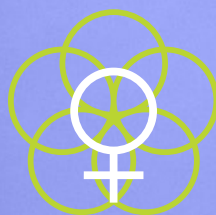


We Are **Empowered.**
We Are *Recognized.*
We Are **Included.**
We Are **Heard.**
We Are **Answered.**
We Are **Counted.**
We Are *Funded.*
We **Live In Peace.**
We **Respect Earth.**
We **Demand Action.**
We Are.
**We Are Global
South Women.**



**GLOBAL SOUTH
WOMEN'S FORUM**
ON SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT

2017 OUTCOME DOCUMENT



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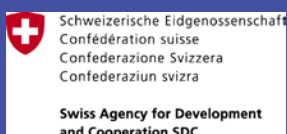
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GLOBAL SOUTH WOMEN'S FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT





STOP
VIOLENCE
AGAINST
CHILD & WOMEN
NOW.....



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We also could not have held the Forum without our local host Human Rights First Rwanda Association and regional partner FEMNET, in particular Brenda, Francine and Memory with their unwavering support. We would also like to sincerely thank our Working Group members: Prof. Savitri Goonesekere, Shanthi Dairiam, Roshmi Goswami and Ngozi Nwosu Juba for their commitment and support in helping to develop this strategic space for Global South Women. Your wisdom and insight has been invaluable.

And of course, thank you to our funders the Swiss Agency for Development & Corporation in Rwanda and DFAT Australia in conjunction with:

- European Roma Rights Centre
- GADC
- Landsea
- Nyaka AIDS Orphans Project
- PWESCR
- RESURJ
- Set Her Free
- South Africa Legal Resource Centre



Se le notaban los siglos a Berta, en ese saber vivir a diario con la testaruda rebeldía que embargaba todo como un hule de noche en la oscuridad; aroma que venía del fondo de los tiempos, y que ella andaba custodiando de fuego en fuego, aunque errara a veces donde ponía sus confianzas. Ella no necesitaba todas las respuestas, pero ensayaba muchas de ellas, y ahí residía parte de su fuerza, no tenía miedo a equivocarse, sino a dejar de intentar; a vivir sin ánimo para intentar en el ahora y aquí, en el adelanto de la buena vida que merecemos.

Era muy mayor, sin duda; al menos tendría 524 años, cinco siglos y pico de edad; ya había estado en cientos de batallas contra los imperios europeos, gringos, orientales. Había vuelto y revuelto pueblos y mujeres que se incendiaban a su paso y llamada, desde que caminaron su mundo quienes estrenaron el desgraciado olor a pólvora, y la traición de los propios allá en el Congolón, y siglos más tarde en su propia casa.

Berta era antigua, y lo será, al tiempo que profundamente contemporánea. Mi imaginación de escritora feminista me guía, y en las madrugadas que finalmente pesan sobre mis párpados, la vislumbro entre niebla junto a los peñones de allá del occidente de este país, caminando y discutiendo con mujeres alzadas que hablan lenguas diversas, y andan con energía; cruzando ríos a nado limpio con un tal Lempira, que la gente de las comunidades bien sabe que no sólo está vivo, sino que morirá hasta que la última lenca deje de luchar por la vida común.

Y así es como viene a responder a mucha gente en este mundo, entre imágenes, sueños, memorias de sus pensamientos comunes, colectividades en marcha, así viene a repetir apriétela, compa, que esto así es, porque su sabiduría es potente, suma y guía de muchas, y anda viva en la antigua tierra que nos contiene.

Quienes la conocimos, bien lo sabemos.

Melissa Cardoza
Junio 2016

DEDICATION

Centuries were undisguised in Berta, in that knowing how to live every day with a stubborn rebelliousness that imbued everything like a night-blooming jasmine at dark; a scent that came from the depths of time, the ones that she was guarding from fire to fire even though her trust was sometimes misplaced. She didn’t need all the answers, but she rehearsed many of them and that is where some of her strength dwelled, she was not afraid of mistakes but to stop trying; to live without enough courage to endeavor in the here and now, in an advance of the good life we deserve.

She was elder, without a doubt; she would be at least 524 years, five centuries and a few years old; she had already been in hundreds of battles against European, eastern and gringo empires. She had stirred up and scrambled back towns and women that were burned in her path and call, since those who walked her world sensed for the first time the unfortunate smell of gunpowder, and the betrayal of their own, over there in the *Congolón* and many centuries later, in her own house.

Berta was and will be ancient, while at the same time she is profoundly contemporary. My feminist writer imagination guides me, and in every dawn, which have finally turn heavy upon my eyelids, I see a glimpse of her through the mist by the crags in the western part of this country, walking and speaking with elevated women who speak different languages and act energetically; swimming across rivers with a man called *Lempira*, the one people from the communities know that is not just alive but he will live until the last *Lenca* stops fighting for the common life.

That is how she replies to many people in this world, in between images, dreams, ongoing communities and memories of their common thoughts. Thus comes to repeat: "*apriétela, compa*", that is the way this is! Because her wisdom is powerful, it adds up and it guides many, it walks lively in the ancient land that holds us together.

Those who knew her, we know it well.

Melissa Cardoza
June, 2016.

Translated by Adriana Luna Canales

FOREWORD

Agenda 2030, globally agreed upon and nationally owned, has the best ever chance to be implemented through the effective realisation of the recognised synergies between human rights and sustainable development. The preamble of Agenda 2030 lays emphasis on realisation of the “human rights of all” and achievement of gender equality. Indeed the standalone Goal 5 on gender equality opens up avenues to empower women and girls, eliminate discrimination and end gender based violence and above all to raise issues with specific gender perspective across most of the SDGs, targets as well as indicators. So far, the thematic review of the SDG 5 reveals that gender-responsive implementation of 2030 Agenda provides immense opportunity not only to achieve gender equality and end discrimination but also to address poverty, build peace and inclusive societies, protect the environment and deal with climate change, and draw attention to extra-territorial impacts on the enjoyment of human rights of actions taken nationally. But the real challenge lies in the implementation of a genuine global partnership and sincere commitment to resourcing and accountability to ensure that “no one is left behind.”

Recognising this, the *Global South Women's Forum on Sustainable Development* was launched by International Women's Right Action Watch Asia Pacific (IWRAP Asia Pacific) in September 2016 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The Forum brings together a large number of participants from different regions of the South with diverse backgrounds and experiences. A second Forum was held in Kigali, Rwanda in May 2017.

This outcome document from the second Forum draws on the insights of the participants, united by two fundamental convictions. Firstly the conviction that gender equality should be integrated, interlinked and indivisible both in human rights and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Secondly, the conviction that in a harmonised framework for the purpose of coherence and accountability, the role of a strong global partnership for the implementation of the SDGs, especially in resource poor countries of the Global South, is ensured. The emphasis is on gendered budgetary allocations as a decisive element in

promoting women's human rights, ensuring that gender equality is prioritised and localised in the SDGs and that meaningful, reciprocal communication channels are forged to facilitate the vital exchange that MUST occur between local and global actors.

At this second Annual meet in Kigali, the Forum emphasised establishing responsibility in an environment of both state sovereignty and extra-territorial obligations. It reaffirmed its mission commitment to open up the strategic space for the feminist movements in the Global South to share their discourse with existing processes and mechanisms to achieve gender responsive implementation of the 2030 agenda as a whole. It upheld the role of women human rights defenders who often fall victims to harassment and even murder in defending their cause. It was also noted that although States are able to submit Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs), no such mechanism has been contemplated for direct submissions from affected communities. In this regard, Global South Women have to rely on the review architecture within the human rights framework and treaty bodies to ensure that women's human rights and gender equality are achieved by linking and reinforcing the SDGs to human rights and international law and conventions.

My participation in the Forum as a CEDAW Committee member mainly focused on how to harmonise the sustainable development framework with the human rights framework, with a particular focus on gender equality and non-discrimination. The Committee on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) has an almost universal mandate to monitor the implementation of the Convention with 189 state parties having ratified the treaty. It recognises the nexus between development and realisation of women's rights, and underlines that progress towards substantive gender equality must address intersectional discriminations including the rights of poor and marginalised women and girls. The Committee in its concluding observations on state party reports, systematically calls for realisation of substantive gender equality throughout the process of implementation of the 2030 Agenda and also contributes in writing its

submission to the annual session of the High Level Political Forum (HLPF). From CEDAW's perspective, the fight against discrimination and violence against women requires a strong partnership between national institutions and civil society organisations, including women's human rights defenders.

The combined work of these entities plays a critical role in combatting human rights violations and in advancing not only the SDG 5 on gender equality, but also across all other goals such as ending poverty, protecting the environment, reducing inequalities, and promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development. Emerging issues that need addressing include the threats of rising extremism, situations of refugees and IDPs, the deepening of the economic crisis, food insecurity, recurring natural disasters and adverse impacts of climate change, land grabbing and forced displacement due to extractive industry both by national and multi-national corporations, and the arms trade, which affects women differently and disproportionately. The CEDAW Committee seeks redress for the women affected by these issues and calls for creating an enabling environment for women and girls particularly those in rural areas and local communities and among indigenous people and ethnic and religious minorities. It urges the participation of women for effective action on all aspects of sustainable development. The Committee calls on the international community, international and regional organisations and independent women's human rights mechanisms to play a supportive role in the national efforts of developing countries, the Global South, to integrate fully the commitments and considerations on gender equality and women's empowerment.

The work of the *Global South Women's Forum on Sustainable Development* is inspired by the principles of equality, inclusiveness, non-discrimination, participation and accountability, and rooted in partnerships with all relevant stakeholders from the Global South and North as well as the human rights mechanisms including CEDAW.

We do have the conviction and ability to fulfil the promise to “leave no one behind”!

MS ISMAT JAHAN

CEDAW Committee Member

The work of the **Global South Women's Forum on Sustainable Development** is inspired by the principles of equality, inclusiveness, non-discrimination, participation and accountability, and rooted in partnerships with all relevant stakeholders from the Global South and North as well as the human rights mechanisms including CEDAW.

LOCAL & REGIONAL CONTEXT

Understanding the Local, Regional and Global Contexts

Local Context

Human Rights First Rwanda Association

Rwanda is in the process of domesticating the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the national development agenda framework, with the justice sector and its partners are working on ways to domesticate the SDGs to make them resonate more with local context. Rwanda was also selected to pilot the SDGS on Governance and Rule of Law in recognition of its experience in measuring governance indicators using the Rwanda Governance Scorecards (RGS). Rwanda will host the Africa Sustainable Development Goals Center, which is expected to drive innovation and research towards achievement of the SDGs in the region. The Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion in collaboration with several women's organizations is providing capacity building workshops on SDG5 to boost the knowledge of these organizations and the community at large.

It was very important for the Global South Women's Forum on Sustainable Development to be held in Rwanda for a number of reasons but most importantly act as a platform for women to learn more, share experiences and best practices while also giving Rwandan women and women organizations an opportunity to draw knowledge and other practical ideas on how to integrate, educate and raise awareness on the SDGs. It was an opportunity for women to share their voice and ideas in coming up with the different strategies on how best we can ensure that Global South women's voices can be heard from local to global in the SDGs.

The Forum held in Kigali stressed the importance of coordination, collaboration and also working with women from the Global South as we have a lot to learn from each other. Civil society organizations, especially women organizations are reinvigorated to raise awareness and educate the masses, especially women, around goal 5 which is still not that well realized locally, especially at the grassroots level. The network formed

during the Forum will enable Rwandan women and women's organizations to share stories that will impact other women globally as they also learn. As once pointed out by our President, "The progress of every country is closely linked to the progress of every other, and we all have a role to play."

About Human Rights First Rwanda Association: Human Rights First Rwanda Association was established in 2005 as an NGO to promote social justice and human rights education, provide legal assistance to poor and vulnerable groups, and empower individuals and groups to campaign for human rights.

Regional Context

FEMNET (African Women's Development and Communication Network)

In May 2017 over 190 African women's rights organization representatives from 34 African countries convened in Nairobi, Kenya, for the first and biggest pan-African women's conference since the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015. The convening, organized by FEMNET, noted the gender gains, underpinned by the ratification to international treaties and conventions on gender equality by African governments, continue to be eroded.

During the conference, African women's rights organizations and movements embarked on the development of a strategic roadmap geared towards safeguarding and cultivating gender equity gains and identified 6 priorities to collectively embark on over the next few years; Accountability to Sustainable Development Goal 5 – Gender Equality, Financing for SDGs, Cross-Sectional Movement Building – diversity and organizing, Data collection and accountability, the Fight against Inequality and protecting women's rights,

democratic rights and civic space in the face of growing inequality.

The convening called for governments to safeguard, and protect the rights of all women to freely speak out, organize and take action and for governments to address an end to legislation that prevents civil society holding governments accountable. These collective voices of African women contributed to the Global South Women's Forum on Sustainable development held in Kigali Rwanda in May 2017. FEMNET will continue to mobilize African women and engage regional bodies such as the African Union and policy makers at the African Forum on Sustainable Development and HLPF to commit to the women rights commitments not only in Agenda 2030 but also contained in Agenda 2063, Maputo protocol, CEDAW and BPFA.

