local and national level.

#17daysWWSF #WomanR2ED #SDG1 #SDG8

**Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights**  
[https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/GuidingPrinciplesBusinessHR\\_EN.pdf](https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/GuidingPrinciplesBusinessHR_EN.pdf)

#### **Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) (1979) Article 13**

"State Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in other areas of economic and social life in order to ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women, the same rights."

#### **International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Reform (1966) Article 3**

"The State Parties to the present Covenant undertake to ensure the equal right of men and women to the enjoyment of all economic, social and cultural rights set forth in the present Covenant."



# 9 Claim your right to information & communication technology (ICT)

Updated version 2019

Dear Partners and Friends,

**Women should be empowered by enhancing their skills, knowledge, and access to information technology.**

**The United Nations declared in 2011 that access to the Internet is a basic human right and is a component of the right to information and freedom of expression and opinion.<sup>1</sup>**

The Internet and other technologies such as mobile phones, radios, computers, and email are all included in **Information Communication Technology (ICT)**. ICT provides vital tools and information about subjects such as politics, science, healthcare, and human rights at an extremely low cost. However, women have unequal access to ICT compared to men.

Now is the time to fight for your basic human right to Internet access and other ICTs. It is almost impossible to advance and develop in the modern world without adequate access to information. ICT is a powerful tool for improving maternal health, combatting HIV/AIDS and other diseases, reducing child mortality, eradicating poverty and hunger, and empowering women, amongst many others.<sup>2</sup> Rural women can use ICTs to call local marketplaces to check on the proper selling prices for their goods, to access healthcare information on medical websites, and to research local and national legislation. **Women must be given equal access to information as part of their basic human rights.**

**Rural women must take advantage of the resources made available via ICTs and use them to empower themselves.** Without access to the Internet, women lack access to tools, resources, and opportunities, which often stems from poverty, illiteracy, and discrimination when receiving training and education.<sup>3</sup>

**Rural women must lobby their local governments** to provide them with equal access to new technologies so that they too can have the same opportunities to advance and develop, as men do. Living in the modern world greatly depends on technology and information. As stated in the Beijing +20 Platform for Action.

We highly recommend the outcome document **“Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls”**, 62nd UN session of the Commission on the Status of Women-CSW 2018 <http://undocs.org/en/E/CN.6/2018/L.8>

### Selected excerpts of Agreed conclusions

(ppp) “Develop and implement policies and strategies that promote rural women’s and girls’ participation in and access to media and information and communications technology, including by increasing their digital literacy and access to information.”

(qqq) “Recognize the important role the media can play in the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls, including through non-discriminatory and gender-sensitive coverage and by eliminating gender stereotypes, including those perpetuated by commercial advertisements, and encourage training for those who work in the media and the development and strengthening of self-regulatory mechanisms to promote balanced and non stereotypical portrayals of women and girls, which contribute to the empowerment of women and girls and the elimination of discrimination against and exploitation of women and girls.”

### Sustainable Development Agenda 2030



#### Target 5.b

“Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women.”



#### Target 9.c

“Significantly increase access to information and communications technology and strive to provide universal and affordable access to the internet in least developed countries by 2020.”

Women are 50% less likely than men to access the Web in poor urban areas of the developing world, and 30-50% less likely to use the Internet to increase their income or participate in public life.<sup>4</sup>

On average across the developing world, nearly 25 percent fewer women than men have access to the Internet, and the gender gap soars to nearly 45 percent in regions like sub-Saharan Africa.<sup>5</sup>

Over 1.7 billion females in low- and middle-income countries do not own mobile phones.<sup>7</sup>

Security and harassment emerged as one of the top five barriers to mobile phone ownership and usage, and is a key concern for women.<sup>6</sup>

According to the World Wide Web Foundation, women are 1.6 times more likely than men to report lack of skills as a barrier to being on the Internet.<sup>8</sup>

Reducing the gender gap could unlock an estimated \$170 billion market opportunity for the mobile industry in the next five years and deliver substantial socio-economic benefits.<sup>9</sup>

1 - [http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/docs/17session/A.HRC.17.27\\_en.pdf](http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/docs/17session/A.HRC.17.27_en.pdf) 2 - [http://www.itu.int/dms\\_pub/itu-s/md/03/wsis/doc/S03-WSIS-DOC-0004!!PDF-E.pdf](http://www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-s/md/03/wsis/doc/S03-WSIS-DOC-0004!!PDF-E.pdf) 3 - <http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/2014/05/women-ict-africa-new-digital-ga-201452210244121558.html> 4 - <https://webfoundation.org/2015/10/new-report-womens-rights-online/> 5 - <https://www.intel.com/content/dam/www/public/us/en/documents/pdf/women-and-the-web.pdf> 6 - <https://www.gsma.com/mobilefordevelopment/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Connected-Women-Gender-Gap.pdf> 7 - <https://www.gsma.com/mobilefordevelopment/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Connected-Women-Gender-Gap.pdf> 8 - <https://medium.com/mozilla-internet-citizen/lets-close-the-internet-gender-gap-16e581379611> 9 - <https://www.gsma.com/mobilefordevelopment/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Connected-Women-Gender-Gap.pdf>

# 9

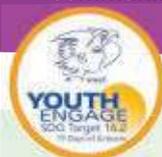
## Claim your right to information & communication technology



### General Ideas for Action

- **Lobby**  
your government to provide rural women and girls equal access to information and communication technology
- **Educate**  
others on the wealth of free information available online that can be accessed by anyone with an Internet connection
- **Ensure**  
that you are selling your goods for fair prices by checking marketplace prices online
- **Utilize**  
the media, social media, and your creativity to create campaigns for the inclusion of women in information and communication technology
- **Promote**  
the use of information and communication technologies in schools
- **Coordinate**  
free information and training sessions on how to utilize information and communication technologies
- **Advocate**  
through rallies, conferences and events, the social and economic importance of equal access to technology in your communities
- **Organize**  
*WALK THE TALK* roundtables to discuss your right to information and technology with your community leaders

Source: NGO – CSW - Geneva Declaration and Recommendations, Beijing+20 Review Forum



### WHAT YOUTH CAN DO

- ✓ **Feel inspired** by looking into initiatives like the Technology Initiative<sup>1</sup> by the Global Fund for Women that works tirelessly towards increasing access to technology for women and girls and have many ways in which young adults can contribute to that cause.
- ✓ **Join organizations** that provide IT assistance to rural women on a need-based model.
- ✓ **Volunteer** to help build the infrastructure needed for rural women to get access to mobile phones and the internet, but also train them to be able to use the resources once they have access to them!

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.globalfundforwomen.org/our-approach/initiatives/technologyinitiative/#.Ww14GFOFOZM>

#17daysWWSF #WomanR2IT #SDG5 #SDG9

### WHAT MEN CAN DO

*"If men care about women's rights the world will be a better place." – John Legend*



- **Help create** a safe environment for rural women to learn new technologies and gain access to information.
- **Train yourself** and then train others in providing IT support to women that are in the process of learning.
- **Gather information** that is relevant to them and demonstrate how access to technologies like the Internet can help them gather information for themselves and pave the way to self-empowerment!

**Report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression (2011)** "The Special Rapporteur reminds all States of their positive obligation to promote or to facilitate the enjoyment of the right to freedom of expression and the means necessary to exercise this right, including on the Internet."

**World Summit on the Information Society, Geneva Declaration of Principles (2003)** "We affirm that development of ICTs provides enormous opportunities for women, who should be an integral part of, and key actors, in the Information Society."

**Beijing +21 Platform for Action (1995)** "It is essential that women not only benefit from technology, but also participate in the process from the design to the application, monitoring and evaluation stages."

**Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)** "Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression: this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers."

2019 - 17 Days Campaign for the Empowerment of Rural Women and their Communities 1-17 Oct.

WWSF - Women's World Summit Foundation, POB 5490 - 1211 Geneva 11 - Switzerland

Tel.: +41 (0) 22 738 66 19 - E-mail: webmaster@woman.ch - www.woman.ch

## 10

# Claim your right to land and inheritance

Updated version 2019

Dear Partners and Friends,

Rural women, you perform the bulk of agricultural work in your communities, yet you are unable to fully enjoy your rights. You need genuine land reform. Now is the time to lobby your government to fully realize your right to land, as they have agreed to do so in many international treaties, conventions, and instruments. Do not let your human rights be ignored because of cultural norms or discriminatory attitudes and practices. Ensure your economic livelihood and food security and empower yourself by demanding that your government recognizes your right to land and inheritance.

The right to land and inheritance is an internationally recognized human right. It is a necessary condition for development and allows people to meet their basic needs through subsistence farming, water collection, and the harvesting of natural resources. Women's full and equal access to and control over land is essential to their everyday survival, economic security, and empowerment.

Rural women of the world, you must claim your just inheritance and access to land.

Despite the fact that there have been countless international treaties signed by your governments, in practice women are still not guaranteed land and inheritance rights. This is because of various obstacles including inadequate legal standards and implementation of laws and discriminatory social norms, attitudes, customs, traditions, and programs. In rural areas, inheritance claims are often poorly handled and dominated by males who base their decisions on discriminatory views rather than a legal basis. Women across all developing countries are consistently less likely to own or operate land or to have access to rented land, and the land they do have access to is often of poorer quality on smaller plots.

“... India's constitution gives women equal rights but custom dictates that land is inherited by male sons. Although the law states that a widow is the legal heir to her husband's property, in practice she is seldom allowed to stake her claim.

Nearly three-quarters of rural women in India depend on land for a livelihood, yet only about 13 percent own land.”

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-india-landrights-women/widows-of-suicide-farmers-to-get-land-titles-in-indian-state-idUSKCN1TM14R>

We highly recommend the outcome document “**Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls**”, 62nd UN session of the Commission on the Status of Women-CSW 2018 <http://undocs.org/en/E/CN.6/2018/L.8>

### Selected excerpts of Agreed conclusions

(d) “Enact legislation and undertake reforms to realize the equal rights of women and men, and, where applicable, girls and boys, to access natural resources and economic and productive resources, including access to, use of, ownership of and control over land, property and inheritance rights, including diverse types of land tenure, appropriate new technology and financial services, such as credit, banking and finance, including but not limited to microfinance, as well as equal access to justice and legal assistance in this regard, and ensure women's legal capacity and equal rights with men to conclude contracts;”

**United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas** : [https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/WGPLeasants/Session5/A\\_HRC\\_WG.15\\_5\\_3-English.pdf](https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/WGPLeasants/Session5/A_HRC_WG.15_5_3-English.pdf)

### Reported by Alison Cohen and Colin Lawton:

“For the past 2 months, #PeasantRightsNow has been the focal point of a delegation from across the globe led by La Via Campesina. Representing millions of farmers, landless people, rural women and youth, indigenous people, migrants and agricultural workers in 70 countries, this international movement for food sovereignty has fought and lobbied for the adoption of a monumental declaration poised to change the landscape of human rights for the peasant community and other rural peoples around the world...”

### Sustainable Development Agenda 2030



#### Target 2.3

“By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including

through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment.”



#### Target 5.b

“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.”

ritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws.”

Due to a range of legal and cultural constraints in land inheritance, ownership and use, less than 20 percent of landholders are women.<sup>1</sup>

Women represent fewer than 5 percent of all agricultural land holders in North Africa and West Asia, while across Sub-Saharan Africa, women average 15 percent of agricultural land holder.<sup>2</sup>

Secure access to land acts as a source of empowerment by increasing women's economic security and increasing their control over household decisions. In Ethiopia, a household land certification program led to a 44 percent increase in the likelihood of a wife deciding which crops to grow on lands under her control.<sup>3</sup>

In Tanzania, women with strong land rights were three times more likely to work off-farm, earned up to 3.8 times more income, and were 35% more likely to have individual savings than those that did not.<sup>4</sup>

If women farmers had the same access to resources as men, the number of hungry people in the world could be reduced by up to 150 million due to productivity gains.<sup>5</sup>

In 26 out of 143 countries, statutory inheritance laws differentiate between women and men.<sup>6</sup>

In Nepal, children whose mothers own land were up to 33% less likely to be severely underweight.<sup>7</sup>

1 - <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/feature/ruralwomen/facts-figures.html>. 2 - <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/feature/ruralwomen/facts-figures.html>. 3 - <https://www.land-links.org/issue-brief/fact-sheet-land-tenure-womens-empowerment/>. 4 - <http://www.thisisplace.org/?id=5dd8ec53-48e4-4fb0-ae7f-6a49faec84f9>. 5 - <http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/460267/icode/>. 6 - <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/family/docs/IDF2015/backgroundnote.pdf>. 7 - <http://www.landesa.org/land-rights-from-the-ground-up/>.

# 10

## Claim your right to land and inheritance

### General Ideas for Action



#### Lobby

your government to provide equal access for rural women to land and inheritance

#### Encourage

women to ensure their right to land and use it to become agents of their own development

#### Utilize

the media, social media, and your creativity to lobby your government for equal inheritance rights

#### Address and work

to eliminate patriarchal inheritance laws

#### Promote

awareness of the right for women to own land and gain inheritance to land, focusing on raising awareness among traditional authorities in order to enhance their comprehension of gender issues

#### Coordinate

cross-cutting policies, programs, and initiatives in order to establish a system for monitoring land administration institutions

#### Hold

rallies, conferences, and events to advocate and show your government that equal access to land is a necessary condition for development

#### Organize

WALK THE TALK roundtables to discuss issues of land rights and land inheritance with your local leaders



### WHAT YOUTH CAN DO

- ✓ **Operationalize** the full force of social media. Create hashtags and start campaigns, or simply use ours!
- ✓ **Feel inspired** by reading about these women in Tunisia<sup>1</sup> that have taken to the streets to demand equal inheritance rights.
- ✓ **Initiative** advocacy programs that lobby your local and national governments and pressurize them to change their policies on land inheritance to make them more equitable.
- ✓ **Find creative ways** to bring out and criticize the patriarchal notions underlying these laws by performing street plays and creating posters and so on. Especially focus on cases where women lose their right to the land they have known as their own if the male relative that owned the land on paper dies.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.newsdeeply.com/womensadvancement/articles/2018/03/13/tunisian-women-march-to-demand-equal-inheritance>

### WHAT MEN CAN DO



*“If men care about women’s rights the world will be a better place.” – John Legend*

- **Advocate** for there to be two spaces on the land registration forms.
- **Land** is power. Ensure that the future of your partners, daughters and sisters is secure by helping create more equal rights to land.
- **Start** online petitions and use the power of the internet to generate greater support for lobbying for the land and inheritance rights of women and girls!
- **Read about** JAI JAGAT marching for the right to Peace and Justice, including the right to land and water <https://www.jaijagat2020.org/>

#17daysWWSF #WomanR2L&H #SDG2 #SDG5

#### **The United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (2010)**

“Women have a right to own, use or otherwise control housing, land, property on an equal basis with men, and to access necessary resources to do so.”

#### **Rome Declaration and Plan of Action, (1996) Objective 1.4 (b)**

“Enact or strengthen policies to combat discrimination against members of socially vulnerable and disadvantaged groups...with particular attention to their rights to land and other property...”

#### **Convention on the Elimination and Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) (1979) Article 15.2**

“States Parties shall accord to women, in civil matters, a legal capacity identical to that of men and the same opportunities to exercise that capacity. In particular, they shall give women equal rights to conclude contracts and to administer property and shall treat them equally in all stages of procedure in courts and tribunals.”



## 11

## Claim your right to decision-making and leadership

Updated version 2019

Dear Partners and Friends,

**Rural women, you must empower yourselves and claim your right to decision-making in order to create a better life for your family, community, and country.**

The SDGs have also offered a new platform to claim your rights within your government, by empowering women to achieve equal leadership status to men.

As important gatherers of food, water, and other resources, rural women have a vast knowledge of their communities and what would best benefit them. Yet, far less women than men hold positions where they can make decisions and legislation regarding rural development.<sup>1</sup>

Under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, women have the same access as men to take part in and serve their governments.

Rural women of the world, you account for a quarter of the world's population – this gives you immense bargaining power.<sup>2</sup> You must harness this power by participating in the elaboration and implementation of development planning. You know what is best for your communities. You spend countless hours a day gathering water, collecting firewood, growing food, and cooking for your family. **You are experts in your communities.** Yet, you still are not afforded the same rights as men. Even today, you do not have the same access as men to loans, education, land, healthcare, or skill training.

We highly recommend the outcome document **“Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls”**, 62nd UN session of the Commission on the Status of Women-CSW 2018 <http://undocs.org/en/E/CN.6/2018/L.8>

#### Selected excerpts of Agreed conclusions

(jii) “Ensure that the perspectives of all rural women and girls are taken into account, and that women, and girls as appropriate, fully and equally participate in the design, implementation, follow-up and evaluation of policies and activities that affect their livelihoods, well-being and resilience, and that women and their organizations, and girl- and youth-led organizations, are fully, safely and actively able to participate in the decision-making process, policies and institutions at all levels, including by promoting and protecting the right to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association, the right to vote and to be elected as provided by law, as well as to participate in local and self-governing bodies such as community and village councils, and in political parties and other organizations;”

*“Women’s unequal participation in decision-making processes, their reduced access to financial resources and labour markets, prevent them from actively contributing to climate-related planning, policy-making and implementation. The Gender Action Plan that was adopted by the countries at COP23 aims at addressing those gaps, and the recent climate negotiations conducted in Bonn last June, provided an opportunity to prepare for a renewed and more ambitious Gender Action Plan for COP25. The Women and Gender Constituency wants more commitments for climate finance and technology transfer that actively address persisting gender inequalities, for example in the energy and transport sectors. We want strengthened capacity building at all levels, and stronger support to ensure the meaningful participation of local women in climate policy processes.”<sup>8</sup>*

*“Women’s unequal participation in decision-making processes, their reduced access to financial resources and labour markets, prevent them from actively contributing to climate-related planning, policy-making and implementation. The Gender Action Plan that was adopted by the countries at COP23 aims at addressing those gaps, and the recent climate negotiations conducted in Bonn last June, provided an opportunity to prepare for a renewed and more ambitious Gender Action Plan for COP25. The Women and Gender Constituency wants more commitments for climate finance and technology transfer that actively address persisting gender inequalities, for example in the energy and transport sectors. We want strengthened capacity building at all levels, and stronger support to ensure the meaningful participation of local women in climate policy processes.”*

<https://www.ctc-n.org/sites/www.ctc-n.org/files/resources/2018genderjustclimatesolutionsenglish.pdf>

#### Sustainable Development Agenda 2030



##### 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 10.2

“By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status.”

