

# Women's World Summit Foundation - WWSF

2019 Prize Brochure presenting 10 Laureates / 17 Days of Activism /  
Intl. Day of Rural Women - 15 October / Attachments



**Prize for  
Women's  
Creativity in  
Rural Life,  
awarded since  
1994 to 452  
Prizewinners  
around the  
world**



**Empowered rural women can change the world & help realise the  
SDG Agenda 2030**



**2019**  
**10 Laureates**  
**receive the WWSF**  
**Prize**



[www.woman.ch](http://www.woman.ch)





## 1) WWSF Prize for Women's creativity in rural life (1994 – 2019)

**Open Letter to rural women of the world!**

*Dear sisters in rural areas,*

As you may know, the WWSF “Prize for Women's Creativity in Rural Life” (created in 1994), annually awards creative and courageous rural women leaders and groups that help to advance and improve the quality of life in rural communities. To date, 452 prizes have been awarded in over 140 countries to selected candidates. In some cases, the WWSF prize enhances the status of unknown, active, creative rural women leaders and some of the prizewinners attain national recognition and sometimes move into positions of decision-making at local/or national level. The award (US\$ 1000 per laureate) represents our solidarity contribution for efforts and obstacles overcome and is not meant to be a project fund, although in many cases the prize money is re-invested in the laureates' programs. To achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030, rural women are key in delivering results with courage and compassion. They need our solidarity support as they face many challenges in today's world.

Below you find reference to our additional programs and we invite you especially join our campaign

“17 Days of Activism for the empowerment of rural women leaders and their communities 1-17 October”. The Kit is online and is annually updated with relevant statistics and ideas for action. Share it with your friends and networks to ensure that everyone participates in whatever manner possible to turn this world.

WWSF expresses gratitude for all the nominations received in 2019 from which we selected the 10 finalists.

We also express our gratitude for the sponsors who make our empowerment programs financially possible; and for the staff, consultants and university interns who serve in our secretariat.

### **In partnership, solidarity and peace,**

WWSF Board of Directors: Elly Pradervand, President, Switzerland / Gulzar Samji, Vice-President, Canada/ Jyoti Macwan, India / Anne Pélagie Yotchou Tzeudjom/ Cameroon.



**2) Rural Women Movements Award.** This additional award was created in 2017 as an occasional prize (US\$ 10'000 when funds permit). We are soliciting funds for a second award in 2020 to highlight and acknowledge powerful rural women movements that help deliver the UN Sustainable Development Goals – leaving no one behind.



**3) The International Day of Rural Women - 15th October (see poster on page 26)**, created in 1995 at the Beijing 4th World Conference on Women by several INGOs, has as its purpose to mobilize governments to dedicate at least one day per year to Rural Women concerns and rights and listen to their needs and challenges. The Day also mobilizes grassroots women's groups, networks, the media, relevant institutions and organizations that focus on rural women's rights. It is also the Day when prizewinners are celebrated in their communities and events are organized in their honor.

### **4) WWSF Campaign:**

17 Days Campaign of activism for the empowerment of rural women leaders and their communities 1-17 October

**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) - Supporting the SDG Agenda 2030



## Some Facts about rural women and girls

<http://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/multimedia/2018/2/infographic-rural-women>

**Rural women provide food security** for their communities, strengthen climate resilience and economies. However, gender inequalities, such as discriminatory laws and social norms, associated with a rapid economic, technological and environmental landscape, limit their potential, leaving them far behind men and their urban counterparts.

- **Labor** - The share of women working in agriculture by region  
*South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa 60% / Rest of Asia & the Pacific and North Africa 30% / Arab States 20% / Latin America and the Caribbean and East Europe 10% / Rest of Europe+North America 5%*
- **Agriculture** - remains the most important employment sector for women in developing countries and rural areas, a sector that largely falls within the informal economy with little or no social protection and labor rights. Consequences are lower standards of living, poor wages and major health challenges, limited access to social services; restricted upward mobility, lack of collective voice and agency.
- **Land rights** - Less than 13% of agricultural landholders are women. Consequences: Less income security; less decision-making power in households and communities; inability to access credit to start a business or improve agricultural productivity.
- **Reproductive Health** - A rural woman is 38% less likely to give birth with a health care worker than an urban woman in low-income countries. Consequences: Increased chances of life-threatening complications, severe bleeding, infection and higher maternal mortality.
- **Water** - Population with access to safe drinking water: Rural areas 20% - Urban areas 68%  
Women and girls are often responsible for fetching water in rural areas. Consequences: more unpaid domestic work; higher risk of maternal mortality; psychosocial stress.
- **Child Marriage** - A rural girl is 2x more likely to get married as a child than her urban counterpart in some African, Latin American and Caribbean countries. Consequences: Barrier to education and employment; greater risk for intimate partner violence; early pregnancy; maternal complications; vulnerability to STDs, including HIV. Early pregnancy; maternal complications; vulnerability to sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV.
- **Literacy** - More than half of all poor rural women lack basic literacy skills. Consequences: Barriers to employment and decision-making; lower income; lower-quality jobs; increased health challenges because less informed; decreased individual and social well-being.
- **ICT - Information Communications Technologies** - Most of the 3.9 billion people not connected to the Internet tend to be poorer, less educated, and rural women and girls. Consequences: Limited means of getting new skills, information and knowledge; decreased livelihoods, well-being and resilience; limited economic opportunities.

### Empowering rural women and girls requires:

1. Decent work and social protection
2. Education and training
3. Sustainable energy and technology
4. Clean water and sanitation
5. Eliminating violence and harmful practices
6. Including women in decision-making and leadership
7. Increasing women's climate-resilience

Source: UN Women - Report of the UN Secretary-General:

*Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls (E/CN.6/2018/3), UN ECOSOC, 2018; World Employment Social Outlook, ILO, 2017; Sustainable Development Goals Report, UN Women, 2018; Ending Child Marriage: Progress and Prospects, Unicef, 2016.*



# WWSF PRIZE

for Women's  
Creativity in Rural Life

[www.woman.ch](http://www.woman.ch)



**10 Laureates are honored in 2019**  
**Prize for Women's Creativity in rural life**  
(452 Prizes awarded to-date 1994-2019)

## BURKINA FASO



**KABORE Wendlasida Constance**  
Where the ants carry the elephants

## KENYA



**JEBET KIPLAGAT Naiyan**  
A many-talented leader of innovative development

## KENYA



**LALPARASAROI Munteli**  
The Goddess of the Lions

## TOGO



**AKAKPO Adjoa**  
A pioneer with numerous talents

## UGANDA



**NAMAGANDA Ruth**  
Queen of coffee producers

## INDIA



**ACHARYA Triveni**  
Rescued from torture to empowerment of rural communities

## INDIA



**Ms. GEETA and Ms. KANTA**  
(sharing one prize)  
Travelling through hell to reach high water

## INDIA



**KASHYAP Shraddha**  
An epitome of courage and a true change-maker

## CAMEROON



**MOKO Jeanne d'Arc**  
Committed to women's rights and gender equality

## CAMEROON



**FETGO Bernadette**  
Empowering rural women to claim their right to land

## CEFAP Ladies Circle

The two Cameroon Prizewinners were selected by CEFAP-Ladies Circle, the WWSF national prize program partner in Cameroon, co-sponsored by WWSF.



## SPONSORS

A big thank-you to all the WWSF members and sponsors who make the Prize program possible.



Our special thanks go to

Madeleine & Jacques Maire (Edition Jouvence SA) for sponsoring the prizewinners.

**Women's World Summit Foundation**  
**WWSF**  
[www.woman.ch](http://www.woman.ch)



## KABORE Wendlasida Constance (27)

Burkina Faso

### WHERE THE ANTS CARRY THE ELEPHANTS



A school holiday she spent in her native village became a real eye-opener to Wendlasida Constance concerning the deplorable condition of rural women: with no independent sources of income, victims of their husbands likes and dislikes, living in appalling conditions of hygiene, etc. So she created in 2014 the ALIA association (Association Libre Afrique – Free Africa Association). Its main aim is enabling rural women to enjoy greater autonomy, based on the slogan: “training is the key to autonomy.” She later set up another project called FABI, which in French stands for beautiful, independent African women. It aims at promoting hygiene in rural areas which usually lack the most basic products in this area such as soap; enabling women to make a modest income selling such necessities and enabling them to be aware of their economic and social rights.

O ALIA set up various trainings to enable rural women to make these basic products themselves - such as soap - and more theoretical training in areas like economic and social rights, how to create and run a small soap producing facility, and how to use local plants for health care. Such modest initiatives rarely get into the limelight but their multiplication all round the world ultimately has a huge impact. For as a proverb from Wendlasida Constance's region states: “When the mouths of the ants get together, they can carry an elephant”, be he called extreme poverty or serious underdevelopment.

