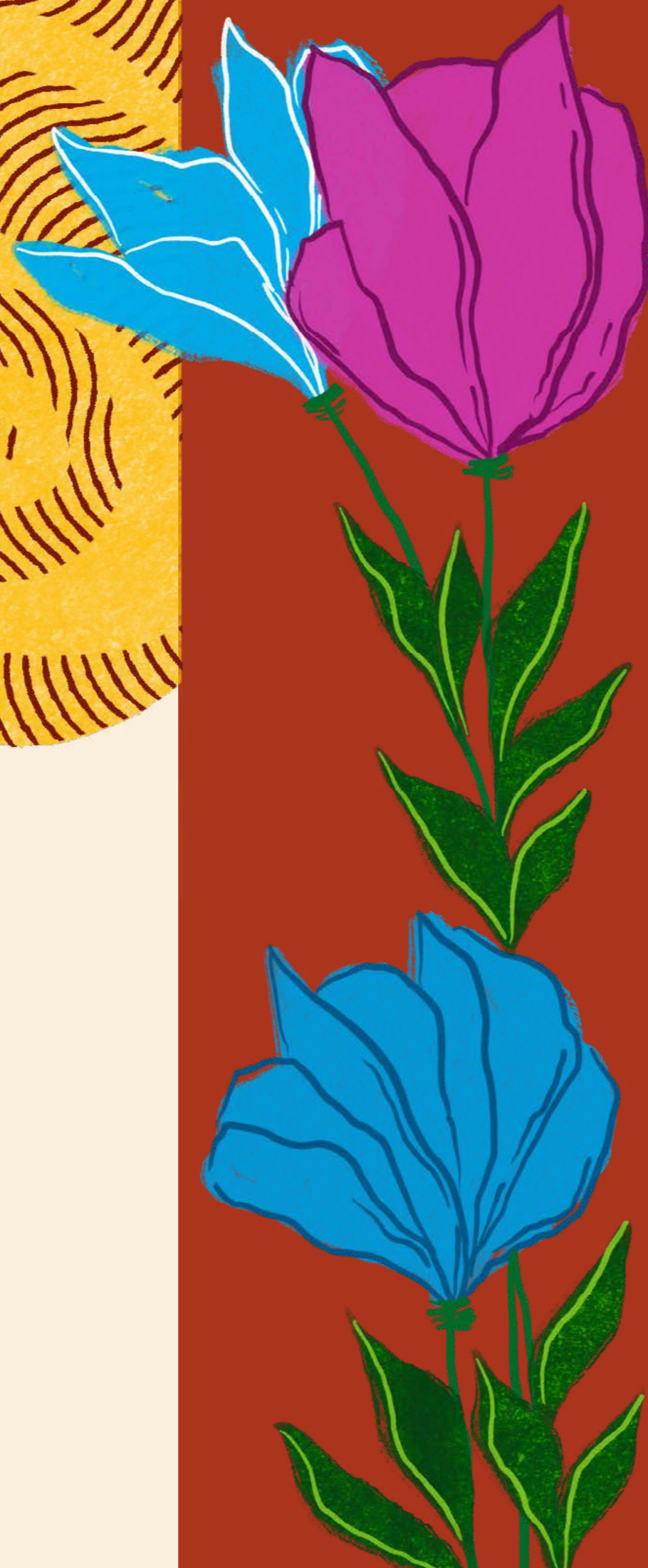
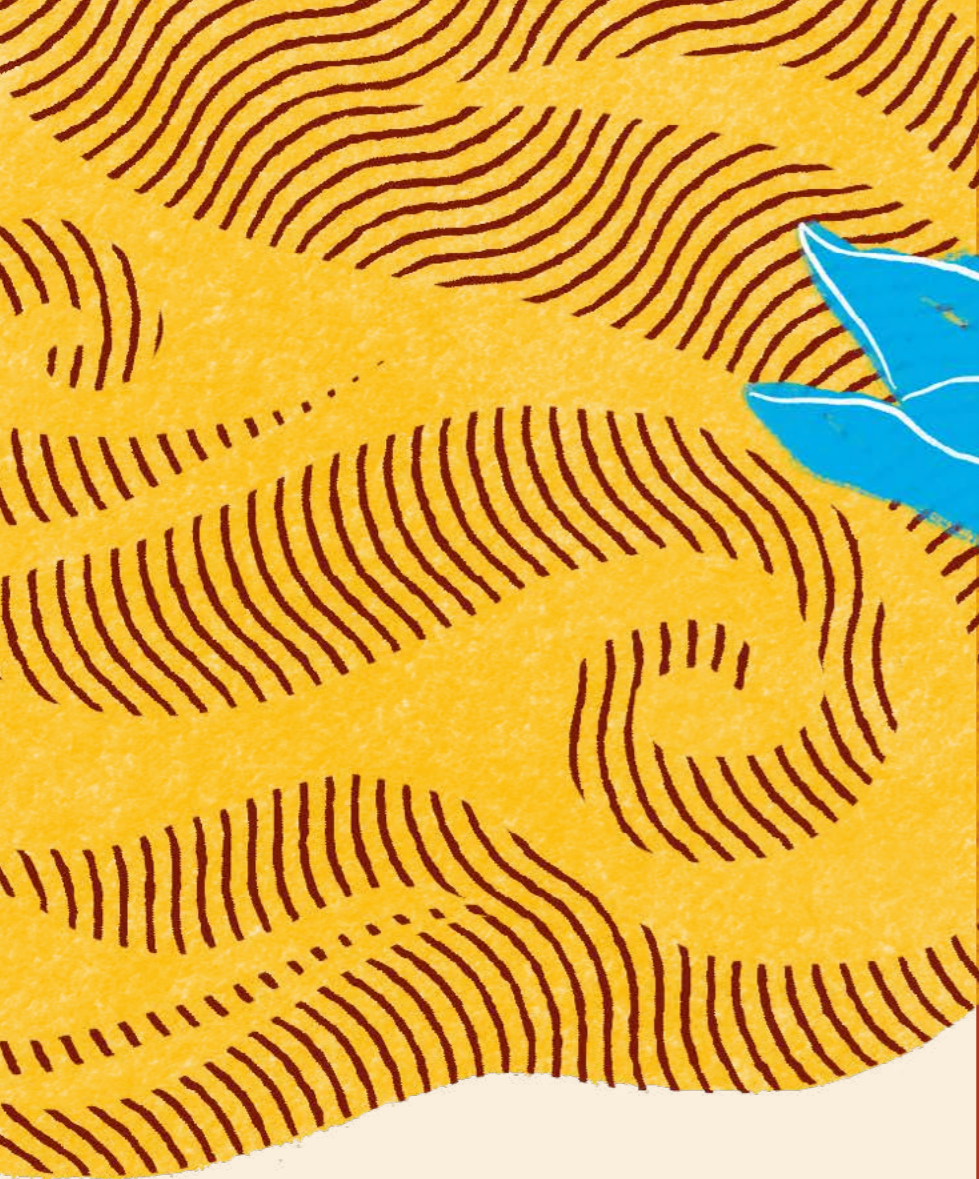


GSWF 2020 graphic report





CONTENTS

Hello and welcome	5
Looking back at the five days of GSWF 2020	6
Celebrating the role of art in social justice and feminist movements	8
On visibility and visibilising, exclusion, agency, and resilience	10
On knowledge and ideologies	16
On naming legacies and ongoing iterations of historical injustices	22
Centring care and creating caring economies	28
Disrupting conventional macroeconomics means transforming multilateralism & global governance	36

REPORT SUMMARY:

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to extend our warmest gratitude to everyone who made our first venture into a virtual GSWF possible, including the session organisers who trusted us with their ideas and messages; the participants and interpreters who made the rich discussion and engagement possible; the incredible artists, Vidushi Yadav and Sonaksha Iyengar, whose beautiful illustrations helped us trace our journey through five years of GSWFs and to bring our visions for feminist economic justice to life; our Online Conference Manager, Rachel Ong, and Conference Fellow, Pravind Premnath, who brilliantly executed all the logistical and technical elements of the Forum; and, finally, our partner, the Bretton Woods Project, and donors, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and the Open Society Foundations, for their generous support of GSWF 2020.



