**CONCEPT NOTE**

**Women2030 Sub-grant:**

**National Monitoring of Sustainable Development Goals and**

**Development Justice**

**Background**

Since 2012 Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD) has been advocating for a transformative development framework that addresses the structural causes of inequalities and fulfil promises to women’s human rights. APWLD, along with civil society in the Asia Pacific region, called for the Development Justice framework that seeks to reduce inequalities of wealth, power and resources between countries, between rich and poor and between men and women and other social groups. After over two years of negotiations and tireless engagement from APWLD members and other women’s rights organisations and networks, a set of 17 goals and 169 targets were adopted by the United Nations as the new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in September 2015.

While 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was universal in scope and addresses a broad range of issues compared to its predecessor, the Millennium Development Goals, it was missing three important pillars: (i) reform of the global financial system, (ii) financial commitment and resources to implement 2030 agenda, and lastly (ii) accountability. It remains to be seen if governments are able to implement them and deliver just and equitable development that promotes people’s rights, dignity and wellbeing. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is not a binding agreement and based from the 4 years implementation of SDGs, the United Nations has demonstrated repeated failures to enforce state accountability. States have recognised the alarming trend of human rights violations and erosion of sustainable development, they have reiterated their promises to fulfil their human rights obligations, yet inequalities deepen, the global climate catastrophe continues to get worse, and attacks to democratic rights and human rights defenders are escalated.

The principle of “leaving no-one behind” cannot be achieved without recognising that exclusion is the result of deliberate policies, practices and decisions designed to enrich and empower a few at the expense of others. The current global economic and political systems depend on the exclusion and exploitation of others, particularly women in economically and politically marginalised communities. APWLD believes that without addressing the structural impediments to 2030 agenda - such as extractive based neoliberal capitalism, unjust financial, trade and investment agreements, land and resource threats, militarism, patriarchy and fundamentalism, as well as patriarchal authoritarian governance - the transformative vision of SDGs will never be achieved.

It is therefore the role of civil society to ensure that the movements we fostered, the space we have carved out and achievements in our advocacy in the process of establishing the SDGs persist. We must ensure that there are transparent, democratic, inclusive and meaningful opportunities for civil society engagement in the monitoring and review phase of the SDGs. The monitoring and review of the SDGs by civil society at the national, regional and international levels using Development Justice framework is critical to ensuring the implementation of the Goals. Through this exercise, civil society is able to hold their governments accountable, address any failures in progress to achieve the goals and targets, and ensure that the people’s transformative development agenda is not subsumed under the expansive work of monitoring the SDGs.

APWLD has worked for many years on the intersections of fundamentalisms, globalisation, militarisation and patriarchy. We know that Development Justice is only possible when these systems of oppression are addressed, challenged and shift power relations. Therefore, in order to challenge the current development model, strong feminist movements are needed, and they must be supported to build capacity, gather evidence and engage in advocacy that hold our governments accountable to the promises that they have made, while continuing to strengthen our movements to tackle the systemic and structural drivers of inequalities and advance Development Justice. Since 2016, APWLD has worked with numbers of national and grassroots organisations to monitor the implementation of 2030 Agenda under Women2030 Sub-granting programme. For Women2030 2020-2021, APWLD will partner and support eight organisations to do monitoring of the SDGs implementation in their country using the Feminist Development Justice as a framework and to carry out advocacy based on it.

**This project will be coordinated by APWLD Feminist Development Justice (FDJ) Programme 1.** A selection committee comprised of the FDJ programme committee and APWLD secretariat will select eight to ten organisations that will conduct monitoring and review of their priority goals and targets as well as a set of Development Justice Indicators.

APWLD will provide each partner organisations with a small sub-grant between $18,000 – $20,000 USD to support the employment of a dedicated staff coordinator to carry out the project for 18 months. This small grant will cover some salary costs, contribute to national or local consultations with a broad range of community groups, civil society and development actors, and carry out advocacy aimed to ensure that development policies and agenda are informed and shaped by the needs of women and their communities.