About FEMNET: FEMNET (African Women's Development and Communication Network) is a Pan-African, women's rights network with more than 630 member organizations and individuals in 43 countries across Africa. Since its inception in 1988, FEMNET has played a leading role in building the women's movement in Africa and ensuring that women and girls' voices are amplified and their needs, priorities, and aspirations are prioritized in key policy dialogues and outcomes that have direct and indirect impact on their lives.

GLOBAL CONTEXT

Global Context

IWRAW AP

We are living in a social, cultural, civil, political and economic environment that is regressing on commitments made to human rights and women's human rights. There is an ongoing shift to the sustainable development approach along with the language of equitable and sustainable development, and emphasis on private financing without a focus on rights. This could be interpreted as weakening the accountability of governments to protect the rights of people and the rights of women in particular. The situation is exacerbated by conservative forces in national, regional and international spaces that are pushing to dilute human rights standards, and delegitimize women's human rights groups challenging these positions. It is against the context of rising authoritarianism, challenges to freedom of expression,

dominance of corporate interests, the 'war on terror' and geopolitical shifts in international governance that the space for civil society activism and feminist and women's rights organizations continues to shrink, and women's human rights and women human rights defenders are increasingly under threat.

Women's rights in many countries of the global south are constrained by structural inequalities and multiple forms of discrimination in law and in practice. Women are impacted as both social and economic actors in a complex web of patriarchal structures and neo-liberal ideologies. The impact of transnational business models, global production and consumption patterns, and massive investment in developing economies, driven through a neoliberal framework of economic and financial policies, has displaced or undervalued

women's contribution to the economy, and implemented business models focused on exploiting cheap labour costs in countries with weak legal frameworks. In this context of unequal power relations, displacement, land-use change and poverty, greater numbers of women have migrated to work in urban centres of production or outside of the country for work opportunities. Migrant women workers are at even greater risk of labour exploitation, human trafficking and gender-based violence. Women facing multiple forms of historical discrimination and exclusion because of ethnicity, location, disability face increased risks of human rights abuses. Combined with their limited political, economic and social power, women in general and marginalized women in particular are most likely to be 'left behind' and will need greater recognition and protection of their rights.

The situation is exacerbated by trade and economic agreements that prioritise investor and business interests over the rights and entitlements of women and their communities, and hold back the realization of women's rights. States, often at the behest of corporate actors, are cracking down on social movements, activists and peaceful assemblies that challenge corporate power. Women human rights defenders face further exclusion because they are not only challenging traditional gender roles but also challenging the power relations controlling land, natural resource and labour, and calling for stronger protective environments and regulatory interventions that counter the desire of businesses to act unfettered in more liberal and open economic markets. The murder of Berta Caceres in Honduras and the violent clampdown against women land rights activists in Cambodia demonstrate the dangers women face in such contexts.

The 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development has been criticized for failing to centre these issues and the global community's existing commitments to international human rights norms and standards, which are fundamental to achieving progress with sustainable development targets and indicators. There is much skepticism about the extent to which global commitments to eliminate poverty and discrimination can succeed without explicit reference to existing international human rights standards and without a robust accountability framework. The High Level Political Forum (HLPF) where countries can volunteer to report on their progress with regard to the implementation

of the SDGs, seems to have in 2017, as it did in 2016, failed to establish itself as a key global and strategic mechanism for the follow up and review of the 2030 Agenda. Member states seem to have only made feeble attempts to provide basic conceptual clarity around approaches to the agenda and its implementation. In particular, conceptual clarity on interlinkages, policy coherence, and coordination¹. An alternate space for civil society voices in general, and for women's voices in particular, is vital, especially since the HLPF seems to be deliberately resisting having these voices heard.

As women human rights defenders working in local, national, regional and international spaces of the Global South, participants in the Global South Women's Forum are accountable to women and girls from our countries and regions, especially groups who are marginalized further due to intersecting structural inequalities. It is against this accountability that our commitment to strategic action on the 2030 Agenda as outlined in this outcome document needs to be viewed.

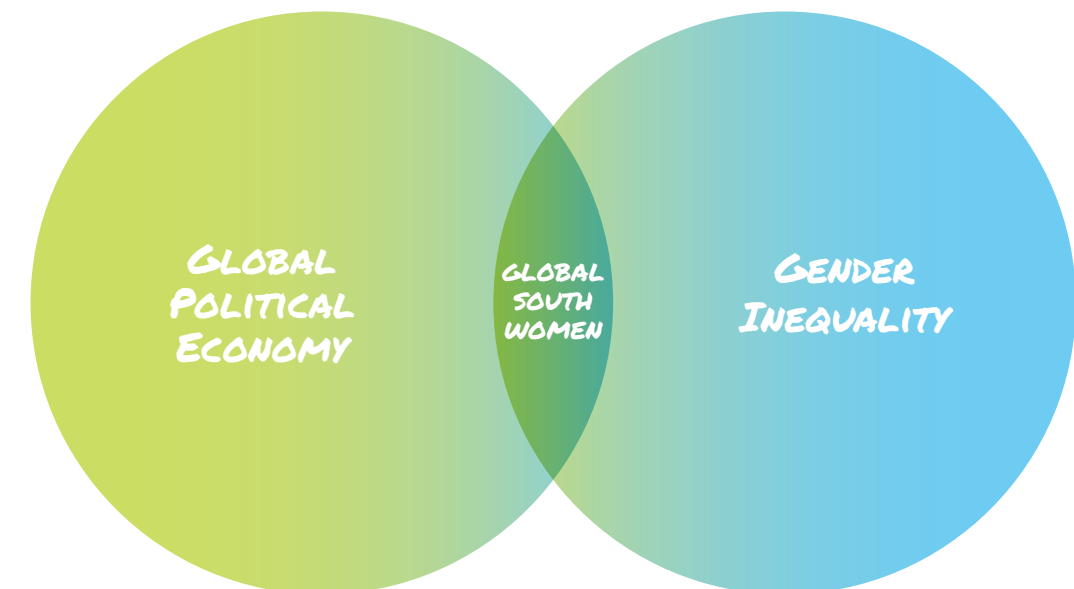
About IRAW AP: Since 1993, International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific (IRAW AP) has continued to work on improving understanding of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) as an instrument that adds concrete significance to the concepts of substantive equality, non-discrimination.

¹ <http://www.resurj.org/node/222>

GLOBAL SOUTH WOMEN

Why is it important to articulate what it means to be a Global South Woman in 2017? The reason, in its simplest form, is twofold:

1. **THE GLOBAL POLITICAL ECONOMY** ENSURES THAT IMPORTANT DECISIONS ARE MADE IN THE GLOBAL NORTH THAT CONTINUES THE EXPLOITATION OF THE GLOBAL SOUTH
2. **GENDER INEQUALITY** ENSURES THIS EXPLOITATION IS OF GLOBAL SOUTH WOMEN



It is undeniable that Global South Women continue to bear the costs of the global political economy. Furthermore, the evidence shows that the Global North are dependent on women from the Global South to maintain their power and privilege. This dependency is based on exploitation, but it need not be. We must together understand and address this unacceptable imbalance of power and privilege that has extended to suppressing voices and oppressing lives.

This year, we have begun to interrogate the South-North dynamic. The purpose is not to be antagonistic, but to achieve gender equality together. For this to

happen, we must first develop honesty and trust. Then, together we must establish solidarity in an environment of both state sovereignty and extra territorial obligations. But like so many constructed binaries, the South-North divide is not a clear dichotomy. We acknowledge that Global South Women are on a "spectrum" and are marginalized to varying degrees. This includes marginalised women in the Global North. But within this spectrum, together we are stronger. Together we are resilient. Together our feminist movement is both vibrant and vital. We ask you to need us not for our vulnerabilities, but rather, need us and celebrate us for our immense strength and wisdom.

GLOBAL SOUTH WOMEN’S FORUM

In September 2016, International Women’s Rights Action Watch – Asia Pacific (IWRAP Asia Pacific), in conjunction with Gender and Development for Cambodia (GADC) and thousands of participants from throughout the globe launched the Inaugural Global South Women’s Forum on Sustainable Development (hereafter, the Forum). The Forum was conceived as an acknowledgement that gender equality should be integrated, interlinked and indivisible both in human rights and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). However, for the sustainable development and the human rights frameworks to be harmonized for the purpose of coherence and accountability, strong partnerships between local and global actors must actively drive both agendas. Global South Women can be this driver on the road to gender equality.

The Outcome Document for the Inaugural Global South Women’s Forum on Sustainable Development 2016 paints a devastating picture in terms of gender equality for women and girls in the Global South. This is what participants told us:

PAKISTAN: “By leading the path of sustainable development, dozens of women human rights defenders were gunned down in the recent past by leading the movement to protect the rights of women... We are concerned how the responsibility of implementing Goal 5, the targets on women and girls in other Goals, as well as the gender responsive implementation of the whole 2030 Agenda will be informed and undertaken... the Government is not quite interested to provide protection to females... We have a firm Constitution, but when local customs and traditions come, the elders violate the Constitution and announce a case relates to honour and women are harassed.... The Government plays the role of silent spectator, ignoring the situation and failing to provide protection. This is why women’s political, economic and social growth is not flourishing in our country.” (WRITTEN STATEMENT 14).

INDIA: “There is much anecdotal evidence, and that which is reported by international human rights agencies... to suggest for women within closed door institutions the route to access SDGs and any kind of development process, is near impossible” (WRITTEN STATEMENT 15).

NIGERIA: “Women’s lack of access to loans, properties, continued subjugation and near exclusion from decision-making positions continuously makes it impossible for them to contribute to national development” (WRITTEN STATEMENT 17).

MEXICO: “Despite evidence proving gendered budgetary allocations are a decisive element in promoting women’s human rights, no country in the world adequately provides a gendered budget” (WRITTEN STATEMENT 7).

With these words in mind, we know that only action by all will drive the change we, the people and the planet, need to survive. As the statement from Yemen reminds us:

“The protracted nature of security instability and humanitarian crisis requires sustainable policies and intervention... in fragile states and states in conflict situations... an implementation framework of the SDGs during emergency becomes paramount” (Written Statement 8, emphasis added).

¹ 38 participants from Bangladesh, Cambodia, Fiji, Honduras, India, Iraq, Malaysia, Mali, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor Leste and Turkey attended the Forum in Cambodia. 21 people from the Burundi, DR Congo, India, Iraq, Madagascar, Mexico, Mongolia, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor Leste, Turkey and Yemen also submitted a written statement to the Forum and over 1300 people participated via live streaming.

2nd ANNUAL GLOBAL SOUTH WOMEN’S FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

From this standpoint, it is difficult to envisage the proclaimed 2030 World as any different from today’s world as governments venture somewhat meekly into the second year of the SDGs. The unprecedented agenda now requires unprecedented action. Global South Women are ready for action; if only they are allowed to act. Whilst language and policy development are important, without people invested in the process nothing will change. Although 43 countries will be submitting Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs), the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) does not contemplate any mechanism for independent review or direct recommendations from affected communities. Therefore, Global South Women must rely on the review architecture within the human rights framework to hold governments accountable. Despite this ongoing exclusion, Global South Women remain determined, optimistic and see great opportunity in the SDGs.

The 2nd Annual Global South Women’s Forum on Sustainable Development 2017 was co-convened in collaboration with our regional partner FEMNET and our local host Human Rights First Rwanda Association, with the support of the Swiss Agency for Development & Cooperation and DFAT Australia, as well as a host of other organizations that funded the participation of several women to the event. . The 2nd Forum sought to ensure that gender equality is prioritized and localized in the SDGs and that meaningful, reciprocal communication channels are forged to facilitate the vital exchange that

must occur between local and global actors. We hoped to create a strategic space for developing coherence between the SDGs and human rights treaties. Recognizing that any structure has the potential to create barriers, we committed to continuing to open up this strategic space for Global South Women in a way that is both living and growing; that is organic, dynamic and symbiotic with existing processes and mechanisms so they are mutually supportive for the benefit of all. To this end, we re-iterate our mission as cited at the Inaugural Forum:

OUR VISION	OUR AIM	OUR PURPOSE	OUR HOPE
To transcend the aspirational language of the SDGs by translating it into the lived experience of women and girls, who are, can be, and must be, the driving force behind achieving gender equality for all.	To ensure women’s human rights and gender equality are achieved through the SDGs by linking and reinforcing them to human rights treaties and international human rights law and creating spaces for local voices within national and international processes that are monitoring and implementing SDGs.	To guide, support and enhance processes at the local and national level in order to ensure gender equality is systematically reviewed and followed up at a national and international level.	To transform the sustainable development and human rights frameworks in order to challenge systems and structures that create inequality.

OUR OBJECTIVES

- To enable women's advocacy and activism to impact at the national level and to use regional and international networking to achieve this.
- To create a strategic space for women of the Global South to discuss and share knowledge on achieving gender equality, focusing on the lived experience of women, noting the critical importance of doing so in implementing women's human rights through both the SDGs and human rights systems and processes.
- To initiate and facilitate the mobilization of women's rights groups in developing strategic links and collaborative approaches on the SDGs and human rights; reinforcing state and private actor accountability for advancing gender equality.