##### Target 10.6

“Ensure enhanced representation and voice for developing countries in decision-making in global international economic and financial institutions in order to deliver more effective, credible, accountable and legitimate institutions.”

**Only 22.8 per cent of all national parliamentarians were women as of June 2016, a slow increase from 11.3 per cent in 1995.<sup>3</sup>**

**In developing countries, 79% of economically active women spend their working hours producing food, working in agriculture. Women are 43% of the farming workforce.<sup>4</sup>**

**If women had the same access to productive resources as men, they could increase yields on their farms by 20-30%.<sup>5</sup>**

**Gender balance in political participation and decision-making is the internationally agreed target set in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.<sup>6</sup>**

**As of January 2017, only 18.3 per cent of government ministers were women; the most commonly held portfolio by women ministers is environment, natural resources, and energy, followed by social sectors, such as social affairs, education and the family.<sup>7</sup>**

1 - <http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/leadership-and-political-participation/facts-and-figures> 2 - <http://www.fao.org/docrep/014/am719e/am719e00.pdf> 3 - <http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/leadership-and-political-participation/facts-and-figures> 4 - <http://iaas.or.id/women-in-agriculture/> 5 - <http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/52011/code/> 6 - <http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/leadership-and-political-participation/facts-and-figures> 7 - <http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/leadership-and-political-participation/facts-and-figures> 8 - <https://www.ctc-n.org/sites/www.ctc-n.org/files/resources/2018genderjustclimatesolutionsenglish.pdf>

# 11

## Claim your right to decision-making and leadership

### General Ideas for Action



#### Lobby

your government to provide rural women equal access to decision-making and leadership

#### Expand

women's citizenship and participation in leadership: Advance women as decision-makers

#### Ensure

that rural women are involved in the decision-making and peace processes at all levels and that your voices are being heard

#### Utilize

the media, social media, and your creativity to bring priority attention to policies and legislation to guarantee your right to be heard

#### Address

and work to eliminate gender discrimination in policy-making and legislation

#### Coordinate

crosscutting policies, programs, and initiatives in order to alleviate discrimination against rural women in leadership positions

#### Hold

rallies, conferences, and events to advocate and demand your government provide you equal access to decision-making processes

#### Organize

WALK THE TALK roundtables to discuss ideas of entrepreneurship, leadership and decision-making within your communities



### WHAT YOUTH CAN DO

- ✓ **Feel inspired** by the initiative and leadership capacity shown by these girls from Thennamadevi, India<sup>1</sup> who have taken decisive action towards improving the conditions of their village- from creating a 150-book library to getting a new bus-stop installed.
- ✓ **Advocate** for equitable representation for women in decision-making promises, especially at the local level. Lobby your government officials to make sure they understand that a woman's opinion is of great importance.
- ✓ **Start training programs** for young girls and women to try their hand at being leaders from a very young age by participating in community driven activities.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.csmonitor.com/World/Asia-South-Central/2018/0415/The-girls-who-took-over-a-town-in-rural-India>

### WHAT MEN CAN DO



*"If men care about women's rights the world will be a better place." – John Legend*

- **Read** about the work done by Rohini Pande where she discovers that having women in positions of authority, shifts focus on a different set of issues than having men in positions of authority such as clean drinking water and gender gap in schooling. This stands testimony to the idea that women's voices are equally important and we must support them in their endeavor to become leaders and advocate for them to be heard.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zkb-zg4JCLk>

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**Beijing+21 Platform for Action (1995) Article 181** "The empowerment and autonomy of women and the improvement of women's social, economic and political status is essential for the achievement of both transparent and accountable government and administration and sustainable development in all areas of life."

**Geneva Declaration for Rural Women (1992)** "Rural women have extensive knowledge of indigenous food crops, plants, animals, farming methods and ecosystems. Therefore, they should be involved in the discussions about what technologies and other resources they need."

**Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) (1979) Article 14** "State parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in rural areas in order to ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women, that they participate in and benefit from rural development."



## 12

# Claim your right to security, safety and an end to violence

(4 pages for this theme)

Updated version 2019

## Dear Partners and Friends,

In the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, violence against women is declared to both violate and impair or nullify the enjoyment by women of their human rights and fundamental freedoms.

**According to the UN GA 69, violence against women is defined as “any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual, or psychological harm or suffering to women and girls, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life, and also notes the economic and social harm caused by violence.”**

According to global estimates by the World Health Organization, 35% of women worldwide have experienced either physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence or non-partner violence in their lifetime. While this percentage varies across different regions, violence against women remains unacceptably high in all parts of the world. No matter the type of violence suffered, **violence against women is a violation of the most basic and fundamental human rights.**

We highly recommend the outcome document **“Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls”**, 62nd UN session of the Commission on the Status of Women-CSW 2018 <http://undocs.org/en/E/CN.6/2018/L.8>

### Selected excerpts of Agreed conclusions

25. “The Commission strongly condemns all forms of violence against all women and girls, which is rooted in historical and structural inequality and unequal power relations between men and women. It reiterates that violence against women and girls E/CN.6/2018/L.8 6/21 18-04738 in all its forms and manifestations in public and private spheres, including

sexual and gender-based violence, domestic violence and harmful practices such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation, are pervasive, under-recognized and underreported, particularly at the community level. It expresses deep concern that women and girls in rural and remote areas may be particularly vulnerable to violence because of multidimensional poverty, limited or a lack of access to justice, to effective legal remedies and services, including protection, rehabilitation, and reintegration, and to health-care services. It re-emphasizes that violence against women and girls is a major impediment to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, including those living in rural areas, and violates and impairs or nullifies their full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms.”

**26. “The Commission recognizes that sexual harassment is a form of violence and a violation and abuse of human rights and impedes the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, including those living in rural areas.”**

### Sustainable Development Agenda 2030



#### 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 16.b

“Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development.”

**Among women aged 15–44, acts of violence cause more death and disability than cancer, malaria, traffic accidents and war combined.<sup>1</sup>**

**1/3** women have experienced physical or sexual violence from their partner, while 7% will be assaulted at some point in their lives by a non-partner.<sup>2</sup>

**603 million women live in countries where domestic violence is not yet considered a crime.<sup>3</sup>**

**As many as 1 in 4 women experience physical or sexual violence during pregnancy.<sup>4</sup>**

**In 2012, almost half of all women who were victims of intentional homicide worldwide were killed by an intimate partner or family member, compared to 6 per cent of male victims.<sup>5</sup>**

**Approximately 100 to 140 million girls and women in the world have experienced female genital mutilation/cutting, with more than 3 million girls in Africa annually at risk of the practice.<sup>15</sup>**

**More than 700 million women alive today were married as children, and about 250 million of them - more than one in three - were wed before they reached 15.<sup>13</sup>**

### Selected types of violence against women:

- 1 - Sexual Violence and sexual harrassment
- 2 - Domestic Violence
- 3 - Psychological Violence Mutilation
- 4 - Early and Forced Marriages
- 5 - FGM – Female Genital Mutilation

**1 - Sexual violence** is defined by the WHO as “Any sexual act, attempt to obtain a sexual act, unwanted sexual comments or advances, or acts to traffic, or otherwise directed, against a person’s sexuality using coercion by any person regardless of their relationship to the victim, in any setting, including but not limited to home and work.” Sexual violence against women and girls is a grave violation of human rights and is a crime. You must lobby your government to prevent and respond in a timely manner to cases of sexual violence and enforce legislation to protect women from sexual violence.

- 6 - Crimes in the name of honor
- 7 - Elder Abuse
- 8 - Online violence against women/girls
- 9 - Trafficking

**2 - Domestic violence** means “all acts of physical, sexual, psychological, or economic violence that occur within the family or domestic unit between former or current spouses or partners, whether or not the perpetrator shares or has shared the same residence with the victim.” **Domestic violence is globally the most common form of violence in women’s lives.** The time has come to make ending violence against women a global priority. Urge your government to adopt a human rights based approach in responding to domestic violence.

Cont’d.



# 12 Claim your right to security, safety and an end to violence

**3 - Psychological violence** involves “trauma to the victim caused by acts, threats of acts, or coercive tactics,” when there has also been prior or sexual violence, or the threat of physical or sexual violence, according to the Center for Disease Control. It is time to stop intimidation and abuse and exercise your right to live free of abuse and coercion. Pressure your government to protect women from violence.

**4 -** It is estimated that today about one in three girls in the developing world under the age of 18 have entered into **Child Early and Forced Marriages**. Child marriage is prohibited by CEDAW in Article 16.2. We must push for the advancement of gender equality. Petition your government to enforce CEDAW and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

**5 - FGM—Female Genital Mutilation** violates women’s right to health, security and physical integrity; the right to be free from torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment; and the right to life when the procedure results in death (WHO). FGM is a harmful practice that affects 733 million girls and women worldwide. We must enforce human rights laws to protect women and girls from harmful traditional practices.

**6 - Crimes in the name of honor** are “acts of violence committed by male family members against female family members who are perceived to have brought dishonor upon the family.” There is no honor in killing a woman for her personal choices. We must lobby our governments to protect our right to life and stop this inhumane practice.

### **The High Financial Cost of Violence (Source: UN Women)**

- Annual costs of intimate partner violence have been calculated at USD \$5.8 billion in the United States in 2003 and GBP £22.9 billion in England and Wales in 2004.
- A 2009 study in Australia estimated the cost of violence against women and children at AUD \$13.6 billion per year. A recent estimation of the costs of domestic violence against women at the household level to that economy in Viet Nam suggests that both out-of-pocket expenditures and lost earnings represent nearly 1.4% of GDP in that country.

**7 - Elder abuse** can take the form of physical, psychological, emotional, and/or financial abuse. Many women experience heightened inequality and discrimination as they grow older, resulting in a lack of basic resources and/or rights.

**8 - Online and ICT-facilitated forms of violence against women** have become increasingly common, particularly with the use, every day and everywhere, of social media platforms and other technical applications... This development is especially critical for new generations of girls and boys, who are starting their lives extensively using new technologies to mediate in their relationships, affecting all aspects of their lives. To read more: <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Women/SRWomen/Pages/SRWomenIndex.aspx>

**9 - “ Trafficking in human beings** occurs in every country in the world and has strong gender dimensions. In Europe, sexual exploitation is the most widespread form of trafficking, followed by forced labour. Women and girls comprise the majority of all victims of trafficking. At EU level, most victims of trafficking are detected in their countries of citizenship. However, trafficking can also have strong cross-border dimensions...”

Direct Link to Full 48-Page 2019 Study: [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2019/631757/EPRS\\_STU\(2019\)631757\\_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2019/631757/EPRS_STU(2019)631757_EN.pdf)

Direct Link to Full 124-Page 2019 Handbook: <http://endvavnow.org/uploads/browser/files/work-handbook-interior-web-rev.pdf>

Around 120 million girls worldwide (slightly more than 1 in 10) have experienced forced intercourse or other forced sexual acts at some point in their lives.<sup>6</sup>

The first sexual experience of some 30 percent of women was forced. The percentage is even higher among those who were under 15 at the time of their sexual initiation, with up to 45 percent reporting that the experience was forced.<sup>7</sup>

If current trends continue, 15 million additional girls between ages 15 and 19 will be subjected to FGM by 2030.<sup>8</sup>

Adult women account for 51 per cent of all human trafficking victims detected globally. Women and girls together account for 71 per cent, with girls representing nearly three out of every four child trafficking victims. Nearly three out of every four trafficked women and girls are trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation.<sup>9</sup>

**It is estimated that, worldwide, one in five women will become a victim of rape or attempted rape in her lifetime.<sup>10</sup>**

In the Democratic Republic of Congo approximately 1,100 rapes are being reported each month, with an average of 36 women and girls raped every day. It is believed that over 200,000 women have suffered from sexual violence in that country since armed conflict began.<sup>11</sup>

Rape victims are 6.2 times more likely to develop post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) than non-victims.<sup>12</sup>

133 million women alive today have experienced Female Genital Mutilation . The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) estimates that the annual worldwide number of so-called “honour killing” victims may be as high as 5,000 women.<sup>14</sup>

1 - [https://www.womensaid.ie/download/pdf/unifem\\_vaw\\_factsheet.pdf](https://www.womensaid.ie/download/pdf/unifem_vaw_factsheet.pdf) 2 - <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2014/nov/21/one-in-three-women-physical-sexual-violence-partner-lancet> 3 - <http://www.un.org/en/women/endviolence/situation.shtml> 4 - <http://www.un.org/en/women/endviolence/situation.shtml> 5 - <http://www.un.org/en/events/endviolenceday/> 6 - <http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/facts-and-figures> 7 - <http://www.endvavnow.org/en/articles/299-fast-facts-statistics-on-violence-against-women-and-girls.html> 8 - <https://plan-international.org/sexual-health/fgm-female-genital-mutilation> 9 - <http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/facts-and-figures> 10 - <http://www.un.org/en/women/endviolence/pdf/VAV.pdf> 11 - <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/07/22/world/asia/united-nations-study-tracks-millions-of-child-brides.html> 12 - <https://www.wabe.org/sexual-assault-ptsd-whats-done-survivors/> 13 - <https://www.nytimes.com/2014/07/22/world/asia/united-nations-study-tracks-millions-of-child-brides.html> 14 - <http://www.un.org/en/women/endviolence/situation.shtml> 15 - [https://www.womensaid.ie/download/pdf/unifem\\_vaw\\_factsheet.pdf](https://www.womensaid.ie/download/pdf/unifem_vaw_factsheet.pdf)

## 12

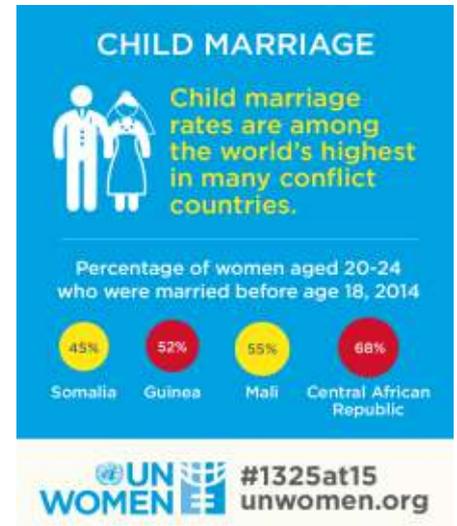
# Claim your right to security, safety and an end to violence

## VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

In 1993, the UN General Assembly **Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women** provided a framework for action on the pandemic.



But more than 20 years later, **1 in 3 women still experience physical or sexual violence, mostly by an intimate partner.**



**UN WOMEN Call for Submissions on Alleged Violations of Women's Human Rights Communications Procedure for the UN Commission on the Status of Women - 2019 (deadline 1 August)**  
<http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/communications-procedure>

**UN WOMEN Facts and figures: Ending violence against women**  
<http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/youth/facts-and-figures>

### **WHO interagency statement on eliminating FGM (2008)**

"Female genital mutilation of any type has been recognized as a harmful practice and a violation of the human rights of girls and women."

### **Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, (1995) Paragraph 112**

"Violence against women both violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment by women of their human rights and fundamental freedoms."

### **Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, (1995) Paragraph 119**

"Developing a holistic and multidisciplinary approach to the challenging task of promoting families, communities and States that are free of violence against women is necessary and achievable."

### **Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (1993)**

"States should condemn violence against women and should not invoke any custom, tradition or religious consideration to avoid their obligations with respect to its elimination."

### **Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (1979) (CEDAW)**

"Gender-based violence is a form of discrimination that seriously inhibits women's ability to enjoy rights and freedoms on a basis of equality with men."

### **CEDAW Article 6**

"States Parties shall take all appropriate measures, including legislation, to suppress all forms of traffic in women and exploitation of prostitution of women."

### **Universal Declaration of Human Rights, (1948) Article 3**

"Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person."

### **Universal Declaration of Human Rights, (1948) Article 5**

"No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment."

### **Universal Declaration of Human Rights, (1948) Article 16**

"Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses."

# 12 Claim your right to security, safety and an end to violence

## General Ideas for Action



### ● Lobby

your government to enforce legislation to protect women from physical, sexual, and psychological violence

### ● Put pressure

on your local and national officials to:

- Fulfill the promises they made to realize your right to safety, security, and dignity
- Address gender inequality and gender norms and stereotypes, which reinforce violence against women, irrespective of the circumstances or culture

### ● Educate

others on

- Their human right to life, liberty, and security
- The devastating effects that violence against women has on society

### ● Utilize

the media, including social media, and your creativity to:

- Have your rights and needs realized on a national level
- Bring to light the effects of gender discrimination on creating a culture of violence

### ● Promote and strengthen

- Accountability for gender equality and the realization of human rights for everyone
- Women-driven spaces for healing and rehabilitation of women survivors of sexual- and gender-based violence

### ● Coordinate

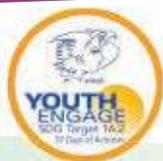
- Medical services for women to get help if they have been abused, including a legal framework
- Support programs for women survivors of violence to open up and rebuild themselves in a safe space
- Hold rallies, conferences, and events to Advocate for an end to violence against women and prosecution for those that violate your right to safety, equality and security

### ● Organize

WALK THE TALK roundtables to discuss issues of violence against women and how it impacts your community

### ● Establish ONE-STOP centers

that provide medical, legal and relevant services, catering to the urgent need of women who have suffered sexual and physical violence



## WHAT YOUTH CAN DO

- ✓ **Operationalize** the full force of social media. Create hashtags and start campaigns, or simply use ours!
- ✓ **Feel inspired** by finding stories like that of this theatre group from Pakistan<sup>1</sup> that uses community theatre to advocate for ending violence against women.
- ✓ **Start campaigns** that spread information about how violence is a choice. Don't accept excuses about anger management, alcoholism or stress, etc. from the perpetrators and inspire others to do the same. Violence is not permissible under any circumstances.
- ✓ **Educate yourself** about the root causes of violence and spread the information! Learn to recognize abuse and interrupt it!

