

Accountability to Peoples aims to establish new, democratic global, regional and national accountability mechanisms for governments and a binding accountability mechanism for the private sector. The poor and marginalised people especially poor women, ethnic and minority groups are always the worst victim of weak governance systems and accountability mechanisms. The 2030 Agenda should have indicators to monitor the existence of the right to information laws that are effective; affordable, fair and timely legal aid services; and a universal intergovernmental tax body. It should have an indicator for the number of disputes brought against States as well as the private sector through dispute settlement processes in areas such as trade, investment, technology, corruption etc. that challenge policies or practices promoting poverty eradication, sustainable development or human rights. It should also include indicators for the gender wage gap, quality of work conditions, and social benefits in the sectors affected by trade.



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The Asia Pacific Regional Civil Society Engagement Mechanism (RCM) promotes stronger, coordinated, and more effective civil society contribution in regional and global UN processes. It consists of 427 civil society organisations working in the Asia Pacific region within 17 different constituencies and five sub regions. It ensures stronger cross constituency coordination and that voices of all sub-regions in the Asia Pacific are heard in intergovernmental processes.

For more information please go to: <http://www.asiapacificrcm.org>.

Development Justice

FACTSHEET

Women

The Asia Pacific region contains the majority of the world's poor, most of whom are women.¹ Development policies used in Asia are often pointed to as successful models for global development, but there is little evidence that these policies have benefited women, particularly rural and indigenous women. On the contrary, economic policies have contributed to heightening the exposure of women to exploitative labour, labour migration, landlessness and trafficking.



The model of market-driven development promoted by the World Bank and other financial institutions for the past 30 years allowed the wealthiest 1 percent to grow richer while real wages and income fell. The richest 1 percent have more wealth than the rest of the world combined. The 62 richest individuals have more combined wealth than the 3.5 billion poorest, which is half of the world's population.²

Besides causing staggering inequalities between and within countries, the policies of neoliberalism also have contributed to unregulated exploitation of the world's resources, and increased violations of human rights. Rural, indigenous, and migrant women benefit the least from economic growth yet suffer the most from loss of sustainable lands, loss of biodiversity and natural resources, climate disasters, and inequality. Women are differentially affected by armed conflict and in post-conflict settings, and humanitarian emergencies. They are rarely heard or engaged as decision makers in development and in peace and conflict processes. The opportunity for women in all their diversities to meaningfully participate in economic, social and political decision-making processes at the household, community, national, regional and international level is essential for sustainable development and building resilience. The structural and underlying inequalities which contribute to the perpetuation of women's subjugation must be addressed and institutions transformed. This must be done through a bottom up and empowerment approach, decentralized process owned by people, for the people.

¹ "Is empowering women the answer to ending poverty in the developing world?". The Guardian. Link: bit.ly/LRXWHX

² "An economy for the 1%: How privilege and power in the economy drive extreme inequality and how this can be stopped." Oxfam International. Link: bit.ly/1SZ7sHQ

The Sustainable Development Goals and Development Justice



The targets within the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) fall far short of what is needed to challenge the growth-focused, extractives model of development; and lack commitment that will shift inequalities of wealth, power and resources and bind governments to meet their human rights obligations. Leaving no one behind is still a far-fetched reality as the proposed 2030 Agenda targets and especially indicators do not address inequalities within and between countries to the fullest extent possible. The SDGs lack accountability, with a weak, voluntary process for

reviewing progress. Governments also failed to make the necessary financial commitments, instead expanded the role of private sector, paving the way for unaccountable and unregulated partnerships that have direct negative impact on basic human rights such as health, water and sanitation, food security, education, housing and nutrition. The new 2030 Agenda should reorient development towards a sustainable and holistic approach to achieve people's empowerment and wellbeing and the realization of human rights and dignity for all. This must be done through Development Justice.

Development Justice requires governments to function within human rights framework and to reduce the gross inequalities of wealth, power, resources and opportunities that exist between countries, between rich and poor, and between men and women. Development Justice entails progressive policies regarding trade, financing and accountability, and challenges the neoliberal framework and the imperative of economic growth. It requires implementation of five 'transformative shifts' described below.

Redistributive Justice compels us to dismantle the existing systems that channel resources and wealth from developing countries to wealthy countries. It should ensure the shift from the international poverty line of \$1.90 a day to the international ethical poverty line which quantifies the scale of socioeconomic change needed to eliminate absolute poverty. It aims to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection for developing countries through the establishment a global corporate tax floor and a universal intergovernmental tax body. The target to regulate and monitor the global financial market (target 10.5) needs to be complemented with an indicator to establish effective capital controls and other equitable fiscal measures that enable governments to regulate flows into and out of domestic capital markets. The 2030 Agenda should include an indicator on the percentage of productive land owned or accessed by landless poor, smallscale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers. It should also have indicators on reallocation of military spending to social services.

Economic Justice aims to create sustainable economies that returns economic control to people and accountable governments. These economies should eliminate corporate tax subsidies; ensure progressive tax reform; promote local, productive and sustainable economies

over speculative economies; eliminate transfer pricing; and ensure profits are distributed within local economies. Economic justice calls for achieving decent work for all, that includes indicators for a living wage; comparison of minimum wage to median wage and the living wage; union density; migrant workers in debt; wage gap between migrants and nationals: and, Palma ratio between top and bottom earners. Economic justice also requires the burden of unpaid care work between men and women to be redistributed. In order to ensure financial, fiscal and economic justice, it is imperative to put in place a global regulatory system in line with human rights obligations and commitments that the countries have signed on to.

Social and Gender Justice recognises the need to eliminate patriarchal systems and fundamentalisms, challenge existing social structures, deliver gender justice, ensure sexual and reproductive health and rights and guarantee the human rights for all peoples. It should provide universal public services in particular access to education, comprehensive sexuality education; health care including continuum of quality sexual and reproductive health services; nutrition; housing; water and sanitation; and sustainable energy. Social and gender justice should be complemented with integrated gender indicators across the framework. It should include indicators on the levels of gender based violence as well as acknowledgement of the intersectional nature of discrimination and violence; the existence of legislative and policy responses and their effective implementation to eliminate all forms of violence and eradicate stigma and discrimination. It should ensure the empowerment of all women, including women's autonomy and decision-making in all aspects of their lives - their sexuality, family and employment.

Environmental Justice recognises the historical responsibility of countries and elites within countries whose production, consumption and extraction patterns have led to human rights violations, global warming and environmental disasters. It must ensure active and meaningful participation, and leadership of women in all decision-making processes concerning food, natural resource management, climate and agriculture policies as women have a significant role during disasters and in post disaster relief and rehabilitation work including ensuring food sovereignty and providing food security. States should improve livelihoods through smallholder agriculture and agro-ecological farming, connecting rural farmers with urban consumers, building on local, indigenous and gender-based knowledge, and employing biodiversity-based techniques with women at the core. The post 2015 development agenda should ensure resource extraction, such as water use, fishing, logging and mining, is according to the needs of communities and subject to sustainable management, while protecting their rights. The indicators should include the existence of safeguards, developed with women in the community, to prevent land grabbing and forced evictions.