The theme for the 2nd Forum in 2017 is:

STRATEGIZING WAYS TO ENSURE GLOBAL SOUTH WOMEN'S VOICES ARE HEARD FROM LOCAL TO GLOBAL IN THE SDGS

In 2016, the Forum was about conception. In 2017, it is about action: action that includes questioning everything and asserting that Global South Women know who they are and what they want. This means taking the next step from drafting the Declaration last year, to drafting our Plan of Action this year, which includes reaffirming the Global South Women's Declaration...

AT THE SECOND FORUM

For four days in Kigali, Rwanda 54 participants from 33 countries gathered together to discuss how to achieve gender equality in the 2030 Agenda. We shared our knowledge and experience with disempowerment and exclusion, including how to overcome these challenges in eight strategy sessions:

1. **WE ARE EMPOWERED**
2. **WE ARE INCLUDED**
3. **WE RESPECT EARTH**
4. **WE MUST LIVE IN PEACE**
5. **WE ARE COUNTED**
6. **WE ARE FUNDED**
7. **WE ARE HEARD**
8. **WE ARE ANSWERED**

On the final day, we collated our strategies and devised our Plan of Action.



THE 2016 GLOBAL SOUTH WOMEN'S DECLARATION:

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT WITH EQUALITY, DIGNITY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL: REALIZING WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS AND GENDER EQUALITY FOR PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS

1. Preamble

We, the women from the Global South who participated in the inaugural Global South Women's Forum on Sustainable Development in Phnom Penh, Cambodia between 27 September 2016 to 3 October 2016¹, reaffirm our commitment to women's human rights in the implementation of the sustainable development agenda.

We see this commitment as essential in the context of a neoliberal, neocolonial and patriarchal model of development that only serves to deplete our planet and violate our human rights. We are deeply concerned that despite the Goals espoused by the sustainable development declaration, there has been little to no state accountability in terms of gender equality and women's human rights. This is also in light of existing binding international commitments, as well as national constitutional protections and guarantees.

We remain concerned that structures (such as neoliberalism, neocolonialism, patriarchy and andocentrism) only create inequality and social, cultural, political, economic and environmental crisis for all. For this reason, we call for a paradigm shift. We believe that sustainable development for both people and the planet can only occur through universal human rights and universal peace. The sustainable development agenda will only eradicate poverty and inequality if it addresses the root causes, which includes the unequal distribution of wealth and resources.

In this context, women and girls in the Global South face multiple challenges. The continuing prevalence of discrimination against women and girls is highlighted by the:

- Lack of women's access to economic resources
- Forced migration of women for low skilled employment
- Unregulated growth-led economic development and expansion of the private sector negatively affecting women and girls, in particular small landholders and rural women
- Lack of meaningful democratic and political participation of women
- Stereotypes of family responsibilities, including unpaid domestic and care work
- Reluctance to recognize sexual and reproductive health and rights
- Reluctance to recognize the intersectional forms of discrimination women face
- Early and forced marriages, pregnancies and other harmful practices
- Institutional weaknesses of gender machineries at the national level
- Lack of funding for women's human rights
- Denial of women's human rights due to extremism, including religious extremism
- Unending conflict and the continuing epidemic of violence against women

¹ 38 participants from Bangladesh, Cambodia, Fiji, Honduras, India, Iraq, Malaysia, Mali, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor Leste and Turkey attended the Forum in Cambodia. 21 people from the Burundi, DR Congo, India, Iraq, Madagascar, Mexico, Mongolia, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor Leste, Turkey and Yemen also submitted a written statement to the Forum and over 1300 people participated via live streaming.

THE 2016 GLOBAL SOUTH WOMEN'S DECLARATION:

2. Challenges

The neocolonial, neoliberal and androcentric nature of the globalized world has only exacerbated the violations of women's human rights and the destruction of our shared planet. Conflict, multiple crises and complex disasters are all consequences of the current global political and economic model. Women and girls in the Global South unfairly bear the burden of these consequences for everyone.

To this end, we reaffirm our deep concern of the challenges that Global South women and girls face and call for a coherent and consistent commitment from both the Global South and the Global North to go beyond the potential rhetoric of the SDGs and truly create sustainable development for all.

The challenges Global South women and girls face include:

· Foreign direct investment, trade agreements, fiscal policies and tax justice

Whilst systemic economic issues (including illicit flows) continues to undermine development in the Global South, governments also continue to promote foreign direct investment. In this respect, governments in the Global South refrain from regulating the private sector from exploitation and discrimination against people and the planet is ultimately paid by everyone, but Global South women and girls in particular. Furthermore, harsh and opaque free trade agreements (such as Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPPA), the Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations (PACER+) and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) only serve to create greater barriers to achieving equality, women's human rights and sustainable development. States must ensure a rights-based approach to trade agreements, including asymmetrical agreements such as the PACER+, RCEP and the TPPA, which must not supersede national constitutions and legislation and must not allow infringement by corporate actors on human rights or on national policy space. Unfortunately, the ambitious sustainable development agenda is not enough when there is a lack of progressive fiscal policies and frameworks, a lack of global tax justice and limited regulation of corporate investments. These current realities are not conducive to achieving sustainable development and gender equality and therefore, must be urgently addressed.

· Crisis in Overseas Development Assistance (ODA)

The current ODA system is in crisis. On the one hand, the Global North is not fulfilling their commitment to guarantee an ongoing flow of ODA to the Global South. But on the other hand, ODA does maintain a neocolonial dynamic that needs to be addressed by a global tax body in order to regulate tax evasion. We, the women of the Global South, recognize the dangers of allowing the private sector to fill the development finance gap given their continual human rights abuse and unabated environmental destruction. In this respect, Public Private Partnerships for sustainable development must be regulated and private sector partners must be scrutinized and held accountable to the United Nations Guiding Principles and international human rights norms and standards if we are to achieve sustainable development and gender equality for all.

· Shrinking Democratic Space, Lack of Political Participation & Women's Leadership

The vital voices of women and girls in the Global South, who enrich all our lives with their diversity, have been silenced under discriminatory and sometimes archaic laws, policies and practices, denying them their human rights to meaningful participation in democratic and political spaces, and access to decision-making and leadership positions in the public and private sectors. Women's human rights and gender equality are still not prioritized by governments.

3. The Need for a Global South Women Solidarity Network

The “first steps” made by governments in relation to Agenda 2030 indicate a continuing lack of will to ensure gender equality in a coherent and consistent manner in all three dimensions of sustainable development.

• Land Grabs

National and multinational corporations, governments and private individuals are buying and leasing large tracts of land in the Global South for the purpose of industrial food and biofuel production, amongst other things. Land on which women depend for life and livelihood is highly susceptible to “land grabs”. Many systems of land tenure continue to be subject to traditional, cultural and patriarchal practices that discriminate against women by limiting or denying their right to land, to access, ownership, inheritance, transfer, and property sharing in marriage and divorce. Furthermore, women rarely hold positions in traditional or formal institutions that make decisions regarding land and violent backlashes (including murders of women human rights defenders and environmental defenders) has become an emerging reality for some Global South women.

• Conflict

Protracted armed and unarmed conflict continue to prevail in all regions of the world. Many are unresolved conflicts, while others are new struggles underpinned by scarce resources amid the virulent spread of neoliberalism and neocolonialism. Many of these conflicts take place in marginalized communities and all have gendered causes and consequences, both during and after conflict. Women's responses to, and experiences of, conflict are both multidimensional and diverse. In addition to CEDAW General Recommendation 30 and Security Council Resolutions, including SCR 1325, it is critical that Agenda 2030 (including SDG 16) is more cognizant of the causes of conflict and the role women play as human rights defenders, as members of resistance movements, as combatants, as active agents in formal and informal peacebuilding and perhaps most of all, as agents of change.

• Disaster and Climate Change

Over the past two decades, disasters such as cyclones, floods, storms, heatwaves, droughts and tsunamis have increased in frequency and intensity with devastating effect on Global South women and girls. The lack of appropriate and effective environmental management by states and the private sector has only increased everyone's vulnerability to disaster. Global South women and girls are the most vulnerable to these disasters, but they are simultaneously the most capable of effectively implementing appropriate disaster reduction strategies. Global South women recognize that the current growth-led model of development directly contributes to climate change, but also the associated violations of sexual and reproductive health and rights. Climate justice for all includes placing gender justice at the heart of climate agreements. Solutions to climate disruption must be based on gender responsive policies, including processes to adequately address the development and human rights impacts of climate change. We reaffirm that the global average temperature increase must be limited to below 1.5 degrees Celsius to limit catastrophic and disproportionate impact on the Global South, especially Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

• Violence Against Women & Girls

It is a blight on humanity that violence against women and girls in all its forms still exists unabated. The political, economic, social and cultural acceptance of gender-based violence is at the heart of inequality and discrimination against all women and girls. Violence against women continues in both public and private spheres; not only in the home, but in the workplace, in schools, on public transport, in public streets, in hospitals, police stations, detention centers, in media, social media, music, film, fashion and sport to name but a few. Women and girls live with a reality that accepts the perpetration of physical and psychological violence and abuse. We must change this unquestioning acceptance to conscious condemnation.

In response to these challenges, the Global South Women's network seeks to:

- Share knowledge, skill and experience in order to enhance activism for gender equality in the SDGs
- Work towards fulfilling women's human rights and achieving gender equality by addressing the need for a sustainable development process that considers the priorities of present and future generations of Global South women and girls, including indigenous women, migrant, refugee, asylum seeker, internally displaced, stateless and nomadic women, rural women, older women, women with disabilities, women from ethnic minorities and LGBTQI people
- Develop modalities and strategies to incorporate women's human rights guaranteed by CEDAW and other global and regional human rights treaties within the sustainable development agenda
- Address the shrinking democratic and political space, especially for feminist and women's organizations to make their voices heard and promote women's leadership
- Prioritize data as a key element of obligations under international human rights commitments, including gendered macroeconomic planning
- Advocate for comprehensive Means of Implementation for the SDGs and to hold governments accountable to existing commitments in the UDHR, CEDAW, UPR, CRPD, CPD and CSW
- Build the capacity of women's human rights defenders, activists and advocates by creating linkages across thematic areas
- Strengthen the knowledge, skill and experience of feminist and women's rights organizations on gender budgeting and taxation and to put these tools at the core of the advocacy strategies of national and local governments

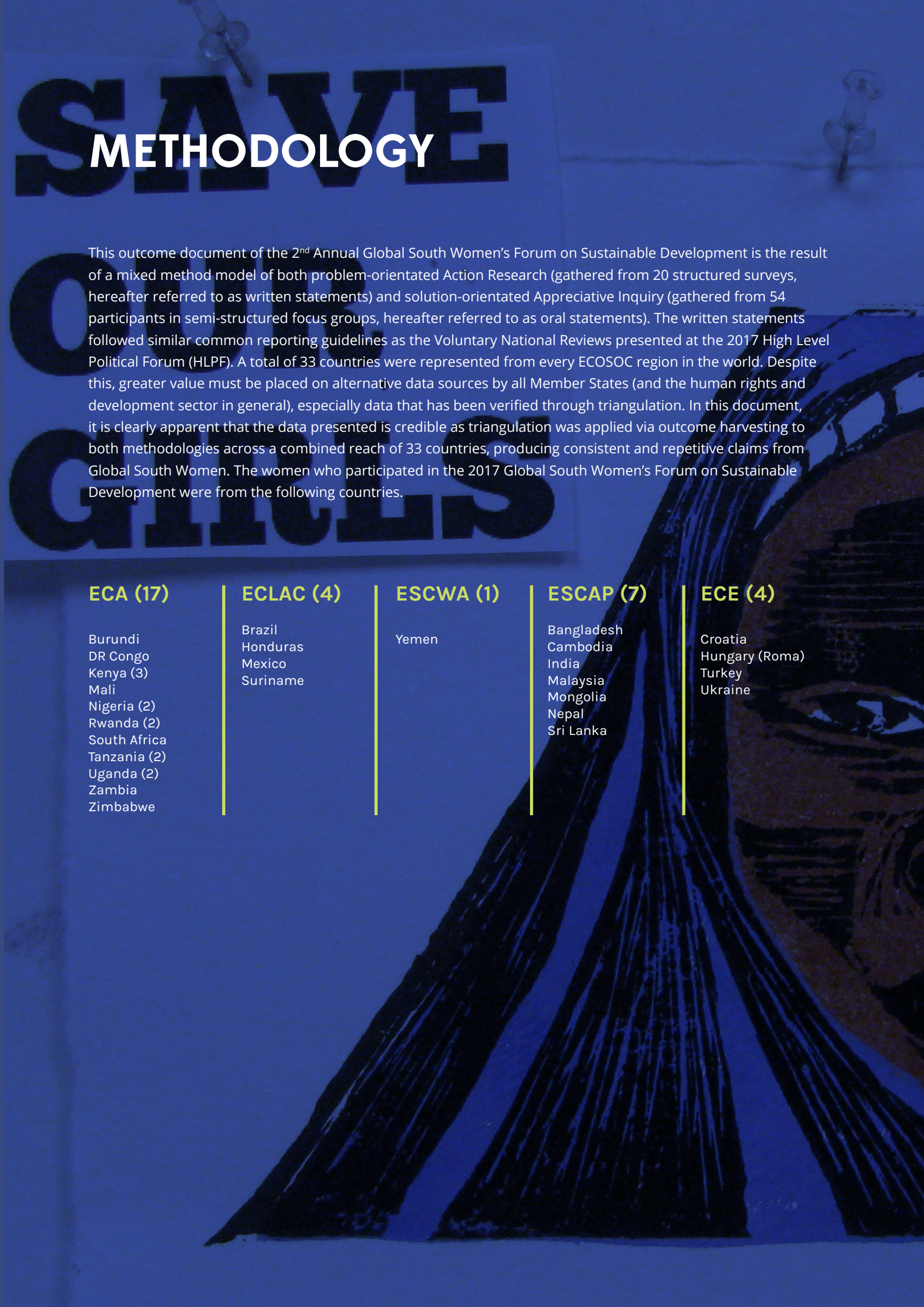
4. Statement of Solidarity with Cambodian Human Rights Defenders

We, the women present at the Global South Women's Forum on Sustainable Development call for justice for five Cambodian human rights defenders who have been working to promote human rights in Cambodia. This includes four senior staff at the Cambodian Human Rights and Development Association (ADHOC): Ny Sokha, Nay Vanda, Yi Soksan and Lim Mony, who were charged with bribery of a witness under Criminal Code Article 548 and sent to CC1 and CC2 prisons in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. In addition, former ADHOC staff member Ny Chakrya (who was recently appointed Deputy Secretary-General of the National Election Committee) has been charged as an accomplice to bribery under Criminal Code Article 29 & 548. Ny Chakrya was sent to Police Judiciary (PJ) prison. If convicted, all five could be sentenced to five to ten years' imprisonment.