<sup>1</sup> <https://theirworld.org/voices/pakistan-sindh-province-gender-violence-theatre-changes-attitudes>

## WHAT MEN CAN DO



*"If men care about women's rights the world will be a better place." – John Legend*

- **Feel inspired** by finding stories about organizations like Men Stopping Violence<sup>2</sup> that organize men to end violence against women and girls through training programs and advocacy.
- **Stand up against** violence perpetrated towards girls and women. Create safe spaces for victims of violence to open up and share their experiences. Learn from them and come up with an action plan towards combating this issue in your community.
- **Call out** your colleagues and friends if you suspect that they might be perpetrators. Break the taboo and talk to them about it. Silence often is seen as a sign of condoning.

<sup>2</sup> <http://menstoppingviolence.org/>

#17daysWWSF #WomanR2S #SDG5 #SDG16 #MeToo



## 13

# Claim your Right to Peace

(4 pages)

Updated version 2019

Dear Partners and Friends,

**According to the Women's Major Group 2019 High Level Political Forum Position Paper:**

"Today, the world is spending money on violence and war rather than gender justice and peace. In 2018 there was a \$1.7 trillion arms trade. However, in 2014-15, only 5% of aid on peace and security targeted gender equality as a primary objective. Meanwhile, the number of forcibly displaced people has increased by over 50 per cent between 2007 (42.7 million) and in 2017 (68.5 million) as a result of persecution, conflict or generalised violence".

**According to a 2018 Institute for Economics and Peace report:**

"the economic cost of violence globally in 2017 was \$ 14.7 trillion (12.4% of global GDP or \$ 1,988 per person), a 16% increase since 2012. The single largest contributor to this (37%) was military expenditure, followed by internal spending on security (police, judicial, and prison system outlays) (27%)."

"The production and use of weapons negatively affects the environment, often impeding use of land and water by poisoning natural resources or physically blocking access to resources. Military activities further destroy land and resources, either intentionally as a method or tool of warfare, inadvertently in the acts of war, or in the aftermath of conflict, with particular impact on at risk group. The current crisis-response approach to conflict and violence is not sustainable..."

**"Impacts on women and girls/gender equality**  
Current militarized approaches to peace and security consistently exclude and undermine women's participation, protection, and rights, and systematically undermine opportunities for long term and sustainable peace." (source : UN Women (2018) *Facts and Figures : Peace and Security*)

**Women legislators promote UN Secretary-General's new disarmament initiative June 18, 2018**

"Governments must make better use of diplomacy, international law and common security mechanisms in order to prevent war and adequately address climate change and nuclear threats, according an international appeal by women parliamentarians from around the world.

**The appeal, Common security for a sustainable and nuclear-weapon-free world**, was released to commemorate Women's International Day for Peace and Disarmament (May 24) and to give support to Securing our Common Future: An Agenda for Disarmament, the new disarmament agenda released in Geneva on May 24 by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres."

To read more: <http://www.unfoldzero.org/women-legislators-promote-un-secretary-generals-new-disarmament-initiative/>

**WORLD PEACE DAY - 21 September****#PeaceDay193**

The #PeaceDay193 movement is growing by the day. We hear from young people all over the world telling us that they are taking action for Peace Day. We are now connected to young people in nearly half of the 193 member states of the United Nations.

If you are an educator, work with young people or are a young peace builder yourself, complete this simple form and show the world that the new generation is leading the way in the peace process.

**The Partnership For Peace Coalition**

We want to tell the world about the amazing organisations that make up the international peace community. The Partnership For Peace Coalition now has 150 members all supporting each other to spread the word of peace and Peace Day.

If your organisation works to advance Peace or the Sustainable Development Goals and would like to join the Coalition please email us at [campaigns@peaceoneday.org](mailto:campaigns@peaceoneday.org)

Keep an eye out for updates on our 20th Anniversary Celebrations and how you can watch live on the day.

[peaceoneday.org](http://peaceoneday.org)

**Total world military expenditure rose to \$1739 billion in 2017, a marginal increase of 1.1 per cent in real terms from 2016.<sup>1</sup>**

In peace processes between 1992 and 2011 women made up only: 2 per cent of Chief Mediators, 4 per cent of Witnesses and Signatories and 9 per cent of Negotiators.<sup>2</sup>

With the adoption of Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) in 2000, the international community recognised that war impacted women differently and stressed the need to increase women's participation in peace talks.<sup>3</sup>

**No women were present at the ministerial meeting for Syria Talks in mid-December 2015.<sup>4</sup>**

In 1993, the UN General Assembly adopted the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, which provided a framework for action on the issue.<sup>5</sup>

**More than 740,000 men, women, and children die each year as a result of armed violence. The majority of these deaths - 490,000 - occur in countries that are not affected by armed conflicts.<sup>6</sup>**

When women are included in peace processes there is a 20 per cent increase in the probability of an agreement lasting at least 2 years, and a 35 per cent increase in the probability of an agreement lasting at least 15 years.<sup>7</sup>

1 - <https://www.sipri.org/media/press-release/2018/global-military-spending-remains-high-17-trillion>. 2 - <http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/peace-and-security/facts-and-figures>. 3 - <https://dpa-ps.atavist.com/women-peace-and-security-agenda-comes-into-its-own>. 4 - <https://tribune.com.pk/story/1011628/no-women-seated-around-the-table-at-syria-talks-in-paris/>. 5 - <https://news.un.org/en/story/2015/12/517712-feature-un-champions-prevention-best-hope-eliminating-violence-against-women> 6 - <http://www.smallarms-survey.org/nc/focus-projects/geneva-declaration-on-armed-violence-and-development/pointer/5.html> 7 - <http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/peace-and-security/facts-and-figures>



# 13

## Claim your Right to Peace (Universal Declaration on the Right to Peace)

### HISTORY IN MAKING:

## UNIVERSAL DECLARATION ON THE RIGHT TO PEACE

LUARCA (SPAIN), 14 JULY 2019

<http://aedidh.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Universal-Declaration-HRP-14.7.19.pdf>

SSIHRL - Spanish Society for International Human Rights Law In special consultative status with the United Nations  
([www.aedidh.org](http://www.aedidh.org) — [info@aedidh.org](mailto:info@aedidh.org))

#### The General Assembly,

**Guided** by the Purposes and Principles of the United Nations Charter and by the commitment of all Member States to promote peace, human rights and development,

**Recognizing** that the legal bases of the human right to peace are formulated in the Charter of the United Nations, Security Council, General Assembly, ECOSOC and Human Rights Council resolutions, the Constitutions of specialized agencies (UNESCO, ILO, FAO and WHO), as well as in international treaties including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,

**Recognizing** also that the right to peace is part of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (1981) and its Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa (2003); the Ibero-American Convention on Young People's Rights (2005); and the ASEAN Declaration on Human Rights (2012),

**Acknowledging** that the legal bases of the human right to peace are further strengthened by other universal documents and instruments, including the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, the Declaration on the Right to Development, the UN Millennium Declaration (2000), the World Summit Outcome Document (2005), the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (2015) and the Declaration by the Nelson Mandela Peace Summit, of 24 September 2018,

Welcoming the advisory opinion OC-23/17 by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, since it implicitly recognizes the right to peace as an inherent right of the human being, in accordance with Article 29.c) of the American Convention on Human Rights,

**Taking note** that the constitutive components of the human

right to peace are already contained in the Human Rights Covenants and are justiciable under the Optional Protocols Procedures of the ICCPR and the ICESCR, among others the rights to life, liberty, integrity and security of the person, the right to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly and association, the right to an adequate standard of life including food, drinking water, sanitation, clothing and housing and to the continuous improvement of living conditions, and rights to health, education, social security and culture,

**Recalling** the General Assembly Declaration on the Preparation of Societies for Life in Peace (1978); the Declaration on the Right of Peoples to Peace (1984); the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace (1999); the Declaration on the Right to Peace (2016); the General Assembly resolution 73/170, of 17 December 2018, on "Promotion of peace as a vital requirement for the full enjoyment of all human rights by all"; and the observance of 21 September of each year as the International Day of Peace,

**Calling for** the proactive implementation of General Assembly resolution 2625 which contains the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the UN Charter (1970),

**Emphasizing** the obligation of all Member States to negotiate and settle all disputes through peaceful means (UN Charter Art. 2(3)) and to refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State (Art. 2(4)),

**Recalling** the commitment to nuclear disarmament contained in Article 6 of the Non Proliferation Treaty; recalling also the Arms Trade Treaty (2013) and endorsing the work of the Conference on Disarmament in the spirit of promoting development through disarmament and reallocation of resources,



## 13

## Claim your Right to Peace

(cont'd (Universal Declaration on the Right to Peace))

**Welcoming** the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, adopted by the UN Conference on 7 July 2017, which bans States from developing, testing, producing, and possessing nuclear weapons, and from using and threatening to use such weapons,

**Welcoming** general comment No. 36 (2018) on article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, on the right to life, in which the Human Rights Committee stated inter alia that the threat or use of weapons of mass destruction, in particular nuclear weapons, which are indiscriminate in effect and are of a nature to cause destruction of human life on a catastrophic scale, is incompatible with respect for the right to life and may amount to a crime under international law,

**Considering** that every military or security institution must be fully subordinated to the rule of law,

**Concerned** by the impunity of mercenaries and private military and security companies, as well as the outsourcing to the private sector of inherently security State functions,

**Conscious** that mass exoduses and migratory flows respond to dangers, threats and breaches of peace, and that the international community should establish an international migration regime as a matter of urgency, in accordance with the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, adopted in Marrakech on 11 December 2018,

**Condemning** propaganda of war and incitement to hate and violence, as stipulated in article 20(1) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,

**Taking note** with appreciation of the Human Rights Council's Advisory Committee Declaration on the Right to Peace, adopted on 16 April 2012,

**Paying tribute** to peace movements and ideas that have marked over the history of humankind and have crystallized inter alia in the Hague Agenda for Peace and Justice for the Twenty-first Century (1999),

**Welcoming** the important contribution that civil society organizations have made to the development of the human right to peace, in particular the Santiago Declaration on the Human Right to Peace (2010),

**Aware** that peace is not only the absence of war, but that it means the absence of economic, social and cultural violence and requires a positive, dynamic, participatory process where root causes of conflicts are addressed in a timely fashion and conflict-preventive measures are developed and applied uniformly and without discrimination,

**Recalling** that the recognition of the inherent dignity and the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family, women, men, children, disabled and elderly persons, are the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world,

**Acknowledging** the contribution of women to peace process and the importance of their participation at all levels of decision-making, as recognized by the Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security,

**Affirming** that the human right to peace cannot be achieved without the realization of the equality of rights and respect for gender-based differences; without respect for different cultural values and religious beliefs that are compatible with the universally recognized human rights; and without the elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and other forms of related intolerance,

**Recognizing** also that peace requires social justice, as spelled out by ILO Constitution and relevant international labor conventions, which provide for the right to a decent work and to enjoy fair conditions of employment and trade union association,

**Reaffirming** that everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the International Human Rights Covenants can be fully realized, and that the rule of law demands the uniform application of norms and rejects selectivity, privilege, impunity and discrimination,

**Recalling** further the commitment of the international community to eradicate poverty and to promote sustainable development and a clean and peaceful environment for all and the need to address the growing inequalities and exclusion among States and within them,

**Affirming** the right of all victims of human rights violations to truth, justice, reparation and to guarantees of non-recurrence, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 60/147 of 16 December 2005,

**Recognizing** that the asymmetries of trade, new forms of economic colonialism and exploitation, sanctions regimes and other forms of structural violence impede the enjoyment of the human right to peace and other human rights,

**Recalling** that a culture of peace and the education of humanity for peace, justice and liberty are indispensable to the dignity of human beings and constitute a duty that all nations must fulfill in international solidarity,



# 13

## Claim your Right to Peace (cont'd (Universal Declaration on the Right to Peace))

**Acknowledging** that peace and human rights have a symbiotic relationship, that peace is a condition to the enjoyment of other human rights and that when human rights are fulfilled the outcome is peace, Inviting international and regional human rights protection bodies to further develop the human right to peace,

**Inviting** all stakeholders to embrace the philosophy of peace for development and the sacred commitment to preserve future generations from the scourge of war and continued oppression by endemic economic and structural violence,

**Proclaims** the following Universal Declaration of the Human Right to Peace:

### Article 1. Right-holders

1. Individuals, groups, peoples, minorities and humankind have the human right to peace. It is prerequisite to the enjoyment of all universally recognized human rights, including the rights to development and environment.

2. The human right to peace is inalienable, universal, indivisible, inter-dependent and interrelated.

3. The human right to peace shall be implemented without any distinction or discrimination.

### Article 2. Elements

1. The constitutive elements of the human right to peace are already stipulated in the Charter of the United Nations and relevant provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

2. Individuals can assert the various elements of the human right to peace by submitting complaints to the UN human rights treaty bodies, the regional human rights courts and the Human Rights Council's relevant special procedures.

3. All individuals, peoples and minority groups subjected to aggression, genocide, racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and other related forms of intolerance, as well as apartheid, colonialism, neo-colonialism and other international crimes, deserve special attention as victims of violations of the human right to peace.

### Article 3. Duty-bearers

1. States are the principal duty-bearers of the human right to peace.

2. States shall address root causes of conflicts and develop

preventive strategies to ensure that grievances are addressed in a timely fashion and do not lead to violence.

3. States have an obligation to negotiate in good faith and settle disputes by non-violent means.

4. States shall abide by the legal obligation to refrain from the use or the threat of use of force in international relations.

5. States shall refrain from the imposition of unilateral sanctions, and shall suppress propaganda for war.

6. States shall facilitate the contribution of women to the prevention, management and peaceful settlement of disputes, as well as to the maintenance of peace after conflicts.

7. States shall strengthen the effectiveness of the United Nations' three foundation pillars in the fields of international peace and security, human rights and development.

8. States shall respect the right of peoples to self-determination.

9. The Security Council should be reformed to ensure compliance with its obligations under the UN Charter in the field of collective security.

### Article 4. Right to disarmament

1. All States have an obligation to gradually disarm and to eliminate stockpiles of weapons of mass destruction or of indiscriminate effect, including nuclear, chemical and biological weapons.

2. The use of weapons that damage the environment, in particular radioactive weapons and weapons of mass destruction, is contrary to international humanitarian law, the right to a healthy environment and the right to peace. States that have utilized them have the obligation to restore the environment by repairing all damage caused.

3. States shall establish peace zones and of mass destruction weapons-free zones.

4. Resources released through disarmament shall be devoted to the promotion and fulfillment of human rights treaty obligations, as well as the realization of the rights to development and environment.

### Article 5. Right to education on peace and human rights

1. All peoples and individuals have a right to a comprehensive peace and human rights education within the framework of the Declaration and the Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace and Dialogue among Cultures.



## 13

**Claim your Right to Peace**

(cont'd (Universal Declaration on the Right to Peace))

2. Education and socialization for peace is a condition sine qua non for unlearning war and building identities disentangled from violence.

3. Everyone has the right to denounce any event that threatens or violates the right to peace, and to participate freely in peaceful activities for the defense of the right to peace.

4. States undertake to revise national laws and policies that are discriminatory against women, and adopt legislation to address domestic violence, trafficking of women and girls and gender-based violence.

**Article 6. Right to human security**

1. Individuals have the right to human security, including freedom from fear and freedom from want.

2. All peoples and individuals have the right to life in a private and public environment that is safe and healthy.

3. Freedom from want implies the enjoyment of the right to sustainable development and of economic, social and cultural rights.

**Article 7. Right to resist and oppose oppression**

1. Individuals have the right to conscientious objection to military service.

2. Members of any military or security institution have the right to disobey orders that are contrary to the UN Charter, the international human rights law and the international humanitarian law. The disobedience of such orders shall in no case constitute military offences.

3. States shall refrain from outsourcing inherently State military and security functions to private contractors.

4. Private military and security companies and their personnel should be held accountable for violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law.

5. All peoples and individuals have the right to resist and oppose colonialism, foreign occupation and domestic oppression; aggression, genocide, racism, apartheid, war crimes and crimes against humanity.

6. UN peacekeepers shall be accountable in cases of criminal misconduct or the violation of international law. Troop-contributing States shall investigate complaints against members of their national contingents.

7. Victims of human rights violations have the right to know the truth, to obtain redress, justice, reparation and to guarantees of non-recurrence.

8. All individuals have the right to seek and to enjoy refugee status without discrimination, in accordance with international law.

9. States have an obligation to respect, protect and fulfill the human rights of all individuals and vulnerable groups under their jurisdiction, regardless of their nationality or origin and regardless of their immigration status.

**Article 8. Rights to development and environment**

1. All individuals and peoples have the right to participate in economic, social, cultural and political development, in which all human rights and fundamental freedoms may be fully exercised, as well as to contribute to, and enjoy that development.

2. Everyone has the right to a safe, clean and peaceful environment, to sustainable development and to international action to mitigate environment destruction, especially climate change.

3. States shall transfer technology in the field of climate change, following the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

4. In accordance with the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, States shall provide appropriate financing to States with inadequate resources for adaptation to climate change.

**Article 9. Implementation**

1. States, the United Nations and its specialized agencies, funds and programmes, shall take appropriate sustainable measures to implement this Declaration. International, regional, national and local organizations and civil society should actively participate in the implementation of this Declaration.

2. All States must implement in good faith the provisions of this Declaration by adopting relevant legislative, judicial, administrative, educational or other measures necessary to promote its effective realization.

3. The Human Rights Council shall monitor progress in the implementation of this Declaration as a permanent item in its agenda and appointing a Special Rapporteur on the Human Right to Peace.

4. UN human rights treaty bodies and relevant regional bodies are invited to incorporate this Declaration in their protection activities.