Her work contributes to achieving **UN Sustainable Development Goals-Agenda 2030 Targets #3, #5, #8 & #10**



## JEBET KIPLAGAT Naiyan (42)

Kenya

### A MANY-TALENTED LEADER OF INNOVATIVE DEVELOPMENT



Jebet Kiplagat Naiyan has had a major impact in her country in a variety of key areas, including mobilizing women to combat the severe impact of climate change in the Mau forest of Kenya. As a member of the Olulunga women's group, she has worked to save marginalized communities both at the local and international level. Her efforts have had a multidimensional impact in the areas of human rights; indigenous rights education and especially environmental preservation, which, as in many other rural areas in the south, has become a major issue in her country. She has assisted indigenous people to develop the skills enabling them to be climate defenders, with e.g. the introduction of wood-saving jiko stoves or major reforestation projects, not to mention exploiting their regions' biodiversity and traditions. She has manifested the kind of strong leadership in areas where traditional chieftains are still major actors at the local level. The women's

climate defender initiative of which she is also a member works towards shifting gender dynamics by strengthening grassroots women's access to resources, political participation and women's voices in policy decisions. An outstanding activity has been her involvement in the “Seed Sisters”, an exchange between women from climatically different regions producing a variety of seeds for vegetables, beans, medicinal plants, flowers and trees that are more resistant to a dry environment. She has thus become a major source of inspiration for rural women to support each other.

Her work contributes to achieving **UN Sustainable Development Goals-Agenda 2030 Target #10, #12 & #13**







## LALPARASROI Munteli (30) Kenya

### THE GODDESS OF THE LIONS



Over a period of 26 years, this prize has received many original nominations, but this one involving lion conservation is unquestionably one of the most original. Populations of large mammals are declining at an alarming rate, especially in Africa where the lion population alone has decreased by 43% in the last 20 years, reaching a low of 20'000, of which a meager 2000 in Kenya.

Alongside elephants and rhinos, lions could disappear in the next 20 years, due to habitat loss and, in the case of lions, conflict with humans, especially cattle herders.

Formerly lion conservation was purely a man's business - that is, until Munteli and her friend Mparasoroi stepped in with their Mama Simba project. This project is getting women connected to the cause of lion conservation in a real and practical way.

As a young teenager, Munteli became the 4th wife of an old man of the Samburu tribe who died soon after their marriage, thereby condemning her to widowhood for life according to Samburu traditions. But a few years later, Munteli teamed up with an older woman from her village, Mparasoroi.

They were on a clear mission, i.e. to get women involved in lion conservation on par with the Samburu warriors who had been hired by the highly original "Ewaso lions project" founded by Dr. Shivani Bhalla, an authentic community conservation project

working with local people from the villages, an extreme rarity in the world of animal conservation. These illiterate women had to learn everything – to read and write, to sign bank documents, to manipulate portable telephones, and thus for the first-time taking control of their own lives. The women involved named their project Mama Simba. Munteli then learned to drive a car, the first traditional Samburu woman ever to do this. And she now sends WhatsApp messages in Samburu, Kiswahili and English!

Samburu women are also known for the extraordinary beauty and intricacy of their beadwork they proudly wear. Munteli opened up new avenues of income helping them set up a trade for beaded lions, i.e. small puppet-sized lions covered with beads artistically arranged.

There are now around 20 women working in lion conservation projects aiming at non- conflictual relations between cattle breeders and lions. Munteli herself has become a powerful role model for all women, has enabled families to increase their income and broken out of paralyzing traditional behavioral models. She is an amazing trailblazer who aptly illustrates the saying that "our only limits are our belief in the existence of limits."

Their work contributes to achieving **UN Sustainable Development Goals-Agenda 2030 Target #1, #4, #5 & #15**



## AKAKPO Adjoa (61) Togo

### A PIONEER WITH NUMEROUS TALENTS



This candidate is a pioneer of the organization of women in her country where she founded in 1990 the "Women's association La Colombe" (The Dove) to bring immediate effective solutions to the different challenges faced by rural women: food insecurity, poverty, major health issues, illiteracy, sexual violence and sexism, the high school drop-out rate among young girls, lack of access to land, hence to credit, i.e. financial dependency on the men. In the year 2000, Adjoa gives up the security of her teaching job to devote herself entirely to her work with women and young girls. A training center for women had been opened in 1997 in the town of Vo Koutime. Over 700 girls and young women victims of various forms of violence and sexual exploitation have been trained there in a variety of fields such as dressmaking, hairdressers, cooking, dying and others. Alongside these areas, all the students received additional training in basic notions of entrepreneurship, leadership,

literacy, etc. Parallel to this training, the traditional village chieftains were informed and sensitized to the rights of women in terms of land ownership and inheritance laws.

On October 15, 2019, the International Day of Rural Women, a network of women agro-entrepreneurs will be launched by women 2030 so as to encourage rural women to adapt themselves to agro-ecology to face the challenges of climate change. At the same time, so as to find a solution to the problems of violence against women and girls in rural areas, a movement of the wives of village chieftains has been launched to face this eternal problem.

Her work contributes to achieving **UN Sustainable Development Goals-Agenda 2030 Target #1, #2, #4 & #5**





## NAMAGANDA Ruth (31)

Uganda

**QUEEN OF COFFEE PRODUCERS**



Ruth was born in W. Uganda, the only girl among 14 children of a farm family depending on cattle and banana production for its livelihood. After a very brief stint as a storekeeper, Ruth rented land, reclaiming idle fields and transforming them into productive ones. Very soon, she started a number of village savings and loan associations for women, and soon after she joined the Kabinge Coffee Farmers' Cooperative Society (KCFCS) in Bukomansimbi. Later, she was to set up the Babinge Youth Council (2017). Under Ruth's supervision, the youth council set up management services and coffee trading services it now offers to the cooperative. The management services include, amongst others, taking care of the

farms of elderly members (as almost everywhere in the world, their proportion in society is increasing) and of widows and landowners. Ruth also carries out female leadership trainings - an absolutely indispensable contribution to African development, especially in areas where husbands usually very vigorously oppose any involvement of their wives outside of the household routine such as e.g. the above-mentioned cooperative activities.

Their work contributes to achieving **UN Sustainable Development Goals-Agenda 2030 Target #5, #8, #10 & #12**



## ACHARYA Triveni (54)

India

**RESCUED FROM TORTURE TO EMPOWERMENT OF RURAL COMMUNITIES**



Mrs. Acharya, former journalist with a reputed newspaper in Mumbai, took over as President of the Rescue Foundation in 2005, which combats Human Trafficking from the rural areas of India, Bangladesh, Nepal and any country from where girls and children are trafficked to India for commercial sexual exploitation.

She courageously rescues these girls from the red-light areas, massage parlors and even from private apartments and completely rehabilitates and repatriates them to reunite with their families in their native places. Her work, practically on a grassroots level, not only rescues them from torture but also empowers them to become leading members of their community, thereby besides combating a major problem of India, empowers beneficiaries to prosper in rural areas. About 50% of the Indian population lives in rural areas and women's empowerment is very necessary.

Under her leadership, the Rescue Foundation has expanded the activities at Mumbai, Boisar, Pune and Delhi. Every year the Foundation rescues about 350 girls, rehabilitates, empowers and repatriates about 700 girls to rural families in India and abroad, to regain a normal life. Her protective and rehabilitation homes are situated in urban cities as these trafficked girls are trafficked from rural villages and sold by traffickers in cities.

So far Mrs. Acharya has rescued, rehabilitated and repatriated more than 18'000 girls. Her impact is recognized by the government of India. Mrs. Acharya's work provides empowerment to women who need to be empowered badly. Visit [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com), click on video and type Rescue Foundation. You will be able to view several videos. Also, view [www.rescuefoundation.net](http://www.rescuefoundation.net) to get a detailed view of activities.

Her work contributes to achieving **UN Sustainable Development Goals-Agenda 2030 Target #5 & #10**





## Ms. GEETA (39) and Ms. KANTA (41) India (sharing one prize)

### TRAVELLING THROUGH HELL TO REACH HIGH WATER



Both candidates belong to the Harijans, a community of outcasts of the Haryana region. Despite her being an excellent student, Geeta was pulled out of school to get married and then confined to the family enclosure. When her husband lost his job, they could barely manage a meal a day for their children. Kanta, like Geeta, was brilliant at school

but was also forced to leave school and was married at 10 years old. At 15, she moved to her husband's family where she had to do everything – the cooking, house chores, taking care of the cattle, working in the fields ... an endless succession of pressing tasks. But these two courageous women decided not to give in to such tough circumstances, which would have subdued many others. They joined a village self-help group and started training

in various areas, and soon became real experts in promoting bio-sand filters. (A biosand filter is a point-of-use water treatment adapted from traditional slow sand filters. These remove pathogens and suspended solids from water using biological and physical processes that take place in a sand column covered with a biofilm). The filters act against iron and arsenic contamination and biological impurities. Due to the very low cost of these filters they are extremely well suited to poor rural communities suffering from waterborne diseases. From being despised outcasts, Geeta and Kanta have become key figures in the social and economic promotion of their communities and are looked upon with respect by all.