This act of alleged bribery amounts to 204 USD provided to Sreymom (who is also accused of having an affair with the Deputy Chair of the opposition party, Mr. Kim Sokha) to cover transportation and food costs.

We call upon the Cambodian Government to ensure justice and due process for the five human rights defenders working to promote human rights in Cambodia who have been imprisoned. The payment is said be a standard and legal form of payment, commonly used to provide per diems. There are concerns that the criminal justice system and State law enforcement institutions are being used to criminalize and punish human rights defenders. We call upon the Government to see that investigations and prosecutions are conducted fairly and with assurances of due process

Global South Women



METHODOLOGY

This outcome document of the 2nd Annual Global South Women's Forum on Sustainable Development is the result of a mixed method model of both problem-orientated Action Research (gathered from 20 structured surveys, hereafter referred to as written statements) and solution-orientated Appreciative Inquiry (gathered from 54 participants in semi-structured focus groups, hereafter referred to as oral statements). The written statements followed similar common reporting guidelines as the Voluntary National Reviews presented at the 2017 High Level Political Forum (HLPF). A total of 33 countries were represented from every ECOSOC region in the world. Despite this, greater value must be placed on alternative data sources by all Member States (and the human rights and development sector in general), especially data that has been verified through triangulation. In this document, it is clearly apparent that the data presented is credible as triangulation was applied via outcome harvesting to both methodologies across a combined reach of 33 countries, producing consistent and repetitive claims from Global South Women. The women who participated in the 2017 Global South Women's Forum on Sustainable Development were from the following countries.

ECA (17)

Burundi
DR Congo
Kenya (3)
Mali
Nigeria (2)
Rwanda (2)
South Africa
Tanzania (2)
Uganda (2)
Zambia
Zimbabwe

ECLAC (4)

Brazil
Honduras
Mexico
Suriname

ESCWA (1)

Yemen

ESCAP (7)

Bangladesh
Cambodia
India
Malaysia
Mongolia
Nepal
Sri Lanka

ECE (4)

Croatia
Hungary (Roma)
Turkey
Ukraine

DATA ANALYSIS

Expertise of organizations:

- Art, culture, social and recreational services
- Awareness raising
- Disability rights
- Female genital mutilation
- Freedom of expression
- Gender based violence, harmful practices, child marriage, sexual abuse
- Gender equality
- Good governance
- Health
- Housing
- Human rights
- IDPs and refugees
- Land rights
- Law, legal aid, law reform, public interest law and constitutional law
- Non-discrimination
- Peace and security
- Policy and advocacy
- Racism, hate speech
- Research
- SDGs
- Sexual and reproductive health and rights
- Social activism
- Social and economic development
- Social justice
- Strategic litigation
- Training, capacity building, education, “edutainment”
- Women’s empowerment
- Women’s leadership

Targets groups

- Deaf and hearing impaired
- People living with HIV
- Roma
- Rural women
- Single mothers
- Women who suffer obstetric fistula
- Women with disabilities
- Young mothers
- Youth and girls

This year the Forum was focused on “strategizing ways to ensure Global South Women’s voices are heard from local to global in the SDGs”. Therefore, we present the analyzed data as the *Global South Women’s Plan of Action* using Theory of Change.

In addition to the challenges cited in the Global South Women’s Declaration, last year Global South Women identified four broad challenges:

- Lack of peace
- Lack of political will and governance
- Lack of inclusivity
- Lack of data

Of these, exclusion and violence were the most cited challenges.

This year, the same four categories re-emerged as persistent challenges. However, four additional challenges were cited:

- Lack of gender equality
- Lack of localization of the SDGs and lack of global support
- Lack of land and natural resources
- Lack of sexual reproductive health and rights

Global South Women are concerned that the challenges appear to be increasing rather than decreasing. Whilst this may be attributed to the increased diversity of Forum participants, it nevertheless is symbolic of the lack of concerted action in key areas related to the SDGs and gender equality.

We first present the challenges, activities and potential outcomes in relation to:

- Violence Against Women
- Conflict
- Political Will and Good Governance
- Natural Resource Governance
- Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights



We then present our *Plan of Action* in relation to:

- Inclusion and data
- Economics
- Gender Equality
- Localization and Global Support

For each of these four areas we will set up Working Groups:

1. Capacity Building (inclusion and data)
2. Macroeconomics (funding)
3. Human Rights Engagement (gender equality)
4. Strategic Litigation (localization and global Support)



WE LIVE IN PEACE:

SUMMARY OF ISSUES RELATED TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

“There is a culture of violence, we need to promote culture of peace” (Chantal Bakuzako, Burundi)



COMMITMENTS & OBLIGATIONS

“Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation” (Target 5.2)

“Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation” (Target 5.3)

“End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children” (Target 16.2)

WE LIVE IN PEACE: SUMMARY OF ISSUES RELATED TO CONFLICT

“Fundamentalist projects strive where democracy is denied. where human rights are denied. where people are denied the right to participate in decision making... And if such projects are gaining ground in the world at large it is because there is no democratic world order” Savitri Goonesekere, Former CEDAW Committee Member



COMMITMENTS & OBLIGATIONS

“Affirming that the strengthening of international peace and security, the relaxation of international tension, mutual co-operation among all States irrespective of their social and economic systems, general and complete disarmament, in particular nuclear disarmament under strict and effective international control, the affirmation of the principles of justice, equality and mutual benefit in relations among countries and the realization of the right of peoples under alien and colonial domination and foreign occupation to self-determination and independence, as well as respect for national sovereignty and territorial integrity, will promote social progress and development and as a consequence will contribute to the attainment of full equality between men and women” (Preamble, CEDAW)

“Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere” (Target 16.1)

WE ARE HEARD: SUMMARY OF ISSUES RELATED TO POLITICAL WILL & GOOD GOVERNANCE



COMMITMENTS & OBLIGATIONS

“States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the political and public life of the country and, in particular, shall ensure to women, on equal terms with men, the right: (a) To vote in all elections and public referenda and to be eligible for election to all publicly elected bodies; (b) To participate in the formulation of government policy and the implementation thereof and to hold public office and perform all public functions at all levels of government; (c) To participate in non-governmental organizations and associations concerned with the public and political life of the country” (Article 7, CEDAW)

“Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms” (Target 16.5)

“Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels” (Target 16.6)

“Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance” (Target 16.8)

WE RESPECT EARTH: SUMMARY OF ISSUES RELATED TO LAND & NATURAL RESOURCES

“We defend Mother Earth, not because we own Mother Earth but because we are part of it. The relationship women have with the land is powerful and unites different countries... the land is a woman, fertile, fruitful and productive”
Neesa Medina, Honduras

“They took my land, they took my life” Ros Sopheap, Cambodia



COMMITMENTS & OBLIGATIONS

“Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws” (Target 5a)

“Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss” (Goal 15)

WE ARE LIBERATED: SUMMARY OF ISSUES RELATED TO SEXUAL REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH & RIGHTS



COMMITMENTS & OBLIGATIONS

“States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the field of health care in order to ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women, access to health care services, including those related to family planning” (Article 12(1))

“By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes” (Target 3.7)

“Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences” (Target 5.6)

The Global South Women’s Forum on Sustainable Development

PLAN OF ACTION

On Friday 12 May 2017, 50 Global South Women from around the globe considered their political voice and their contribution to the wider women’s rights movement in sustainable development. This is a summary of the outcomes of this discussion.

The Global South Women’s Forum will establish four Working Groups based on four structural entry points: macroeconomics, strategic litigation, human rights engagement and capacity building. Each of these Working Groups will undertake:

- Situational analysis and stakeholder analysis in order to map existing work and identify gaps that Global South Women should fill
- From the stakeholder analysis, develop a Roster of Experts that can be called upon when needs arise
- Develop and deliver peer learning activities
- Appoint at least one Coordinator/Communications person
- Develop mentorship strategies (e.g. laws students for the strategic litigation Working Group)
- Mobilize other organizations to support Global South Women’s voices

WE ARE INCLUDED:
SUMMARY OF ISSUES RELATED TO
INCLUSIVITY (General)

“Inclusion is an illusion” Elgene Roos, South Africa



COMMITMENTS & OBLIGATIONS

“Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels “(Target 16.7)

WE ARE INCLUDED:
SUMMARY OF ISSUES RELATED TO
POLITICAL & DEMOCRATIC INCLUSION



COMMITMENTS & OBLIGATIONS

“States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure to women, on equal terms with men and without any discrimination, the opportunity to represent their Governments at the international level and to participate in the work of international organizations” (Article 8, CEDAW)

“Ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life “(Target 5.5)

WE ARE COUNTED: SUMMARY OF ISSUES RELATED TO DATA

WE FACE

1. Lack of funding for data collection
2. Lack of national level indicators, including weakening of indicators
3. Lack of data
4. Manipulation of data, politics of data and the "numbers game"
5. Control over data

WE ACKNOWLEDGE

Government are collecting data

Governments always collect data, but what is the difference that we are acknowledging?

WE CALL FOR

Disaggregated data, including data collected at the lowest level possible – so we know who is left behind.
Transparency of collection methods and of analysis
Improved funding for data collection/analysis – not just big data but also data that is useful for local level planning etc.
Indicator development through participation and consultation

COMMITMENTS & OBLIGATIONS

"By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts" (Target 17.18)

"By 2030, build on existing initiatives to develop measurements of progress on sustainable development that complement gross domestic product, and support statistical capacity-building in developing countries" (Target 17.19)

5 ACTIONS!

In response to the issues of data, inclusivity, including political and democratic inclusion, the Global South Women's Forum will establish a Working Group on Capacity Building. This Working Group will:

1. Design and develop an online "knowledge booth" in order to facilitate peer learning activities
2. Develop and disseminate a Guide to CEDAW and the SDGs
3. Work with the Working Group on Human Rights Engagement to facilitate a critical mass of women's rights organisations reporting to CEDAW on SDGs with a view to use the evidence to influence an evolution in the official indicators by 2019
4. Develop a Global South Women's perspective on SDGs data by bringing the "human face" to statistics
5. Host a constructive conversation with sisters in the Global North on ways forward to achieving gender equality together

WE ARE FUNDED: SUMMARY OF ISSUES RELATED TO ECONOMICS

"It's both an expansive and expensive agenda" Emilia Reyes, Mexico

WE FACE

1. Lack of gendered budgets
2. Economic crisis and poverty
3. Ineffective ODA
4. Negative consequences of neoliberalism
5. Ineffective funder policies

WE ACKNOWLEDGE

Some governments are:
1. Training women entrepreneurs
2. Implementing social protection policies
3. Promoting microfinance

WE CALL FOR

1. Financial and technical resources
2. Funding for cross-cutting issues, especially gender equality
3. Increased income generating projects and funding for women entrepreneurs
4. Change of the development discourse
5. Challenge the paradigm of funding

WE WILL!