# 13

## Claim your Right to Peace

### General Ideas for Action



- **Celebrate**  
World Peace Day – 21 September, a great way to make a difference and stand up for peace
- **Get information**  
about military spending in your country and lobby to reduce the defense budget
- **Elaborate**  
guidelines to build a culture of peace based on the right of peoples to peace
- **Educate**  
others on their human right to peace including clean, healthy, and adequate food, a prerequisite to live in peace
- **Utilize**  
the media, including social media and your creativity to rise and organize for peace
- **Mobilize**  
young people to reject armed militias and prevent wars; train them to build peaceful relations across the divides of war
- **Train**  
government services, men, women and schools in conflict resolution
- **Put pressure**  
on your local and national officials to fulfill the promises made in 1995 at the Beijing Women's conference and deliver your right to equality, development and peace
- **Organize**  
*WALK THE TALK* Roundtables that address peace and security issues, with your government
- **Support**  
organizations and individuals working for peace and disarmament



### WHAT YOUTH CAN DO

- ✓ **Operationalize** the full force of social media. Create hashtags and start campaigns, or simply use ours!
- ✓ **Find** your country's profile here<sup>1</sup> and see what the military expenditure is! Gain information and lobby to have the budget reduced. Go the extra mile and advocate for setting up a Ministry of Peacebuilding.
- ✓ **Feel inspired** by hearing Haya Atassi Önügören<sup>2</sup>, representative of the Syrian Youth Assembly, who spoke at the United Nations about "Youth Sustaining Peace and Reconciliation."
- ✓ **Start campaigns** against armed violence, especially if you belong to an area that is not directly involved in an armed conflict at the moment.

<sup>1</sup> <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/MS.MIL.XPND.GD.ZS>

<sup>2</sup> <http://syrian-youth.net/en/spoke-at-the-united-nations-youth-event/>



### WHAT MEN CAN DO

*"If men care about women's rights the world will be a better place." – John Legend*

- **Lobby** to ensure that women are included in negotiations for peace, i.e. that their voices have an equitable representation at the negotiation table.
- The UN CEDAW Declaration from 1993, provides a framework for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. Find useful and creative ways to adapt the framework to your local settings.
- **Rally** against armed violence, don't just do it for your own sake, do it for your daughter, sister and/or partner.



#17daysWWSF #WomanR2P #SDG16 #MeToo

#### **Women, Peace and Security Resolution 1325 (2000)**

"Recognizing that an understanding of the impact of armed conflict on women and girls, effective institutional arrangements to guarantee their protection and full participation in the peace process can significantly contribute to the maintenance and promotion of international peace and security"

2019 - 17 Days Campaign for the Empowerment of Rural Women and their Communities 1-17 Oct.

WWSF - Women's World Summit Foundation, POB 5490 - 1211 Geneva 11 - Switzerland

Tel.: +41 (0) 22 738 66 19 - E-mail: [webmaster@woman.ch](mailto:webmaster@woman.ch) - [www.woman.ch](http://www.woman.ch)

## 14

# Claim your right to hold your leaders accountable

Updated version 2019

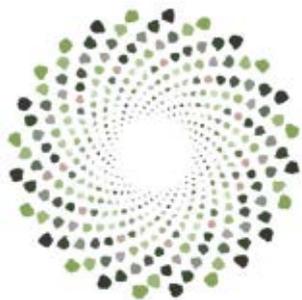
Dear Partners and Friends,

We refer to our introduction in the 2018 Kit

**“THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN HOLDING GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABLE: A PERSPECTIVE FROM THE WORLD BANK ON THE CONCEPT AND EMERGING PRACTICE OF SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY”**,

which can be visited online at:

[https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.istr.org/resource/resmgr/working\\_papers\\_toronto/malena\\_carmen.pdf](https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.istr.org/resource/resmgr/working_papers_toronto/malena_carmen.pdf)



JAI JAGAT 2020

## JAI JAGAT 2020 - ON THE MOVE FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE.

“Jai Jagat 2020 is a 10,000 km march beginning on October 2, 2019 at the resting grounds of Mahatma Gandhi in New Delhi, on the 150th anniversary of his birth, and proceeding across 16 countries (Pakistan, Iran, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia (Abkhazia), Bulgaria, Serbia, North Macedonia, Kosovo, Albania, Montenegro, Bosnia Herzegovina, Croatia and Italy) to Geneva, Switzerland.”

A march on this scale has never been done before. But the need has probably never been greater either.

### JaiJagat 4 pillars of change include:

- Eradication of poverty
- Eliminating Social Exclusion
- Ameliorating the Climate Crisis
- Halting conflict and violence

## JAIJAGAT CHARTER

### Vision

In the wake of the deepening economic, social and environmental crises, everywhere grows the desire for profound change in our way of life. The Jai Jagat campaign (“the victory of the World”) is working to achieve a benevolent World for the whole of the living, where “no one is left behind”.

### Mission

- To promote Gandhi's main message, namely non-violence, as a global transformation strategy and a way of living together.
- To make the Jai Jagat campaign, whose marches are an essential component, a tool for the convergence of the forces of change and individual, societal and institutional transformation.
- To promote the knowledge and emancipation of women, young people and the poor as essential actors of this campaign.
- To contribute to raising awareness on the global environmental, social and democratic challenges
- To build on the Sustainable Development Goals (Agenda 2030) to fulfil these missions.

### Values

- “Being the change we want to see in the world”
- Practice benevolence and care for each other
- To be for, to propose rather than to oppose
- Respect the ideal of openness, cooperation and inclusion of Jai Jagat in the service of the common good.

*“f you want a different world, do not be indifferent.”*

To learn more, visit:

<https://www.jaijagat2020.org/>

As of 2014, according to a study, 836 million people across the globe were still living below the poverty line, a tally that the UN is planning to reduce to as low as zero by 2030.<sup>2</sup>

About 114 million young people, still lack basic reading and writing skills. Two-thirds (63 percent) are women.<sup>3</sup>

Only half of women in developing regions receive the recommended amount of health care they need.<sup>4</sup>

In many countries, gender inequality persists and women continue to face discrimination in access to education, work and economic assets, and participation in government.<sup>5</sup>

Women in Northern Africa hold less than one in five paid jobs in the non-agricultural sector.<sup>6</sup>

Between 1990 and 2010, global emissions of all major greenhouse gases increased. Net emissions of carbon dioxide increased by 42 percent, which is particularly important because carbon dioxide accounts for about three-fourths of total global emissions.<sup>7</sup>

Children born into poverty are almost twice as likely to die before the age of five as those from wealthier families<sup>8</sup>

The maternal mortality ratio in the developing regions was 14 times higher than in the developed regions.<sup>9</sup>

The United Nations estimates that there are 2.5 billion people who still do not use an improved sanitation facility and a little over 1 billion practicing open defecation.<sup>10</sup>

More than four billion people do not use the Internet, and 90% of them are from the developing world. The gender gap in internet use reaches up to 29% in the least developed countries.<sup>11</sup>

36.7 million [30.8 million–42.9 million] people globally were living with HIV in 2016.<sup>12</sup>

2 - <http://www.mdgmonitor.org/sdg1-end-poverty-in-all-its-forms-everywhere/>, 3 - <https://www.compassion.com/poverty/education.html>, 4 - <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sustainable-development-goals/goal-3-good-health-and-well-being/targets.html>, 5 - <https://borgenproject.org/empowered-women-can-end-poverty/>, 6 - <http://kg.one.un.org/content/unct/kyrgyzstan/en/home/SDG/sdg5.html>, 7 - <https://www.epa.gov/climate-indicators/climate-change-indicators-global-greenhouse-gas-emissions>, 8 - <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sustainable-development-goals/goal-3-good-health-and-well-being/targets.html>, 9 - <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Development/SRD/development/Pages/RegionalConsultation.aspx>, 10 - <http://www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/sanitation.shtml>, 11 - <http://in.one.un.org/page/sustainable-development-goals/sdg-17/>, 12 - <http://www.unaids.org/en/resources/fact-sheet>

# 14

## Claim your right to hold your leaders accountable

### General Ideas for Action



#### Lobby

your government to fulfill the promises they have made and ensure rural women and their families and communities have the basic human rights they deserve

#### Educate

others on the obligations of your government to fulfill the commitments they have made in various conventions, treaties, and covenants

#### Ensure

that your government develops frameworks for guaranteeing your rights and monitors its progress

#### Put pressure

on your local and national officials to sign and ratify any existing international conventions, treaties, and covenants that have not yet been signed and ratified

#### Urge

Member States to incorporate recognition of women's human rights into constitutions/state legislation

#### Utilize

the media, social media and your creativity to have your rights realized and needs fulfilled on a national level

#### Promote

respect for International human rights including labor rights, the right to adequate food, shelter, health care, and social injustice

#### Organize

WALK THE TALK roundtables to discuss women's rights issues with leaders in your community and to hold them accountable for their promises



### WHAT YOUTH CAN DO

- ✓ **Operationalize** the full force of social media. Create hashtags and start campaigns, or simply use ours!
- ✓ **Find inspiration** in the work done by the young Accountability Advocates in Tanzania<sup>1</sup> who use data to hold their leaders accountable, generating data where there is none.
- ✓ **Gather information** on the sustainable development goals that are relevant to women and girls. Find creative ways to spread this information, especially in schools where young girls can learn about their rights and empower themselves.
- ✓ **Create self-help groups** in your locality where women can find a safe space to talk about their concerns with local leaders and help them draft strategies.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.one.org/us/2016/08/11/meet-the-young-people-using-data-to-hold-their-leaders-accountable/>

### WHAT MEN CAN DO



*"If men care about women's rights the world will be a better place." – John Legend*

- **Set-up** a local platform for women to send their views about the local and national leaders. Make sure that the review mechanism is taken seriously and that the leaders are also lobbied, so that they agree to take up the concerns mentioned.
- **Educate yourself** and others about the rights of women and girls, the policies that are in place to ensure those rights and fight for the goals stated in these policies to be achieved.
- **Make sure** that women have access to such information as well, so that they can empower themselves and hold their leaders accountable when they do not deliver on what has been rightfully promised to women and girls.

#17daysWWSF #WomanR2A #SDG5 ##SDG17

#### **Excerpt from "Who Will Be Accountable?" Human Rights and the Post-2015 Development Agenda (2012)**

"Shortfalls have occurred not because the goals are unreachable, or because time is too short. We are off course because of unmet commitments, inadequate resources and a lack of focus and accountability." — UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

#### **Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (1979) (CEDAW) Article 3**

"States Parties shall take in all fields, in particular in the political, social, economic and cultural fields, all appropriate measures, including legislation, to ensure the full development and advancement of women, for the purpose of guaranteeing them the exercise and enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms on a basis of equality with men."

#### **International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (1966) (ICESR) Article 3**

"The States Parties to the present Covenant undertake to ensure the equal right of men and women to the enjoyment of all economic, social and cultural rights set forth in the present Covenant."

2019 - 17 Days Campaign for the Empowerment of Rural Women and their Communities 1-17 Oct.

WWSF - Women's World Summit Foundation, POB 5490 - 1211 Geneva 11 - Switzerland

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# Celebrate Rural Women and the International Day!

Including the winners of the 2018 Prize for women's creativity in rural life

# 15



Dear Sisters living in rural communities,

The Women's World Summit Foundation (WWSF) is among many other global voices for rural women's empowerment and calls upon civil society, governments and the private sector to ensure that the world community acknowledges and supports the contributions rural women make in providing household food security, peace-building, sustaining the environment and protect local seeds for their agricultural produce.

The time has come that your empowerment becomes a key target of the new UN Sustainable Development Agenda 2030, adopted in 2015.

Since 1994, WWSF invites candidates and awards its Prize for women's creativity in rural life. This year again 10 prizewinners are awarded on 15 October – International Day of Rural Women, with a monetary award of US\$ 1000 per laureate for their creativity, courage and compassion in improving and advancing the quality of life in rural communities. 442 awards have been given since the inception of the Prize in 1994, and we hope that our humble empowerment will encourage many among you to continue efforts and move forward in your work to serve your families and communities. To read about prizewinners, check out our website <http://www.woman.ch> and send us candidates for the annual awards in 2020. Guidelines are published in this Kit and can be found on our website.

Since 1995, WWSF and many network partners annually commemorate the International Day of Rural Women – 15 October, a Day, which was originally launched at the 4th UN World Conference on Women's Conference in Beijing (1995) by several NGOs, including WWSF who took on the task to promote the Day and mobilize the UN member states to declare this day at the UN General Assembly a United Nations Day, which was achieved in 2007.

WWSF took the lead in making the World Rural Women's Day known by publishing an annual Open Letter to Rural Women of the world, highlighting their important contributions to rural development and peacebuilding, including their numerous challenges they have to overcome on a daily basis.

In 2015, WWSF initiated the 17 Days campaign for the empowerment of rural women leaders and their communities 1-17: Rural Women RISE and CLAIM your RIGHTS. This campaign reminds you every year in 17 themes of new information to empower you to demand the realization of the unfulfilled promises made at the 1995 Beijing conference, while at the same time implementing the newly adopted Sustainable Development Goals - Agenda 2030.

The 2019 Prizewinners will be announced on the 1st October with an invitation to the nominators of the selected candidates to organize, whenever possible, an award ceremony for the prizewinner's local community to increase visibility of rural women leaders and their projects benefitting their communities.

In the 21st century, investing in rural women and especially in women farmers is a vital additional step towards meeting the challenges of food production and ending hunger.

We thank you for your participation in commemorating 15 October, using the attached poster for the Day and registering your activities on the 17 Days campaign website.



In partnership, WWSF Board of Directors  
Elly Pradervand, President  
Gulzar Samji, Vice-President  
Jyoti Macwan, Member from India  
Anne Pélagie Yotchou, Member from Cameroon

## Stats & figures:

Rural women, mainly farmers, number at least 1.6 billion worldwide, and represent more than a quarter of the total world population.<sup>1</sup>

Rural women produce on average more than half of all the food that is grown: up to 80% in Africa, 60% in Asia, between 30 and 40% in Latin America and Western countries.<sup>2</sup>

In developing countries, women tend to work far longer hours than men. In Asia and Africa, studies have shown that women work as much as 13 hours more per week.<sup>3</sup>

Of the world's 774 million illiterate adults, 2/3 are women. The share of illiterate women has not changed for the past 20 years. Among the world's 123 million illiterate youth, 76 million are female.<sup>4</sup>

The number of rural women living in poverty nearly doubled over the past 20 years, and today women constitute at least 60 per cent of the world's 1 billion rural poor.<sup>5</sup>

## Sustainable Development Agenda 2030



**Goal 1.** "End poverty in all its forms everywhere."  
**Target 1.1** "by 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere."



## 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."

1 - <http://www.manage.gov.in/studymaterial/GM-E.pdf> 2 - <http://www.wfo-oma.org/women-in-agriculture/articles/the-role-of-rural-women-in-agriculture.html> 3 - <http://www.fao.org/worldfoodsummit/english/fsheets/women.pdf> 4 - <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/unesco/events/prizes-and-celebrations/celebrations/international-days/international-womens-day-2014/women-ed-facts-and-figure/> 5 - <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/dpibrochure.html>



**WWSF PRIZE**  
for women's  
creativity  
in rural life  
[www.woman.ch](http://www.woman.ch)  
**PRIX** pour  
la créativité  
des femmes  
en milieu rural



Award ceremonies  
Remise du Prix  
**15**  
Oct.  
**INTERNATIONAL**  
**DAY**  
of rural women  
[wwsf@wwsf.ch](mailto:wwsf@wwsf.ch)



## 2020 CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

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

[Deadline 30 April 2020](#)

Dear Partners and Friends,

The Women's World Summit Foundation (WWSF) cordially invites you to submit nominations for its 26th 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, **452** 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 <http://www.woman.ch>

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 2019 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 the launch of 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 guidelines. Your presentation of candidates, respecting the new guidelines, must reach our office no later than 30 April 2020 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+25 + SDG 5**, 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 2020.

Yours sincerely,  
Elly Pradervand, WWSF President / CEO / UN Representative

- Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Womens-World-Summit-Foundation/123455932640>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/wwsfoundation>
- LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/elly-pradervand-20b57516>
- Link to all Laureates: <https://womensection.woman.ch/index.php/en/list-of-442-prize-winners>
- YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/WWSFoundation>



**WWSF** - Women's World Summit Foundation, P.O.BOX 5490, 1211 Geneva 11, Switzerland  
E-mail: [wdpca@wwsf.ch](mailto:wdpca@wwsf.ch) - [www.woman.ch](http://www.woman.ch) - United Nations consultative status – (2018)  
**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  
(452 awards given so far – all laureates are published on the Internet -  
[www.woman.ch](http://www.woman.ch))



### Nomination Form 2020 Guidelines available online

<http://womensection.woman.ch/index.php/en/prize-for-rural-women>

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 \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to the Candidate: \_\_\_\_\_

#### List of supporting materials

- Endorsement letters
- Newspaper articles
- Publications
- Other (photos, videos, etc.)

#### International Prize Jury:

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

#### Next awards in 2020

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

WWSF Women's World Summit Foundation, POB 5490, 1211 Geneva 11, Switzerland  
Tel.: +41 (0) 22 738 66 19 Fax: +41 (0) 22 738 82 48 - [www.woman.ch](http://www.woman.ch) - [wdpca@wwsf.ch](mailto:wdpca@wwsf.ch)



# Celebrate Rural Women on the International Day!

# 15

The 2018 Prizewinners will be announced on 1 Oct.

## General Ideas for Action

### ● Raise

the profile of rural women and their communities

### ● Educate

both government and civil society organizations to their crucial yet largely unrecognized roles

### ● Promote

Initiatives on how to celebrate the International Day for Rural Women are left to individual organizations and communities, according to their own traditions. Action undertaken by rural and farming women

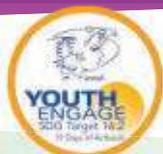
in all parts of the world on the very same day, in a spirit of solidarity and cooperation, will strengthen the impact for solidarity and cooperation

### ● Recognize

rural women actors, leaders and communities around the world, to start giving credit where it is due, on the World Day 15 October

### ● Organize

WALK THE TALK roundtables to discuss issues rural women face and hold your leaders accountable for their promises



## WHAT YOUTH CAN DO

- ✓ **Operationalize** the full force of social media. Create hashtags and start campaigns, or simply use ours!
- ✓ **Start simple.** Make sure the community you are a part of celebrates rural women on the international day. Put up informative posters, produce plays and organize an event to celebrate this day so that awareness can be generated about the key role rural women play in any given society.
- ✓ **Find inspiration** in 5 stories from rural India<sup>1</sup> that celebrate the work of women that fight all odds to achieve their right to equality, development and security.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.oxfamindia.org/featured-stories/five-stories-that-are-proof-that-women-are-breaking-stereotypes-in-rural-india>

## WHAT MEN CAN DO



*"If men care about women's rights the world will be a better place." – John Legend*

- **Recognize** the importance of the role rural women play in the community, especially as leaders, and lobby for them to be recognized by all.
- **Start** information campaigns to educate the local and national leaders about the contributions made by rural women to ensure that their role is recognized and appreciated.
- **Create** a network that not only supports rural women in their day-to-day activities but also creates a safe space for them to voice their concerns and be taken seriously.