Their work contributes to achieving **UN Sustainable Development Goals-Agenda 2030 Target #5, #6, #9 & #11**



## KASHYAP Shraddha (50) India

### AN EPITOME OF COURAGE AND A TRUE CHANGE-MAKER



Shraddha belongs to a community called "Kurmi", which is a caste in the category "Other Backward Classes" (OBC) in India. The major occupation of the Kurmi community is agriculture farming.

Shraddha was born into a lower middle class family in Darrabhata Village in Bilaspur District (State Chhattisgarh). Her father continued the legacy of farming which he inherited from his forefathers. Despite the discrimination she faced at home, she struggled hard to get her education. It wasn't easy for her to convince her parents to let her study after the 8th grade. To pursue her studies further she had to move out, which she did to complete her bachelor's degree.

She had known since she was old enough to understand that her grandfather had already fixed her marriage long before she was born. Her grandfather promised one of his friends that if a girl were born, he would get her married in his friend's family. Shraddha who had struggled enough to get an identity wasn't willing to give in to societal pressure and marry a person who couldn't be an equal partner to her. At that time, she was quite inspired by a social worker called Shastri Ji in Bilaspur who

motivated her not to let her struggle go in vain and to inspire other women and bring change in their lives. She took his advice into account and moved explored new horizons. So she decided to play the role of a change-maker in the lives of oppressed women.

She moved 2000 km away from her hometown to Madhya Pradesh State to work with Ekta Parishad, which is engaged in the fight for the rights of Dalits, Tribals and other deprived communities for land, water, and forest rights. Ekta Parishad follows Gandhian ideology.

Shraddha, who had fought patriarchy all her life to build her own identity, knew the plight of women having the lowest status even in the most deprived and oppressed communities and thus was firm about creating an equal space for women who could then be assertive enough to claim equal rights to land and property. Thus, thanks to her efforts many landless people received land rights and the daughters and daughters-in-law received equal property rights.



Shraddha played leadership roles in many land right campaigns advocating for policy changes. Few such nonviolent movements were:

- “Janadesh 2007” (foot march from Gwalior to Delhi, 350 km with 25’000 landless people).
- “Jan Satyagrah 2012”, “Mahila Evam Bhoomi Samvad Yatra” in August to October 2018 for women’s land and farmers rights from Trivandrum, Kerala to New Delhi.

Apart from the above-mentioned major campaigns, she has been engaged in the land rights campaigns at the local, district and state level. She has been active in promoting organic farming, creating seed banks, and awareness generation on

climate changes. She also represented Ekta Parishad at the Copenhagen Summit for climate change in 2009. She raised the issues of climate change in her country and the urgency to address this issue.

Shraddha Kashyap has become a great inspiration to women. She has not only brought change in her own life but has influenced the lives of many other women too. She has proven that no hurdle can stop a woman if she is determined to achieve her dream.

Her work contributes to achieving UN Sustainable Development Goals-Agenda 2030 **Target #4, #5, #8 & #10**



*The two Cameroon Prizewinners (2019) were selected by CEFAP-Ladies Circle, the WWSF national prize program partner in Cameroon, co-sponsored by WWSF.*



**MOKO Jeanne d’Arc (51)**  
Cameroon

**COMMITTED TO WOMEN’S RIGHTS AND GENDER EQUALITY**



Mrs. MOKO Jeanne d’Arc, a rural woman, widow and mother of 6 orphans has seen the whole burden of her family resting on her since 2010 that her husband has died, leaving her with 6 children. She works hard every day to support her orphans.

When her husband died, 80% of her land was expropriated. Since then, she has engaged with other rural women to defend their interests and fight gender inequalities in the distribution and management of resources, especially land in rural Cameroon. In 2012, she created the Widows’ Club for rural development in her village. They organize information, awareness and denunciation

campaigns and are supported by an association of women lawyers for the protection, defense and promotion of their rights. She is a rural woman who can be counted on, a rural woman who prepares the rural woman of tomorrow today and who gives herself the means to take control of her destiny and to mentor other vulnerable rural women in the communities. She is one of the linchpins of sustainable development, progress and the culture of peace in her community.

Her work contributes to achieving UN Sustainable Development Goals-Agenda 2030 **Target #2, #3, #5 & #10**



**FETGO Bernadette (57)**  
Cameroon

**EMPOWERING RURAL WOMEN TO CLAIM THEIR RIGHT TO LAND**



Mrs. FETGO Bernadette, a rural woman and mother of 9 children is a woman active in her village where she spends her time outside of her rural work, and her household chores, to gather the women of her community around the synergies for the reinforcement of their capacity, the protection and defense of their rights and interests, the diversification of their sources of income and, above all, they continue to seek information that can help them boost their production, transform their agricultural products and market them to feed the population and secure an income to care for their families. She has made her battlefield a real priority for action in her community: advocacy for rural

women’s access to land, girls’ education and the eradication of early marriages of girls and the promotion of hard work of the rural woman who deserves to be recognized and supported. Ms. FETGO is the leader of several women’s community groups with around 1,500 rural women working for peacebuilding in Anglophone regions in crisis in Cameroon.

Her work contributes to achieving UN Sustainable Development Goals-Agenda 2030 **Target #1, #2, #5 & #10**





## **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 new 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

**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)



## WWSF Prize for women's creativity in rural life

### Nomination Guidelines - Next prize awards in 2020

Awarded since 1994 by the Women's World Summit Foundation (WWSF), an international, non-profit, humanitarian NGO, serving the implementation of women's and children's rights and the UN development agenda - the Prize (US\$ 1000 per laureate) honors women and women's groups around the world exhibiting exceptional creativity, courage and commitment for the improvement of the quality of life in rural communities (452 prizes awarded so far). The Prize aims to draw international attention to laureates' contributions to sustainable development, household food security and peace, thus generating recognition and support for their projects. While rural women are vital in providing examples of sound practice in their communities, they still do not have full access to tools needed for development, such as education, credit, land rights and participation in decision making. By highlighting and awarding creative development models, innovations and experiences enhancing the quality of rural life, WWSF participates in addressing the eradication of rural poverty, gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment.

#### Eligibility

- Nominees should be women and women's groups currently active in rural life whose efforts have not yet been acknowledged by other awards. **They may not nominate themselves.**
- The nominating organization or individual must have direct experience of the nominee's work. The nominator may not nominate a family member, be a member of the nominated organization, nor can an organization nominate its senior officer (i.e. founder, president etc.). No more than three nominees may be presented by the same person/organization in the same year. The nominator commits to organize an award ceremony if the candidate is selected for the Prize and invites the media.

#### Nominations must include the following items:

- ① Original signed letter of nomination indicating how the nominator knows the nominee and for how long.
- ② Biographical data on the nominee (full name, age, education, place of work, background) and a detailed history of the nominee's creative project (written by the nominator) including her motivation, innovative aspects, any obstacles overcome, and the impact in the community. Nominations must specify whether the nominee has received or is currently being nominated for other awards.
- ③ At least two original and signed endorsement letters from organizations or individuals other than the nominator and, if possible, additional supporting materials such as newspaper articles or publications.
- ④ A few labeled photographs clearly showing the nominee(s) for possible publication.

#### Criteria

The long-term impact of the Prize depends on the integrity of the nominators and the quality of their nominations. The Prize is an award for successful accomplishments rather than a fund for future projects. The nominee's history, written by the nominator (2-3 pages) must demonstrate the creativity, courage and sometimes sacrifice in the efforts by the candidate at the grassroots level to improve life in rural communities. Descriptions should be as specific as possible.

#### Any of the following elements should be emphasized:

- \* Exceptional courage and perseverance in improving rural life
- \* Creativity in the approach
- \* Preservation of and respect for the environment (if the candidate is involved with the environment)
- \* Continuing impact in the community
- \* Participation in the WWSF 17 Days of Activism Campaign 1-17 October with 17 themes is encouraged
- \* Underline how the work of the candidate promotes the UN Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 – Transforming our world. Link: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?menu=1300>

Laureates are selected by an international Jury composed of WWSF Directors and Advisors; they are announced officially on 1 October and celebrated in their countries on **15 October – International Day of Rural Women**. WWSF has a commitment to award annually 5 - 10 creative rural women leaders and women's groups around the world. To read about past laureates, visit our web site [www.woman.ch](http://www.woman.ch)



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E-mail: [wWSF@wWSF.ch](mailto:wWSF@wWSF.ch) - [www.woman.ch](http://www.woman.ch)

**Nomination materials must arrive no later than 30 April through the post only.**



## 2018 Adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants & Other People Working in Rural Areas (17 December 2018)

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

“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.