1. HELLO AND WELCOME

Welcome to the GSWF 2020 graphic report - a storybook snapshot of the reflections, analysis, demands, and feminist imaginings shared over five days in December 2020 during the first-ever virtual hosting of IWRAP Asia Pacific's Global South Women's Forum on Sustainable Development (GSWF).

Organised around the theme of Disrupting Macroeconomics, GSWF 2020 brought us together at the end of year marked by an unprecedented global pandemic that was and continues to play out along deeply precedent faultlines of inequality and oppression. Together, we took stock, learned, strategised, and celebrated feminist visions for economic justice in a post-COVID-19 world.

We're immensely grateful to all the activists, academics, artists, and practitioners from across the Global South, along with partners from the Global North, who co-created this Forum with us, participated across borders and timezones, and trusted us to host their ideas and create space for mutual learning. We learned a lot not only from the substantive content of the sessions, but also about hosting inclusive online spaces and new ways of supporting national- and grassroots-level CSOs and activists. New alliances were developed and existing ones deepened.

To hear from the voices of past GSWFs and learn the history and political intent of our annual forum, we invite you to pursue [this presentation](#), beautifully illustrated by Vidushi Yadav. We also invite you to visit our [YouTube channel](#) for a playlist of all the sessions held during GSWF 2020.



GSWF 2020 kicked-off with a moving music video, called **Born into Debt**

First launched at the Rise to the Beat of Debt Justice Concert-Rally, organised by Asian People's Movement on Debt and Development (APMDD), Fight Inequality, 350.org, ActionAid and the Asian Movement for People's Music, this song by M E G D K addresses the illegitimate and unsustainable debt for which coming generations will suffer.

This powerful song situated the Forum within a framework of **intergenerational accountability and solidarity**, both in terms of the **legacy of past action and inaction**, and in terms of **ongoing feminist demands** and visions for economic justice.

Between 14-18 December 2020, we hosted **24** live sessions over **five days** organised by activists, creatives and collectives from the **Global South** and partners from around the world.

2. LOOKING BACK AT THE FIVE DAYS OF GSWF 2020

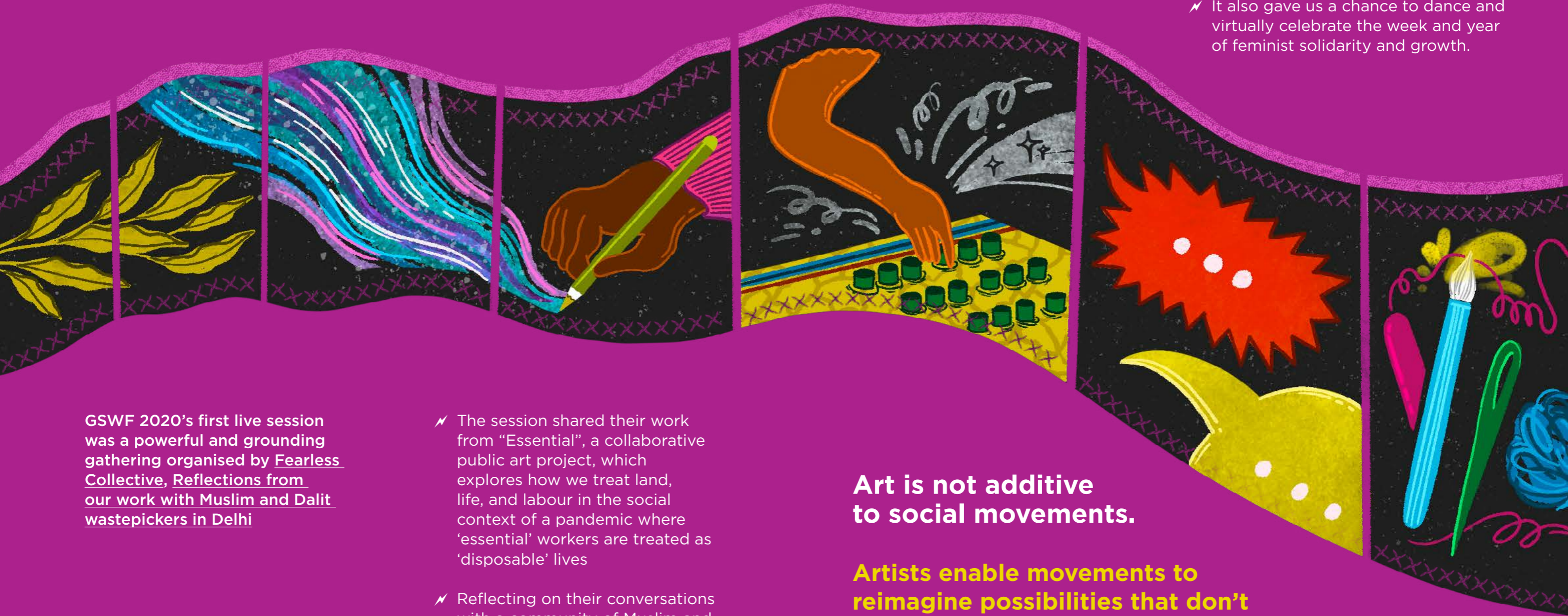
We were also thrilled to support the creation of a powerful video by the Manushya Foundation, **Speaking Truth to Power: Challenging corporate capture through feminist community-led response**. The messages and knowledge shared in this video continue to be vital and urgent as we move through 2021.

Together we held space for **conversations and reflection**, shared experiences, performed poetry and music to exchange knowledge, strategised, and **celebrated the powerful work** being done by feminists and social justice movements to **transform global, economic and financial structures and advance intersectional gender equality, human rights and international solidarity**.

3. CELEBRATING THE ROLE OF ART IN SOCIAL JUSTICE AND FEMINIST MOVEMENTS

The Forum closed with, two DJ Sets organised by SHAP SHAP and titled Empowering Female and LGBTQIA Artists within the Global Creative Industry

- ✦ The session aimed at promoting culture as a tool to transform societies sustainably, in addition to the international human rights framework on which NGOs, institutions and civil society can rely to take action for global justice.
- ✦ It also gave us a chance to dance and virtually celebrate the week and year of feminist solidarity and growth.



GSWF 2020's first live session was a powerful and grounding gathering organised by Fearless Collective, Reflections from our work with Muslim and Dalit wastepickers in Delhi

- ✦ The session shared their work from "Essential", a collaborative public art project, which explores how we treat land, life, and labour in the social context of a pandemic where 'essential' workers are treated as 'disposable' lives
- ✦ Reflecting on their conversations with a community of Muslim and Dalit wastepickers, the organisers explored the questions - what is considered essential to them? How do they see their lives and their work in the context of the city and the pandemic?

Art is not additive to social movements.

Artists enable movements to reimagine possibilities that don't exist. Resistance is not enough, liberation is what we need.

SHILO SHIV SULEMAN
The Fearless Collective

4. ON VISIBILITY AND VISIBILISING, EXCLUSION, AGENCY, AND RESILIENCE



- ✦ Both Fearless Collective and SHAP SHAP highlighted the role of (in)visibility and erasure of certain actors, voices, and experiences from public space.
- ✦ This theme was also woven in other sessions throughout the week, along with themes of exclusion, agency, and resilience.