#17daysWWSF #SDG1 #SDG5

### By ratifying the CEDAW Optional

**Protocol**, a State recognizes the competence of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women—the body that monitors States parties' compliance with the Convention—to receive and consider complaints from individuals or groups within its jurisdiction. <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/protocol/>

### Women's Right to Equality:

#### The Promise of CEDAW

<http://cedawsouthasia.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/12/The-Promise-of-CEDAW-final-pdf.pdf>



# 16

## Claim your right to food! Participate in the World Food Day!



### Dear Partners and Friends,

Hunger, like poverty, is still predominantly a rural problem, and among the rural population it is the #peasant farmers, small landholders, and landless workers who suffer disproportionately. #PeasantsRightsNow #WorldFoodDay #WorldBeyondBanks

On this day, we wish to inform you of your right to food. This invaluable basic human right has been acknowledged by national, regional, and international entities on a number of occasions since the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights. For thousands of years rural women have been the ones to feed their families, communities and the world. Yet, you do not receive the recognition, respect, support and protection you deserve.

Women make up 43% of the agricultural labor force in the developing world, and in some countries women account for 80% of the agricultural force.<sup>1</sup> Now is the time to remind your governments that in order to continue feeding your children, your communities and yourselves, they must fulfill the promises made and obligation they have to realize the right to food.

We highly recommend the outcome document **“Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls”**, 62nd UN session of the Commission on the Status of Women-CSW 2018 <http://undocs.org/en/E/CN.6/2018/L.8>

### Selected excerpts of Agreed conclusions

17. “The Commission reaffirms the right to food and recognizes the crucial contributions of rural women to local and national economies and to food production and to achieving food security and improved nutrition, in particular in poor and vulnerable households, and to the well-being of their families and communities, including through work on family farms and women-headed farm enterprises.”

“It expresses deep concern that, although women contribute significantly to food production worldwide,

women and girls are disproportionately affected by hunger and food insecurity, in part as a result of gender inequality and discrimination. It recognizes the critical role of women in both short- and long-term responses to food insecurity, malnutrition, excessive price volatility and food crises in developing countries.”

32: “The Commission notes with great concern that millions of people, including women and girls living in rural areas, are facing famine or the immediate risk of famine or are experiencing severe food insecurity in several regions of the world, and noting that armed conflicts, drought, poverty and the volatility of commodity prices are among the factors causing or exacerbating famine and severe food insecurity and that additional efforts, including international support, are urgently needed to address this, including in response to urgent United Nations humanitarian appeals for emergency aid and urgent funding.”

“Throughout the world, an estimated 795 million people still suffer from chronic hunger, and over 2 billion people suffer with micronutrient deficiencies from a lack of iron, vitamin A, vitamin C, and other important nutrients.”<sup>2</sup>

The right to food means that you have the right to availability and access to food that is adequate in both quantity and quality, fulfilling, corresponds with cultural diets, and helps you and your family grow both physically and mentally.

“A primary reason so many people throughout the world are either starving or malnourished is due to a basic lack of sufficient resources – such as seeds, water, tools, technology, credit and fertile land. Without a healthy and sufficient food supply physical and mental energy decreases, the immune system is compromised, human potential and productivity declines, and children are unable to develop to their full potential.”

**On 16 October, World Food Day**, WWSF encourages rural women’s groups to use the Day to advocate for the human right to food, and to show their community the impact that they have on the world’s food production.

**Link to the UN report Right to Food 2019**  
<https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G19/099/14/PDF/G1909914.pdf?OpenElement>

### Sustainable Development Agenda 2030



#### 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

“By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons.”

1 - Nierenberg, D. “The Future of Family Farming: Empowerment and Equal Rights for Women and Youth.” FAO 8 June, 2014 2 - [www.worldhunger.org/articles/Learn/world%20hunger%20facts%202002.htm](http://www.worldhunger.org/articles/Learn/world%20hunger%20facts%202002.htm). 3 - <https://blogs.iadb.org/sostenibilidad/en/2017/10/02/cual-es-el-rol-de-la-mujer-en-la-seguridad-alimentaria/> 4 - <http://www.fao.org/docrep/003/y6265e/y6265e03.htm>. 5 - <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/commission-on-the-status-of-women-2012/facts-and-figures>. 6 - <https://www.wfp.org/our-work/preventing-hunger/focus-women/women-hunger-facts>. 7 - <http://www.fao.org/docrep/x0262e/x0262e16.htm> 8 - <http://www.fao.org/state-of-food-security-nutrition> 9 - <https://www.wfp.org/our-work/preventing-hunger/focus-women/women-hunger-facts>

If women in rural areas had the same access to productive activities as men, agricultural and farming production would increase and we could feed approximately 150 million more people.<sup>3</sup>

Low birth weight means a high risk of illness and death during infancy and reduced work capacity and strength in adulthood.<sup>4</sup>

Gender inequality is a major cause and effect of hunger and poverty: it is estimated that 60 percent of chronically hungry people are women and girls.<sup>5</sup>

In some countries, tradition dictates that women eat last, after all the male members and children have been fed.<sup>6</sup>

On a global scale, women produce more than half of all the food that is grown. In sub-Saharan Africa and the Caribbean, they produce up to 80 percent of basic food stuffs. In Asia, they provide from 50 to 90 percent of the labour for rice cultivation. And in Southeast Asia and the Pacific as well as Latin America, women's home gardens represent some of the most complex agricultural systems known.<sup>7</sup>

There is more than enough food produced in the world to feed everyone, yet 815 million people go hungry.<sup>8</sup>

Around half of all pregnant women in developing countries are anemic. This causes around 110,000 deaths during childbirth each year.<sup>9</sup>

# 16

Claim your right to food!  
Participate in the World Food Day!

## General Ideas for Action



### Lobby

your government to provide rural women equal access to the necessary tools and resources needed to combat starvation and malnutrition

### Put pressure

on your local and national officials to fulfill the promises they made to realize your right to food

### Educate

others on their human right to food and let them know that they deserve clean, healthy, and adequate food

### Ensure

that food and its prices are not used as a means of political or economic pressure

### Utilize

the media, including social media, and your creativity to have your rights and needs for adequate food realized on a national level

### Promote

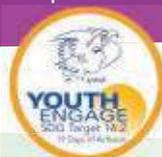
and educate others on healthy, diversified, and balanced diets throughout the life cycle

### Coordinate

crosscutting policies, programs, and initiatives in order to alleviate food insecurity

### Organize

WALK THE TALK roundtables to discuss ideas surrounding the right to food within your community



## WHAT YOUTH CAN DO

- ✓ **Operationalize** the full force of social media. Create hashtags and start campaigns, or simply use ours!
- ✓ **Feel inspired** by reading up on movements like World Vision's Famine movement<sup>1</sup>, where over 400,000 youth from 14 different countries got together to tackle the issues of hunger and poor nutrition.
- ✓ **Start** information campaigns that provide data attesting to the fact that there is a gender discrepancy in the way resources are allocated. Ensure that you give women and girls the ammunition they need to empower themselves and fight for an equitable distribution of resources.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.wvi.org/child-health-now/article/youth-fight-hunger-free-world-world-food-day>

#17daysWWSF #WomanR2F #SDG2

### **FAO – Second International Conference on Nutrition (2014)**

"We reaffirm that the elimination of malnutrition in all its forms is an imperative for health, ethical, political, social and economic reasons, paying particular attention to the special needs of children, women, the elderly, persons with disabilities, other vulnerable groups as well as people in humanitarian emergencies."

### **Declaration of the Rights of Peasants – Women and Men (2009) La Via Campesina**

"Recognizing and reaffirming that peasants are entitled without discrimination to all human rights recognized in International law."

### **International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (1966) General Comment No. 12**

"The right to adequate food is realized when every man, woman and child, alone or in community with others, have physical and economic access at all times to adequate food or means for its procurement."

## WHAT MEN CAN DO



"If men care about women's rights the world will be a better place." – John Legend

- **Find inspiration** in the collaboration established between the Women in Blue<sup>2</sup> and the men of their community, in Madhya Pradesh, India – collaboration that works towards fighting malnutrition in the region.
- **Lobby** your local government officials to ensure that women can exercise their right to food.
- **Find information** about women and girls' right to food and spread the information! Ensure that your daughter, sister and/or partner know of their own rights and can thus empower themselves.
- **Find** ways to support entrepreneurial initiatives lead by women and girls who wish to lobby for their right to food.

<sup>2</sup> <http://news.trust.org/item/20180409094845-ulyh7>

### **Women & the Right to Food – Intersectionalities of Rights**

Poverty, Extreme Poverty/Nutrition/Malnutrition  
Health – Physical & Mental/Reproductive Health  
Maternal & Infant Mortality/Disabilities  
Water & Sanitation/Education/Child Labor/ Child Marriage & Motherhood  
Forced Marriage/Preference for Males  
Land, Housing/Shelter/Land-Grabbing, Forced Evictions  
Homelessness – slums/War & Conflict  
Refugee Status/Internal Displacement  
Safety – Violence – Rape/Prostitution  
Trafficking/Lack of Social Support  
Political Volatility/Migration/Statelessness/Minority/Indigenous issues  
Culture & Traditions/Climate Change Issues/Natural Disasters  
Widows discrimination – Lifespan – Ageing Women – Survival  
[http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/RegularSession/Session22/AHRC2250\\_English.PDF](http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/RegularSession/Session22/AHRC2250_English.PDF)

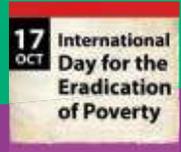
2019 - 17 Days Campaign for the Empowerment of Rural Women and their Communities 1-17 Oct.

WWSF - Women's World Summit Foundation, POB 5490 - 1211 Geneva 11 - Switzerland

Tel.: +41 (0) 22 738 66 19 - E-mail: [webmaster@woman.ch](mailto:webmaster@woman.ch) - [www.woman.ch](http://www.woman.ch)



# 17 Claim your right to an adequate standard of living. End Poverty!



Dear Partners and Friends,

Women of the world, we urge you today to call on your governments to recognize your right to an adequate standard of living. Now is the time to petition your government to eradicate poverty once and for all. You must lobby them to create and strengthen social protection floors to enable your communities to break out of the cycle of poverty.<sup>2</sup>

**Poverty amongst rural women is the highest in the world.** We call on you today, 17 October, to commemorate the **International Day for the Eradication of Poverty**, which promotes awareness of the need to eradicate extreme poverty and destitution in all countries, and honors those affected by it.

**Excerpt of the Special rapporteur's report (22 June 2018) - Prof. Philip Alston**

"Extreme poverty is a multidimensional phenomenon that encompasses much more than a lack of sufficient income alone. While many international actors still use measures based exclusively on income, such as the World Bank's \$1.25 a day definition, such approaches fail to capture the depth and complexity of extreme poverty and do not reflect the significant impact of poverty on the full enjoyment of human rights."

"For the Special Rapporteur, extreme poverty involves a lack of income, a lack of access to basic services and social exclusion (AHRC/7/15, para. 13). This accords closely with the United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) 'Multidimensional Poverty Index', which seeks to reflect multiple deprivations at the household level, including in health, schooling and living conditions. Using a multidimensional approach to poverty, the incidence of extreme poverty around the world is staggering."

Social protection include: basic social rights derived from various human rights treaties signed by your government, and include access to essential human services such as education, healthcare, income security, and food security.<sup>3</sup>

## Reducing inequality within and among countries

*Excerpt of the WMG 2019 Position Paper, p.20.*

"There are more than 700 million people, mostly women and young girls, living below the poverty line of 1.90 US\$ a day, accounting for about 10% or more of the world population. In sub-Saharan Africa and in South Asia, people living in poverty are about half and one-third of the total population, respectively. On average, income inequality increased by 11 % in developing countries between 1990 and 2010. These figures show that outcomes of economic growth are not distributed equally to all people. The economic inequality does not only have negative impacts on the stable growth and sustainability, but is also a factor for political instability and protracted wars."

"Inequalities also lead to more migration and movements of people from South to North, which imposes risk on their lives. This income inequality is on the rise, with the richest 10% earning up to 40% of the total global income. The poorest 10% earn only between 2% and 7% of total global income. Therefore, and at the current rate of progress, it may take 217 years to close the gender gap in employment opportunities and pay. These widening disparities require the adoption of sound policies to empower women, who are deemed as the bottom percentile of income earners, and promote economic inclusion of all regardless of gender identity, race, ethnicity, age, ability, class, or intersecting identities."

"They suffer from extreme poverty with shrinking social spaces and limited livelihood programs. Eighty percent of those affected by poverty live in rural areas, 40% are under 14 years old, and 40% lack access to formal education, while women are considered the most disadvantaged population group in this equation."

**85% of the world's poor live in rural areas, 70% of the poor are women.**<sup>4</sup>

An estimated 1.44 billion people who still live on less than US\$1.25 a day (the present internationally accepted poverty line).<sup>5</sup>

Rural areas account for three in every four people living on less than US\$1 a day.<sup>6</sup>

**1.06 billion people still lived without a basic service - electricity.**<sup>7</sup>

Of all the people across 105 countries who are MPI poor in 2014, 85% live in rural areas.<sup>8</sup>

**Globally 746 million people live in extreme poverty. In Africa alone 383 million.**<sup>9</sup>

**8.4 million people live without access to safe water.**<sup>10</sup>

**Approximately 82 percent of the money generated last year went to the richest 1 percent of the global population, the report said, while the poorest half saw no increase at all.**<sup>11</sup>

## Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 Goal 1: "End poverty in all its forms everywhere"



### Target 1.1

"By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day."

### Target 1.2

"By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and

children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions."

### Target 1.3

"Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measure for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the

poor and the vulnerable."

### Target 1.b

"Create sound policy frameworks at the national, regional and international levels, based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies, to support accelerated investment in poverty eradication actions."

2 - <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=15219&LangID=E>, 3 - [http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/features/WCMS\\_141818/lang-en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/features/WCMS_141818/lang-en/index.htm), 4 - <http://www.ophi.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Poverty-in-Rural-and-Urban-Areas-Direct-Comparisons-using-the-Global-MPI-2014.pdf>, 5 - <http://www.fao.org/docrep/015/i2490e/i2490e02c.pdf>, 6 - <http://www.globalissues.org/article/26/poverty-facts-and-stats>, 7 - <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2017/overview/>, 8 - <http://www.ophi.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Poverty-in-Rural-and-Urban-Areas-Direct-Comparisons-using-the-Global-MPI-2014.pdf>, 9 - <https://ourworldindata.org/extreme-poverty>, 10 - <https://water.org/our-impact/water-crisis/>, 11 - <https://www.cnbc.com/2018/01/22/wef-18-oxfam-says-worlds-richest-1-percent-get-82-percent-of-the-wealth.html>

# 17

Claim your right to an adequate standard of living. End Poverty!

## General Ideas for Action



- **Lobby**  
your government to accelerate implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action as well as regional-level declarations on poverty reduction
- **Educate**  
others on their human right to social services and right to development
- **Ensure**  
that you are granted the same economic opportunities and benefits from your local and national governments as men
- **Address and work to eliminate discrimination**  
in loans, resource allocation, inheritance, health benefits, educational opportunities, skill training, and employment
- **Promote**  
anti-poverty programs that improve access to food and water for women living in poverty
- **Demand**  
that strong linkages between the Beijing Platform for Action, post-2015 agenda, and the Sustainable Development Goals are maintained and promoted
- **Hold**  
rallies, conferences, and events to advocate and show to your government that you demand to have your rights realized
- **Inform**  
your communities on the growing inequality gap between rich and poor and demand your governments to take action



### WHAT YOUTH CAN DO

- ✓ **Operationalize** the full force of social media. Create hashtags and start campaigns, or simply use ours!
- ✓ **Find inspiration** in the words of young women that demand for better implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, such as the Young Feminists' statement for the 59th Commission on the Status of Women.
- ✓ **Find information** on the gap between the gains made by the world's poorest and the richest from the annual increase in global wealth. Start campaigns to find creative ways to reduce this gap!

<sup>1</sup> <https://iwhc.org/resources/young-feminists-statement-for-the-59th-commission-on-the-status-of-women/>



### WHAT MEN CAN DO

*"If men care about women's rights the world will be a better place." – John Legend*

- **Ensure** that your daughter, sister and/or partner has all the information she needs to empower herself through the knowledge of her right to an adequate standard of living.
- **Create** social networks for women; especially from the rural communities in your local environment, to find a safe space to talk about the hindrances they face in exercising this right. Brainstorm with them to find solutions and approach the local authorities with your ideas!

#17daysWWSF #WomanR2SofL #SDG1

#### **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015) Preamble 24**

"All people must enjoy a basic standard of living, including through social protection systems."

#### **Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) (1979) Article 14.2 (h)**

"States Parties shall undertake all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in rural areas in order to ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women, that they participate in and benefit from rural development and, in particular, shall ensure to such women the right ... (h) to enjoy adequate living conditions, particularly in relation to housing, sanitation, electricity and water supply, transport and communications."

2019 - 17 Days Campaign for the Empowerment of Rural Women and their Communities 1-17 Oct.