Elizabeth Mpofu,  
General Coordinator  
La Via Campesina,  
“Building an International  
Movement for Food and  
Seed Sovereignty”

“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!”**

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



## United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (17 December 2018)

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

### The General Assembly,

**Recalling** the principles proclaimed in the Charter of the United Nations, which recognize the inherent dignity and worth and the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family as the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world,

**Taking into account** the principles proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,<sup>2</sup> the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,<sup>3</sup> the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,<sup>4</sup> the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,<sup>4</sup> the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,<sup>5</sup> the Convention on the Rights of the Child,<sup>6</sup> the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families,<sup>7</sup> relevant conventions of the International Labour Organization and other relevant international instruments that have been adopted at the universal or regional level,

**Reaffirming** the Declaration on the Right to Development,<sup>8</sup> and that 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,

**Reaffirming** also the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,<sup>9</sup>

**Reaffirming** further that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interrelated, interdependent and mutually reinforcing and must be treated in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis, and recalling that the promotion and protection of one category of rights should never exempt States from the promotion and protection of the other rights,

**Recognizing** the special relationship and interaction between peasants and other people working in rural areas and the land, water and nature to which they are attached and on which they depend for their livelihood,

**Recognizing** also the past, present and future contributions of peasants and other people working in rural areas in all regions of the world to development and to conserving and improving biodiversity, which constitute the basis of food and agricultural production throughout the world, and their contribution in ensuring the right to adequate food and food security, which are fundamental to attaining the internationally agreed development goals, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>10</sup>

2. Resolution 217 A (III).

3. United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 660, No. 9464.

4. Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

5. United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

6. Ibid., vol. 1577, No. 27531.

7. Ibid., vol. 2220, No. 39481.

8. Resolution 41/128, annex.

9. Resolution 61/295, annex.

10. Resolution 70/1.

**Concerned** that peasants and other people working in rural areas suffer disproportionately from poverty, hunger and malnutrition,

**Concerned** also that peasants and other people working in rural areas suffer from the burdens caused by environmental degradation and climate change,

**Concerned** further about peasants ageing around the world and youth increasingly migrating to urban areas and turning their backs on agriculture owing to the lack of incentives and the drudgery of rural life, and recognizing the need to improve the economic diversification of rural areas and the creation of non-farm opportunities, especially for rural youth,

**Alarmed** by the increasing number of peasants and other people working in rural areas forcibly evicted or displaced every year,

**Alarmed** also by the high incidence of suicide of peasants in several countries,

**Stressing** that peasant women and other rural women play a significant role in the economic survival of their families and in contributing to the rural and national economy, including through their work in the non-monetized sectors of the economy, but are often denied tenure and ownership of land, equal access to land, productive resources, financial services, information, employment or social protection, and are often victims of violence and discrimination in a variety of forms and manifestations,

**Stressing** also the importance of promoting and protecting the rights of the child in rural areas, including through the eradication of poverty, hunger and malnutrition, the promotion of quality education and health, protection from exposure to chemicals and wastes, and the elimination of child labour, in accordance with relevant human rights obligations,

**Stressing** further that several factors make it difficult for peasants and other people working in rural areas, including small-scale fishers and fish workers, pastoralists, foresters and other local communities, to make their voices heard, to defend their human rights and tenure rights, and to secure the sustainable use of the natural resources on which they depend,

**Recognizing** that access to land, water, seeds and other natural resources is an increasing challenge for rural people, and stressing the importance of improving access to productive resources and investment in appropriate rural development,

**Convinced** that peasants and other people working in rural areas should be supported in their efforts to promote and undertake sustainable practices of agricultural production that support and are in harmony with nature, also referred to as Mother Earth in a number of countries and regions, including by respecting the biological and natural ability of ecosystems to adapt and regenerate through natural processes and cycles,

**Considering** the hazardous and exploitative conditions that exist in many parts of the world under which many peasants and other people working in rural areas have to work, often denied the opportunity to exercise their fundamental rights at work and lacking living wages and social protection,

**Concerned** that individuals, groups and institutions that promote and protect the human rights of those working on land and natural resources issues face a high risk of being subjected to different forms of intimidation and of violations of their physical integrity,

**Noting** that peasants and other people working in rural areas often face difficulties in gaining access to courts, police officers, prosecutors and lawyers to the extent that they are unable to

seek immediate redress or protection from violence, abuse and exploitation,

**Concerned** about speculation on food products, the increasing concentration and unbalanced distribution of food systems and the uneven power relations along the value chains, which impair the enjoyment of human rights,

**Reaffirming** that 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,

**Recalling** the right of peoples to exercise, subject to the relevant provisions of both International Covenants on Human Rights,<sup>4</sup> full and complete sovereignty over all their natural wealth and resources,

**Recognizing** that the concept of food sovereignty has been used in many States and regions to designate the right to define their food and agriculture systems and the right to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods that respect human rights,

**Realizing** that the individual, having duties to other individuals and to the community to which he or she belongs, is under a responsibility to strive for the promotion and observance of the rights recognized in the present Declaration and in national law,

**Reaffirming** the importance of respecting the diversity of cultures and of promoting tolerance, dialogue and cooperation,

**Recalling** the extensive body of conventions and recommendations of the International Labour Organization on labour protection and decent work,

**Recalling** also the Convention on Biological Diversity<sup>11</sup> and the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity,<sup>12</sup>

**Recalling** further the extensive work of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Committee on World Food Security on the right to food, tenure rights, access to natural resources and other rights of peasants, in particular the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture,<sup>13</sup> and the Organization's Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security,<sup>14</sup> the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication and the Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security,<sup>15</sup>

**Recalling** the outcome of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, and the Peasants' Charter adopted thereat, in which the need for the formulation of appropriate national strategies for agrarian reform and rural development, and their integration with overall national development strategies, was emphasized,

**Reaffirming** that the present Declaration and relevant international agreements shall be mutually supportive with a view to enhancing the protection of human rights,

11. United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

12. United Nations Environment Programme, document UNEP/CBD/COP/10/27, annex, decision X/1.

13. United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 2400, No. 43345.

14. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, document CL 144/9 (C 2013/20), appendix D.

15. E/CN.4/2005/131, annex.



**Determined** to take new steps forward in the commitment of the international community with a view to achieving substantial progress in human rights endeavours by an increased and sustained effort of international cooperation and solidarity,

**Convinced** of the need for greater protection of the human rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas, and for a coherent interpretation and application of existing international human rights norms and standards in this matter,

## **Declares the following:**

### **Article 1**

1. For the purposes of the present Declaration, a peasant is any person who engages or who seeks to engage alone, or in association with others or as a community, in small-scale agricultural production for subsistence and/or for the market, and who relies significantly, though not necessarily exclusively, on family or household labour and other non-monetized ways of organizing labour, and who has a special dependency on and attachment to the land.

2. The present Declaration applies to any person engaged in artisanal or smallscale agriculture, crop planting, livestock raising, pastoralism, fishing, forestry, hunting or gathering, and handicrafts related to agriculture or a related occupation in a rural area. It also applies to dependent family members of peasants.

3. The present Declaration also applies to indigenous peoples and local communities working on the land, transhumant, nomadic and semi-nomadic communities, and the landless engaged in the above-mentioned activities.

4. The present Declaration further applies to hired workers, including all migrant workers regardless of their migration status, and seasonal workers, on plantations, agricultural farms, forests and farms in aquaculture and in agro-industrial enterprises.

### **Article 2**

1. States shall respect, protect and fulfil the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas. They shall promptly take legislative, administrative and other appropriate steps to achieve progressively the full realization of the rights of the present Declaration that cannot be immediately guaranteed.

2. Particular attention shall be paid in the implementation of the present Declaration to the rights and special needs of peasants and other people working in rural areas, including older persons, women, youth, children and persons with disabilities, taking into account the need to address multiple forms of discrimination.

3. Without disregarding specific legislation on indigenous peoples, before adopting and implementing legislation and policies, international agreements and other decision-making processes that may affect the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas, States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with peasants and other people working in rural areas through their own representative institutions, engaging with and seeking the support of peasants and other people working in rural areas who could be affected by decisions before those decisions are made, and responding to their contributions, taking into consideration existing power imbalances between different parties and ensuring active, free, effective, meaningful and informed participation of individuals and groups in associated decision-making processes.

4. States shall elaborate, interpret and apply relevant international agreements and standards to which they are a party in a manner consistent with their human rights obligations as applicable to peasants and other people working in rural areas.

5. States shall take all necessary measures to ensure that non-State actors that they are in a position to regulate, such

as private individuals and organizations, and transnational corporations and other business enterprises, respect and strengthen the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas.

6. States, recognizing the importance of international cooperation in support of national efforts for the realization of the purposes and objectives of the present Declaration, shall take appropriate and effective measures in this regard, between and among States and, as appropriate, in partnership with relevant international and regional organizations and civil society, in particular organizations of peasants and other people working in rural areas, among others. Such measures could include:

(a) Ensuring that relevant international cooperation, including international development programmes, is inclusive, accessible and pertinent to peasants and other people working in rural areas;

(b) Facilitating and supporting capacity-building, including through the exchange and sharing of information, experiences, training programmes and best practices;

(c) Facilitating cooperation in research and in access to scientific and technical knowledge;

(d) Providing, as appropriate, technical and economic assistance, facilitating access to and sharing of accessible technologies, and through the transfer of technologies, particularly to developing countries, on mutually agreed terms;

(e) Improving the functioning of markets at the global level and facilitating timely access to market information, including on food reserves, in order to help to limit extreme food price volatility and the attractiveness of speculation.

