



APWLD

Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development



Four Demands for Just and Sustainable Development Goals

The global model of development is not working for rural, indigenous and migrant women of Asia Pacific. Market driven economic growth may have increased GDP and profits but it has done little for women living in poverty, and has instead made many women's lives less sustainable and secure. We need development goals that focus on sustainable communities, sustainable lives and sustainable environments.

1. Access to Resources

The best way to eradicate poverty is to make sure women and men have access to, ownership of and control over land. Access and control over land would ensure food sovereignty for rural and indigenous women and their community.

Governments must ensure women have access to and control over productive resources, land, finance, sustainable energies, information, education, health care and markets!

I - We want an indicator that aims to increase the percentage of people who have access to land and the percentage of those who are women.

2. Decent Work and Economic Rights

The majority of women workers in Asia live in poverty. Development models have pushed real wages down, particularly in women-dominated sectors.

A living wage sufficient to cover sufficient calories, housing, education, utilities, health and daily expenses for a family to live in dignity is required. This must be extended to all industries, formal and informal, and include domestic work. Women workers must have access to all labour benefits, including education, training, social security and legal protections.

Governments should commit to foster national and local production and enterprises supporting small-scale business and producers for sustainable development.

I - We want an indicator that measures whether a country has legislated for all workers to receive a living wage (calculated on an agreed method) and how many women are able to access a living wage. We want an indicator that measures and aims to reduce economic inequality within populations, and between men and women.

3. Peace

Militarisation, often a justification for peace and development, only fuels conflict in communities. Violations against women's human rights and violence against women result from conflict over natural resources, military defence of natural resource extractions and militia of corporations hired to secure the interests of profit over women's human rights.

Violence against women is a major barrier to the enjoyment of all other rights. Governments must fulfil and protect women's human rights and ensure just and lasting peace, without wars, armed conflict and violence against women!

I – We want an indicator that compares military budgets to expenditure on health and education. We want an indicator that measures whether a country has laws and policies to prevent, prosecute and protect women from violence.

4. Voice

Rural, indigenous and migrant women benefit least from economic growth, yet suffer the most from loss of sustainable lands, climate disasters and inequality. They are rarely heard or engaged as decision makers in development. Persistent inequalities- including economic, social, cultural, and political- prevent women's full and meaningful participation in policy making, development programmes and implementation. Women are forced to accept development policies and programmes which are irrelevant and disempowering.

Governments and development institutions must ensure that women, especially rural, indigenous and migrant women, are not only present in formal processes, but also contribute their perspectives and recommendations in decision-making at all levels of development issues! This must be done through a bottom up, decentralized process owned by people.

I – We want an indicator that sets a minimum quota of 40% of women in all decision making bodies (including at the UN level). We want regulated mechanisms for making development decisions that require women to have a primary voice in development that affects them.

For more information

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