In response to this, the Global South Women's Forum will form a Working Group on Macroeconomics which will:

1. Draft a position paper on financing for development, including reflection on the underpinning ideology of the current economic model to be used as a reference tool
2. Use the "knowledge booth" to share resources
3. Work with the Working Group on Human Rights Engagement to map structural points of entry in the macro dimensions (e.g. illicit flows, ETOs, debt) for the purpose of shadow reporting to human rights bodies
4. Deliver a high level capacity building feminist dialogue on macroeconomics for the purpose of understanding the jurisprudence on economics and strategizing as a bloc
5. Use gender budgeting and tracking tools from a Global South perspective

WE ARE EMPOWERED: SUMMARY OF ISSUES RELATED TO GENDER EQUALITY

"We do not experience only one form of oppression, it is layered depending on where we find ourselves within our own lived reality... but all oppression is connected" Elgene Roos, South Africa

WE FACE

1. Women's institutions that are politically weak, under staffed and under resourced
2. Lack of gender equality laws
3. Governments that do not know how to harmonise the SDGs with the human rights framework
4. Discrimination against WHRDs resulting in harassment, abuse, rape and murder
5. Harmful customary laws

WE ACKNOWLEDGE

Gender equality laws do exist

WE CALL FOR

1. Implementation of women's human rights
2. Strengthening gender institutions
3. Opening up spaces for WROs
4. Use General Recommendations/General Comments for the betterment of the SDGs
5. Harmonise SDGs and human rights

5 ACTIONS!

In response to this, the Global South Women's Forum will establish a Working Group on Human Rights Engagement which will:

1. Engage with various human rights bodies, such as CEDAW and CESC and encourage Global South Women to shadow report on SDGs in these processes, including on ETOs
2. Strategize ways to ensure gender equality remains a cross-cutting issue relevant to all three pillars of sustainable development
3. Identify countries which are reporting to CEDAW/CESCR and to the HLPF and support WROs in these countries to shadow report on SDGs to CEDAW/CESCR and submit alternative reports to the HLPF
4. Develop papers that set the agenda on linking human rights and the SDGs and the theoretical framework from a Global South Women's perspective, such as understanding the reality of living under anti-democratic regimes when implementing women's human rights through the SDGs
5. Convene a meeting with representatives from human rights bodies and special procedures to discuss how to harmonise the human rights framework and the sustainable development framework

WE ARE SUPPORTED: SUMMARY OF ISSUES RELATED TO LOCALISATION & GLOBAL SUPPORT

"The global dimension is more important than ever because no government or region on its own can face the challenges, so national implementation is important but it shouldn't phase out the work we do at regional and global levels"

Emilia Reyes, Mexico

WE FACE

1. Lack of localization SDGs
2. Misinterpretation of laws related to the SDGs
3. Lack of activism from Northern WROs on Global South issues

WE ACKNOWLEDGE

WE CALL FOR

1. The use media and social media to raise awareness of the SDGs
2. Localization of the SDGs through participatory processes
3. Strengthening South-North and South-South Cooperation
4. INGOs to increase support of local NGOs

WE WILL!

1. In response to this the Global South Women's Forum will establish a Working Group on strategic litigation that will:
2. Develop a network of like-minded organisations working on strategic litigation to enable a referral system in different countries and develop a standard reporting template for the network
3. Develop summaries of the cases that can be used in advocacy
4. Where appropriate, write joint letters to government that do not comply with judgements that support gender equality and the SDGs
5. Develop amicus briefs and amicus curiae and use OP CEDAW/OP CESC where appropriate
6. Target intersectionality cases regarding SDGs, including minority cases of those "left behind"
7. In addition to the four Working Groups, the Global South Women's Forum will develop three strategy papers:
8. Governance
9. Communication Strategy
10. Fundraising Strategy

Communications Strategy

- Set up main list serve and a list serve for each Working Group
- Develop a communication strategy, including how to disseminate Outcome Documents
- Expand the visibility of the Forum through branding (logo etc.)
 - Develop a “knowledge booth” to share information, tools and strategies from a Global South Women’s perspective, including videos
 - Establish ways that grassroots activists can report the challenges on the ground and we can act collectively and effectively act, especially in regards to Global South women’s human rights defenders
 - Create calendar of events that requires advocacy
 - Use Facebook to keep connected

Governance

- The Coordinators of the Working Groups will report to the Secretariat
- The Secretariat will be hosted by IWRAP Asia Pacific, but funding allocation decisions will be made by a Global South Women’s Steering Committee that is regionally representative
- Governance to include policy on inclusivity
- Draft vision and mission statement
 - To strengthen the human rights system
 - To compliment not duplicate other networks

Fundraising Strategy

- Develop a fundraising strategy and begin grant writing
 - Set up a donors’ dialogue/roundtable

LACK OF PEACE	
THE CHALLENGE	<p>Yemen “The biggest challenge in Yemen now, especially for those who work in promoting rights and freedoms, is the presence of many armed militias that does not follow the government, who are extreme and they may kill anyone with agendas they don’t like” (Written Statement)</p> <p>DR Congo “The population is strained by the resurgence of armed groups which extends in the zones not in conflict like the phenomenon Kumuina Sapu in Kasai, Born Mwenda Semi in Kinshasa, pygmies in the province of Tanganika (Manono, Nyunzu). With regard to border countries, most of which are in armed conflicts, there is transplantation of the phenomenon in the DRC and women and children pay a heavy price” (Written Statement)</p> <p>Mali “The neoliberal privatization agenda has strengthened the economic and social power of religious fundamentalisms” Djingarey Maiga, Mali</p> <p>Turkey “Under the state of emergency which was declared after the failed coup d’état last summer, Turkey has been more anti-democratic than ever, as a result of corrupt and de-functioning state institutions. On April 16 2017 Turkey ratified the constitutional amendment that will depart its path away from democracy for good” (Written Statement)</p> <p>Mali “Conflicts and crises affect men, women, girls and boys differently due to their different society roles and the deep-rooted socio-cultural and economic inequalities which become exacerbated during crises” Djingarey Maiga, Mali</p>
WHAT GOVERNMENTS ARE DOING	<p>Mali “The failure of state institutions and services is one of the most commonly identified factors behind the local presence of religious fundamentalists and conflict in many countries i.e.: the diminishing involvement of the state in community education, food of health, has left a vacuum often filled by religious fundamentalist groups and rebels groups” Djingarey Maiga, Mali</p> <p>Yemen “It also does not address the need for transitional justice... In Yemen, transitional justice is one of the tools that will lead to sustainable peace... In the National Dialogue Conference.... The outcomes did not include the needs of women” (Written Statement).</p> <p>Turkey “The constitutional amendment will refrain Turkey from democracy... we do not know how this will affect our communication with state institutions which are already not accessible to civil society after the attempted coup d’état... we were not contacted by them for any meetings or consultations, suggesting a lack/delay on implementation of the SDGs in Turkey” (Written Statement)</p> <p>“Yemen is in a state of war, as such we did not witness any efforts towards achieving SDGs objectives... Violence against women is embedded in discriminative legislations, institutional practices & negative social norms & traditions... Women were arbitrary detained for either political affiliation or for their religious faith. Assaults on female students, journalists, human rights defenders, relief workers, women protesters have been reported... The humanitarian response fails to provide information specifically on gender” (Written Statement)</p>
WHAT GOVERNMENTS SHOULD DO	<p>Yemen “Enhance the participation of Yemeni women, youth, and South representation at all levels of the political and peace process in accordance with the National Dialogue Conference outcomes. Provide necessary international guarantees to end the war and initiate the transitional phase based on local, regional, and international agreed reference agreements. Focus on reconstruction and economic recovery, and support Yemeni women in this regards, especially those heading households, including support to social protection. Emphasize a gender responsive transitional justice and initiate immediately reparation for victims, and hold human rights violators and abusers accountable, including political isolation, fair prosecution, and end impunity” Nisma al-Ozebi, Yemen</p> <p>“When receiving services in conflicts areas both men and women should be represented... Provide vocational institutions in refugee camps so that women can have economic empowerment skills. Women in conflict areas should be taught life skills so that they can also know of their rights”</p> <p>Sri Lanka “The whole society has to be catalyzed to say never again” Savitri Goonesekere, Sri Lanka</p> <p>Yemen “Women inclusion in peace building and security” (Written Statement)</p>
WHAT ARE WE DOING	<p>Yemen “We are working on developing a project that will mobilize women to eradicate radicalization and prevent extremism which is very important because so many youth are radicalized by fighting militias” (Written Statement)</p> <p>Yemen “According to the UN, one-third of the fighters in Yemen are estimated to be children younger than 18. When those children were captured, women-led NGOs responded in delivering programmes for reintegration and psychosocial support” Nisma al-Ozebi, Yemen</p>

LACK OF INCLUSIVITY	
THE CHALLENGE	<p>“University fees in South Africa is one of the most contentious issues which have flared up in the last two years... Most of the #feesmustfall protests have been led by women on university campuses across the country. The effect of high university fees in South Africa is a barrier for many people from disadvantaged backgrounds, especially women. It is a definite reality in South Africa that if it comes down to a choice between paying for a man or a woman to attend university that the man will most likely be favored” (Written Statement)</p> <p>Ukraine “A challenging aspect for implementing SDGs in Ukraine... is the violation of human rights in the form of stigma and discrimination... this violation is perpetuated by the absence of a system of training and coordination on intersectional issues” (Written Statement)</p> <p>“Roma have trouble accessing public services in most of Europe due to policies & practices that fail to address their needs & public discrimination rooted in negative attitudes & stereotypes. They suffer disproportionately from indirect discrimination because of high unemployment rates, poor education levels & living conditions. They have trouble accessing housing, health care, employment, and education and other social services. Few work in the public sector” Senada Sali, Hungary</p> <p>Zambia “From the disability sector, women are rarely involved or invited like other women groups when it comes to representation on national and international foras like CEDAW, CSW and UNCRPD (Rather have only men with disabilities). Therefore, it becomes a challenge to follow up and monitor government” (Written Statement)</p> <p>South Africa “Development of a policy around the implementation of SDGs specifically Goal 5 in South Africa. The [policy should speak to the intersectionality of women as not all women are the same and that marginalization speaks differently to women in their different contexts” (Written Statement)</p> <p>Zambia “Women with disabilities are called the dead because they do not exist” Musola Cathrine, Zambia</p>
WHAT GOVERNMENTS ARE DOING	<p>Nigeria “There is a sudden realization of the unique role that civil society can play as equal partners. CSO experts are contacted by government to share knowledge on how the SDGs can be mainstreamed into existing development plans... The state is also taking the lead in training judges to ensure justice is served when women and girls are abused” (Written Statement).</p> <p>Nigeria “The office of SDGs in Nigeria appointed Women Environmental Project to coordinate and facilitate civil society participation at a recent national stakeholder’s consultation on the Voluntary National Reviews. CSOs were able to develop common positions of advocacy in support of gender equality and women’s empowerment in the SDGs. The Office of Women Affairs also liaised with women CSOs (though not in full scale). (Written statement)</p> <p>Rwanda “The SDGs have been incorporated into the transformational approaches to development underscored by principles of equal opportunities for all citizens that has made government increase budgetary allocation on issues affecting women. The government is committed to ensuring that technology is accessible. It has adopted one laptop per child, which will be fully rolled out by the end of the year across the whole country” (Written Statement)</p> <p>DR Congo “A process of contextualization and integration of SDGs and targets in the national strategic development plan... this broadly participatory and inclusive process, involved all stakeholders, including women’s organizations” (Written Statement)</p> <p>“National Roma Inclusion Strategies are being implemented across the European Union... All of these strategies employ gender mainstreaming methodologies & focus on health, housing, education & employment. These policies are widely criticized by NGOs because they are top-down documents which fail to include Romani women” (Written Statement)</p> <p>Roma “Support Roma women’s active involvement in decision-making processes at all levels especially, when the implementation directly affects us!” (Written Statement)</p>

Continued...