### **Article 3**

1. Peasants and other people working in rural areas have the right to the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms recognized in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights<sup>2</sup> and all other international human rights instruments, free from any kind of discrimination in the exercise of their rights based on any grounds such as origin, nationality, race, colour, descent, sex, language, culture, marital status, property, disability, age, political or other opinion, religion, birth or economic, social or other status.

2. Peasants and other people working in rural areas have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies to exercise their right to development.

3. States shall take appropriate measures to eliminate conditions that cause or help to perpetuate discrimination, including multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, against peasants and people working in rural areas.

### **Article 4**

1. States shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate all forms of discrimination against peasant women and other women working in rural areas and to promote their empowerment in order to ensure, on the basis of equality between men and women, that they fully and equally enjoy all human rights and fundamental freedoms and that they are able to freely pursue, participate in and benefit from rural economic, social, political and cultural development.

2. States shall ensure that peasant women and other women working in rural areas enjoy without discrimination all the human rights and fundamental freedoms set out in the present Declaration and in other international human rights instruments, including the rights:

(a) To participate equally and effectively in the formulation and implementation of development planning at all levels;

(b) To have equal access to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, including adequate health-care facilities, information, counselling and services in family planning;

- (c) To benefit directly from social security programmes;
- (d) To receive all types of training and education, whether formal or non-formal, including training and education relating to functional literacy, and to benefit from all community and extension services in order to increase their technical proficiency;
- (e) To organize self-help groups, associations and cooperatives in order to obtain equal access to economic opportunities through employment or selfemployment;
- (f) To participate in all community activities;
- (g) To have equal access to financial services, agricultural credit and loans, marketing facilities and appropriate technology;
- (h) To equal access to, use of and management of land and natural resources, and to equal or priority treatment in land and agrarian reform and in land resettlement schemes;
- (i) To decent employment, equal remuneration and social protection benefits, and to have access to income-generating activities;
- (j) To be free from all forms of violence.

#### Article 5

1. Peasants and other people working in rural areas have the right to have access to and to use in a sustainable manner the natural resources present in their communities that are required to enjoy adequate living conditions, in accordance with article 28 of the present Declaration. They also have the right to participate in the management of these resources.

2. States shall take measures to ensure that any exploitation affecting the natural resources that peasants and other people working in rural areas traditionally hold or use is permitted based on, but not limited to:

- (a) A duly conducted social and environmental impact assessment;
- (b) Consultations in good faith, in accordance with article 2 (3) of the present Declaration;
- (c) Modalities for the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits of such exploitation that have been established on mutually agreed terms between those exploiting the natural resources and the peasants and other people working in rural areas.

#### Article 6

1. Peasants and other people working in rural areas have the right to life, physical and mental integrity, liberty and security of person.

2. Peasants and other people working in rural areas shall not be subjected to arbitrary arrest or detention, torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and shall not be held in slavery or servitude.

#### Article 7

1. Peasants and other people working in rural areas have the right to recognition everywhere as persons before the law.

2. States shall take appropriate measures to facilitate the freedom of movement of peasants and other people working in rural areas.

3. States shall, where required, take appropriate measures to cooperate with a view to addressing transboundary tenure issues affecting peasants and other people working in rural areas that cross international boundaries, in accordance with article 28 of the present Declaration.

#### Article 8

1. Peasants and other people working in rural areas have the right to freedom of thought, belief, conscience, religion, opinion, expression and peaceful assembly. They have the right to express their opinion, either orally, in writing or in print, in the form of art, or through any other media of their choice, at the local, regional, national and international levels.

2. Peasants and other people working in rural areas have the right, individually and/or collectively, in association with others

or as a community, to participate in peaceful activities against violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

3. The exercise of the rights provided for in the present article carries with it special duties and responsibilities. It may therefore be subject to certain restrictions, but these shall only be such as are provided for by law and are necessary:

- (a) For respect of the rights or reputations of others;
- (b) For the protection of national security or of public order (ordre public), or of public health or morals.

4. States shall take all necessary measures to ensure protection by the competent authorities of everyone, individually and in association with others, against any violence, threat, retaliation, de jure or de facto discrimination, pressure or any other arbitrary action as a consequence of his or her legitimate exercise and defence of the rights described in the present Declaration.

#### Article 9

1. Peasants and other people working in rural areas have the right to form and join organizations, trade unions, cooperatives or any other organization or association of their own choosing for the protection of their interests, and to bargain collectively. Such organizations shall be independent and voluntary in character, and remain free from all interference, coercion or repression.

2. No restrictions may be placed on the exercise of this right other than those which are prescribed by law and are necessary in a democratic society in the interests of national security or public safety, public order (ordre public), the protection of public health or morals or the protection of the rights and freedoms of others.

3. States shall take appropriate measures to encourage the establishment of organizations of peasants and other people working in rural areas, including unions, cooperatives or other organizations, particularly with a view to eliminating obstacles to their establishment, growth and pursuit of lawful activities, including any legislative or administrative discrimination against such organizations and their members, and provide them with support to strengthen their position when negotiating contractual arrangements in order to ensure that conditions and prices are fair and stable and do not violate their rights to dignity and to a decent life.

#### Article 10

1. Peasants and other people working in rural areas have the right to active and free participation, directly and/or through their representative organizations, in the preparation and implementation of policies, programmes and projects that may affect their lives, land and livelihoods.

2. States shall promote the participation, directly and/or through their representative organizations, of peasants and other people working in rural areas in decision-making processes that may affect their lives, land and livelihoods; this includes respecting the establishment and growth of strong and independent organizations of peasants and other people working in rural areas and promoting their participation in the preparation and implementation of food safety, labour and environmental standards that may affect them.

#### Article 11

1. Peasants and other people working in rural areas have the right to seek, receive, develop and impart information, including information about factors that may affect the production, processing, marketing and distribution of their products.

2. States shall take appropriate measures to ensure that peasants and other people working in rural areas have access to relevant, transparent, timely and adequate information in a language and form and through means adequate to their cultural methods so as to promote their empowerment and to ensure

their effective participation in decision-making in matters that may affect their lives, land and livelihoods.

3. States shall take appropriate measures to promote the access of peasants and other people working in rural areas to a fair, impartial and appropriate system of evaluation and certification of the quality of their products at the local, national and international levels, and to promote their participation in its formulation.

#### **Article 12**

1. Peasants and other people working in rural areas have the right to effective and non-discriminatory access to justice, including access to fair procedures for the resolution of disputes and to effective remedies for all infringements of their human rights. Such decisions shall give due consideration to their customs, traditions, rules and legal systems in conformity with relevant obligations under international human rights law.

2. States shall provide for non-discriminatory access, through impartial and competent judicial and administrative bodies, to timely, affordable and effective means of resolving disputes in the language of the persons concerned, and shall provide effective and prompt remedies, which may include a right of appeal, restitution, indemnity, compensation and reparation.

3. Peasants and other people working in rural areas have the right to legal assistance. States shall consider additional measures, including legal aid, to support peasants and other people working in rural areas who would otherwise not have access to administrative and judicial services.

4. States shall consider measures to strengthen relevant national institutions for the promotion and protection of all human rights, including the rights described in the present Declaration.

5. States shall provide peasants and other people working in rural areas with effective mechanisms for the prevention of and redress for any action that has the aim or effect of violating their human rights, arbitrarily dispossessing them of their land and natural resources or of depriving them of their means of subsistence and integrity, and for any form of forced sedentarization or population displacement.

#### **Article 13**

1. Peasants and other people working in rural areas have the right to work, which includes the right to choose freely the way they earn their living.

2. Children of peasants and other people working in rural areas have the right to be protected from any work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with the child's education, or to be harmful to a child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development.

3. States shall create an enabling environment with opportunities for work for peasants and other people working in rural areas and their families that provide remuneration allowing for an adequate standard of living.

4. In States facing high levels of rural poverty and in the absence of employment opportunities in other sectors, States shall take appropriate measures to establish and promote sustainable food systems that are sufficiently labour-intensive to contribute to the creation of decent employment.

5. States, taking into account the specific characteristics of peasant agriculture and small-scale fisheries, shall monitor compliance with labour legislation by allocating, where required, appropriate resources to ensure the effective operation of labour inspectorates in rural areas.

6. No one shall be required to perform forced, bonded or compulsory labour, be subjected to the risk of becoming a victim of human trafficking or be held in any other form of contemporary slavery. States shall, in consultation and

cooperation with peasants and other people working in rural areas and their representative organizations, take appropriate measures to protect them from economic exploitation, child labour and all forms of contemporary slavery, such as debt bondage of women, men and children, and forced labour, including of fishers and fish workers, forest workers, or seasonal or migrant workers.