Across the Global South, women, especially those from marginalised communities, are challenging the status quo, resisting and pushing back against exclusionary and oppressive structures, and calling for inclusive economic justice.

THE DEEP GENDER DIVIDE IN FISHERIES ACROSS THE COAST OF KENYA, COASTAL WOMEN IN FISHERIES ENTREPRENEURSHIP

- ✦ This session highlighted the lack of women's inclusion in fisheries governance and throughout the fisheries value chain and supply chain in the Kenyan Coast. While women play an important role across many fishing communities, their contribution is not well recognised and often appears invisible, viewed mainly to be that of household care, reproductive and child care activities, meal preparation and elderly care. However, women in the coast of Kenya are also involved with post-harvest fish processing at home



and local trade of fried fish. This fish frying preservation method accounts for 68% of the traditional value-added fish products in the region. It is, therefore, an important source of livelihood for the women processor/traders and also a major contributor to food security in the coastal region of Kenya. The women, commonly called Mama Karangas have poor bargaining power, poor access to fisheries governance, and no access to socio-economic resources (Matsue et al., 2014), yet have a key role to play in the fisheries value chain. For women to be recognised there should be investment in appropriate infrastructure, organisational structures and appropriate

capacity development of the post-harvest sub sector.

- ✦ The issues of how women are stereotyped as home makers and childbearers and discriminated against in the fisheries sector came out through all the women speakers. **Stereotyping leads to invisibility and invisibility leads to inability to access some of the resources and services that are delivered to the fisheries sector by the government.** Women had no right to land, no employment in the formal sector, no access to financial loans and so because they don't have security/collateral, they cannot get a loan from the banks so they can't do business.

'LALELA': AMPLIFYING THE VOICES OF LBTQ PERSONS IN ZIMBABWE, PAKASIPITI

Using poetry and spoken word to highlight issues affecting communities, this session highlighted key issues around economic justice especially for the marginalised LBTQ community in Africa.

This included interrogating issues around budget tracking and financing for marginalised communities; labour and **the impact of not opening up labour markets for all; access to loans, markets and financial facilities free of stigma discrimination and violence;** and moving global conversations around

economic justice towards funding trends that support marginalised and go beyond narratives framed in a gender-based violence to economic access and support.

FOLLOWING THE MONEY: THE KAFALA SYSTEM AND CHAIN OF DOMESTIC WORKERS' MIGRATION, INTERNATIONAL DOMESTIC WORKERS FEDERATION (IDWF)

✦ With a focus on the Kafala sponsorship system, this session addressed the interlinkages between domestic work, care labour, and the absence of institutional care as they create

push and pull factors throughout the migration chain for women domestic workers seeking employment and their countries of origin and destination.

- ✦ Positioned in a peculiar space of **intersecting oppressions related to gender, economic status, ethnicity, race, and coming from countries of the global south burdened by histories of colonisation, etc.**, domestic work provides ample space for a conversation on the faults in our economy, especially epitomised by the Kafala.
- ✦ Yet, for all the benefits that an economy derives from care work and migrant domestic workers, macroeconomics has not been able to recognise their importance

enough for them to reconsider policy options.

SESSION TAKEAWAY BY ORGANISERS:

Domestic workers at times migrate knowingly and willingly into contexts they know are dangerous: **It does not entail a lack of autonomy or understanding of prospects,** rather it is very much related to global migration policies, and the push and pull factors created to sustain the care migration chain. **We have options, not choices. These options are dictated by the macroeconomic status quo and need to be challenged in order to be able to have actual choices and freedoms.**

The erasure of our communities, the erasure of our identities means when it comes to economic policies we are not included.

MILES MOYO
Voice Of The Voiceless Organisation



As a member of the LGBTI community, we have become so resilient in our work and in everything we want to accomplish. We always seem to make a way.

MARY AUDRY CHARD
Rise Above Women Organisation



FEMINIST ENGAGEMENTS WITH TRADE POLICY: A FEMINIST PERSPECTIVE ON GENDER EQUALITY AND TRADE, AFRICAN WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNICATION NETWORK (FEMNET)

- ✦ This session explored the question of what feminist trade policy means, looking specifically at the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), what it is trying to achieve in terms of intra-continental trade expansion, and what that means for women beyond gender equality but also in terms of women's economic rights and broader economic justice. A feminist analysis of what the wider implications are for macroeconomic policy as a result of the AfCFTA was also presented, followed by recommendations for feminist engagement.
- ✦ When we look at the gender aspects in trade, we have to ask ourselves who these women

are and why their visibility is so important at such a critical time.

✦ SESSION TAKEAWAY BY ORGANISERS:

Women are largely concentrated in the informal sector and remain invisible to policy makers and development partners. Resultant policies disregard informal and irregular economic activities, thus ignoring everyday lived experiences of women street vendors. Such placements are defined by existing gender and power dynamics that continue to undermine inclusive economic justice.

A FEMINIST ANALYSIS OF CEDAW GENERAL RECOMMENDATION NO. 38 ON TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN & GIRLS IN THE CONTEXT OF GLOBAL MIGRATION, IWRAW ASIA PACIFIC

- ✦ The session presented a feminist analysis of CEDAW General Recommendation no. 38 (GR38) on trafficking in women & girls in

the context of global migration, adopted in November 2020.

GR38 recognises that the 'globally dominant economic policies are the cause behind large-scale economic inequality between States and individuals that manifests as labour exploitation'. It also highlights that macroeconomic factors produce the conditions of economic injustice that impact women.

In subsequent sections, however, **it does not hold the threads of this promising structural analysis firmly and instead deviates to the familiar and dangerous tropes of the anti-trafficking world: discourage demand; prosecute those on the demand side; and link trafficking to 'sexual exploitation'.**

The session provided a structural analysis of the globally dominant neoliberal economic model that lead to trafficking and labour

exploitation; highlighted how recognising sex work as work is the most effective solution to combating trafficking in the sex industry; and presented innovative examples of opening pathways to justice for persons affected by trafficking and labour exploitation.

- ✦ The panelists noted that the GR has ignored the voices of sex workers and the evidence of lived realities they presented regarding the impact of trafficking laws and policies on their rights. There are several substantive inconsistencies which will result in inadequate protections of rights holders in the context of trafficking, if applied. It is important to continue engaging in advocacy with CEDAW on this topic to bring more progressive perspectives.

5. ON KNOWLEDGE AND IDEOLOGIES



Throughout the week, we also learned and explored the ways in which the experience and acts of (in)visibility, (in)visibilising, exclusion, agency, and resiliency are intricately linked to systems of knowledge, power, and “centuries of intellectual erasure of non-Western knowledge systems under the colonial narrative of ‘civilising’ Others” (Bhumika Muchhala, Third World Network).

THE URGENCY OF FISCAL JUSTICE: THE THREAT OF ANOTHER ERA OF AUSTERITY ACROSS THE GLOBAL SOUTH AND A ‘LOST DECADE’ CALLS FOR DISMANTLING ITS DANGEROUS IDEOLOGY, THIRD WORLD NETWORK

✦ This session was situated within a structural feminist analysis of the grave impacts that 40 years of austerity have had on public systems and services, eroding the fabric of societies, deepening intersectional inequality, exclusion and discrimination on all scales of income, gender, race, caste, disability and sexuality. Warning

that as the IMF’s emergency financing packages phase out in 2021, another wave of public budget cuts and regressive tax measures are scheduled in over 65 developing countries, placing many in danger of facing ‘a lost decade’ as their path to achieving the SDGs and Paris Agreement targets are effectively derailed. The session explores critical questions, such as What are the political and economic rationales behind austerity? What are its gender, class and labour impacts in Ecuador, Egypt and other regions? And why, despite the overwhelming evidence against austerity as witnessed by increased poverty and economic recession, does austerity persist?