WWSF - Women's World Summit Foundation, POB 5490 - 1211 Geneva 11 - Switzerland

Tel.: +41 (0) 22 738 66 19 - E-mail: webmaster@woman.ch - www.woman.ch

# Additional Resources for the 17 Days Campaign

“Rural women are active agents of economic and social change and environmental protection who are, in many ways and to various degrees, constrained in their roles as farmers, producers, investors, caregivers and consumers. They play crucial roles ensuring food and nutrition security, eradicating rural poverty and improving the well-being of their families yet continue to face serious challenges as a result of gender-based stereotypes and discrimination that deny them equitable access to opportunities, resources, assets and services.”

## UN Women

UN WOMEN - ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018

<http://www.unwomen.org/-/media/annual%20report/attachments/sections/library/un-women-annual-report-2017-2018-en.pdf?la=en&vs=2849>

UN WOMEN – ANNUAL REPORT 2016-2017

<http://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications>

UN WOMEN- Report of CSW61 and analysis of the agreed conclusions

<http://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2017/5/report-of-csw61-and-analysis-of-the-agreed-conclusions>

UN WOMEN - Issue brief: Making the SDGs count for women and girls with disabilities

<http://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2017/6/issue-brief-making-the-sdgs-count-for-women-and-girls-with-disabilities>

UN WOMEN - Understanding masculinities, results from the International Men and Gender Equality Study in the Middle East and North Africa

<http://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2017/5/understanding-masculinities-results-from-the-images-in-the-middle-east-and-north-africa>

UN WOMEN - Corporate evaluation of UN Women's strategic partnerships for gender equality and the empowerment of women: Final synthesis report

<http://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2017/5/corporate-evaluation-un-women-strategic-partnerships-for-gender-equality-and-empowerment-of-women>

<http://eca.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2017/07/a-day-in-the-life-of-a-rural-woman>

## IFAD

Gender News: <https://www.ifad.org/home>

“Women's Economic Empowerment and Agribusiness: Opportunities for the Gender Transformative Agenda.”

2017 - ENGLISH PUBLICATIONS

IFAD Annual Report 2017

[https://www.ifad.org/documents/38714170/40324464/AR2017\\_fullreport\\_e\\_W.pdf/1a9f6c5b-f8dc-4318-98da-4530dd9ca575](https://www.ifad.org/documents/38714170/40324464/AR2017_fullreport_e_W.pdf/1a9f6c5b-f8dc-4318-98da-4530dd9ca575)

IFAD – Sending Money Home

<https://www.ifad.org/documents/36783902/4a5640d9-e944-4a8c-8007-a1bc461416e6>

IFAD - Grant Results Sheet: CABI - Plantwise: A country-based approach to improve farmer livelihoods through reduced crop losses and increased productivity

<https://www.ifad.org/documents/10180/abaf25d5-8e6d-4f3e-866f-bfea21d0e6ce>

IFAD - Mapping Nutrition-Sensitive Interventions in East and Southern Africa (ESA)

<https://www.ifad.org/documents/10180/d697e143-e326-4b9a-b81e-c65e4277e468>

IFAD – Investing in rural people in India

<https://www.ifad.org/documents/10180/fc8d61ad-8f19-43de-b865-ae5e87e21f0d>

2017- PUBLICATIONS EN FRANCAIS

IFAD- Investir dans les populations rurales en République islamique de Mauritanie

<https://www.ifad.org/documents/10180/cba75158-f028-4e4e-b568-990a7ed78d44>

IFAD. <https://www.ifad.org/pub/overview>

## FAO

FAO Publications Catalogue 2018

<http://www.fao.org/3/I9004EN/i9004en.pdf>

FAO Publications Catalogue 2017

<http://www.fao.org/3/b-i6407e.pdf>

FAO - Climate change, agriculture and food security

<http://www.fao.org/publications/sofa/2016/en/>

FAO - Social protection and agriculture: breaking the cycle of rural poverty

<http://www.fao.org/publications/sofa/2015/en/>

Videos

FAO - The State of Food and Agriculture 2016 (SOFA)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2QGIs53\\_fdm](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2QGIs53_fdm)

FAO. International year of Pulses - <http://www.fao.org/pulses-2016/resources/fao-publications/en/>

FAO. A Journey through all regions of the planet and recipes from some of the most prestigious chefs in the world - 2016

FAO - [Dimitra@fao.org](mailto:Dimitra@fao.org)

Dimitra Newsletter

## CEDAW

CEDAW. 2016. General Recommendation No.34 on the Rights of Rural Women [http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CEDAW/Shared%20Documents/1\\_Global/INT\\_CEDAW\\_GEC\\_7933\\_E.pdf](http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CEDAW/Shared%20Documents/1_Global/INT_CEDAW_GEC_7933_E.pdf)

CEDAW Guidebook on General Recommendation n°30

<http://www.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/library/publications/2015/guidebook-cedawgeneralrecommendation30-womenpeacesecurity-en.pdf?vs=4201>

# Selected World Days to use for advocacy

“Human rights matter because they are dependent on only one thing: being human.”

**06 February** – International Day of Zero Tolerance of FGM

**10 February** – Safer Internet Day

**13 February** – World Radio Day: Women & Radio

**8 March** – International Women’s Day

**22 March** – World Earth Day

**10 May** – Mother’s Day

**16 May** – Global Day of Citizen Action

**21 May** – World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development

**19 June** – International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict

**26 June** – International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

**30 July** – World Day against Trafficking in Persons

**09 August** – International Day of the Indigenous Peoples

**12 August** – **International Youth Day**

**8 September** – International Literacy Day

**21 September** – International Day of Peace

**02 October** – International Day of Non-Violence

**11 October** – International Day of the Girl Child

**15 October** – **International Day of Rural Women (Day to celebrate Rural Women and their communities)**

**16 October** – **World Food Day (Day to celebrate Women food producers)**

**17 October** – **International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (Day to make ending extreme poverty a priority)**

**18 October** – European Anti-Trafficking Day

**24 October** – UN Day

**25 November** – **International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women**

**01 December** – World AIDS Day

**03 December** – International Day of Persons with Disabilities

**10 December** – **Human Rights Day**

**12 December** – World Health Coverage Day

**20 December** – International Human Solidarity Day



10 December

# Selected videos to support campaign activities

## CEDAW

- **CEDAW – A Superhero for Women in Scotland**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uP3d4DOoqLo>  
 Relevant Themes: Violence against Women (12 Oct)

- **Principle of Non Discrimination—CEDAW**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OBdDB5PKrmk>  
 Relevant themes: All

- **Principle of State Obligation—CEDAW**  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FKYM7g\\_gFRA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FKYM7g_gFRA)  
 Relevant themes: All

- **Principle of Substantive Equality—CEDAW**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SZR0RJtghyY>  
 Relevant themes: All

## UN Women

- **Empowering Women – Empowering Humanity: Picture it!—UN Women**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dBbWcL87rDU>  
 Relevant themes: All

- **Putting the Women's Agenda as a Priority—UN Women**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=co3-Uech1Fc>

## FAO

- **Women: Key to Achieving food security in Cambodia**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kWXKzBOhdbE&spfrelload=5>

Relevant Themes: Food (16 Oct); Development (1 Oct); Health (4 Oct)  
 Economic Development, Credit, Fair Pay, Financial Autonomy (8 Oct);  
 Decision-making (11 Oct); Security and Safety (12 Oct); Peace (13 Oct)

- **Safe Markets for Women Vendors in Papua New Guinea—UN Women**  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e\\_ZQ3\\_kziEg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e_ZQ3_kziEg)  
 Relevant themes: Economic Development, Credit, Fair Pay, Financial Autonomy  
 (8 Oct (Security and Safety (12 Oct), Peace (13 Oct)

## IFAD

- In particular Papua: Woman Power  
 Nepal: Sunita Weaves  
 Burkina Faso: Waiting for the rain  
 Gambia: The Chief  
 Burundi: Justice for Maura  
 Madagascar: Abeline's field of gold / Rose's new job / Dream Weaver / Teatime with Bernadette / Faustina's Fortune / Howa's Chance: Three Sisters  
<http://www.ifad.org/media/>

# Additional Resources by theme

## Right to Development

### → International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Reform

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CESCR.aspx>

### → Vienna Declaration and Program of Action

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/Vienna.aspx>

### → Rio Declaration on Environment and Development

<http://www.un.org/documents/ga/conf151/aconf15126-1annex1.htm>

### → ICPD Beyond 2014 Framework of Action

<http://www.unfpa.org/fr/node/9006>

### → Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CEDAW.aspx>

### → Beijing Platform for Action

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/pdf/BDPfA%20E.pdf>

### → The Global Gender Gap Report 2014

[http://www3.weforum.org/docs/GGGR14/GGGR\\_CompleteReport\\_2014.pdf](http://www3.weforum.org/docs/GGGR14/GGGR_CompleteReport_2014.pdf)

## Right to education for you and your children

### → Goal 4 of the SDGs

<http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/education/>

### → World Education Forum 2015

<en.unesco.org/world-education-forum-2015>

### → CEDAW Convention

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CEDAW.aspx>

### → Beijing Platform for Action

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/pdf/BDPfA%20E.pdf>

### → The Global Gender Gap Report 2017

### International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Reform

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CESCR.aspx>

## Right to safe water

### → Goal 6 of the SDGs

<sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg6>

### → Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CEDAW.aspx>

### → International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CESCR.aspx>

### → Beijing Platform for Action

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/platform/enviro.htm>

### → UN HCR Right to Water Fact Sheet No. 35

<http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/FactSheet35en.pdf>

### → UN Water.org

[http://www.unwater.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/unwater\\_new/docs/water\\_and\\_gender.pdf](http://www.unwater.org/fileadmin/user_upload/unwater_new/docs/water_and_gender.pdf)

### → IPS Inter Press Service

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2017/03/featured-video-world-water-day/>

## Right health and wellbeing

### → Goal 3 of the SDGs

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/SDG3>

### → WHO Statistics 2016

[http://www.who.int/gho/publications/world\\_health\\_statistics/2016/EN\\_WHS2016\\_TOC.pdf?ua=1](http://www.who.int/gho/publications/world_health_statistics/2016/EN_WHS2016_TOC.pdf?ua=1)

### → Constitution of the World Health Organization

[http://www.who.int/governance/eb/who\\_constitution\\_en.pdf](http://www.who.int/governance/eb/who_constitution_en.pdf)

[http://www.who.int/gho/publications/world\\_health\\_statistics/2016/EN\\_WHS2016\\_TOC.pdf?ua=1](http://www.who.int/gho/publications/world_health_statistics/2016/EN_WHS2016_TOC.pdf?ua=1)

## → Right to Sexual and Reproductive Health

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=17168&LangID=E>

### → General Comment No. 22

[http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/\\_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=E%2fC.12%2fGC%2f22&Lang=en](http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=E%2fC.12%2fGC%2f22&Lang=en)

### → UN Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Health/Pages/SRRRightHealthIndex.aspx>

### → International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CESCR.aspx>

### → Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CEDAW.aspx>

## Housing

### → Cambodia: Women Protecting Their Properties

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D23U0wPYy24>

### → SDG 11

<sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg11>

### → Statement by UN Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=15219&LangID=E>

### → UNHCR Right to Adequate Housing Fact Sheet No. 21

[http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/FS21\\_rev\\_1\\_Housing\\_en.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/FS21_rev_1_Housing_en.pdf)

### → Women and adequate housing: study by the special rapporteur on adequate housing as a component on the right to an adequate standard of living

[http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Housing/A-HRC-19-53\\_en.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Housing/A-HRC-19-53_en.pdf)

### → The Right to Housing – CETIM

<http://www.cetim.ch/en/documents/bro7-log-A4-an.pdf>

### → Cambodia: Women Protecting Their Properties

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D23U0wPYy24>

## Right to live in a clean environment

### → SDGs 7, 12

<http://www.sustainabledevelopment.un.org>

### → Rio Declaration on Environment and Development

<http://www.un.org/documents/ga/conf151/aconf15126-1annex1.htm>

### → Beijing Platform (Section K on 'Women and the Environment')

<http://www.un.org/esa/gopher-data/conf/fwcw/off/a--20.en>

### → Aarhus Convention

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/aarhus/>

### → UNEP Human Rights and the Environment

<http://www.unep.org/delc/Portals/119/JointReportOHCHRandUNEPonHumanRightsandtheEnvironment.pdf>

### Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development

<http://www.un-documents.net/jburgdec.htm>

## Right to mitigate and adapt to climate change

### → PRINCIPLES OF CLIMATE JUSTICE

<http://www.mrfcj.org/principles-of-climate-justice/>

### → Climate 2020: Facing the Future

<http://www.una.org.uk/news/15/06/climate-2020-facing-future>

### → Goal 13 of the SDGs

<sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg13>

### → 2015 Paris Agreement

# Additional Resources by theme

Cont'd.

[unfccc.int/resource/docs/2015/cop21/eng/l09r01.pdf](http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2015/cop21/eng/l09r01.pdf)

## → Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment

→ <http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?documentid=97&articleid=1503>

## → Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Fifth Assessment Report

<http://www.ipcc.ch>

## → Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development: Our Common Future

<http://www.un-documents.net/our-common-future.pdf>

## → Rio Declaration on Environment and Development

<http://www.un.org/documents/ga/conf151/aconf15126-1annex1.htm>

## → Women and Climate Change-Time to change

<http://cdkn.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/CDKN-gender-and-cc-final.pdf>

## Right to economic development and financial autonomy

### → Oxfam Novib (Balanced trees bear richer fruit

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ZWgm6ZYMUU>

### → Empowering Women in Rural India—BBC

<http://www.bbc.com/news/business-23194487>

### → Goal 1, 8 of the SDGs

<http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/>

### → Facts ad Figures

<http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/economic-empowerment/facts-and-figures>

### → International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CESCR.aspx>

### → Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CEDAW.aspx>

### → International Remuneration Convention (ILO)

[http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::P12100\\_Ilo\\_Code:C100](http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::P12100_Ilo_Code:C100)

### → Discrimination Convention (ILO)

[http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::P12100\\_ILO\\_CODE:C111](http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::P12100_ILO_CODE:C111)

### → Workers with Family Responsibilities Convention (ILO)

[http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO:12100:P12100\\_INSTRUMENT\\_ID:312301:NO](http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO:12100:P12100_INSTRUMENT_ID:312301:NO)

## Right to Information and Communication technology

### → Women and Media: Christiane Amanpour

[http://www.unesco.org/archives/multimedia/?s=films\\_de-tails&pg=33&id=2978](http://www.unesco.org/archives/multimedia/?s=films_de-tails&pg=33&id=2978)

### → Goal 5, 9 of the SDGs

[sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs](http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs)

### → Intel Foundation Report: Women and the Web

<http://www.intel.com/content/dam/www/public/us/en/documents/pdf/women-and-the-web.pdf>

### → Beijing Platform for Action

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/pdf/BDPfA%20E.pdf>

### → The Universal Declaration of Human Rights

<http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/>

### → Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CEDAW.aspx>

## → World Summit on the Information Society Geneva Declaration of Principles

[http://www.itu.int/dms\\_pub/itu-s/md/03/wsis/doc/S03-WSIS-DOC-0004!!PDF-E.pdf](http://www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-s/md/03/wsis/doc/S03-WSIS-DOC-0004!!PDF-E.pdf)

## → Report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression (2011)

<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/docs/17session/A>

## Right to Land

### → My Community: Field or Famine—WorldFish

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SOm5bVtNjrU>

### → Rural Women: Face the Facts—WorldFish

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kfQ27Dx3k8Y>

### → Goal 2, 5 of the SDGs

[sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs](http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs)

### → Universal Declaration of Human Rights

<http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/index.shtml - atop>

### → International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

<http://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/ccpr.aspx>

### → Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/text/econvention.htm>

### → Rome Declaration and Plan of Action

<http://www.fao.org/docrep/003/w3613e/w3613e00.HTM>

### → UN Women: Facts and Figures

<http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/commission-on-the-status-of-women-2012/facts-and-figures>

### → UN Women: Realizing Women's Rights to Land and other Productive Resources

<http://www.ohchr.org/documents/publications/realizingwomensrightstoland.pdf>

### → Goal 5, 10 and 16 of the SDGs

[sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs](http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs)

### → Convention Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/text/econvention.htm>

### → FAO at Work – Women – key to food security

<http://www.fao.org/docrep/014/am719e/am719e00.pdf>

### → Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

[http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/pdf/BDPfA\\_E.pdf](http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/pdf/BDPfA_E.pdf)

### → Intl. Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CESCR.aspx>

### → FAO – Rural women and access to justice

<http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/CEDAW/AccessToJustice/FAO.pdf>

### → Geneva Declaration for Rural Women

<http://www.un-documents.net/gdrw.htm>

## Right to decision making and leadership

### → Goal 5, 10 and 16 of the SDGs

[sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs](http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs)

### → Convention Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/text/econvention.htm>



# Additional Resources by theme

Cont'd.

## →FAO at Work – Women – key to food security

<http://www.fao.org/docrep/014/am719e/am719e00.pdf>

## →Intl. Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CESCR.aspx>

## →FAO – Rural women and access to justice

<http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/CEDAW/AccessToJustice/FAO.pdf>

## →Geneva Declaration for Rural Women

<http://www.un-documents.net/gdrw.htm>

## Violence Against Women

### →Goal 5, 16 of the SDGs

[sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs](http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs)

### →Declaration Elimination of Violence against Women

<http://www.un.org/documents/ga/res/48/a48r104.htm>

### →Report Special Rapporteur on violence against women 2016

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Women/SRWomen/Pages/SRWomenIndex.aspx>

### →Convention against torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CAT.aspx>

### →Handbook Legislation on Violence Against Women (UN)

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/vaw/handbook/Handbook%20for%20legislation%20on%20violence%20against%20women.pdf>

### →WHO interagency statement on eliminating FGM

<http://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/publications/fgm/9789241596442/en/>

### →Declaration Elimination of Violence Against Women

<http://www.un.org/documents/ga/res/48/a48r104.htm>

### →UN Women 2013 Commission Status of Women Agreed Conclusions

<http://www.unwomen.org/~media/headquarters/attachments/sections/csw/57/csw57-agreedconclusions-a4-en.pdf>

### →Report Special Rapporteur violence against women, its causes and consequences

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Women/SRWomen/Pages/SRWomenIndex.aspx>

[Girls Not Brides – The Global Partnership to End Child Marriage](http://www.girlsnotbrides.org)

<http://www.girlsnotbrides.org>

### →Ted Talks – We Need to Talk about Sexual Violence

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HPJfBqoNH7Q>

### →Violence Against Women-It's a Men's Issue

[http://www.ted.com/talks/jackson\\_katz\\_violence\\_against\\_women\\_it\\_s\\_a\\_men\\_s\\_issue?language=en](http://www.ted.com/talks/jackson_katz_violence_against_women_it_s_a_men_s_issue?language=en)

### →Too Young to Wed: The Secret World of Child Brides

<http://tooyoungtowed.org/-/videos>

## Right to Peace

### →Goal 16 of the SDGs

[sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg16](http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg16)

→Please find below links to research guides containing resources (UN Documents, non-UN publications, databases, and websites) by type of weapon: Biological weapons, Chemical weapons, Nuclear weapons, Conventional weapons, Landmines and Explosive Remnants of War.