#### **Article 14**

1. Peasants and other people working in rural areas, irrespective of whether they are temporary, seasonal or migrant workers, have the rights to work in safe and healthy working conditions, to participate in the application and review of safety and health measures, to select safety and health representatives and representatives in safety and health committees, to the implementation of measures to prevent, reduce and control hazards and risks, to have access to adequate and appropriate protective clothing and equipment and to adequate information and training on occupational safety, to work free from violence and harassment, including sexual harassment, to report unsafe and unhealthy working conditions and to remove themselves from danger resulting from their work activity when they reasonably believe that there is an imminent and serious risk to their safety or health, without being subjected to any work-related retaliation for exercising such rights.

2. Peasants and other people working in rural areas have the right not to use or to be exposed to hazardous substances or toxic chemicals, including agrochemicals or agricultural or industrial pollutants.

3. States shall take appropriate measures to ensure favourable safe and healthy working conditions for peasants and other people working in rural areas, and shall in particular designate appropriate competent authorities responsible, and establish mechanisms for intersectoral coordination for the implementation of policies and enforcement of national laws and regulations on occupational safety and health in agriculture, the agro-industry and fisheries, provide for corrective measures and appropriate penalties, and establish and support adequate and appropriate systems of inspection for rural workplaces.

4. States shall take all measures necessary to ensure:

(a) The prevention of risks to health and safety derived from technologies, chemicals and agricultural practices, including through their prohibition and restriction;

(b) An appropriate national system or any other system approved by the competent authority establishing specific criteria for the importation, classification, packaging, distribution, labelling and use of chemicals used in agriculture, and for their prohibition or restriction;

(c) That those who produce, import, provide, sell, transfer, store or dispose of chemicals used in agriculture comply with national or other recognized safety and health standards, and provide adequate and appropriate information to users in the appropriate official language or languages of the country and, on request, to the competent authority;

(d) That there is a suitable system for the safe collection, recycling and disposal of chemical waste, obsolete chemicals and empty containers of chemicals so as to avoid their use for other purposes and to eliminate or minimize the risks to safety and health and to the environment;

(e) The development and implementation of educational and public awareness programmes on the health and environmental effects of chemicals commonly used in rural areas, and on alternatives to them.

#### **Article 15**

1. Peasants and other people working in rural areas have the right to adequate food and the fundamental right to be free from hunger. This includes the right to produce food and the right to



adequate nutrition, which guarantee the possibility of enjoying the highest degree of physical, emotional and intellectual development.

2. States shall ensure that peasants and other people working in rural areas enjoy physical and economic access at all times to sufficient and adequate food that is produced and consumed sustainably and equitably, respecting their cultures, preserving access to food for future generations, and that ensures a physically and mentally fulfilling and dignified life for them, individually and/or collectively, responding to their needs.

3. States shall take appropriate measures to combat malnutrition in rural children, including within the framework of primary health care through, inter alia, the application of readily available technology and the provision of adequate nutritious food and by ensuring that women have adequate nutrition during pregnancy and lactation. States shall also ensure that all segments of society, in particular parents and children, are informed, have access to nutritional education and are supported in the use of basic knowledge on child nutrition and the advantages of breastfeeding.

4. Peasants and other people working in rural areas have the right to determine their own food and agriculture systems, recognized by many States and regions as the right to food sovereignty. This includes the right to participate in decision-making processes on food and agriculture policy and the right to healthy and adequate food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods that respect their cultures.

5. States shall formulate, in partnership with peasants and other people working in rural areas, public policies at the local, national, regional and international levels to advance and protect the right to adequate food, food security and food sovereignty and sustainable and equitable food systems that promote and protect the rights contained in the present Declaration. States shall establish mechanisms to ensure the coherence of their agricultural, economic, social, cultural and development policies with the realization of the rights contained in the present Declaration.

#### **Article 16**

1. Peasants and other people working in rural areas have the right to an adequate standard of living for themselves and their families and to facilitated access to the means of production necessary to achieve them, including production tools, technical assistance, credit, insurance and other financial services. They also have the right to engage freely, individually and/or collectively, in association with others or as a community, in traditional ways of farming, fishing, livestock rearing and forestry and to develop community-based commercialization systems.

2. States shall take appropriate measures to favour the access of peasants and other people working in rural areas to the means of transportation and the processing, drying and storage facilities necessary for selling their products on local, national and regional markets at prices that guarantee them a decent income and livelihood.

3. States shall take appropriate measures to strengthen and support local, national and regional markets in ways that facilitate and ensure that peasants and other people working in rural areas have, full and equitable access and participation in these markets to sell their products at prices that allow them and their families to attain an adequate standard of living.

4. States shall take all appropriate measures to ensure that their rural development, agricultural, environmental, trade and investment policies and programmes contribute effectively to protecting and strengthening local livelihood options and to the transition to sustainable modes of agricultural production. States shall stimulate sustainable production, including agroecological and organic production, whenever possible, and facilitate direct

farmer-to-consumer sales.

5. States shall take appropriate measures to strengthen the resilience of peasants and other people working in rural areas against natural disasters and other severe disruptions, such as market failures.

6. States shall take appropriate measures to ensure fair wages and equal remuneration for work of equal value, without distinction of any kind.

#### **Article 17**

1. Peasants and other people living in rural areas have the right to land, individually and/or collectively, in accordance with article 28 of the present Declaration, including the right to have access to, sustainably use and manage land and the water bodies, coastal seas, fisheries, pastures and forests therein, to achieve an adequate standard of living, to have a place to live in security, peace and dignity and to develop their cultures.

2. States shall take appropriate measures to remove and prohibit all forms of discrimination relating to the right to land, including those resulting from change of marital status, lack of legal capacity or lack of access to economic resources.

3. States shall take appropriate measures to provide legal recognition for land tenure rights, including customary land tenure rights not currently protected by law, recognizing the existence of different models and systems. States shall protect legitimate tenure and ensure that peasants and other people working in rural areas are not arbitrarily or unlawfully evicted and that their rights are not otherwise extinguished or infringed. States shall recognize and protect the natural commons and their related systems of collective use and management.

4. Peasants and other people working in rural areas have the right to be protected against arbitrary and unlawful displacement from their land or place of habitual residence, or from other natural resources used in their activities and necessary for the enjoyment of adequate living conditions. States shall incorporate protections against displacement into domestic legislation that are consistent with international human rights and humanitarian law. States shall prohibit arbitrary and unlawful forced eviction, the destruction of agricultural areas and the confiscation or expropriation of land and other natural resources, including as a punitive measure or as a means of method of war.

5. Peasants and other people working in rural areas who have been arbitrarily or unlawfully deprived of their lands have the right, individually and/or collectively, in association with others or as a community, to return to their land of which they were arbitrarily or unlawfully deprived, including in cases of natural disasters and/or armed conflict and to have restored their access to the natural resources used in their activities and necessary for the enjoyment of adequate living conditions, whenever possible, or to receive just, fair and lawful compensation when their return is not possible.

6. Where appropriate, States shall take appropriate measures to carry out agrarian reforms in order to facilitate the broad and equitable access to land and other natural resources necessary to ensure that peasants and other people working in rural areas enjoy adequate living conditions, and to limit excessive concentration and control of land, taking into account its social function. Landless peasants, young people, smallscale fishers and other rural workers should be given priority in the allocation of public lands, fisheries and forests.

7. States shall take measures aimed at the conservation and sustainable use of land and other natural resources used in their production, including through agroecology, and ensure the conditions for the regeneration of biological and other natural capacities and cycles.

#### **Article 18**

1. Peasants and other people working in rural areas have the right to the conservation and protection of the environment and the productive capacity of their lands, and of the resources that they use and manage.

2. States shall take appropriate measures to ensure that peasants and other people working in rural areas enjoy, without discrimination, a safe, clean and healthy environment.

3. States shall comply with their respective international obligations to combat climate change. Peasants and other people working in rural areas have the right to contribute to the design and implementation of national and local climate change adaptation and mitigation policies, including through the use of practices and traditional knowledge.

4. States shall take effective measures to ensure that no hazardous material, substance or waste is stored or disposed of on the land of peasants and other people working in rural areas, and shall cooperate to address the threats to the enjoyment of their rights that result from transboundary environmental harm.

5. States shall protect peasants and other people working in rural areas against abuses by non-State actors, including by enforcing environmental laws that contribute, directly or indirectly, to the protection of the rights of peasants or other people working in rural areas.

#### **Article 19**

1. Peasants and other people working in rural areas have the right to seeds, in accordance with article 28 of the present Declaration, including:

(a) The right to the protection of traditional knowledge relevant to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture;

(b) The right to equitably participate in sharing the benefits arising from the utilization of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture;

(c) The right to participate in the making of decisions on matters relating to the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture;

(d) The right to save, use, exchange and sell their farm-saved seed or propagating material.

2. Peasants and other people working in rural areas have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their own seeds and traditional knowledge.

3. States shall take measures to respect, protect and fulfil the right to seeds of peasants and other people working in rural areas.

4. States shall ensure that seeds of sufficient quality and quantity are available to peasants at the most suitable time for planting and at an affordable price.

5. States shall recognize the rights of peasants to rely either on their own seeds or on other locally available seeds of their choice and to decide on the crops and species that they wish to grow.