✦ **PARAPHRASE OF BHUMIKA MUCHHALA, THIRD WORLD NETWORK:** The dominant neoclassical economic discipline [within which austerity measures are rationalised] is one out of many possible economic theories and ideas in a much

wider spectrum. That is why we must ask: **who is producing which “knowledge”, and what are the vested interests of these actors?** Whose knowledge systems, theories and methodologies are taught in school and university curriculums? The knowledge-power complex is a **colonial legacy involving centuries of intellectual erasure of non-Western knowledge systems under the colonial narrative of “civilising” others** through modernity, science and rationality. Consciously engaging in a pluralism of knowledge, methods, and praxis is perhaps one of the most foundational practices of decolonisation.

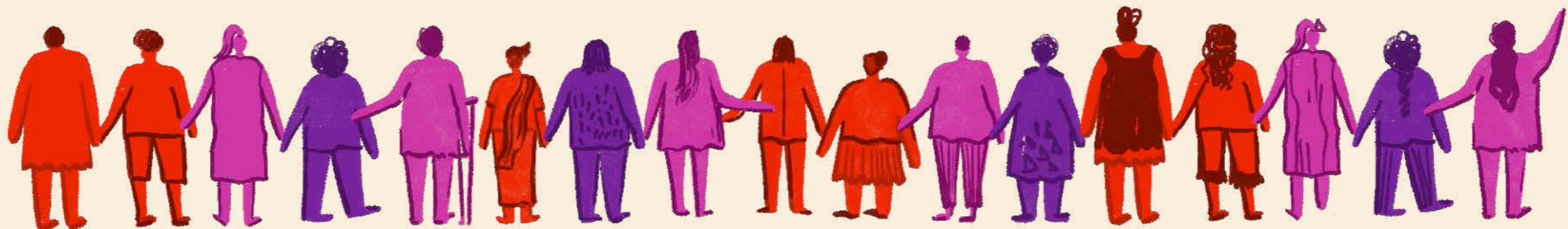
THE DEEP GENDER DIVIDE IN FISHERIES ACROSS THE COAST OF KENYA, COASTAL WOMEN IN FISHERIES ENTREPRENEURSHIP

✦ Exploring the nexus of knowledge-power allows us to ask questions about whose knowledge counts/is counted within economic decision-making spaces, including within

civil society. Whose voices, experiences, and expertise are erased, ignored, excluded? How does this impact visions and movements for feminist economic justice?

✦ This erasure of knowledge has direct consequences for how and for whose benefit macroeconomic policy is made and access to those sites of decision making power

✦ **PARAPHRASE OF DORCAS MALOGHO, INDIAN OCEAN WATER BODY:** Among the multiple challenges faced by young women in coastal Kenya is a vicious cycle of lack of formal schooling that leads to lack of self-worth and, in some cases, substance abuse. This is exacerbated by societal attitudes towards fisherfolk, which sees the fisheries as a job for the illiterate, erasing all the specialised knowledge and skills needed to work in the industry and livelihoods fisherfolks earn for their families and communities.



COVID, HUNGER AND CREATIVE APPROACHES TO FOOD SECURITY: WOMEN'S EXCHANGE ACROSS REGION AND ETHNICITY IN SRI LANKA, SURIYA WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

- Based on a field visit to a collective of Women Farmers in Sri Lanka, called the Uva-Wellasa Women's Federation, the session featured a panel of women representing different districts and ethnicities, all sharing the history, ongoing efforts and strategies for social-economically and environmentally sustainable food production, distribution and consumption. "The panelists forefronted the gendered dimensions of farming" and described how "the processes of farming and socio-economic activities are not disconnected from ongoing struggles for justice with regards to war related crimes, corporate take-over of land and resources among others." This session also showed "that in a context of decades of hardened and conflicting ethnic identities, conversations about food and farming" can be an important part of the reconciliation process, and demonstrated how sharing of local knowledge within and across communities was crucial for survival in the context of war and pandemics. (quotes from Key Takeaways submitted by organisers)
- T.K. Somalatha, Uva Wellassa Women's Organisation and Elangeswary Arunasalam, Suriya Women's Development Centre

shared the wisdom of the women farmers and women fishers who were the heroes of their communities during Covid-19, who ensured the community had enough food and minimal livelihoods when they could sell surplus vegetable crop or fish.

- Key session takeaway from session organisers. The quote speaks to one tool used by powerful actors to exclude and marginalise the knowledge and experiences of women from policy making decisions - i.e., fear of non-market based solutions:** "The push back from state and corporate actors when attempts are made to pursue farming through ways that are not dependent on the mainstream market are present and dangerous."

WOMEN, THE STATE, AND THE MARKET IN THE PHILIPPINES: CASE STUDIES ON SEX WORK, THE WAR ON DRUGS, AND THE CONFLICT IN MINDANAO, NETWORK OF INDEPENDENT RESEARCHERS

- Similarly, this session organised by a network of independent researchers provided a powerful example of how the experiences of certain groups are not only excluded from economic policy decisions, but criminalised and marginalised within some rights-based movements, undermining the ability to achieve feminist economic justice
- "This session covered three important conversations in the Philippines that engage with

broader struggles faced by women globally: sex work; the war on drugs and its debilitating economic consequences on the poor; and the neglect of women's needs in fiscal programming in conflict-affected areas."

- "The session began with a personal narrative shared by Delilah, a Filipina sex worker, which highlights the discrepancy between dominant policy assumptions about sex-working women and their lived socioeconomic realities."
- PARAPHRASE:** I want people to offer a safe space to sex workers without policing their choice. I want people to stop fearing sex positive and sex liberated folks especially those who choose to make a living out of it. I want people to stop conflating sex work and sexual exploitation and sex trafficking. I want people to be held accountable when they exploit women and sexual minorities. The law on prostitution and trafficking is not serving its purpose. Trafficking remains

rife and it causes violence and exploitation of women and children.

- There are so many ways to be anti-trafficking without being anti-sex work. **We can choose care over prejudice.**
- PARAPHRASE FROM SHARMILA PARMANAND, INDEPENDENT RESEARCHER:** The way we understand the economy is gendered. Decent work is gendered. The Philippines is not a rich country. 5% of the population is below the poverty line. There are many people who work as overseas domestic workers, factory workers and a range of other precarious workers. For these workers, the demands are for more representation and labour unionisation. Whereas for sex workers, there is a lot of raid and rescue.
- This is not a passive population who doesn't know what's going on. We should treat them as the authorities in their own lives.**



A PORTAL TO MACRO-LEVEL ECONOMICS THROUGH THE LENS OF AFRICAN FEMINISTS, NAWI - AFRIFEM MACROECONOMICS COLLECTIVE

- ✦ NAWI Afrifem Macroeconomics Collective's session showed us more ways to challenge dominante macroeconomic discourses and knowledge producers through their online "repository of all forms of written and spoken knowledge by African women on economic issues", focusing particularly on African feminist thought and providing "an immediate entry point to easily locate and draw on the work of African women in this area." As explained by NAWI, "such visibility is a critical step towards ensuring currently marginalised voices and data sources are more likely to influence the wider works of scholars as well as policy and decision makers. The platform will also act as a space where a community of African

women working on these issues can find each other's contributions and further build and develop rigorous, comprehensive responses that both effectively challenge and offer viable alternatives to the dominant economic orthodoxies."

- ✦ In this way, the repository (known as the Portal) and NAWI's approach to its creation provide a practical link to the ideas of explored earlier in the week by **POSSIBLE FUTURES** and their call "to build understanding and solidarity across the Global South - to hold space for unseen, unheard narratives - that have been held back by centuries - to emerge."