<http://libraryresources.unog.ch/disarmament/global>

## Food

### →Rethink World Hunger – thp

[http://www.thp.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Rethink-World-Hunger\\_FINAL.mp4](http://www.thp.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Rethink-World-Hunger_FINAL.mp4)

## Right to hold your Leaders accountable

### →Goal 5, 17 of the SDGs

[sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg5](http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg5)

### →Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/text/econvention.htm>

### →International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESR)

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CESCR.aspx>

### →International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

<http://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/ccpr.aspx>

### →Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties

[https://treaties.un.org/doc/Publication/UNTS/Volume\\_1155/volume-1155-I-18232-English.pdf](https://treaties.un.org/doc/Publication/UNTS/Volume_1155/volume-1155-I-18232-English.pdf)

### →Who Will Be Accountable? Human Rights and the Post-2015 Development Agenda (UN)

<http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/WhoWillBeAccountable.pdf>

## Celebrate Rural Women and the International Day

### →Women's Right to Equality: The Promise of CEDAW

<http://cedawsouthasia.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/12/The-Promise-of-CEDAW-final-pdf.pdf>

## Right to food

### →Goal 16 of the SDGs

[sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg2](http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg2)

### →Second International Conference on Nutrition, Rome Declaration on Nutrition 2011

<http://www.fao.org/3/a-ml542e.pdf>

### →Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CEDAW.aspx>

### →The Global Gender Gap Report 2014

[http://www3.weforum.org/docs/GGGR14/GGGR\\_CompleteReport\\_2014.pdf](http://www3.weforum.org/docs/GGGR14/GGGR_CompleteReport_2014.pdf)

### →International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CESCR.aspx>

### →IFAD 2014 Annual Report

<http://www.ifad.org/story/feature/ar2014/index.htm>

### →Website UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Food/Pages/FoodIndex.aspx>

### →Rethink World Hunger – thp

[http://www.thp.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Rethink-World-Hunger\\_FINAL.mp4](http://www.thp.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Rethink-World-Hunger_FINAL.mp4)

## Right to an adequate standard of living

### →Goal 1 of the SDGs

[sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg1](http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg1)

### →Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (1992)

<http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=78&ArticleID=1163>

### →Report of the World Summit for Social Development (1995)

<http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N95/116/51/PDF/N9511651.pdf?OpenElement>

# Excerpts of selected messages in support of WWSF initiatives

## 1997 - Hon. Gertrude Mongella, SG of the Fourth UN International Women's Conference, Beijing 1995

"Dear Elly, Your work with WWSF is recognized worldwide. You have worked tirelessly for the advancement of women in different regions promoting and rewarding successful initiatives of women particularly in community based rural areas..."

## 1997 - UNESCO

"... The Director of the UNESCO Women and Culture of Peace Program, Ms. Ingeborg Breines, would like to congratulate the Women's World Summit Foundation for organizing the eventful celebrations to mark the World Rural Women's Day on 15 October..."

## 1997 – President of the United States of America, Bill Clinton

"... Our world has been continually uplifted and renewed by the contributions of women of courage and conscience, women of strength and compassion, women of vision and talent have enriched every aspect of international society. (...) I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim October 15, 1997, as International Rural Women's Day in the United States...Hillary joins me in extending best wishes to all."

## 1998 – Former High Commissioner for Human Rights – Mary Robinson

"... I am grateful to you for having dedicated this Rural Women's Day to the 50th Anniversary, and to human rights at large. It highlights the importance of the Declaration for rural women and manifests its universal nature... I offer you my best wishes for productive and rewarding results of your meeting and wish you happiness and satisfaction..."

## 1998 – M. Robert Kramer, Minister of Agriculture and the Environment of the Geneva State Council

"... Au nom du Conseil d'Etat de la République et Canton de Genève, je tiens tout d'abord à vous saluer et à vous dire à quel point nous sommes honorés que vous ayez choisi Genève pour distribuer ce prix qui distingue chaque année un certain nombre de femmes pour leurs actions en milieu rural. Je tiens à vous dire que nous sommes honoré par votre présence et que nous nous sentons modestes lorsque nous voyons ce que les lauréates qui sont distinguées aujourd'hui ont accompli..."

## 1998 – Angela E.V. King, Assistant UN SG-Special Adviser on Gender Issues & Advancement of Women

"... The celebration of World Rural Women's Day – 15 October provides an opportunity to honor women who have contributed to the spirit of the Beijing Platform for Action and to remind the world how much we owe to rural women and to give credit and value to their work. I hope it will proclaim the essential message to the need for immediate and determined actions for the advancement of rural women ..."

## 1998 and 2000 - Dr. Nafis Sadik, former Executive Director United Nations Population Fund

"... I wish to extend my congratulations to the Women's World Summit Foundation on organizing the World Rural Women's Day. Such a day is an important opportunity to recognize the contributions that rural women make to the welfare of their families.... On behalf UNFPA, and on my own behalf, I would like to convey my best wishes to all the participants who have come to Geneva to celebrate this day... This is a first necessary step on the way to empowering women."

"... Keep up the good work! Advance the dignity of women. Help them to achieve their goals! We applaud you, and in our own way, we support every single woman, wherever she lives, however she is managing to improve lives of those around her..."



# Cont'd: Excerpts of selected messages in support of WWSF initiatives

## **2002** – Letter from James T. Morris, former Director, World Food Program

“... Thank you for your continued collaboration in addressing and meeting the needs of hungry poor people...”. Let me take this opportunity to congratulate the prize winners and express my appreciation for their achievements in favor of rural women...”

## **2002** – Statement by the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva, Mr. Vladimir Petrovsky, at the opening of the WWSF - Exhibition “Vision de Femmes”

“... It is a great pleasure to welcome you all to the Palais des Nations for the opening of this exhibition honoring the recipients of the Women’s World Summit Foundation’s Prize for Women’s creativity in rural life and celebrating the vision and talent of women in rural areas in developing countries... The empowerment of women is a means of empowering whole nations...”

## **2003** – Graca Machel - Fundacao Para Desenvolvimento Da Comunidade

“I salute you today, the 15 October 2003, World Rural Women’s Day, which is being celebrated world wide. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the important efforts made by the Women’s World Summit Foundation (WWSF) to galvanize the commemoration of this day globally. The use of the annual Open Letter to Rural Women of the world is an important instrument to educate the community at large and remind rural women of their rights. I commend the Prize awarded for women’s creativity in rural life, awarded since 1994 to creative and courageous community leaders who take on education and training of thousands of rural women who are the actors of local and national development and food production. Rural women need to become visible and reckoned with if governments want to eradicate poverty since 70% of the poor live in rural communities...”

## **2003** – Thoraya Ahmed Obaid, former Executive Director of UNFPA – United Nations Population Fund

“... UNFPA salutes the past and present prizewinners for women’s creativity in rural life. Working together we can build a world where the creativity and diversity of humankind are celebrated, and the human rights of women and children are fully respected...”

## **2003** – Bertrand G. Ramcharan, former Acting UN High Commissioner for Human Rights – Palais Wilson, Geneva

“... The empowerment of women requires that we give priority to the obligation Governments have accepted to guarantee to all full access to education, as education is not only a right in itself, but an indispensable means of realizing all other human rights...”

**2011** – Michelle Bachelet, former CEO of UN Women “... I congratulate the Women’s World Summit Foundation on your 20th anniversary as you celebrate women’s creativity in rural life. ... There is no limit to what women can accomplish when we set our minds to it. And the women honored tonight are a case in point, and they are an inspiration to all of us...”

## **2015** – Message from IFAD

# Useful publications by CETIM

<http://www.cetim.ch/blog/en>

The Human Rights Program of the **Centre Europe -Tiers Monde (CETIM)** is dedicated to the defense and promotion of all human rights, a commitment based on the principle that human rights are totally inseparable and indivisible. Within that commitment, however, the CETIM has a particular focus on economic social and cultural rights and the right to development, still much neglected in our times, even if not denied completely. Its objective includes combating the impunity accompanying the numerous violations of these rights and helping the communities, social groups and movements victimized by these violations to be heard and to obtain redress.

Through this series of informational brochures, the CETIM hopes to provide a better knowledge of the documents (conventions treaties, declarations, etc.) and existing official instruments to all those engaged in the struggle for the advancement of human rights.

Already published in the CETIM Series:

- *The Right to Food (2005)*
- *Transnational Corporations and Human Rights (2005)*
- *The case for a Protocol to the ICESCR) (2005)*
- *The Right to Health (2006)*
- *Internally Displaced Persons (2007)*
- *The Right to Development (2007)*
- *The Right to Housing (2007)*
- *Debt and Human Rights (2007)*
- *War on Terrorism and respect for Human Rights (2007)*
- *The Right to Work (2008)*
- *The Right to Education (2009)*
- *The Right of Peoples to Self-Determination (2010)*
- *The Right to Non-Discrimination (2011)*
- *The Right to Social Security (2012)*
- *Cultural Rights (2013)*
- *The Right to Land (2014)*
- *Le commerce, c'est la guerre (2015)*
- *Transnational corporations' impunity (2016)*
- *La passion du schiste. Capitalisme, démocratie, environnement en Argentine (2016)*
- *La souveraineté au service des peuples suivi de L'agriculture paysanne, la voie de l'avenir! (2017)*
- *La Déclaration de l'ONU sur les droits des paysan.ne.s (2019)*

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# Attention to registered Coalition Members:

We thank you in advance for sending us a brief report of your 2018 activities during the 17 Days Campaign.

## Guidelines for your activity report

Dear Coalition Members,

We thank all registered coalition members in advance for sending WWSF a brief activity report of their participation in the 17 Days Campaign 1-17 October. WWSF will select and publish excerpts from your reports on its website and promote activities at United Nations events and lobby UN member states to comply with promises made to rural women of the world.

In order to learn more about the activities of coalition member organizations, and to share the impact of your advocacy work Beijing+23 and activities, WWSF kindly asks that each registered organization submits an Activity Report to be sent via email to [webmaster@woman.ch](mailto:webmaster@woman.ch).

WWSF will include a summary of your activities in the **17 Days Global Impact Report 2018** and publish it online together with selected photos, videos, and press releases from your events. These materials may also be shared via other outlets to increase awareness of your local and national campaigns for the advancement of rural women's rights to equality, development and peace.

### Please be sure to address the following points in your report

- Name of organization (and acronym), city and country, telephone number, email address, website (if applicable)
- What theme(s) you selected (amongst the 17 proposed themes), and the relevance of the chosen theme(s) in your community
- What type of activities you organized (i.e. social media campaigns, press conferences, lobby sessions with your local and/or national government officials, seminars, awareness-raising sessions, public conferences/events, film screenings, press conferences, etc.)
- Description of activities (max. 2 pages) with photographs or videos of your transformative program providing highlights, including youth and faith-based leaders participation
- What 17 Days campaign materials from the Kit were used and disseminated, and how was your event advertised
- The estimated number of people reached by your activities, including the media, radio, TV, and government officials, etc.
- Collaboration/participation with other civil society organizations, NGOs, youth clubs, schools, UN agencies, business partners, government officials, media, etc.
- The impact of your activities in your community towards empowering rural women
- Plus any additional information you may wish to include in your 2018 activity report



**WWSF**  
Creating the Power  
for Change

We look forward to hearing from you and thank you for your kind cooperation.

**WWSF 17 Days Campaign Team**



## Annexe 1

# Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1949)

### PREAMBLE

Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world,

Whereas disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind, and the advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want has been proclaimed as the highest aspiration of the common people,

Whereas it is essential, if man is not to be compelled to have recourse, as a last resort, to rebellion against tyranny and oppression, that human rights should be protected by the rule of law,

Whereas it is essential to promote the development of friendly relations between nations,

Whereas the peoples of the United Nations have in the Charter reaffirmed their faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women and have determined to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,

Whereas Member States have pledged themselves to achieve, in co-operation with the United Nations, the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Whereas a common understanding of these rights and freedoms is of the greatest importance for the full realization of this pledge,

Now, Therefore THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY proclaims THIS UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations, to the end that every individual and every organ of society, keeping this Declaration constantly in mind, shall strive by teaching and education to promote respect for these rights and freedoms and by progressive measures, national and international, to secure their universal and effective recognition and observance, both among the peoples of Member States themselves and among the peoples of territories under their jurisdiction.

### Article 1.

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

### Article 2.

Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty.

### Article 3.

Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.

### Article 4.

No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.

### Article 5.

No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

### Article 6.

Everyone has the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law.

### Article 7.

All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law. All are entitled to equal protection against any discrimination in violation of this Declaration and against any incitement to such discrimination.

### Article 8.

Everyone has the right to an effective remedy by the competent national tribunals for acts violating the fundamental rights granted him by the constitution or by law.

### Article 9.

No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.

### Article 10.

Everyone is entitled in full equality to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal, in the determination of his rights and obligations and of any criminal charge against him.

### Article 11.

(1) Everyone charged with a penal offence has the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law in a public trial at which he has had all the guarantees necessary for his defence.

## Annexe 1 (Cont'd)

# Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1949)

(2) No one shall be held guilty of any penal offence on account of any act or omission which did not constitute a penal offence, under national or international law, at the time when it was committed. Nor shall a heavier penalty be imposed than the one that was applicable at the time the penal offence was committed.

**Article 12.**

No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to attacks upon his honour and reputation. Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.

**Article 13.**

(1) Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state.  
(2) Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country.

**Article 14.**

(1) Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution.  
(2) This right may not be invoked in the case of prosecutions genuinely arising from non-political crimes or from acts contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

**Article 15.**

(1) Everyone has the right to a nationality.  
(2) No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality nor denied the right to change his nationality.

**Article 16.**

(1) Men and women of full age, without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry and to found a family. They are entitled to equal rights as to marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution.  
(2) Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses.  
(3) The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State.

**Article 17.**

(1) Everyone has the right to own property alone as well as in association with others.  
(2) No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his property.

**Article 18.**

Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his re-

ligion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.

**Article 19.**

Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

**Article 20.**

(1) Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.  
(2) No one may be compelled to belong to an association.

**Article 21.**

(1) Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives.  
(2) Everyone has the right of equal access to public service in his country.  
(3) The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures.

**Article 22.**

Everyone, as a member of society, has the right to social security and is entitled to realization, through national effort and international co-operation and in accordance with the organization and resources of each State, of the economic, social and cultural rights indispensable for his dignity and the free development of his personality.

**Article 23.**

(1) Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment.  
(2) Everyone, without any discrimination, has the right to equal pay for equal work.  
(3) Everyone who works has the right to just and favourable remuneration ensuring for himself and his family an existence worthy of human dignity, and supplemented, if necessary, by other means of social protection.  
(4) Everyone has the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of his interests.

**Article 24.**

Everyone has the right to rest and leisure, including reasonable limitation of working hours and periodic holidays with pay



## Annexe 1 (Cont'd)

# Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1949)

### Article 25.

(1) Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.

(2) Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance. All children, whether born in or out of wedlock, shall enjoy the same social protection.

### Article 26.

(1) Everyone has the right to education. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages. Elementary education shall be compulsory. Technical and professional education shall be made generally available and higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit.

(2) Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It shall promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups, and shall further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace.

(3) Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children.

### Article 27.

(1) Everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits.

(2) Everyone has the right to the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary or artistic production of which he is the author.

### Article 28.

Everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration can be fully realized.

### Article 29.

(1) Everyone has duties to the community in which alone the free and full development of his personality is possible.

(2) In the exercise of his rights and freedoms, everyone shall be subject only to such limitations as are determined by law solely for the purpose of securing due recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others and of meeting the just requirements of morality, public order and the general welfare in a democratic society.

(3) These rights and freedoms may in no case be exercised contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

### Article 30.

Nothing in this Declaration may be interpreted as implying for any State, group or person any right to engage in any activity or to perform any act aimed at the destruction of any of the rights and freedoms set forth herein.

## Annexe 2

# Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women CEDAW

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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## PART I

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### Article 1

For the purposes of the present Convention, the term "discrimination against women" shall mean any distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex which has the effect or purpose of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by women, irrespective of their marital status, on a basis of equality of men and women, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field.

### Article 2

States Parties condemn discrimination against women in all its

forms, agree to pursue by all appropriate means and without delay a policy of eliminating discrimination against women and, to this end, undertake:

- (a) To embody the principle of the equality of men and women in their national constitutions or other appropriate legislation if not yet incorporated therein and to ensure, through law and other appropriate means, the practical realization of this principle;
- (b) To adopt appropriate legislative and other measures, including sanctions where appropriate, prohibiting all discrimination against women;
- (c) To establish legal protection of the rights of women on an equal basis with men and to ensure through competent national tribunals and other public institutions the effective protection of women against any act of discrimination;
- (d) To refrain from engaging in any act or practice of discrimination against women and to ensure that public authorities and institutions shall act in conformity with this obligation;
- (e) To take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women by any person, organization or enterprise;
- (f) To take all appropriate measures, including legislation, to modify or abolish existing laws, regulations, customs and practices which constitute discrimination against women;
- (g) To repeal all national penal provisions which constitute discrimination against women.

### Article 3

States Parties shall take in all fields, in particular in the political, social, economic and cultural fields, all appropriate measures, including legislation, to ensure the full development and advancement of women, for the purpose of guaranteeing them the exercise and enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms on a basis of equality with men.