6. States shall take appropriate measures to support peasant seed systems and promote the use of peasant seeds and agrobiodiversity.

7. States shall take appropriate measures to ensure that agricultural research and development integrates the needs of peasants and other people working in rural areas and to ensure their active participation in the definition of priorities and the undertaking of research and development, taking into account their experience, and increase investment in research and the development of orphan crops and seeds that respond to the needs of peasants and other people working in rural areas.

8. States shall ensure that seed policies, plant variety protection and other intellectual property laws, certification

schemes and seed marketing laws respect and take into account the rights, needs and realities of peasants and other people working in rural areas.

#### **Article 20**

1. States shall take appropriate measures, in accordance with their relevant international obligations, to prevent the depletion and ensure the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in order to promote and protect the full enjoyment of the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas.

2. States shall take appropriate measures to promote and protect the traditional knowledge, innovation and practices of peasants and other people working in rural areas, including traditional agrarian, pastoral, forestry, fisheries, livestock and agroecological systems relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.

3. States shall prevent risks of violation of the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas arising from the development, handling, transport, use, transfer or release of any living modified organisms.

#### **Article 21**

1. Peasants and other people working in rural areas have the human rights to safe and clean drinking water and to sanitation, which are essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights and human dignity. These rights include water supply systems and sanitation facilities that are of good quality, affordable and physically accessible, and non-discriminatory and acceptable in cultural and gender terms.

2. Peasants and other people working in rural areas have the right to water for personal and domestic use, farming, fishing and livestock keeping and to securing other water-related livelihoods, ensuring the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of water. They have the right to equitable access to water and water management systems, and to be free from arbitrary disconnections or the contamination of water supplies.

3. States shall respect, protect and ensure access to water, including in customary and community-based water management systems, on a non-discriminatory basis, and shall take measures to guarantee affordable water for personal, domestic and productive uses, and improved sanitation, in particular for rural women and girls and persons belonging to disadvantaged or marginalized groups, such as nomadic pastoralists, workers on plantations, all migrants regardless of their migration status and persons living in irregular or informal settlements. States shall promote appropriate and affordable technologies, including irrigation technology, technologies for the reuse of treated wastewater and for water collection and storage.

4. States shall protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes, from overuse and contamination by harmful substances, in particular by industrial effluent and concentrated minerals and chemicals that result in slow and fast poisoning.

5. States shall prevent third parties from impairing the enjoyment of the right to water of peasants and other people working in rural areas. States shall prioritize water for human needs before other uses, promoting its conservation, restoration and sustainable use.

#### **Article 22**

1. Peasants and other people working in rural areas have the right to social security, including social insurance.

2. States shall, according to their national circumstances, take appropriate steps to promote the enjoyment of the right to social security of all migrant workers in rural areas.

3. States shall recognize the rights of peasants and other

people working in rural areas to social security, including social insurance, and, in accordance with national circumstances, should establish or maintain their social protection floors comprising basic social security guarantees. The guarantees should ensure at a minimum that, over the life cycle, all in need have access to essential health care and to basic income security, which together secure effective access to goods and services defined as necessary at the national level.

4. Basic social security guarantees should be established by law. Impartial, transparent, effective, accessible and affordable grievance and appeal procedures should also be specified. Systems should be in place to enhance compliance with national legal frameworks.

#### **Article 23**

1. Peasants and other people working in rural areas have the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. They also have the right to have access, without any discrimination, to all social and health services.

2. Peasants and other people working in rural areas have the right to use and protect their traditional medicines and to maintain their health practices, including access to and conservation of their plants, animals and minerals for medicinal use.

3. States shall guarantee access to health facilities, goods and services in rural areas on a non-discriminatory basis, especially for groups in vulnerable situations, access to essential medicines, immunization against major infectious diseases, reproductive health, information concerning the main health problems affecting the community, including methods of preventing and controlling them, maternal and child health care, as well as training for health personnel, including education on health and human rights.

#### **Article 24**

1. Peasants and other people working in rural areas have the right to adequate housing. They have the right to sustain a secure home and community in which to live in peace and dignity, and the right to non-discrimination in this context.

2. Peasants and other people working in rural areas have the right to be protected against forced eviction from their home, harassment and other threats.

3. States shall not, arbitrarily or unlawfully, either temporarily or permanently, remove peasants or other people working in rural areas against their will from the homes or land that they occupy without providing or affording access to appropriate forms of legal or other protection. When eviction is unavoidable, the State must provide or ensure fair and just compensation for any material or other losses.

#### **Article 25**

1. Peasants and other people working in rural areas have the right to adequate training suited to the specific agroecological, sociocultural and economic environments in which they find themselves. Issues covered by training programmes should include, but not be limited to, improving productivity, marketing and the ability to cope with pests, pathogens, system shocks, the effects of chemicals, climate change and weather-related events.

2. All children of peasants and other people working in rural areas have the right to education in accordance with their culture and with all the rights contained in human rights instruments.

3. States shall encourage equitable and participatory farmer-scientist partnerships, such as farmer field schools, participatory plant breeding and plant and animal health clinics, to respond more appropriately to the immediate and emerging challenges that peasants and other people working in rural areas face.

4. States shall invest in providing training, market information and advisory services at the farm level.

#### **Article 26**

1. Peasants and other people working in rural areas have the right to enjoy their own culture and to pursue freely their cultural development, without interference or any form of discrimination. They also have the right to maintain, express, control, protect and develop their traditional and local knowledge, such as ways of life, methods of production or technology, or customs and tradition. No one may invoke cultural rights to infringe upon the human rights guaranteed by international law or to limit their scope.

2. Peasants and other people working in rural areas have the right, individually and/or collectively, in association with others or as a community, to express their local customs, languages, culture, religions, literature and art, in conformity with international human rights standards.

3. States shall respect, and take measures to recognize and protect, the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas relating to their traditional knowledge and eliminate discrimination against the traditional knowledge, practices and technologies of peasants and other people working in rural areas.

#### **Article 27**

1. The specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations, including international and regional financial organizations, shall contribute to the full realization of the present Declaration, including through the mobilization of, inter alia, development assistance and cooperation. Ways and means of ensuring the participation of peasants and other people working in rural areas on issues affecting them shall be considered.

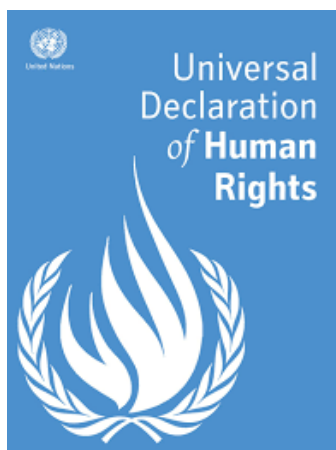
2. The United Nations and its specialized agencies, funds and programmes, and other intergovernmental organizations, including international and regional financial organizations, shall promote respect for and the full application of the present Declaration and follow up on its effectiveness.

#### **Article 28**

1. Nothing in the present Declaration may be construed as diminishing, impairing or nullifying the rights that peasants and other people working in rural areas and indigenous peoples currently have or may acquire in the future.

2. The human rights and fundamental freedoms of all, without discrimination of any kind, shall be respected in the exercise of the rights enunciated in the present Declaration. The exercise of the rights set forth in the present Declaration shall be subject only to such limitations as are determined by law and that are compliant with international human rights obligations. Any such limitations shall be non-discriminatory and necessary solely for the purpose of securing due recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others and for meeting the just and most compelling requirements of a democratic society.





# Universal Declaration of Human Rights

<https://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/>

## 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.

(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 coun-

tries 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 religion 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.

#### **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.

## 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 (CSW)** 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.

## World Conferences on Women

The United Nations has organized four world conferences on women. These took place in Mexico City in 1975, Copenhagen in 1980, Nairobi in 1985 and Beijing in 1995. The last was followed by a series of five-year reviews.

*The 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing marked a significant turning point for the global agenda for gender equality. The Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action, adopted unanimously by 189 countries, is an agenda for women's empowerment and considered the key global policy document on gender equality. It sets strategic objectives and actions for the advancement of women and the achievement of gender equality in 12 critical areas of concern:*

**Women and poverty**

**Education and training of women**

**Women and health**

**Violence against women**

**Women and armed conflict**

**Women and the economy**

**Women in power and decision-making**

**Institutional mechanism for the advancement of women**

**Human rights of women**

**Women and the media**

**Women and the environment**

**The girl-child**

The Beijing conference built on political agreements reached at the three previous global conferences on women, and consolidated five decades of legal advances aimed at securing the equality of women with men in law and in practice.

## Follow-up to Beijing

**2000:** The General Assembly decided to hold a 23rd special session to conduct a five-year review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, and to consider future actions and initiatives. "Women 2000: Gender Equality, Development, and Peace for the Twenty-First Century" took place in New York, and resulted in a political declaration and further actions and initiatives to implement the Beijing commitments.

**2005:** A 10-year review and appraisal of the Beijing Platform for Action was conducted as part of the 49th session of the Commission on the Status of Women. Delegates adopted a declaration emphasizing that the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action is essential to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration.