POSSIBLE FUTURES: INTERGENERATIONAL WORK TOWARDS THE PLURIVERSE, POSSIBLE FUTURES

- ✦ Through the lens of inter-generational work, this session aimed to build understanding across the Global South and to create space for overarching narratives to emerge as legitimate alternatives to the Global North's dominant, re-colonising ideas of 'sustainable development' and 'planetary regeneration'.
- ✦ **PARAPHRASE OF SAMANTHA SUPPIAH, POSSIBLE FUTURES:** There's a whole movement currently working towards planetary regeneration but it's dominated by the Global North; most of the articles and letters are written by white men. So we want to start to tell our stories.

- ✦ Through dialogue, short films, and collective reflection, the organisers explored how to formulate regenerative narratives relevant in the South's complex, diverse contexts and cultures. Noting that, "The celebration of our uniqueness and diverse ways of being must start with the celebration of different 'we's' within each of us, and how they express themselves outwith our selves, in our greater societies and indeed across societies"
- ✦ **PARAPHRASE OF CAMILLA CARDOSO, POSSIBLE FUTURES:** One of the things we should do to move towards a pluriverse is to hold the contradictions together. We need to hold space for the violence and grieving. We can't always be moving forward as we are pushed to do by modernity.



6. ON NAMING LEGACIES AND ONGOING ITERATIONS OF HISTORICAL INJUSTICES



✦ Across sessions, presenters and audience members emphasised a holistic, interconnected understanding of feminist economic justice that includes in its visions for change movements for racial justice, labour justice, environmental justice, and the knowledges and methodologies of decolonial theory and reparation frameworks.

✦ Connecting these movements to each other and to the legacies and ongoing iterations of historical forms of oppression, including colonialism, the transatlantic trade, and imperialism, was raised throughout the Forum as central to the theme of “disrupting macroeconomics” and the need to identify the structural causes of inequality - both between and within states - that are endemic to current global economic order.

‘LALELA’: AMPLIFYING THE VOICES OF LGBTQ PERSONS IN ZIMBABWE, PAKASIPITI

- ✦ [Session description](#)
- ✦ “Capitalism is a death sentence for both humans and the earth.” - Carol Mudzengi, Voice of the Voiceless Zimbabwe

THE AUDACITY TO DISRUPT: AN INTRODUCTION TO FEMINIST MACRO-LEVEL ECONOMICS, GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT NETWORK (GADN)

- ✦ Based on a [resource pack](#) created jointly by GADN and FEMNET, this session introduced key concepts within feminist macro-level economics, the importance of building alternative feminist economies (especially in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic and ongoing policy responses), how these concepts

fit within the broader global fight for women’s rights and gender equality. It also begins to unpack the crucial role that feminist macro-level economics plays in the redistribution of power and resources from the Global North to the Global South and the legacy of colonialism and unequal power relations that have been central in the design of our global economy.

Colonialism, the transatlantic slave trade and certainly white supremacy have all been pretty critical in shaping part of our economies.

SOPHIE EFANGE
Gender and Development Network (GADN)



UNDERSTANDING

OUR CURRENT ECONOMY

Our modern day global economy evolved out of the **transatlantic slave trade**

The product of centuries of **colonisation**

Created for the sole purpose of building **Western Europe's wealth**

The latest iteration: **Neoliberalism**

Places the **market at the centre** of all human interactions

Reduction in the **role of the state**

The pursuit of economic growth through the **increase of gross domestic product (GDP)**

Prioritisation of market-based solutions for all human needs

Privatisation of public services

A focus on the **individual over the collective**

Deregulation of businesses

Suppression of workers' rights and wages, as well as cuts in jobs

FOLLOWING THE MONEY: THE KAFALA SYSTEM AND CHAIN OF DOMESTIC WORKERS' MIGRATION, INTERNATIONAL DOMESTIC WORKERS FEDERATION (IDWF)

✦ [Session description](#)

✦ **PARAPHRASE OF ROULA SEGHAIER, INTERNATIONAL DOMESTIC WORKERS FEDERATION:** Kafala cannot be discussed outside the issue of racism. It is racial capitalism that we see in the Kafala system. Distribution of cost per ethnicity-employers in Lebanon have to pay for recruitment fees which is implicitly based on skin colour of the workers. **Abolition of Kafala is abolition of racial capitalism.**

CAMPAIGN OF CAMPAIGNS (COC): TOWARDS MACRO SOLUTIONS FOR WOMEN, PEOPLE AND PLANET, WOMEN'S WORKING GROUP ON FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT (WWG ON FFD)

✦ This session introduced the [Campaign of Campaigns](#), a mobilisation and advocacy strategy to promote a "package" of macroeconomic global demands devised jointly by the Women's Working Group on Financing for Development (WWG on FFD) and the CSO FfD Group. It delved into the deep concern about persistent global and macro challenges, which no one country or region can face on its own, while also highlighting the

many lessons learned on social, environmental and economic justice. It presented a proposal for a global alliance while recognizing the diversity of our voices and needs, with plenty of interest to know how we can best support and enhance existing efforts to mobilise and do advocacy.

✦ **PARAPHRASE OF DIYANA YAHAYA, FEMINIST AND HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST on the interconnections between macroeconomic issues:** As feminists we have been working at the intersections of crisis and have been demanding systemic and structural changes for a long time. As people from the Global South and people belonging to marginalised groups, we know macro issues are all interconnected- e.g. tax, debt, investments. **Macroeconomic systems- trade, debt, financing, appear to be administered 'differently' but are all governed by rules that want to facilitate neoliberal economic policies- deregulation, privatisation etc. This has translated to corporate capture into our lives in many countries.** How macroeconomic rules and the domains where they are made and comparing them to the rules made on human rights and climate change you see the asymmetry of power. **The economic rules are being imposed on our countries without the same emphasis on rules for human rights and the climate.**

**THE URGENCY OF FISCAL JUSTICE:
THE THREAT OF ANOTHER ERA
OF AUSTERITY ACROSS THE
GLOBAL SOUTH AND A 'LOST
DECADE' CALLS FOR DISMANTLING
ITS DANGEROUS IDEOLOGY,
THIRD WORLD NETWORK**

✎ [Session description](#)

✎ **PARAPHRASE AND QUOTE
OF PRIYA LUKKA, VISITING
RESEARCH FELLOW,
GOLDSMITHS UNIVERSITY:**

we need a holistic form of justice viewing the inequalities of the global economy as rooted in a continuum of colonialism where we recognise that no one is unequal alone.

“Extreme poverty sits alongside or is fueled by extreme wealth. And marginalisation exists alongside power and burden.”

Forces that formerly used to control the colonised persist in the economic structures that exist today.

They are not distant crimes of previous figures in history but the genesis of the current economic system which ensure that the interests of economic growth are prioritised over the lives of those who are powerless, poorer and invariably people of colour. Racial justice is really at the heart of the decolonisation movement. Many countries have gained political independence but many of the economic structures, processes and mechanisms that have enabled colonial exploitation, have left this enduring effect of inequality, poverty and exploitation. This is the continuation of the neocolonial project.





