

Only 26 people own the same amount of wealth as the world's poorest half, most of whom are women.¹

A Bangladeshi **woman garment worker**, in her entire lifetime, **earns less than what the CEO** from the top five global fashion brands **earns in just four days.**²

The top 1% is evading an estimated **\$200bn in tax**. Developing countries lose at least \$170 billion each year in foregone tax revenues from corporations and the super-rich. Since 1980, developing countries have lost a total of **16.3 trillion dollars.**³

Only 25 % of farmland are in the hands of farmers around the world, **75% are in the hands of corporations, government, military and landlords.**⁴

321 human rights defenders were **killed across 27 countries** in 2018, 39 of whom were women.⁵

Government spending on the military rose to \$1,739bn, which could have paid for the **education of 1.9 billion people** in South Asia 17 times over.⁶

Just 100 corporations are responsible for **71% of global carbon emissions.**⁷

The United Nations has warned that we only have **11 years left to limit climate change catastrophe.**⁸

1 Larry Elliott (2019, 21 January). 'World's 26 richest people own as much as poorest 50%'. Retrieved from <https://www.theguardian.com/business/2019/jan/21/world-26-richest-people-own-as-much-as-poorest-50-per-cent-oxfam-report>

2 Oxfam. (2018). 'Reward work, not wealth'. Oxfam Briefing Paper.

3 Global Financial Integrity 'New Report on Unrecorded Capital Flight Finds Developing Countries are Net-Creditors to the Rest of the World' Retrieved from <https://www.gfintegrity.org/press-release/new-report-on-unrecorded-capital-flight-finds-developing-countries-are-net-creditors-to-the-rest-of-the-world/>

4 Retrieved from <https://www.grain.org/article/entries/4929-hungry-for-land-small-farmers-feed-the-world-with-less-than-a-quarter-of-all-farmland>

5 Retrieved from <https://www.frontlinedefenders.org/en/resource-publication/global-analysis-2018>

6 Retrieved from <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SE.XPD.TOTL.GD.ZS?locations=85>

7 Tess Riley (2017, 10 July). 'Just 100 companies responsible for 71% of global emissions, study says'. Retrieved from <https://www.theguardian.com/sustainable-business/2017/jul/10/100-fossil-fuel-companies-investors-responsible-71-global-emissions-cdp-study-climate-change>

8 Jonathan Watts (2018, 8 October). 'We have 12 years to limit climate change catastrophe, warns UN'. Retrieved from <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/oct/08/global-warming-must-not-exceed-15c-warns-landmark-un-report>

Over the last 35 years one global economic and political system has defined the development model: Corporate Capitalism. This model assumes that 'development' and 'growth' are synonymous, and that the more money moves around, the more countries 'develop'. When GDP growth counts as development - war brings more profit than peace, illness brings more profit than health, over-consumption brings more profit than sustainable living, and private businesses bring more profit than public commons.

Governments facilitate Corporate Capitalism by reducing public spending, privatising public assets and services, reducing any regulations on industry, promoting cheap and precarious labour, signing trade agreements, and taking corporate 'donations' to political parties.

This model of development has channeled wealth, power and resources from the working peoples to the rich, and from developing countries to wealthy countries. It has worsened the global climate catastrophe, caused the displacement of millions of people, lowered real wages, increased forced labour migration and caused finance, environment, food and energy crises – which continue to devastate the lives of women in the Global South.

The world urgently needs a new model of development, a model that aims to address inequalities of wealth, power and resources between countries, between rich and poor, and between men and women – a model that asserts the right to development for all peoples over private profit.



The Development Justice model is framed by five transformative shifts:

1. Redistributive Justice aims to redistribute resources, wealth, power and opportunities from a selected few to all human beings equitably. It compels us to dismantle the existing systems that channel resources and wealth from developing countries to wealthy countries, and from people to corporations and elites. It recognises the people as sovereigns of our local and global commons.



2. Economic Justice aims to develop economies that enable dignified lives, accommodate needs, and facilitate capabilities, employment and livelihoods available to all, and is not based on exploitation of people or natural resources or environmental destruction. It is a model that makes economies work for people, rather than compelling people to work for economies.