**2010:** The 15-year review of the Beijing Platform for Action took place during the Commission's 54th session in 2010. Member States adopted a declaration that welcomed the progress made towards achieving gender equality, and pledged to undertake further action to ensure the full and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

**2015:** In mid-2013, the UN Economic and Social Council requested the Commission on the Status of Women to review and appraise the implementation of the Platform for Action in 2015, in a session known as Beijing+20. To inform deliberations, the Council also called on UN Member States to perform comprehensive national reviews, and encouraged regional commissions to undertake regional reviews.

**2019:** Regional 25-year review processes

Regional review processes include the preparation of regional reports and the organization of regional intergovernmental meetings. These will be conducted in all five regions by the United Nations regional commissions:

Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)

Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

**In 2020,** «it will be 25 years since the Beijing Platform for Action set out how to remove the systemic barriers that hold women back from equal participation in all areas of life, whether in public or in private. Despite some progress, real change has been agonizingly slow for the majority of women and girls in the world. Today, not a single country can claim to have achieved gender equality. Multiple obstacles remain unchanged in law and in culture. As a result, women remain undervalued, they continue to work more, earn less, have fewer choices, and experience multiple forms of violence at home and in public spaces.»

### 9-20 March 2020

UN Commission on the Status of Women, New York

### April/May 2020

Global Forum kick-off in Mexico (*link Global Forum for Gender Equality - UNWomen: <https://www.unwomen.org/en/get-involved/beijing-plus-25>*)

### July 2020

Global convening in Paris (*link Global Forum for Gender Equality - UNWomen: <https://www.unwomen.org/en/get-involved/beijing-plus-25>*)

### September 2020

High-Level Meeting of the UN General Assembly, New York

#beijing25 #equalfuture2030



# CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN ACHIEVING GENDER EQUALITY AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF RURAL WOMEN AND GIRLS

## 2018 COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN AGREED CONCLUSIONS

<http://www.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/csw/62/csw-conclusions-62-en.pdf>



The 2018 UN Women Commission on the Status of Women 62<sup>nd</sup> session in New York **focused on the empowerment of rural women** with more than 4,300 representatives from over 600 civil society organizations, and 170 Member States attending the Commission.

Excerpt: « Today, 1.6 billion people still live in poverty, and nearly 80 per cent of the extreme poor live in rural areas. Many of them are rural women. They continue to be economically and socially disadvantaged – for instance, they have less access to economic resources and opportunities, quality education, health care, land, agricultural inputs and resources, infrastructure and technology, justice and social protection.

“The outcome of the two-week meeting, known as the Agreed Conclusions adopted by Member States, puts forth concrete measures **to lift rural women and girls out of poverty and to ensure their rights**, well-being and resilience. These include ensuring their adequate living standards with equal access to land and productive assets, ending poverty, enhancing their food security and nutrition, decent work, infrastructure and technology, education and health, including their sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, and ending all forms of violence and harmful practices. Member States recognize in the conclusions rural women’s important role in addressing hunger and food insecurity. This strong outcome provides a roadmap on next steps that governments, civil society and women’s groups can undertake to support the realization of rural women’s rights and address their needs.”



**WWSF**  
Creating the Power  
for Change

## About Women's World Summit Foundation (WWSF)

*Fondation Sommet Mondial des Femmes (FSMF)*

3 Blvd. James-Fazy, 1201 Geneva, Switzerland

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

### Mission and Objectives

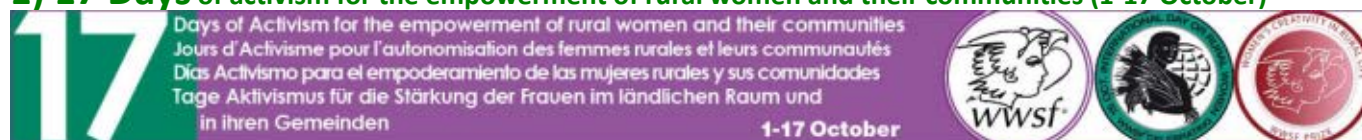
The Women's World Summit Foundation (WWSF) is a not-for-profit, international, humanitarian and non-governmental organization with UN consultative status (ECOSOC, UNFAP and DPI). Since its creation in 1991, WWSF serves the advancement of women and children's rights and advocates for a world that works for all, no one left behind.

WWSF, via its international network and annual Calls for action, contributes to the empowerment, capacity and rights of rural women, and educates for better prevention measures to eliminate violence against women, children and youth. Moving civil society actors and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in partnership with governments into increased activism to ensure that the United Nations Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 - *Transforming our world* – is realized.

WWSF activities are coordinated by a secretariat based in International Geneva, which deals with program development, management, fundraising, communications and relationships with members, donors, the United Nations and the media. The secretariat also manages relations with Board Directors, Advisory Panel members, Prizewinners and active campaign coalition member organizations and networks, as well as with key actors of the Swiss White Ribbon Campaign, which aims the elimination of violence against women and girls by 2030.

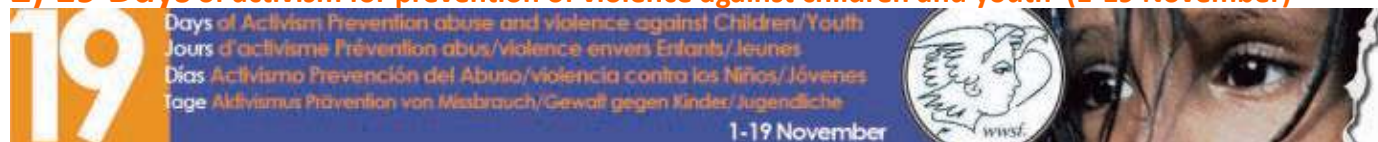
### WWSF convenes three different campaigns, two prize awards and two World Days

#### 1) 17 Days of activism for the empowerment of rural women and their communities (1-17 October)



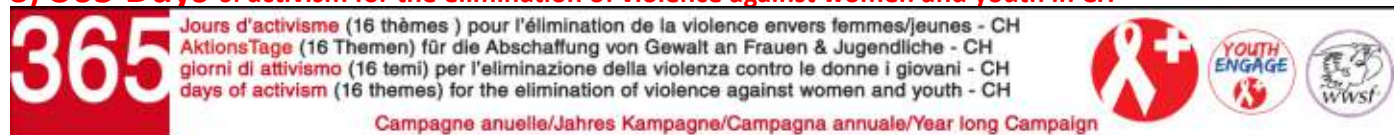
WWSF seeks to mobilize via its [17 Days of activism Kit](#) (17 themes) women leaders in rural areas and their communities. This annual empowerment campaign is designed to increase local and national activities and to stimulate rural women's claim for the basic right to development while connecting their local campaigns with the relevant SDG targets for 2030. WWSF awards an annual Prize (US\$ 1000 per prizewinner) to creative rural women leaders and grassroots groups, giving credit where it's due. Prizewinners are published at [www.woman.ch](http://www.woman.ch) (452 Laureates awarded to date). An additional occasional Prize was launched in 2017 to honor SEWA (India) with the [Rural Women Movements award](#) (US\$ 10'000).

#### 2) 19 Days of activism for prevention of violence against children and youth (1-19 November)



WWSF seeks to identify and mobilize through its [19 Days Kit](#) (including 19 themes) organizations and grassroots groups working for the implementation of the rights of the child and to mobilize its members to organize annual events and activities. The campaign for prevention and ending violence against children and youth is designed to increase local and national activities and encourages the implementation of relevant UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially [Goal 16.2](#). WWSF also awards an annual prize of for selected innovative programs by registered coalition member organizations. (56 awards to date).

#### 3) 365 Days of activism for the elimination of violence against women and youth in CH



WWSF organizes since 2009 the Swiss White Ribbon Campaign, which aims to eliminate violence against women and youth by 2030. The campaign proposes its Kit "[365 Days of Activism campaign](#)" (including 16 themes and seeks to mobilize men, women and youth pledge online: "[not to commit, excuse, or remain silent about violence against women and youth](#)"). The Swiss Youth [Engage-White Ribbon](#) program trains young people to become Youth Engage ambassadors CH and bring the campaign pledge into schools, universities, enterprises, clubs and institutions. For more information, visit our special websites [in French and German – www.ruban-blanc.ch](#) - [www.weisse-schleife.ch](http://www.weisse-schleife.ch) (Rev. 29.08.2019)



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 الريفيّة  
2019 Theme: Celebrating all award winners receiving the  
WWSF Prize for women's creativity in rural life



ANNUAL GLOBAL OUTREACH CAMPAIGN INITIATED IN 1995 AND PROMOTED EVER SINCE BY:  
WWSF Women's World Summit Foundation • Fondation Sommet Mondial des Femmes  
P.O. Box 5490, 1211 Geneva 11 • Switzerland • [wwsf@wwsf.ch](mailto:wwsf@wwsf.ch) • [www.woman.ch](http://www.woman.ch)

UN Resolution Day (A/Res/42/136/2007)