LACK OF INCLUSIVITY	
WHAT GOVERNMENTS SHOULD DO	<p>Ukraine “To realize women’s human rights, the government of Ukraine must engage in multi-stakeholder action which includes coordinating among different agencies and organizations with a shared interest in achieving the SDGs by 2030” (Written Statement)</p> <p>Zambia “Partner and network with women or any organisation locally and regionally that are more advanced in working on SDGs in relation to promotion of gender equality and hopefully are disability inclusive. Mostly women with disabilities are forgotten when discussing, planning and implementing such important developmental activities. Networking with groups with active involvement of these women and youths will help in learning and sharing” (Written Statement)</p> <p>Zambia “Educate those close to persons with disabilities. Encourage women’s rights organizations to not speak on behalf of women with disabilities. Budget for sign language interpreters. UN model promoting inclusion (not integration). Support feminist movements on how to enhance the ability and voice of women with disabilities” Musola Cathrine, Zambia</p> <p>Ukraine “To be involved in the country coordinated mechanism that supports civil society organizations in policy and decision-making processes is a priority issue that needs to be highlighted in the SDGs in Ukraine. The absence of women living with HIV to engage in meaningful participation in the policy and decision-making that affects their livelihoods will address the violation of human rights in the form of stigma and discrimination... against women and girls living with HIV in healthcare facilities (especially in small towns and villages), social protection bodies, law enforcement entities, and the penitentiary system” (Written Statement)</p> <p>Tanzania “The Goals are translated into Swahili, which is crucial to ensure equal access of people in Tanzania to the content of the new agenda” (Written Statement)</p> <p>Roma “Support Roma women’s active involvement in decision-making processes at all levels especially, when the implementation directly affects us!” (Written Statement)</p>
WHAT ARE WE DOING	<p>Ukraine “The absence of women living with HIV engaging in meaningful participation in policy and decision-making affects their livelihoods and perpetuated by the absence of a system of training and coordination on intersectional issues. This was addressed at the National Forum for Women Living with HIV where HIV-positive women... acted as experts for integration of gender issues and HIV in the local policies” (Written Statement)</p> <p>Zambia “Train sectors working with public policies to include issues of accessibility. Educate policy-makers, governments and NGOs on training (from top to bottom; from the government to the village) especially engaging the village and tradition leaders. Training on language (derogatory to use words like handicapped) to use empowering words” Musola Cathrine, Zambia</p>



LACK OF INCLUSIVITY Political and Democratic Participation	
THE CHALLENGE	<p>Yemen “Women politicians were subject to travel bans or confiscations of their homes” Nisma al-Ozebi, Yemen</p> <p>“The Mongolian Parliament adopted the election law to remove the party list system and return the election system back to a full majority. The old law stated gender quota for candidates of at least 30% But as part of changes to the election law 2016, parliament decided to decrease the gender quota to 20%... This change is not a development. It’s a setback for our people and our Government” (Written Statement)</p> <p>Uganda « Despising women in some jobs/political positions, thinking those jobs are only for men » (Written Statement)</p> <p>Kenya “One challenge has been the interpretation of laws. For example the two thirds gender rule has been wrongfully interpreted to mean that men take up the majority position in legislatives while women take up the minority third which has affected women representation in parliament... The feminization of poverty has been influenced by male dominance which is encouraged by a patriarchal society. This has affected women’s participation in the political, social and economic institutions” (Written Statement)</p> <p>Nigeria “Women’s political participation is critical to the developmental processes of any country... Of the 35 Ministers at the federal level, only 5 are women. This is unacceptable in a country that parades itself as a giant of Africa” Written Statement)</p> <p>Yemen “The National Dialogue Outcome has approved 30% quota for Yemeni women, but we see a disregard of this in peace building processes and security” (Written Statement)</p> <p>DR Congo “The establishment of a government with a staff of 67 Ministers, including 8 women... at the level of political parties the notion of gender is not a priority” (Written Statement)</p>
WHAT GOVERNMENTS ARE DOING	<p>Nigeria “Many government representative were genuinely seeking to partner and learn from human rights organisation on strategies towards implementation of the SDGs... [And] there is greater civil society participation in the demand for the implementation of the SDGs across the country” (Written Statement)</p> <p>Nigeria “The appointment of an experienced woman to lead the 2030 Agenda implementation process is advantageous to promoting women’s human rights in implementing SDGs in Nigeria. Her office is collaborating with CSOs, gender ministry as well as private sector to achieve the SDGs” (Written Statement)</p> <p>Kenya “It is crucial in having women represented in decision-making and political participation. For SDG 5 to be actualized the government has seen the need to implement the two thirds gender rule in the country” (Written Statement)</p> <p>Rwanda “One lesson learnt by government in the last 12 months is the promotion of women in political participation” (Written Statement)</p> <p>Burundi “The Parliament has signed a law implying the consideration of gender and diversity taking in account women and girls in hiring processes within the public and private sectors” (Written Statement)</p> <p>“It is worrisome to see that Turkey has not already started undertaking the necessary infrastructure to ensure the successful implementation of the SDGs at the national and local levels” (Written Statement).</p>
WHAT GOVERNMENTS SHOULD DO	<p>Rwanda “Work with women organizations local and international also with public institutions who have women in their mandate” (Written Statement)</p> <p>DR Congo «The gouvernement must guarantee the full and effective participation of women and their equal access to leadership at all levels of decision-making in the ongoing electoral process in the DRC; give women equal access to economic resources; promote the use of information and communication technologies to promote empowerment; strengthen legislation and policies to promote gender equality and empower women and girls at all levels” (Written Statement)</p> <p>Kenya “In political institutions, women must be given influential seats and improve on affirmative action to encourage women to take up more legislative positions. This will influence the implementation of women’s human rights and protection of women” (Written Statement)</p> <p>Nigeria “It is critical to address the structural causes of gender inequality, such as violence against women, unpaid care work, limited control over assets and property, and unequal participation in private and public decision-making... The impunity on affirmative action with only 6% of women in executive positions in national portfolios is a setback on women’s human rights... The policy on affirmative action should be legalized to give Nigerian women a voice and seats in decision-making spheres. Increase space for women both at elective and appointive positions (from the present 6% to 50%) for a meaningful and inclusive democracy” (Written Statement)</p>
WHAT ARE WE DOING	

LACK OF FUNDING	
THE CHALLENGE	<p>“The Nigerian Government implementation of the SDGs comes with many challenges which include breaking the implementation into tangibles in the national development plan with effective budgets on gender issues in the SDGs... women’s rights issues in national budgets have been an herculean task especially in the absence of data to evaluate government implementation of women’s and girls’ rights” (Written Statement)</p> <p>“Mongolia is facing an economic crisis and some experts say that Mongolians are ‘living loan to loan’. It drives people to poverty, especially affecting women’s lives” (Written Statement)</p> <p>Mexico “Most Southern activists promote ODA, but ODA is bullshit, this is bait to shut us up, this is not our highest achievement, they will use to undermine it... we need to refuse this” Emilia Reyes, Mexico</p> <p>Mexico “If we keep asking the smallest amount we are not going to break the system” Emilia Reyes, Mexico</p> <p>India “The Western capitalist model with limitless wealth accumulation based on conquests, colonialization, industrialisation, production and consumerism, is undergoing changes and is in crisis” Priti Datrooka, India</p> <p>Nigeria “Funding organisation like IMF have harmful policies that impoverish countries” Louisa Ono, Nigeria</p> <p>Brazil “ODA; the North gives with one hand and takes with the other hand” Marisa Viana, Brazil</p> <p>Mexico “Accountability for human rights and gender equality is not the same as accountability for programmes for women (taking care of chickens etc.) This is not gender budgeting. When have tractors reached women and not hens? If you give a man a tractor and you give a woman hens, what are the possibilities for her? Gender budgeting is a tool from the feminist movement” Emilia Reyes, Mexico</p> <p>Burundi “The social and economic context has reduced the opportunities to access funds” (Written Statement)</p> <p>Mexico “The North and South battle is real, Global North were denying a human rights or sustainable criteria. We wanted a human rights framework, but the North rejected those proposals... The North has developed, we are paying for their expenses, we are trying to connect to CEDAW recommendation for ETOs” Emilia Reyes, Mexico</p> <p>Mexico “[The SDGS] fails to challenge the model of neoliberal development” Emilia Reyes, Mexico</p>
WHAT GOVERNMENTS ARE DOING	<p>Kenya “By offering training skills on women’s empowerment and entrepreneurship programs, the government has been able to slot resources for registered women’s groups” (Written Statement)</p> <p>Zambia “The government has done good work through the social protection policy. One of the empowerment components in this policy is cash transfer. For sustainability’s sake, government through tax payers’ money has managed to invest about 80% more than 70 districts in the country. The program is mainstreamed nationally and donor contribution has been reduced to 10%... Through the Ministry of Community Development, the government has been supporting disability when providing cash transfer services. Though the amount is minimal, most of these women invest the money received in buying female and male goats to keep for more animals. Once they have more goats they sell and the money raised goes to school fees, food etc. improving theirs and family livelihoods” (Written Statement)</p> <p>Nigeria “Private sector and women’s groups are involved in collaboration with the government in empowering women in agriculture. The Nigerian Government at state and federal levels are working with the bank of industry through women-led cooperatives to empower grassroots women in agriculture and trade; with access to interest free credit” (Written Statement)</p>
WHAT GOVERNMENTS SHOULD DO	<p>DR Congo “At the national level, the implementation of the Agenda 2030 necessitates financial and technological resources, the minimum required per year is US \$31,629... Continued... For the DRC, the estimation of financing needs must consider cross-cutting issues, in particular gender equality, gender-sensitive investments, including education, health and access to basic infrastructure. Reducing inequalities (SDG 10), which requires targeted investments in the provision of basic infrastructure and public services to marginalised populations” (Written Statement)</p> <p>“Yemeni women are in need of capacity building in resilience, life skills, income generating livelihoods projects, social entrepreneurship etc.” (Written Statement)</p> <p>Burundi “To develop women entrepreneurship competencies and skills in order to enhance women capacities in initiating businesses and income generating activities that can allow women and households to satisfy their primary needs and serve other fundamental issues such as children, education and wellbeing” (Written Statement)</p> <p>Honduras “Change the dynamic of the discourse that they are poor countries who need development through foreign companies... they uses it as an excuse to ‘invest’ in communities... this discourse is to cover up inefficiency of government by private sector” Neesa Medina, Honduras</p> <p>South Africa “In order to ensure SDGs are implemented in South Africa and for these goals to have a meaningful impact in the lives of the most vulnerable groups, government must show commitment to the implementation of the SDGs by making financial supporting mechanisms available for civil society” (Written Statement)</p>

LACK OF FUNDING	
WHAT ARE WE DOING	Burundi “The increasing of village solidarity groups, including other interventions related to mobilization and capacity building has raised women’s public openness and access to information, savings and loans for the improvement of their social and economic status. Therefore, their abilities in decision-making within families and communities have increased as well” (Written Statement)
	Sri Lanka “Challenge the paradigm of resource funding, the resources belong to the people, then the accountability is to the people, challenge the paradigm of development, whatever development needs to buy into the human rights framework” Savitri Goonesekere, Sri Lanka
	Mexico “In Addis... it mentioned women’s human rights, so this is crucial, we have got to follow-up... this is truly a space, we have the space and we want it” Emilia Reyes, Mexico



LACK OF DATA	
THE CHALLENGE	Tanzania “Organizations are constrained by finances for data collection and analysis. This is affecting the intensity of data collection” (Written Statement)
	Cambodia “A major challenge that the Cambodian government is facing is the process of indicator setting. To date only 30% of the ministries has set their indicators... At the moment there is a great lack of data on gender issues in most ministries. Most ministries do not have a complete database. Because most ministries do not have baseline data, they face difficulties to set indicators. Lack of budget is slowing down the process” (Written Statement)
	“Governments fake the discourse. Governments are manipulating and not getting the data. Inclusion and data would also mean setting the right indicators which is rights-based affecting the most vulnerable women”
	Croatia “In the area of violence against women, there is a huge problem of collection of data” Dubravka Simonovic, Croatia
WHAT GOVERNMENTS ARE DOING	Brazil “Refinement of indicators seems to aim at weakening not strengthening. Indicators dilute the aims of the targets” Marisa Viana, Brazil
	Malaysia “The numbers game, such a strong way for controlling information” Pooja Badarinath, India
	“UN data say one thing, national says another, the politics of data, go with the data that makes them look the best”
	The Nigerian government, through the bureau of statistics has begun a data revolution and want to make this available for the implementation of the SDGs. With accurate data on women and girls it will be effective in evaluating the success of the SDGs in advancing women’s rights in the implementation of the SDGs by 2030” (Written Statement)
WHAT GOVERNMENTS SHOULD DO	Rwanda has embarked on the process of domesticating the SDGs by analyzing existing strategies and plans, identifying gaps on each SDG indicators to make necessary advancements to meet the SDGs.... The government has also outlined three targets to be mainstreamed into the SDGs... Rwanda has also realized the need of engaging the CSOs basically because they are key stakeholders in achieving the implementation of women’s rights” (Written Statement)
	South Africa “There is difficulty in getting data, especially for Goal 5. We note the attempt to roll out the SDGs through conducting a baseline community survey in 2016 by Statistics South Africa” (Written Statement)
	Mongolia “There is no strong mechanism for good monitoring and evaluation of SDG in Mongolia. Therefore, both Government and main stakeholders should develop monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to progress the SDGs” (Written Statement)
	“It is important for Tanzania to increase effort in the existing national data collection system and the gaps that exist in terms of the capacity to capture SDG implementation... Also, since the SDGs emphasize the quality of service delivery, it is imperative to identify ways in which monitoring and evaluation of the quality of indicators will take place, alongside identifying the responsible institutions” (Written Statement 3)
	Tanzania “Support an organization which could fund a “data revolution” to enable governments and policy-makers to better track social development progress and equip people in general and women in particular with the information they need to demand more from their governments” (Written Statement)
	“The government of Ukraine must make a concerted effort to strengthen the monitoring capacity in the local and central administrations and through the disaggregation of data collected, attach this data to SDG indicators to effectively track inequalities among demographic groups. The lack of disaggregated statistics and monitoring of human rights violations makes it difficult to track and analyze gaps and therefore limits activities that seek to realize the SDGs by 2030” (Written Statement)
	Zambia “As we partner with government in fulfilling gap areas on women (especially women with disabilities) and human rights to achieve the SDGs there will be assurance in making sure no one is left out. Therefore, it is critical that skills and tools are invested in us too (women with disabilities)” (Written Statement)
	Tanzania “Data availability and accuracy is the biggest challenge in Tanzania. The government and CSOs need to work together in ensuring that all data, around SDGs are made available and accessible by the public. The open data system can be the best way to go” (Written Statement)
	Brazil “Need for capacity building at national levels e.g. of national statistical organizations, such needs need to be specified, resourced and a timeline set to ensure the required data can be collected” Marisa Viana, Brazil

Continued...