7. CENTRING CARE AND CREATING CARING ECONOMIES:

REFORMS NOT ENOUGH, WE NEED STRUCTURAL TRANSFORMATION TO ACHIEVE FEMINIST VISIONS FOR ECONOMIC JUSTICE



- ✦ **Situated in a deep understanding of the histories and politics driving conventional approaches to macroeconomics, repeated calls were made for a reorientation and reframing of the purpose and objectives of the economy from a narrow focus on growth and profit to a system that enables intersectional gender equality and has as its primary objective the well-being of people and the planet. To get to this, reform is not enough. Structural transformation is necessary with policies and action plans in place that centre care and create a caring economy.**
- ✦ **This kind of transformation will not happen unless women, especially marginalised groups from the Global South, have a say in the decisions that affect their lives, and until our movements are adequately and equitably funded.**
- ✦ **These messages were heard loud and clear across the sessions, with particular examples of how this can be put into practice from:**
- ✦ **MANUSHYA FOUNDATION**, whose pre-recorded session, entitled “Speaking Truth to Power: Challenging corporate capture through feminist community-led responses” shared knowledge on how community-led participatory methods have been used by women-led movements in Thailand to challenge rights violations and advocate for change. One activist we heard from was Kanlaya Chularattakorn, Manager of the Indigenous Women’s Network of Thailand (IWNT), who described how Indigenous women documented the

manipulation of their communities by tourism businesses into illegally issuing land titles, leading to a denial of access to natural resources and traditional lands, and how the exclusion of Indigenous women from legal proceedings defending their lands exacerbated these harms.

- ✦ **IWRAW Asia Pacific’s** “sneak peek” at its Gender Equality and Macroeconomics Starter Kit, along with **GADN’s** presentation of a joint resource-pack created with **FEMNET** introducing macro-level feminist economics, also provided a window into the kinds of tools available to support capacity building and advocacy in this areas, helping women’s rights advocates to connect their work to the global economic structures that, in their current form, undermine gender equality and exclude the meaningful participation of women, especially those from marginalised groups in the Global South.
- ✦ Through a session hosted by the International Women’s Development Agency (IWDA), called “Imagining Feminist Futures After COVID-19: An Interactive Virtual Workshop” we explored the role of funding within within the feminist movement to ensure the kind of participation and transformation described above, drawing out the following reflection: This moment in time is challenging feminist movement actors to confront the ways that they have been complicit in current funding systems which are based on

unequal power dynamics. We have the opportunity to free feminist movements from the demands of institutional donors, delink ourselves from existing systems of power and explore new and more equitable models. By focusing on relationships, rather than funding, we can move away from instrumental interactions towards relationship-based movements.

✦ **Session organisers and participants also explored specific policy and institutional changes that are need for a feminist reorientation towards a global caring economy:**

BUILDING A FEMINIST FUTURE: TOWARDS A FEMINIST AND HUMAN-RIGHTS-BASED GLOBAL SOCIAL PACT ON CARE, INTERNATIONAL NETWORK FOR ECONOMIC SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS (ESCR NET)

- ✦ This session introduced the 6R Framework for a Global Social Pact on Care, with key political demands aimed at redistributing, recognizing, reducing care, fulfil the rights of care givers and receivers, ensure representation, and reframe the economy as a caring economy. With speakers from across the Global South, the session created space for an open discussion on building a global advocacy strategy to reframe the economy via mutual learning and solidarity.
- ✦ To achieve these demands, we must identify and challenge the gender stereotypes and inequalities that underpin the global economy and dominant

ideas that help justify them.

THE URGENCY OF FISCAL JUSTICE: THE THREAT OF ANOTHER ERA OF AUSTERITY ACROSS THE GLOBAL SOUTH AND A 'LOST DECADE' CALLS FOR DISMANTLING ITS DANGEROUS IDEOLOGY, THIRD WORLD NETWORK

✦ Session description

✦ **PARAPHRASE FROM BHUMIKA MUCHHALA, THIRD WORLD NETWORK:** Structural, feminist and development economics tells us that societies are composed of gendered, unequal class structures. The world is complex and uncertain and risk is not calculable. The most important domain of the economy is production and human welfare, including care and informal economies. The state must use active fiscal policy to redistribute income, create jobs, diversity economies, and protect local and small businesses.

FEMINIST ENGAGEMENTS WITH TRADE POLICY: A FEMINIST PERSPECTIVE ON GENDER EQUALITY AND TRADE, AFRICAN WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNICATION NETWORK (FEMNET)

✦ Session description

✦ **SESSION TAKEAWAY BY ORGANISERS:** To realise economic justice for all, including women, national economic laws and policies must be located in the country's context and be pro-poor & people-centred.

THE DEAL WE ALWAYS WANTED: A DIALOGUE ON A FEMINIST DIGITAL ECONOMY, IT FOR CHANGE AND FRIEDRICH-EBERT-STIFTUNG (FES)

- ✦ This session highlighted the urgent imperative for social movements to respond to the ongoing Big Tech-led restructuring of all sectors of the global economy and the resultant injustices, and identify feminist digital justice as the next horizon for Southern feminism in its 21st century avatar.
- ✦ Panelists shared a roadmap for feminist action, called The Deal We Always Wanted: A Feminist Action Framework for the Digital Economy, identifying specific issue-areas for global-to-local collaborative action between feminist organisations, labour rights activists, global trade justice advocates, and pro-democracy coalitions.

✦ **PARAPHRASE OF GITA SEN, DEVELOPMENT ALTERNATIVES WITH WOMEN FOR A NEW ERA (DAWN):** The central impact of any social economic change on gender is almost always through the ways it reduces the public space and public governance. The relationship between the neoliberal economic paradigm and the data economy is not obvious to a lot of people. Ten years ago, when we talked about neoliberalism we talked about financialisation. Now somewhere into that picture has come the data economy. It is important to understand these linkages.

Fiscal justice must be set on a feminist and anti-racist fiscal policy toolkit that scales up public services supporting women and children, creates universal social protection floors and social security, taxes big business, and creates work.

BHUMIKA MUCHHALA



ADVANCING HUMAN RIGHTS THROUGH GENDER-RESPONSIVE PUBLIC SERVICES: A FEMINIST ALTERNATIVE TO PRIVATISATION, GLOBAL INITIATIVE FOR ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS (GI-ESCR) GI-ESCR SESSION (PUBLIC SECTOR):

- ✦ This session convened women's rights activists and experts from all over the world to explore the wide-ranging implications of the privatisation of public services on women's rights and to learn from and share feminist alternatives for the promotion of rights-based public services to advance substantive gender equality. It explored key questions, such as why and how do we need to re-organise, own, manage and fund public services to advance gender justice? Which are the alternatives to privatisation and commercialisation proposed by feminist social movements, activists, and grassroots women's rights organisations?
- ✦ **SESSION TAKEAWAY BY ORGANISERS:** The session demonstrated that privatisation and the creation of alternatives to privatisation requires engagement with a deeper process of change in values and governance philosophy. The current unjust social organisation of care is reinforced as a result of the privatisation of public services. Highly privatised public services exclude women, particularly women from low-income communities and the commodification of public services result in loss of democratic spaces.

- ✦ **We need to change the prevalent narrative regarding public services. We need to reclaim the public to advance substantive gender equality.** Gender-transformative strategies should be incorporated to provide for feminist alternatives to privatisation. **A stronger political approach needs to be adopted to reiterate the role of the State and the need to regulate the private sector.** We need to change the structure and organisation of public services to ensure women's right to full and effective participation and decision-making.

ARAB FEMINIST CIVIL SOCIETY PERSPECTIVE REGARDING STATES' POLICIES ON ECONOMIC JUSTICE AND RIGHTS, ARAB STATES FEMINIST CSOS NETWORK

- ✦ In the wake of Covid-19, 45 CSOs from 15 Arab countries came together towards a collective effort to decrease the impact of COVID on women, to have a strong voice for Arab women, to highlight what is happening regionally and globally. This was a window into that collective organizing and the multifaceted transformation required at all levels of society to achieve gender justice.
- ✦ In particular, it presented two policy papers by the Arab Feminist CSOs Network on the elimination of gender-based violence and economic justice and rights. Focusing on the informal sector, unpaid care work, women and entrepreneurship, and women in the technology sector, panelists considered different challenges

faced by women impede them from being economically active and from securing decent work, including: (1) macro-economic obstacles and limited access to resources (2) discriminatory laws and insufficient legal protection (3) adverse social norms and sexual harassment at the workplace.