3. Social and Gender Justice aims to eliminate all forms of discrimination, marginalisation and exclusion that pervade our communities. It recognises the need to eliminate patriarchal systems and fundamentalisms, challenge existing social structures, deliver gender justice, ensure sexual and reproductive justice, and guarantee human rights of all peoples.



4. Environmental Justice recognises the historical responsibility of countries, and elites within countries whose production, consumption, and extraction patterns have led to human rights violations, climate crisis and environmental disasters. Environmental Justice compels those responsible to alleviate and compensate those with the least culpability but who suffer the most: farmers, fisherfolk, women and other marginalised groups of the Global South.



5. Accountability to Peoples requires democratic and just governance that enables people to make informed decisions over their own lives, communities and futures. It necessitates empowering all people, particularly Indigenous Peoples and the most marginalised, to be part of continuous free, prior and informed decision making in all stages of development processes at the local, national, regional and international levels.



These five shifts provide the foundation of a new development framework that is just and equitable.

There are many proposals for community driven economies that focus on the wellbeing of peoples and the planet. They all require a shift from global overconsumption and to ensure the right to development for women is respected, must include redistribution of existing resources. Elements that can assist in creating the shift to Development Justice include:

Eliminate tax havens, tax holidays, trade mispricing, profit shifting or other forms of tax avoidance and create a global tax floor. Create additional taxes on harmful practices including finance speculation, arms trade, shipping and extractive industries.

End measuring growth, and instead focus on wellbeing. 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 and addresses the scale of overconsumption in the developed world.⁹

Establish a democratic, global and national accountability mechanism for governments. Support a binding treaty to regulate transnational corporations. Allow localised, democratic decision making around the use of resources.

Reduce military spending with funds redistributed to universal public services and goods including sexual and reproductive health care, water and sanitation, and sustainable energy.

Provide a universal social wage and social protection which would provide all humanity with a dignified standard of living regardless of their employment, citizenship or any other status.

Implement all obligations detailed in the Beijing Platform for Action and the sustained presence of strong, autonomous feminist movements.

Invest in Decent Work in sustainable, low carbon industries like care and community work, community services, life-long education. Establish a living wage for all, including the informal sector, which would reduce the gender pay gap.

Redistribute paid and unpaid care work. A commitment to Decent Work for all could allow working hours to be reduced. Care work should be supported by the state and shared amongst community members. This would reduce dependence on women's unpaid and undervalued labour.

Respect union and collective organising rights and increase the number of workers protected by trade unions.

End land grabbing and redistribution of land captured through concessions made without community consent and continuous Free Prior and Informed Consent of Indigenous Peoples.

Support local land sustainability and agroecology food production that builds on local ecological systems to enable food sovereignty and retain bio-diversity while sustaining community and environmental well-being.

Introduce Energy and Resource Democracy allowing local people, particularly women, to make decisions over the use of their resources and the best way to fulfil their needs.

Eliminate the use of fossil fuels in developed countries, and phase out in other countries depending on the developmental needs. Invest in renewable energies, supporting local production and management. Support communities to manage, preserve and restore forests, as well as eliminate the use of harmful chemicals.

Eliminate intellectual property (IP) rules that prevent lifesaving medicines, renewable technologies and technological advances from being shared and expanded. Instead, support open source technologies and knowledge sharing designed for social good.

Abolish Free Trade Agreements and the Investor State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) arbitration system that give corporations the power to override national laws and policies. Instead focus on Solidarity Agreements that commit states to act together in the shared interests of their constituents.

Join us in making
Development Justice a reality - a future that the vast majority of peoples want, a course of global equity, of ecological sustainability, of social justice, human rights enjoyment and dignity for all.

Scan to read our publication 'Promoting and Fulfilling the Right to Development: Case Studies from AsiaPacific'



Scan to learn more about Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD)



www.apwld.org

⁹ Peter Edward (2006). 'The Ethical Poverty Line: a moral quantification of absolute poverty'. Third World Quarterly, Vol 27, No 2, pp 377-393.
¹⁰ Henry Farber, Ilyana Kuziemko and Daniel Herbst, (2018). 'Unions and Inequality Over the Twentieth Century: New Evidence from Survey Data'