### Article 4

1. Adoption by States Parties of temporary special measures aimed at accelerating de facto equality between men and women shall not be considered discrimination as defined in the present Convention, but shall in no way entail as a consequence the maintenance of unequal or separate standards; these measures shall be discontinued when the objectives of equality of opportunity and treatment have been achieved.
2. Adoption by States Parties of special measures, including those measures contained in the present Convention, aimed at protecting maternity shall not be considered discriminatory.

### Article 5

States Parties shall take all appropriate measures:

- (a) To modify the social and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women, with a view to achieving the elimination of prejudices and customary and all other practices which are based on the idea of the inferiority or the superiority of either of the sexes or on stereotyped roles for men and women;
- (b) To ensure that family education includes a proper understanding of maternity as a social function and the recognition of the common responsibility of men and women in the upbringing and development of their children, it being understood that the interest of the children is the primordial consideration in all cases.

### Article 6

States Parties shall take all appropriate measures, including legislation, to suppress all forms of traffic in women and exploitation of prostitution of women.

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## PART II

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### Article 7

States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the political and public life of the country and, in particular, shall ensure to women, on equal terms with men, the right:

- (a) To vote in all elections and public referenda and to be eligible for election to all publicly elected bodies;
- (b) To participate in the formulation of government policy and the implementation thereof and to hold public office and perform all public functions at all levels of government;
- (c) To participate in non-governmental organizations and associations concerned with the public and political life of the country.

### Article 8

States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure to women, on equal terms with men and without any discrimination, the opportunity to represent their Governments at the international level and to participate in the work of international organizations.

### Article 9

1. States Parties shall grant women equal rights with men to acquire, change or retain their nationality. They shall ensure in particular that neither marriage to an alien nor change of nationality by the husband during marriage shall automatically change the nationality of the wife, render her stateless or force upon her the nationality of the husband.
2. States Parties shall grant women equal rights with men with respect to the nationality of their children.

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## PART III

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### Article 10

States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in order to ensure to them equal rights with men in the field of education and in particular to ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women:

- (a) The same conditions for career and vocational guidance, for access to studies and for the achievement of diplomas in educational establishments of all categories in rural as well as in urban areas; this equality shall be ensured in pre-school, general, technical, professional and higher technical education, as well as in all types of vocational training;
- (b) Access to the same curricula, the same examinations, teaching staff with qualifications of the same standard and school premises and equipment of the same quality;
- (c) The elimination of any stereotyped concept of the roles of men and women at all levels and in all forms of education by

encouraging coeducation and other types of education which will help to achieve this aim and, in particular, by the revision of textbooks and school programmes and the adaptation of teaching methods;

(d) The same opportunities to benefit from scholarships and other study grants;

(e) The same opportunities for access to programmes of continuing education, including adult and functional literacy programmes, particularly those aimed at reducing, at the earliest possible time, any gap in education existing between men and women;

(f) The reduction of female student drop-out rates and the organization of programmes for girls and women who have left school prematurely;

(g) The same opportunities to participate actively in sports and physical education;

(h) Access to specific educational information to help to ensure the health and well-being of families, including information and advice on family planning.

#### Article 11

1. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the field of employment in order to ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women, the same rights, in particular:

(a) The right to work as an inalienable right of all human beings;

(b) The right to the same employment opportunities, including the application of the same criteria for selection in matters of employment;

(c) The right to free choice of profession and employment, the right to promotion, job security and all benefits and conditions of service and the right to receive vocational training and retraining, including apprenticeships, advanced vocational training and recurrent training;

(d) The right to equal remuneration, including benefits, and to equal treatment in respect of work of equal value, as well as equality of treatment in the evaluation of the quality of work;

(e) The right to social security, particularly in cases of retirement, unemployment, sickness, invalidity and old age and other incapacity to work, as well as the right to paid leave;

(f) The right to protection of health and to safety in working conditions, including the safeguarding of the function of reproduction.

2. In order to prevent discrimination against women on the grounds of marriage or maternity and to ensure their effective right to work, States Parties shall take appropriate measures:

(a) To prohibit, subject to the imposition of sanctions, dismissal on the grounds of pregnancy or of maternity leave and discrimination in dismissals on the basis of marital status;

(b) To introduce maternity leave with pay or with comparable social benefits without loss of former employment, seniority or social allowances;

(c) To encourage the provision of the necessary supporting social services to enable parents to combine family obligations with work responsibilities and participation in public life, in particular through promoting the establishment and development of a network of child-care facilities;

(d) To provide special protection to women during pregnancy in types of work proved to be harmful to them.

3. Protective legislation relating to matters covered in this Article shall be reviewed periodically in the light of scientific and technological knowledge and shall be revised, repealed or extended as necessary.

#### Article 12

1. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the field of health care in order to ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women, access to health care services, including those related to family planning.

2. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 1 of this article, States Parties shall ensure to women appropriate services in connection with pregnancy, confinement and the post-natal period, granting free services where necessary, as well as adequate nutrition during pregnancy and lactation.

#### Article 13

States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in other areas of economic and social life in order to ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women, the same rights, in particular:

(a) The right to family benefits;

(b) The right to bank loans, mortgages and other forms of financial credit;

(c) The right to participate in recreational activities, sports and all aspects of cultural life.

#### Article 14

1. States Parties shall take into account the particular problems faced by rural women and the significant roles which rural women play in the economic survival of their families, including their work in the non-monetized sectors of the economy, and shall take all appropriate measures to ensure the application of the provisions of the present Convention to women in rural areas.

2. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in rural areas in order to ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women, that they participate in and benefit from rural development and, in particular, shall ensure to such women the right:

(a) To participate in the elaboration and implementation of development planning at all levels;

(b) To have access to adequate health care facilities, including information, counselling and services in family planning;

(c) To benefit directly from social security programmes;

(d) To obtain all types of training and education, formal and non-formal, including that relating to functional literacy, as well as, inter alia, the benefit of all community and extension services, in order to increase their technical proficiency;

(e) To organize self-help groups and co-operatives in order to obtain equal access to economic opportunities through employment or self employment;

(f) To participate in all community activities;

(g) To have access to agricultural credit and loans, marketing facilities, appropriate technology and equal treatment in land and agrarian reform as well as in land resettlement schemes;

(h) To enjoy adequate living conditions, particularly in relation to housing, sanitation, electricity and water supply, transport and communication.

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**PART IV**


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**Article 15**

1. States Parties shall accord to women equality with men before the law.
2. States Parties shall accord to women, in civil matters, a legal capacity identical to that of men and the same opportunities to exercise that capacity. In particular, they shall give women equal rights to conclude contracts and to administer property and shall treat them equally in all stages of procedure in courts and tribunals.
3. States Parties agree that all contracts and all other private instruments of any kind with a legal effect which is directed at restricting the legal capacity of women shall be deemed null and void.
4. States Parties shall accord to men and women the same rights with regard to the law relating to the movement of persons and the freedom to choose their residence and domicile.

**Article 16**

1. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in all matters relating to marriage and family relations and in particular shall ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women:
  - (a) The same right to enter into marriage;
  - (b) The same right freely to choose a spouse and to enter into marriage only with their free and full consent;
  - (c) The same rights and responsibilities during marriage and at its dissolution;
  - (d) The same rights and responsibilities as parents, irrespective of their marital status, in matters relating to their children; in all cases the interests of the children shall be paramount;
  - (e) The same rights to decide freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of their children and to have access to the information, education and means to enable them to exercise these rights;
  - (f) The same rights and responsibilities with regard to guardianship, wardship, trusteeship and adoption of children, or similar institutions where these concepts exist in national legislation; in all cases the interests of the children shall be paramount;
  - (g) The same personal rights as husband and wife, including the right to choose a family name, a profession and an occupation;
  - (h) The same rights for both spouses in respect of the ownership, acquisition, management, administration, enjoyment and disposition of property, whether free of charge or for a valuable consideration.
2. The betrothal and the marriage of a child shall have no legal effect, and all necessary action, including legislation, shall be taken to specify a minimum age for marriage and to make the registration of marriages in an official registry compulsory.

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**PART V**


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**Article 17**

1. For the purpose of considering the progress made in the implementation of the present Convention, there shall be established a Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (hereinafter referred to as the Committee) consisting, at the time of entry into force of the Convention, of eighteen and, after ratification of or accession to the Convention by the thirty-fifth State Party, of twenty-three experts of high moral

standing and competence in the field covered by the Convention. The experts shall be elected by States Parties from among their nationals and shall serve in their personal capacity, consideration being given to equitable geographical distribution and to the representation of the different forms of civilization as well as the principal legal systems.

2. The members of the Committee shall be elected by secret ballot from a list of persons nominated by States Parties. Each State Party may nominate one person from among its own nationals.
3. The initial election shall be held six months after the date of the entry into force of the present Convention. At least three months before the date of each election the Secretary-General of the United Nations shall address a letter to the States Parties inviting them to submit their nominations within two months. The Secretary-General shall prepare a list in alphabetical order of all persons thus nominated, indicating the States Parties which have nominated them, and shall submit it to the States Parties.
4. Elections of the members of the Committee shall be held at a meeting of States Parties convened by the Secretary-General at United Nations Headquarters. At that meeting, for which two thirds of the States Parties shall constitute a quorum, the persons elected to the Committee shall be those nominees who obtain the largest number of votes and an absolute majority of the votes of the representatives of States Parties present and voting.
5. The members of the Committee shall be elected for a term of four years. However, the terms of nine of the members elected at the first election shall expire at the end of two years; immediately after the first election the names of these nine members shall be chosen by lot by the Chairman of the Committee.
6. The election of the five additional members of the Committee shall be held in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of this article, following the thirty-fifth ratification or accession. The terms of two of the additional members elected on this occasion shall expire at the end of two years, the names of these two members having been chosen by lot by the Chairman of the Committee.
7. For the filling of casual vacancies, the State Party whose expert has ceased to function as a member of the Committee shall appoint another expert from among its nationals, subject to the approval of the Committee.
8. The members of the Committee shall, with the approval of the General Assembly, receive emoluments from United Nations resources on such terms and conditions as the Assembly may decide, having regard to the importance of the Committee's responsibilities.
9. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall provide the necessary staff and facilities for the effective performance of the functions of the Committee under the present Convention.

**Article 18**

1. States Parties undertake to submit to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, for consideration by the Committee, a report on the legislative, judicial, administrative or other measures which they have adopted to give effect to the provisions of the present Convention and on the progress made in this respect:
  - (a) Within one year after the entry into force for the State concerned;
  - (b) Thereafter at least every four years and further whenever the Committee so requests.
2. Reports may indicate factors and difficulties affecting the degree of fulfilment of obligations under the present Convention.

**Article 19**

1. The Committee shall adopt its own rules of procedure.
2. The Committee shall elect its officers for a term of two years.

**Article 20**

1. The Committee shall normally meet for a period of not more than two weeks annually in order to consider the reports submitted in accordance with article 18 of the present Convention.
2. The meetings of the Committee shall normally be held at United Nations Headquarters or at any other convenient place as determined by the Committee. (amendment, status of ratification)

**Article 21**

1. The Committee shall, through the Economic and Social Council, report annually to the General Assembly of the United Nations on its activities and may make suggestions and general recommendations based on the examination of reports and information received from the States Parties. Such suggestions and general recommendations shall be included in the report of the Committee together with comments, if any, from States Parties.
2. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall transmit the reports of the Committee to the Commission on the Status of Women for its information.

**Article 22**

The specialized agencies shall be entitled to be represented at the consideration of the implementation of such provisions of the present Convention as fall within the scope of their activities. The Committee may invite the specialized agencies to submit reports on the implementation of the Convention in areas falling within the scope of their activities.

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**PART IV**

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**Article 23**

Nothing in the present Convention shall affect any provisions that are more conducive to the achievement of equality between men and women which may be contained:

- (a) In the legislation of a State Party; or
- (b) In any other international convention, treaty or agreement in force for that State.

**Article 24**

States Parties undertake to adopt all necessary measures at the national level aimed at achieving the full realization of the rights recognized in the present Convention.

**Article 25**

1. The present Convention shall be open for signature by all States.
2. The Secretary-General of the United Nations is designated as the depositary of the present Convention.
3. The present Convention is subject to ratification. Instruments of ratification shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.
4. The present Convention shall be open to accession by all

States. Accession shall be effected by the deposit of an instrument of accession with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

**Article 26**

1. A request for the revision of the present Convention may be made at any time by any State Party by means of a notification in writing addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.
2. The General Assembly of the United Nations shall decide upon the steps, if any, to be taken in respect of such a request.

**Article 27**

1. The present Convention shall enter into force on the thirtieth day after the date of deposit with the Secretary-General of the United Nations of the twentieth instrument of ratification or accession.
2. For each State ratifying the present Convention or acceding to it after the deposit of the twentieth instrument of ratification or accession, the Convention shall enter into force on the thirtieth day after the date of the deposit of its own instrument of ratification or accession.

**Article 28**

1. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall receive and circulate to all States the text of reservations made by States at the time of ratification or accession.
2. A reservation incompatible with the object and purpose of the present Convention shall not be permitted.
3. Reservations may be withdrawn at any time by notification to this effect addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, who shall then inform all States thereof. Such notification shall take effect on the date on which it is received.

**Article 29**

1. Any dispute between two or more States Parties concerning the interpretation or application of the present Convention which is not settled by negotiation shall, at the request of one of them, be submitted to arbitration. If within six months from the date of the request for arbitration the parties are unable to agree on the organization of the arbitration, any one of those parties may refer the dispute to the International Court of Justice by request in conformity with the Statute of the Court.
2. Each State Party may at the time of signature or ratification of the present Convention or accession thereto declare that it does not consider itself bound by paragraph 1 of this article. The other States Parties shall not be bound by that paragraph with respect to any State Party which has made such a reservation.
3. Any State Party which has made a reservation in accordance with paragraph 2 of this article may at any time withdraw that reservation by notification to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

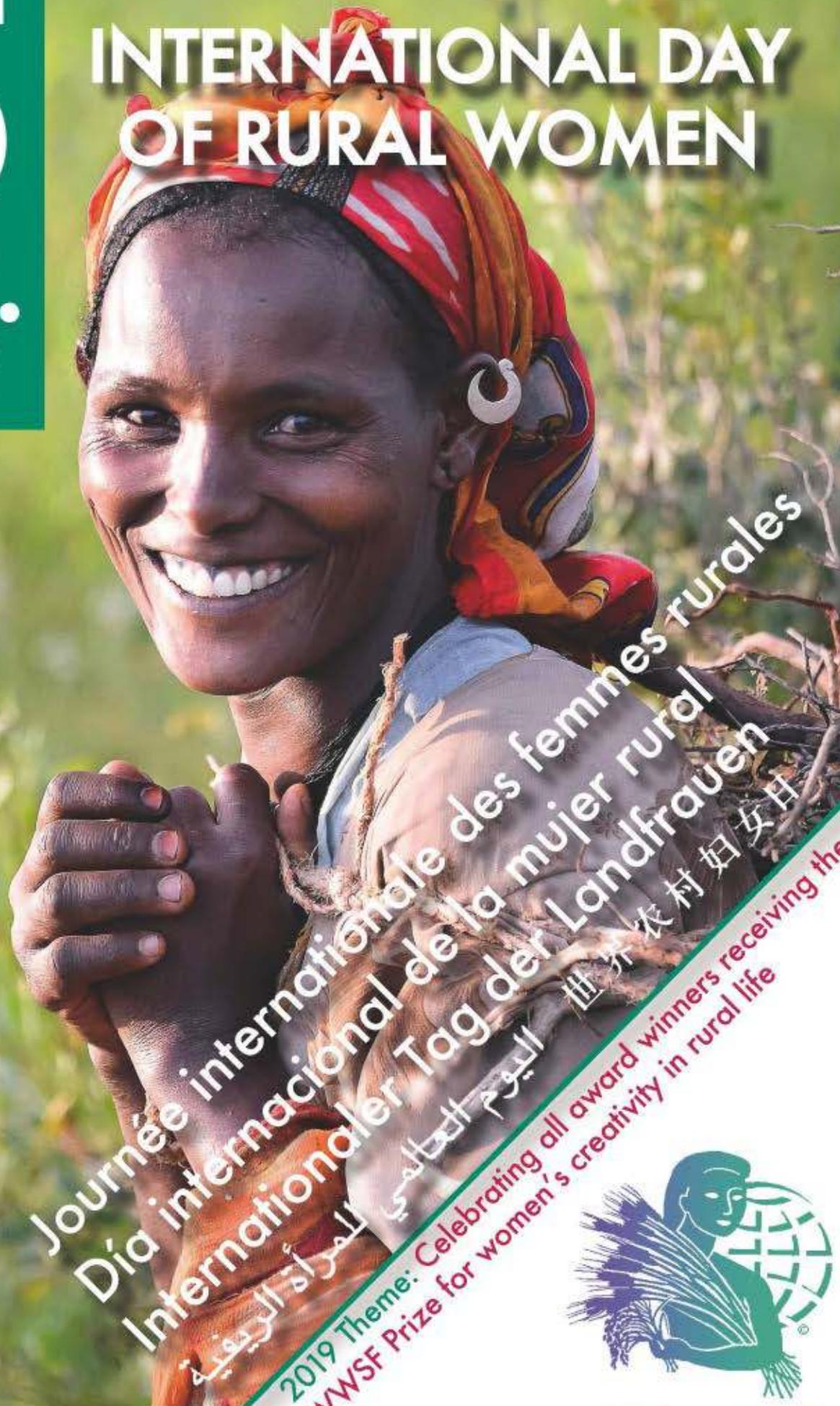
**Article 30**

The present Convention, the Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish texts of which are equally authentic, shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

*IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, duly authorized, have signed the present Convention.*

# 15 Oct. 2019

## 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

2019 Theme: Celebrating all award winners receiving the  
WWSF Prize for women's creativity in rural life



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WWSF Women's World Summit Foundation • Fondation Sommet Mondial des Femmes  
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UN Resolution Day (A/Res/42/136/2007)



# Women's Rights are Human Rights



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Rural Women's Section

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