- ✦ To achieve economic and social empowerment of Arab women, transformation is required in multiple and interconnected areas, including: economic participation; freedom of mobility; decision-making and home family management; social and political participation; resistance to domestic and intimate violence; resistance to harassment in a public space; and value of basic education



A caring economy includes rights to land and food sovereignty. Care for land, nature, and community is integral to feminist economic justice.

DISRUPTING THE GLOBAL FOOD SYSTEMS TOWARDS ADVANCING GENDER EQUALITY, HUMAN RIGHTS AND INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY: THE CASE OF SOUTH AFRICA, BRAZIL, CHINA AND MEXICO, INEQUALITY MOVEMENT

- ✦ This session highlighted the ways in which COVID-19 has undermined food security both directly, by disrupting food systems, and indirectly, through the impacts of lockdowns on household incomes and physical access to food. However, global hunger may have been laid bare by COVID-19, but is also inherent in the deep structural inequalities of the global food production system itself.
- ✦ In particular, panelists analysed on rural women in the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) bloc by pinpointing areas for governments and other actors to intervene in the food system, protect the food security of households left vulnerable by COVID-19 and public responses to this global pandemic. It considered the impact of decades of shifting food production from local level, smallholders towards multinational corporations and large-scale agribusinesses, how the intersection of commercial interest and food production sector has led the erosion in democratic systems, and what the loss of biodiversity and bad food production practices means for the well-being and human rights of all people.

✦ **The panelists called on the feminist movement to consider how macroeconomic and trade policies affect food security and food sovereignty, and to organise for gender just transformations of these policies and systems.**

✦ **SESSION TAKEAWAY BY ORGANISERS:** “Crises such as the food, fuel and financial crises are not gender-neutral. They exacerbate already existing inequalities and highlight the negative effects on women and women-dependent economies. There exists a need for gender specific solutions that lift the plight of women players in the food systems.”

✦ **SESSION TAKEAWAY BY ORGANISERS:** “The time has come for a new development paradigm one which places, at the forefront - equal rights and opportunities for all led by women.”

STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITY OF FEMINIST ORGANISATIONS FROM THE GLOBAL SOUTH TO COLLECTIVELY CHALLENGE MACROECONOMIC POLICIES IN ORDER TO PROTECT WOMEN'S LAND AND TERRITORY RIGHTS, FEMINISTA LAND PLATFORM SESSION

✦ This session brought together the Feminist Land Platform and key strategic partners for open and inclusive discussion on the increasing threat of the Covid-19 pandemic one women's capacity to care for and protect their land and territory rights. It explored

alternative policy approaches and called for a strengthening of capacities to **monitor and collectively challenge the macroeconomic policies and projects that are destroying our forests, contaminating our water resources, putting at risk the food sovereignty of our communities, and attacking our territories, cultures and livelihood.**

✦ Through diverse speakers, the session demonstrated the central role of land struggles and food sovereignty in transforming global economic structures and realising feminist visions of economic justice.

✦ The Feminist Land Platform is formed by 12 constituency-based feminists organisation from Latin America, Africa, Asia that seeks to challenge inequalities relating to women's land and territories rights that aims to highlight women's leadership and feminist perspectives in all land struggles, and to take action on gender issues.

SECURE WOMEN'S LAND RIGHTS THROUGH BEIJING+25 ACTION COALITIONS: A GATEWAY TOWARDS A FEMINIST ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION, OXFAM

✦ These calls were further emphasised by a session organised by OXFAM, in collaboration with Organization of Indigenous Women of Peru (ONAMIAP), The Kilimanjaro Initiative Organisation, Platform for Political Advocacy for rural

women in Colombia (PIPMRC), Maldhari Rural Action Group, and International Indigenous Women Forum (FIMI). The session took stock of the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and plans for the Generation Equality Forums in 2021. Feminist leaders and partners from Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Pacific came together to demand their voices be heard and their rights to land and natural resources be incorporated in the Beijing +25 process.

✦ The session explored limits in the Beijing+25 review process, particularly relating to the inclusion of grassroots voices. Speakers and participants called for considerably more to be done to ensure the protection of the women's rights to land, particularly rights of Indigenous and rural women. They noted that cultural attitudes remain a significant barrier to recognition and protection of women's rights to land. **Feminist organisations, including those occupying international advocacy spaces, need to uplift the voices of grassroots Indigenous and rural women to support their claims to land rights.**

COVID, HUNGER AND CREATIVE APPROACHES TO FOOD SECURITY: WOMEN'S EXCHANGE ACROSS REGION AND ETHNICITY IN SRI LANKA, SURIYA WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

✦ Session description

✦ This session also brought us important reminders of the

centrality of land and food systems in building feminist solidarity and advancing care-centred economies.

✦ The key takeaways from session organisers include this important important of the important cross-sections between land and women's human rights:

The Panel provided the opportunity for women to forefront the gendered dimensions of farming including unequal legal regimes of land rights; lack of access to government subsidies all of which are given in the name of the male 'head of household'; disproportionate burden on women with regards to care work of dependent and non dependent members of the family alike; the exacerbation of adverse socio-economic conditions due to loss of life and property as a result of prolonged war and natural disasters that have left women with enormous burdens; experiences of violence within the home and beyond that women have to negotiate to continue their work as farmers or in any other form of livelihood; the experience of collective struggle and mutual support for them to face individual violence while continuing to have a livelihood and supporting themselves and their families.



DISRUPTING CONVENTIONAL MACROECONOMICS MEANS TRANSFORMING MULTILATERALISM & GLOBAL GOVERNANCE

- ✦ Disrupting macroeconomics and moving towards feminist visions of economic justice also means transforming global governance structures and a new feminist multilateralism grounded in care, solidarity, justice, anti-racism, and anti-colonialism.
- ✦ From “a new multilateralism for development in a digital age” to a structural feminist transformation of the global financial architecture to critiques of the BRICS institutions and critical reflections on the UN Human Rights System, this theme was repeated throughout the Forum with calls to action strengthened South-South cooperation among feminists and States.

THE DEAL WE ALWAYS WANTED: A DIALOGUE ON A FEMINIST DIGITAL ECONOMY, IT FOR CHANGE AND FRIEDRICH-EBERT-STIFTUNG (FES)

- ✦ [Session description](#)
- ✦ Drawing on the newly launched, [The Deal We Always Wanted: A Feminist Action Framework for the Digital Economy](#), this session provided a roadmap for feminist action for the digital age, widening the conversation and demanding urgent action on South-South cooperation, tax justice, equitable and fair trade, universal labour guarantees and public investments in care infrastructure.
- ✦ A not-to-be-missed discussion on why feminists should care

about the digital economy and key elements of a gender-just digital economy, the Action Framework and GSWF 2020 session provide crucial insights into **transforming multilateralism and global governance in a digital world**.

THE URGENCY OF FISCAL JUSTICE: THE THREAT OF ANOTHER ERA OF AUSTERITY ACROSS THE GLOBAL SOUTH AND A ‘LOST DECADE’ CALLS FOR DISMANTLING ITS DANGEROUS IDEOLOGY, THIRD WORLD NETWORK

- ✦ [Session description](#)
- ✦ Going to the heart of the structural macroeconomic causes of gender inequality discussed throughout GSWF 2020, this session provided a comprehensive what a **feminist**

global fiscal justice might look like, highlighting case studies from Ecuador, Egypt and Tunisia to demonstrate the causes and effects of austerity measures, along with recommendations for the ways forward.