LACK OF DATA	
WHAT ARE WE DOING	<p>Nigeria “My organization needs support in the area of capacity building to effectively monitor the implementation of women human rights issues in the SDGs and to effectively participate at annual Voluntary National Reviews for follow-up and review; to be able to hold the Nigerian government accountable on her commitments on women’s human rights in Agenda 2030. This will also prepare me for effective engagements on Agenda 2063 at regional and international levels as well” (Written Statement)</p> <p>Rwanda “We need support to enable us to build the capacity of other CSOs to be able to monitor the implementation of SDGS and report before the government and at international and regional platforms... This requires financial and technical capacity so that they can carry out monitoring, documentation and reporting on the status of Rwanda’s implementation of women’s rights through the SDG” (Written Statement)</p> <p>Kenya “We need to demystify data, women’s rights organizations find it complicated, they are not engaging, the first UN Data Forum in South Africa we didn’t have feminist networks engaging, just around qualitative data, just on storytelling on real data... they actually need to understand what we mean by gender data, our data must be real data, but the discourse... private sector is providing the solutions” Memory Kachambwa, Kenya</p>



LACK OF POLITICAL WILL AND GOOD GOVERNANCE	
THE CHALLENGE	<p>Nigeria “There are lots of commitments in terms of rhetoric, but concrete action is not clear and the clock is ticking. The government is focusing on ending corruption to the neglect of the implementation of the SDGs and tackling poverty and abuse. Women still cannot access loans and the currency is greatly devalued leading to poverty and hunger... Corruption and looting has greatly affected and thrown the country into poverty” (Written Statement)</p> <p>DR Congo “The weakness of national commitments and the political crisis in the country constitute a negative catalyst for taking into account measures to combat socio-cultural and harmful practices in the context of the implementation of the SDGs” (Written Statement)</p> <p>Nepal “Elite capture and poor mindset [is effecting the SDG implementation]” (Written Statement)</p> <p>Turkey “The [HLPF] process wasn’t transparent and inclusive” Derya Acuner, Turkey</p> <p>“Nigeria one of the challenges we have had is the lack of trust between civil society and government, civil society is not trusted because we always go to the UN to report” Ngozi Nwosu Juba, Nigeria</p> <p>“Cambodia is at the edge, we used to work with each other quite well, but now they don’t respond, they don’t attend, they have blocked NGOs, they know responsibility, but they don’t want to show the boss they are working with us, GONGOs we don’t know how to move on, I feel ashamed” Ros Sopheap, Cambodia</p> <p>“HLPF is being wasted”</p> <p>Tanzania “The SDGs in practice, is putting its trust to the private sector in order to regulate development, and not the state... in ensuring that private sector is held accountable and ensuring that SDGs are mainstreamed in their action plans”</p>
WHAT GOVERNMENTS ARE DOING	<p>“DR Congo has begun the process of drawing up the National Strategic Development Plan, which is a unifying framework for all sectoral development strategies and polices aligned with all the international and regional commitments made by the Government... its ambition is the structural transformation of the country in three sequences: a middle-income country in 2021, a country emerging by 2030 and a developed country by 2050” (Written Statement)</p>
WHAT GOVERNMENTS SHOULD DO	<p>Ukraine “The current development processes in Ukraine will require a change in mindset and an associated socioeconomic transformation with updated and coordinated partnerships... it is expected that the SDG framework, once established, will be fully taken into consideration in the various governmental processes of strategic planning, macroeconomic forecasting and development programming” (Written Statement)</p>
WHAT ARE WE DOING	<p>Sri Lanka “We need to keep legitimizing international scrutiny” Savitri Goonesekere, Sri Lanka</p>

LACK OF GENDER EQUALITY	
THE CHALLENGE	<p>“Nigeria has been reluctant to ascend to the gender and equal opportunity bill... series of rejections with the accusation of promoting abortion and homosexuality. But in reality, it is a calculated attempt to deny women equal opportunities. There has to be a change from patriarchy, mindsets and domestication of international and regional treaties to promote the full realization of women and girls rights in Nigeria. Policies on women's protection must be enforced and should not be trivialized to ensure the achievement of the SDGs for women and girls” (Written Statement)</p> <p>Yemen “Women in general and especially rural women (8-% of women are in rural areas), are deprived from basic social protection rights. Their work is not accounted for in economic sense and it is usually unpaid family chores. Access to education and health is also needed. Those facilities are either damaged or non-functional as they are used as shelters for IDPs or used by armed groups and militias” (Written Statement)</p> <p>Rwanda “The challenge is that most of these government agencies do not have knowledge of how the SDGs can be a tool to implement women’s human rights and CSOs don’t have the capacity to monitor human rights implementation through the SDGs” (Written Statement)</p> <p>“The roles of women in Yemen are largely influenced by a gender traditional paradigm where women are seen as caregivers and limited to the private sphere” Nisma al-Ozebi, Yemen</p> <p>Tanzania “There is a need to change the codified customary laws declaration order which are highly discriminatory against women... Moreover, more reforms are needed in family, inheritance and succession laws” (Written Statement)</p> <p>Nigeria “Women human rights defenders draw more hostility than their male colleagues because they challenge cultural, religious or discriminatory social norms and endeavour to increase respect for the role of women in society. Their work is considered contrary to the stereotypes and dominate social and cultural constructs. The hostility and repression they face can take a specifically gendered form, manifested through verbal abuse, sexual harassment and rape” Ngozi Nwosu Juba, Nigeria</p> <p>Sri Lanka “States don't like human rights because it means accountability” Savitri Goonesekere, Sri Lanka</p>
WHAT GOVERNMENTS ARE DOING	<p>DR Congo “The Family Code... introduced the abolition of marital authorization for married women... The requirement of mutual respect and consideration of spouses in their relations, without prejudice to their respective obligations in the management of the household and the abolition of the automatic emancipation of the minor by the effect of marriage” (Written Statement)</p> <p>Roma “In many Balkans countries, particularly Serbia, great strides have been made in securing identity documents for Romani people, which helps ensure that women are able to access their fundamental rights, notably their right to reproductive healthcare and social protection” (Written Statement)</p> <p>Rwanda “In February 2017, Rwanda prepared and adopted its first ever human rights policy and action plan... The government is therefore committed to women's rights and specifically the right to health, which is going to be the blue print for implementation. There will be midterm reviews in which CSOs will be brought together and the government through ministry of justice.” (Written Statement)</p> <p>“The South African government has implemented the National Development Plan (NDP), which is aimed at eliminating poverty and reducing inequality. The government... highlights that the institutions dedicated to promoting gender equity have not been functioning optimally” (Written Statement)</p> <p>Kenya “In April 2017, the President instructed the national assembly majority leader to prioritize the gender bill in the next parliamentary hearing” (Written Statement)</p> <p>“Tanzania passed the Legal Aid Act to include a provision on legal aid services for paralegals which is very vital in implementing women’s human rights through the SDGs in Tanzania... Majority of women in rural areas could benefit in accessing justice through paralegals” (Written Statement)</p> <p>“Tanzania Marriage Laws allows women to be married when they reach 14 years. The Marriage Act has been in place since 1971 and has not been changed despite resistance from human rights organizations. At the moment 37% of the girls in Tanzania are married before 18. However, in 2016, a petition was filed in the High Court of Tanzania to challenges of the Law of Marriages... The High Court of Tanzania declared the two provisions unconstitutional and discriminatory. [However] the Government of Tanzania has appealed against the decision of the High Court. This is a clear indication of unwillingness on the side of the Government to change” (Written Statement)</p>

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LACK OF GENDER EQUALITY	
WHAT GOVERNMENTS SHOULD DO	<p>“This was an opportunity for Zambians to vote for the amendment of the Constitution in a bid to expand the Bill of Rights to include civil, political, economic, social, cultural, environmental, further and special rights. Unfortunately, due to poor backing, political differences and misunderstanding the referendum failed. Now the government has to ensure the 7th National Development Plan is developed and inclusive of all stakeholders. Participation in implementation and protection of women with disabilities to promote equality must be enforced and should be monitored to ensure the achievement of the SDGs for women and girls, especially those with disabilities” (Written Statement)</p> <p>“Human rights system provides for the space we want in the SDGs”</p> <p>Turkey “Stronger gender equality institutions and a strong adherence to a gender equality regime within the state institutions are prerequisites for the full realization of women's human rights in Turkey. However, the key institution who are responsible for gender equality and women's empowerment have changed its name to Ministry of Family and Social Politics and women are defined according to their roles within the private sphere, not as free and independent individuals. Moreover, the space for civil society and women's organizations have been shrinking and our spaces are now being dominated by GONGOs. Thus, if the government wants to achieve the full realization of human rights, it should change its discourse on gender politics and open up the closed spaces for independent civil society and respect freedom of discourse” (Written Statement)</p> <p>Turkey “Although Turkey's legislation can be considered a good starting point for establishing gender equality in Turkey, it is not possible to say that Turkey has established a strong gender equality regime within her state structure. The present institutions on women's issues and gender equality are politically weak, under staffed and under resourced. For that reason, the political discourse presented by the political leaders, which is very much based on the stereotyped gender norms, becomes a driving force towards practices that discriminate against women... If Turkey were to strengthen its gender equality institutions, then safeguarding the already established legislation and practices on gender equality and furthering the necessary gender responsive sustainable development agenda, would be much easier and effective” (Written Statement)</p> <p>Sri Lanka “The interpretive power of treaty body General Recommendations must not be lost in the implementation of the SDGs” Savitri Goonesekere, Sri Lanka</p> <p>Yemen “We need to establish a trust fund for women to help them attain their rights. We need a national plan or a civil society strategic framework to implement 1325. We need capacity building on protection, humanitarian interventions, international human rights tools” (Written Statement)</p>
WHAT ARE WE DOING	<p>Mongolia “There is really no clear connection for women’s human rights through SDGs in my country. However, civil society organisation are working... to remind government of the slogan “leave no one behind” (Written Statement)</p> <p>Yemen “The uprising was led by women and youth. The Yemeni women challenged those gender stereotypes enforced on them and questioned the perception of lack of agency. They went out to the streets to demand change, filling the squares and marching against the regime. There were significant women figures who contributed to the uprising and transitional period in Yemen. Tawakul Kerman (Nobel peace laureate) mobilized the people and led the masses during the revolution of 2011, and Hooria Mashhour was appointed as spokesperson of the Revolution Council of Peaceful Forces” Nisma al-Ozebi, Yemen</p> <p>Mexico “Litigation is really important... the next day at the binding treaty we will sue, the impact of citizen lawsuits against corporate is huge, sue the corporates, protect the state, so they should support us, this is important, states feel the private sector is their partner, but they are threatened by them, human rights is for states protection too, this argument is important” Emilia Reyes, Mexico</p>

EXPLOITATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES	
THE CHALLENGE	<p>Tanzania “Despite the importance of these rights for women and women headed households, women still disproportionally lack security of tenure... Discriminatory legislation on and lack of control over property, land and housing also means that women are excluded from community decision-making processes that are led by men who normally are the landowners... Gender bias within the official administration also leads to the exclusion of women from decision-making on policies and programmes on housing and land... Widows, often older women, in some places are blamed for killing their husbands by infecting them with HIV/AIDS and in-laws use this as a justification to dispossess them and evict them.”</p> <p>South Africa “Women have right to land but it has contradictions with the cultural rights” Elgene Roos, South Africa</p> <p>Rwanda “Women, especially in rural areas, main activity is agriculture which is not enough to get money, most of the time this agriculture is for feeding the family” (Written Statement)</p> <p>Nigeria “Women rarely own land and when they do; their holdings tend to be smaller and less fertile than those of men” Louisa Ono, Nigeria</p> <p>Tanzania “Food security cannot be assured without improving the situation of women producers” Godfrey Massay, Tanzania</p> <p>Tanzania “They are grabbing water, grabbing forest, firewood, things women are denied access to” Godfrey Massay, Tanzania “Vulnerable groups (widows, rural women, elderly, etc.) are not protected by the law when it comes to land rights... Foreign investors buying prime land at the expense of the local people’s needs”</p> <p>Tanzania “Village level vested in a few, most of all have primary school level education and have been manipulated by local elite politicians and private sector” Godfrey Massay, Tanzania</p>
WHAT GOVERNMENTS ARE DOING	<p>“The Ministry of Lands in Tanzania is in the final stages of establishing Integrated Land Information Management System which will solve the problem of data availability and transparency on land transactions” (Written Statement)</p> <p>Tanzania “In the last 12 months, the Government of Tanzania started reviewing the National Land Policy. The policy... has strong provisions on equal rights to own and inheritance between men and women. This is partly because of the strong activism done by civil society organisations working on land issues and those that are addressing women’s human rights using CEDAW mechanism” (Written Statement)</p> <p>Rwanda “Government brought new law for communities to register their property, though this had loopholes, as men tended to register more property than women. Increased cases of evictions took place hence NGOs litigated against such evictions and helped women to reclaim their land”</p> <p>Rwanda “Every Saturday of the last month the Rwandan community clean, build bridges, build toilets, plant trees, the government and people together” Brenda Kayitesi, Rwanda</p> <p>Zambia “Through providing access to land and farming agriculture equipment, government is trying to address SDG 2. Women including women with disabilities are encouraged to access land and the President has instructed the responsible ministry [to] execute the programme to ensure women have access to land, farm input and equipment like tractors. Women are given first priority” (Written Statement)</p> <p>Kenya “The new Constitution states that women can own and inherit land but it also says that every person has a right to practise their own culture... This is conflicting. Challenges include: lack of understanding on registering land, backlash from their male counterparts</p>
WHAT GOVERNMENTS SHOULD DO	<p>Nigeria “Women and men need equal opportunities, resources and responsibilities. Equal access to and inheritance of land, zero credit, natural resources, quality education, health services (including sexual and reproductive health), decent work needs to be addressed. Policies on water and sanitation, improved access to infrastructure (such as water and energy), are essential to reduce women’s unpaid work woman and girl can enjoy equality at school, work, home and public sphere” (Written Statement)</p> <p>Uganda “Corruption in land administration needs to be addressed” Robinah Muganzi, Uganda</p> <p>Burundi “To improve and put in practice the law related to women and girls access to land ownership and inheritance” (Written Statement)</p> <p>“Facilitate the opening of cooperatives for women to buy land as collectives... Empowering grandmothers to defend their rights to land through registering their land”</p> <p>Bangladesh “Equal inheritance not just access to equal inheritance” Ismat Jahan, Bangladesh</p> <p>DR Congo “Undertake reforms to give women the rights to natural resources, property, financial services, land control, inheritance” (Written Statement)</p>

EXPLOITATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES	
WHAT ARE WE DOING	<p>Tanzania “Because of a lot of activism there has been a moratorium [on land acquisition] until regulation are in place”</p> <p>Zimbabwe “Continue to build capacity of women in land, make sure mining companies pay compensation, and access to land”</p> <p>Honduras “It’s very difficult for women in the South to separate their life from natural resources and important to recognize that women have skills and knowledge for food security using natural resources and ensure life and dignity for everyone, knowledge holders and workers, they are ensuring security for the world... Women are rising up to defend life” Neesa Medina, Honduras</p>



LACK OF SEXUAL REPRODUCTIVE & HEALTH RIGHTS WE ARE LIBERATED	
THE CHALLENGE	<p>Rwanda “In regards to SDG 3 on good health and wellbeing, sexual and reproductive health rights issues for women is very crucial however the first ever Rwanda human rights policy and action plan that was adopted in February 2017 does not cover the CEDAW recommendations... This creates fear that some of these key issues that were given to Rwanda regarding women’s rights specifically sexual and reproductive rights may not fully feature in implementation yet we believe sexual and reproductive health rights of women affects every aspect of women’s rights and it has an effect on most of the SDGs related to women and development. This will mean more advocacy and engagement to have them considered or it would mean waiting for another 3 years which is the challenge now” (Written Statement)</p> <p>India “Extractives have negatively affected women’s rights, especially women’s reproductive health” Roshmi Goswami, India</p> <p>Roma “In the context of access to reproductive rights of Roma women, in a majority of countries were we litigate (Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Macedonia), governments are not willing to align with their international obligations and implement the judicial or extra-judicial measures and judgments of international courts, committees and other bodies” (Written Statement)</p> <p>Nigeria “West Africa specifically mentioned how organizations working on the right to reproductive health and health issues in general suffer from attacks and smear campaigns and slander” Ngozi Nwosu Juba, Nigeria</p> <p>Rwanda “We believe that women empowerment, gender equality and ultimately sustainable development cannot be achieved with women lagging behind or barricaded from first making individual personal choices as regards to bodily integrity. The right to have a child or not has a big bearing on the woman’s choices and can affect the achievement of SDGs because when a girl drops out of school due to pregnancy arising from gender-based violence for example, she will probably drop out of school, marry and found a family at a young age, with many children and no sustainable source of income due to failure to complete formal education and get a career which has a serious bearing on eliminating poverty” (Written Statement)</p> <p>Uganda “Girls are dropping out of school due to a number of reasons but one of the reasons is that they lack what to use for menstruation” (Written Statement)</p>
WHAT GOVERNMENTS ARE DOING	<p>Nepal “Alignment with target 6.2, the government, Ministry of Water Supply and Sanitation took a lead role for combating menstrual restrictions in Nepal” (Written Statement)</p> <p>Burundi “A draft legislation on reproductive health and rights within school environment was designed. The government with the contribution of different counterparts have promoted girls and women access to education and information in order to address, earlier pregnancies and marriages and young girls who drop out of school” (Written Statement)</p> <p>Rwanda “We believe that women empowerment, gender equality and ultimately sustainable development cannot be achieved with women lagging behind or barricaded from first making individual personal choices as regards to bodily integrity. The right to have a child or not has a big bearing on the woman’s choices and can affect the achievement of SDGs because when a girl drops out of school due to pregnancy arising from gender-based violence for example, she will probably drop out of school, marry and found a family at a young age, with many children and no sustainable source of income due to failure to complete formal education and get a career which has a serious bearing on eliminating poverty” (Written Statement)</p>
WHAT GOVERNMENTS SHOULD DO	<p>Uganda “Provide reusable sanitary pads to girls in school” (Written Statement)</p> <p>Rwanda “Government should reform all inconsistent laws that hinder the full enjoyment of women’s rights for example the penal code of 2012 provisions that restricts the access to safe and legal abortion as a reproductive health right. It should do away with barriers like the court order and two medical reports requirement that has made it almost impossible for women to enjoy this right in Rwanda. It should also decriminalize abortion and implement the Maputo Protocol” (Written Statement)</p> <p>Nepal “The good menstrual hygiene management (MHM) is a pre-condition for achieving SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 therefore working in MHM is key... Because Nepal has poor MHM practice followed by more than 40 types restrictions during period... Poor MHM is key barrier for peace, empowerment and human rights” (Written Statement)</p>
WHAT ARE WE DOING	<p>Uganda “Providing 1500 sanitary pads kits to school girls in rural areas of Uganda in order to keep them in school” (Written Statement)</p> <p>Kenya “Offering psychosocial support to 80 women with fistula” (Written Statement)</p> <p>Roma After exhausting domestic remedies “We succeeded in obtaining two interim measures from the CEDAW Committee with regards to access to reproductive rights, emergency accommodation, access to water and nutrition, for in total six pregnant Roma women from the FYR of Macedonia” (Written Statement)</p> <p>South Africa “We are looking to hold governments accountable for access to sanitary towels for girls from disadvantages areas – but we need a strategic litigation client” Elgene Roos, South Africa</p> <p>Ukraine “We organized the National Forum for Women Living with HIV and have provided an opportunity for women from diverse backgrounds to discuss and engage key national stakeholders on issues ranging from violence against women living with HIV to building strong advocacy networks across Ukraine” (Written Statement)</p>

LACK OF LOCALISATION AND GLOBAL SUPPORT	
THE CHALLENGE	<p>Zambia “Local level interpretation of the laws and policies in the villages need to be addressed. Due to traditional norms women and girls rights’ are mainly violated in villages. As much as we have laws and the fast track local courts introduced in some areas, the interpretation of the law is too advanced for most people to understand” (Written Statement)</p> <p>Roma “Governments do not implement judgements in favour of Roma, even if they come from the European Court of Human Rights – and even less so when those judgements concern women” (Written Statement)</p> <p>Nigeria “Sisters of North, may be one of the issues because there is a lack activism, they don’t want to push, I’m scared, I didn’t see this dynamic, some of the sisters from the Global North, need to speak up” Louisa Ono, Nigeria</p> <p>Mexico “Northern countries have externalized their negative impacts onto the South” Emilia Reyes, Mexico</p>
WHAT GOVERNMENTS ARE DOING	<p>“The Cambodian government has not started the implementation of the SDGs yet, but is still in the process of localization” (Written Statement)</p> <p>“Currently Cambodian government is still in the localization process of the SDGs... including indictor setting, financing and seeking partnership with development partners. We cannot say anything yet about lessons learnt” (Written Statement)</p> <p>“Radio campaign to encourage community on how to come up with projects”</p>
WHAT GOVERNMENTS SHOULD DO	<p>Mongolia “Use strong social media. It’s important to advertise the Sustainable Development Goals and human rights through social media to connect with communities in real-time” (Written Statement)</p> <p>Rwanda “Partnership with international and local CSOs, media practitioners to publicize these Goals and to monitor the government implementation. This can be done through radio shows, television and print media, basically where the state will update the CSOs and other key stakeholders on the level of implementation and then there is a roundtable discussion on the way forward” (Written Statement)</p> <p>Tanzania “A concrete SDG localization process must be participatory, consultative and interactive in nature; targets and indicators need to be adapted to the Tanzanian context and aligned with community-level planning, prioritization and decision-making, as this is the foundation for long-lasting ownership. In addition, the localization process is to integrate into the SDGs not only into national strategies, the local governments development plans and monitoring frameworks, but also into strategic framework of, inter alia, NGOs, traditional development partners, faith-based organisation and private companies” (Written Statement)</p> <p>DR Congo “Strengthen North-South and South-South Cooperation in science, technology and innovation; enable Congolese women and girls to improve the sharing of knowledge and the use of technology, especially information technology and communication” (Written Statement)</p> <p>Zambia “Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) have the potential to meet the development information needs of individuals, particularly women. The majority of the women have access to ICTs such as radio, television, computers, internet land phone and mobile phone... To try and empower the use of technology, government has introduced ICTs equipment like computer learning in schools from as early as primary school. This enables girls to be equipped from a tender age... However, there are some main barriers that women still face to access and use ICTs. These include high costs of equipment, maintenance and connectivity, limited knowledge and skills, inadequate time, limited connectivity, lack of relevant content, language barrier, distance and marginalization... Government should find solution to break the barriers if we are to fully achieve woman’s rights in the implementation of the SDGs by 2030” (Written Statement)</p> <p>Tanzania “Development of an innovative short film/documentary on SDGs version in Swahili language to facilitate in localization of SDGs and creating awareness on SDGs among people in communities. The film/ documentary could be used also as a strategic tool to engage with policy makers on mainstreaming gender equality within the social development framework at local and national level” (Written Statement)</p> <p>Yemen “In local terms it has started to get hard forming partnerships because most of the local NGOs are following agendas of one of the conflict members. International level lots of partnerships have proven to work, so if we can help local NGOs to get the support from international NGO, not only in terms of finance, but also in terms of work plans, capacity building and taking their messages to international change makers” (Written Statement)</p> <p>Cambodia “Strong partnerships between civil society and government. For this, strengthen NGOs and networks... and build their capacity on SDGs for effective advocacy to government” (Written Statement)</p> <p>“Turkey has not yet provided a satisfactory mechanism for the implementation of SDGs yet. Turkey should take urgent action in building a consistent, systematic and transparent mechanism for the implementation, monitoring and review processes of SDGs with a gender inclusive approach and include civil society representatives within these processes” (Written Statement)</p>

Continued...

LACK OF LOCALISATION AND GLOBAL SUPPORT	
WHAT ARE WE DOING	<p>Turkey “Information flow to and collaboration among CSOs working in the field of SDGs will be crucial for the reaching all of the SDGs by 2030. For this reason, we started a process to ensure such information flow and opportunities of collaboration among CSOs working in different fields throughout Turkey. While continuing to follow global SDG review processes through the HLPF and other regional platforms, we aim to raise public awareness on the SDGs through a communication campaign... we have also started a network of women CSOs working on gender responsive implementation of SDGs and aim to start a network of CSOs from different sectors who are jointly advocating on SDGs on local, national, regional and global level within their capacity” (Written Statement)</p> <p>Kenya “Develop a strategy engage our sisters in North, use spaces in CSW, New York, identify sisters in the North who are progressive” Memory Kachambwa, Kenya</p> <p>Turkey “We work for improving the public and political awareness on SDGs and gender equality in Turkey. We have attempted to start a network of women CSOs working on gender-responsive implementation of SDGs and CSOs from different sectors who are jointly advocating on SDGs on local, national, regional and global level within their capacity. By doing so, we aim to support building a sustainable, consistent and transparent mechanism for achieving the gender responsive implementation of the SDGs in Turkey” (Written Statement)</p> <p>Mexico “Dialogue with Northern colleague, all the issues of the South, they take it for granted, you should call out your governments, but we call out our governments and we die, imprisoned, our governments have been imposing dictatorships for decades, we need to come up with team and identify champions to work on their foreign policies, work on alliances, they are very fragile, they need our support, lets figure out some training for our colleagues in the North” Emilia Reyes, Mexico</p>

Please contact us on iwraw-ap@iwraw-ap.org if you're interested in joining the Global South Women's Forum on Sustainable Development

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