- ✦ The session powerfully called for transformation of the international financial system - the time for reforms of international financial institutions has passed, tinkering with the system will not help. We’re called on to ask the deeply unsettling political questions required to truly shift power; pressure our own governments to not accept austerity measures; and to connect the movements of reparations justice, fiscal justice, gender



justice and climate justice. **A reparations ethos must go to the centre of the restructuring discussions about global governance and international financial institutions.**

SOUTH FEMINISTS ORGANISING: PROMOTING ACCOUNTABILITY AND GENDER JUSTICE IN THE SUSTAINABLE FINANCE AND INVESTMENTS DIMENSIONS, BRICS FEMINIST WATCH

- ✦ Focusing on the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) bloc and institutions, this session showed the ways in which gender inequalities, discrimination and economic injustices are propagated through policies and investments promoted by International Financial Institutions (IFIs) and multilateral formations. It called for the integration of a feminist agenda of the South into BRICS policies and institutions, including the New Development Bank (NDB) as vital to achieving gender equality and social justice.
- ✦ **Despite the promise of the possibility of South-South cooperation through BRICS institutions, speakers noted that little had been achieved** in terms of substantive change, highlighting a lack of transparency, data, and gender analysis within these systems. Covid-19 has only deepened these issues with economic responses reinforcing gender stereotypes and contributing to the invisibilisation of women,

including women workers and migrant women. Through all this, national governments are, at minimum, complicit in not living up to the promise of BRICs.

- ✦ Looking beyond the IMF and World Bank, this session demonstrated the web of multilateral institutions, actors and sites of power that are implicated in the global economic and financial architecture, and that play a role in reinforcing gender inequality and discrimination; highlighting, by the same token, the need for broad global movements for feminist economic transformation.

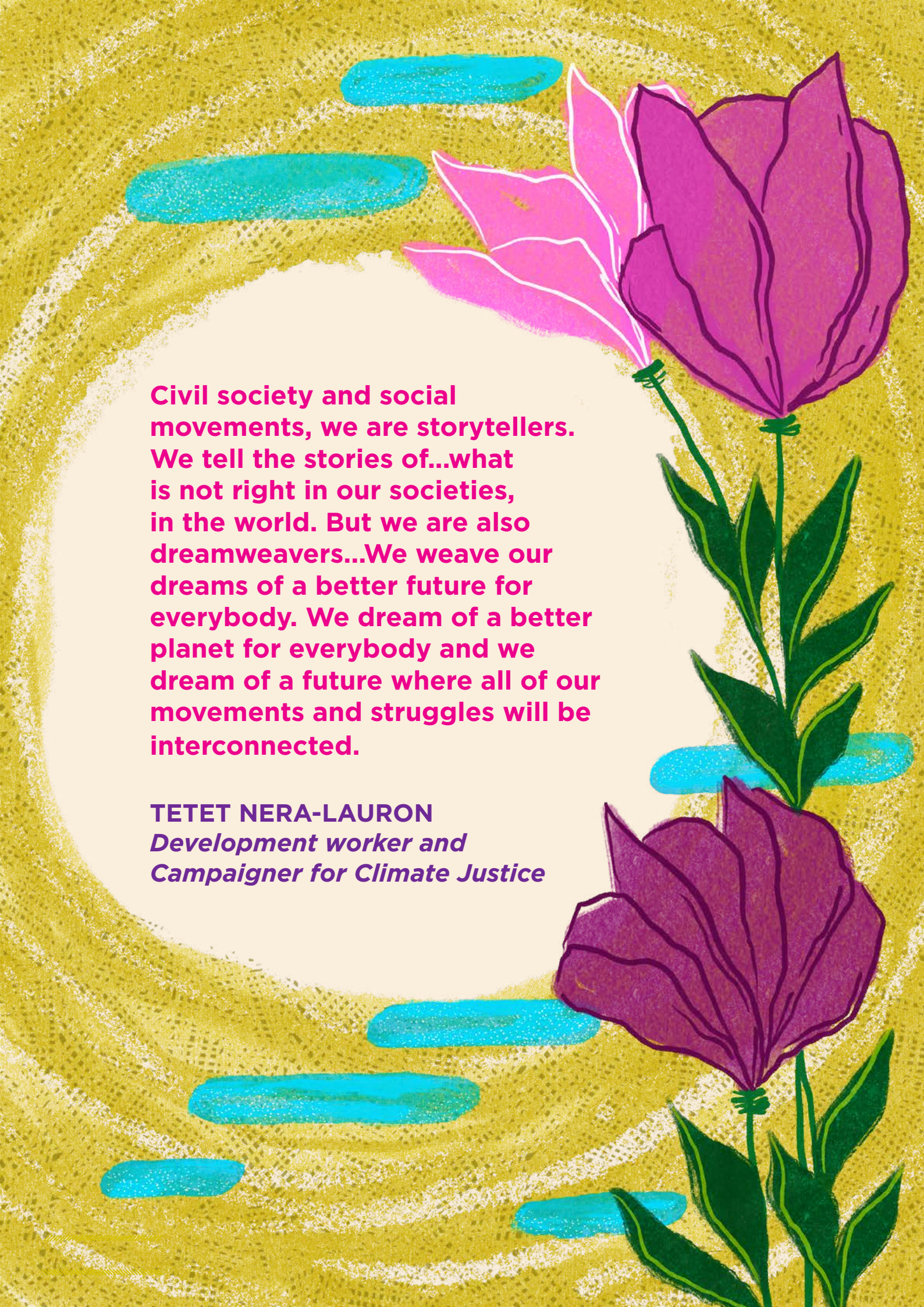
A FEMINIST ANALYSIS OF CEDAW GENERAL RECOMMENDATION NO. 38 ON TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN & GIRLS IN THE CONTEXT OF GLOBAL MIGRATION

- ✦ Session description
- ✦ Reflecting on CEDAW General Recommendation no. 38 on trafficking in women & girls, and the related joint advocacy by women's rights and sex worker rights activists, **this session asked important questions of the UN Human Rights System and mandate holders:** Whose voices are power holders listening to? Whose information is being privileged over and above the knowledge, experience and analysis of marginalized groups, sex workers in this instance? Why and How are these processes set up that allow denial and exclusion to happen?

CAMPAIGN OF CAMPAIGNS (COC): TOWARDS MACRO SOLUTIONS FOR WOMEN, PEOPLE AND PLANET, WOMEN'S WORKING GROUP ON FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT (WWG ON FFD)

- ✦ Session description
- ✦ An invitation to join the Campaign of Campaigns this session focused on global solutions to gender inequality and injustice, with an urgent call to actively collectively to demand radical action at the international level.
- ✦ **Paraphrasing Tetet Nera-Lauron:** The Campaign of Campaigns connects various dots between movements for economic justice, trade justice, climate justice, gender justice, and others, and calls out supposed 'solutions' discussed in the multilateral system now that are fundamentally about greening capitalism. A key demand of the Campaign of Campaigns is about accountability. How can we be resilient to 'shocks' when the root causes of vulnerabilities remain unaddressed and the 'solutions' reproduce deep power imbalances. **Focusing on pocket-sized solutions, tokenistic solutions is not the way forward. It won't work without an overhaul of the entire macro system.**





Civil society and social movements, we are storytellers. We tell the stories of...what is not right in our societies, in the world. But we are also dreamweavers...We weave our dreams of a better future for everybody. We dream of a better planet for everybody and we dream of a future where all of our movements and struggles will be interconnected.

TETET NERA-LAURON
*Development worker and
Campaigner for Climate Justice*