APWLD will also support staff from each organisation in regional-level capacity building workshops and provide advocacy or network opportunities. They will access trainings and skill shares in media advocacy, data gathering and analysis, research methods, gender assessments, participatory baseline setting and other necessary skills for the project. The organisation will then share their acquired knowledge and tools with civil society groups locally through a combination of trainings, meetings, online tools and platforms, etc.

Through this project, APWLD has built capacity and provided resources and tools to national and local feminist and women’s rights organizations to produce their own analysis, critique and provide recommendation on their government’s commitments and implementations of the SDGs using Development Justice as a framework. The project also provides organisations with an opportunity to influence the national and local policies and framework for the SDGs implementations and to be part of larger and stronger local, regional and global movements of feminists and peoples’ organizations and networks working to achieve Development Justice.

**Overall Objective:**

Build capacity of feminist and women’s rights civil society organisations to advance local, national and regional gender-responsive sustainable development policies, through participation in policy development and monitoring, mobilising citizen’s support, demonstrating best practices and advocating for human rights and Development Justice.

**Specific Objective:**

* Develop the capacity of feminist movements and women’s rights organisations to conduct evidence-based advocacy for the monitoring and review of the Sustainable Development Goals.
* Foster knowledge and resources on the impact of development policies, practices and projects on women at the national level by monitoring SDGs through the Development Justice indicators.
* Establish strategic advocacy plans and opportunities to support women’s own position and solutions for development policy at national level, regional and international levels through the Asia Pacific Regional Civil Society Engagement Mechanism (APRCEM) and the Women’s Major Group.
* Strengthen institutional development of partner organisation through leadership development and movement building for Development Justice.

**Participants:**

Throughout the 18 months sub-grant partnership, APWLD will conduct three regional meetings/trainings.

* Two participants from each organisation/country will form a team to coordinate and conduct the Women2030 programme
* Organisation’s participants should have strong feminist analysis, some experience in policy research and analysis, organisational work, report writing, and commitment to women’s movements and development justice

**Selection Criteria:**

Applicants should be **non-governmental** and **non-profit**, **a feminist, women’s rights and/or women-led organisation** from countries in the Asia Pacific region who demonstrate the following:

* Commitment to the enjoyment and realisation of the human rights of women in Asia Pacific, particularly of the most marginalised (young, rural, indigenous, migrant, Dalit women and/or women in other minority groups),
* Able to demonstrate experience in working with grassroots’ communities.
* Since the objective of this project is to monitor and review the Sustainable Development Goals, nationally, it is important that applying organisations are familiar with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development or development related policies in the national and/or local level.
* Capacity and commitment to fulfil the monitoring programme for the whole18 months;
* Commitment to the feminist Development Justice framework;
* Able to provide a dedicated staff coordinator for the project and to write a Peoples’ Development Justice Report
* Able to bring a broad range of community members, civil society and development actors for consultations.

APWLD will consider the following when selecting the partner organisations for this project:

* Preference may be given to organisations from the countries potentially to report at the [High Level Political Forum (HLPF)](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf) 2020-2021.
* Organisational capacity to successfully implement the monitoring and review project.
* Experience in advocacy work related to the SDGs and Development Justice.

**Expected Outputs**

* People’s Development Justice Report and briefing papers: [see examples here](http://apwld.org/peoples-development-justice-report-from-the-region/)
* Government Dialogue and Advocacy Plan
* Consultation with community members and civil society
* Media engagement
* Program Narrative and Finance Reports
* Development Justice data (optional)

**Project Timeline (tentative):**

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| Month | Activity |
| January - February 2020 | Call for Application and Selection Process  Agreement |
| March 2020 | Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development 2020  1st Regional Meeting of Partners  Pre-Evaluation and Self-Assessment  1st Installment of Sub-grant (40%) |
| May - June 2020 | Establish monitoring framework with organisation  National and/or Community Consultations, |
| July 2020 | National and/or Community Consultations,  Desk Research  HLPF 2020 |
| August 2020 | 2nd Regional Meeting of Partners  Mid Evaluation and Self-Assessment  Preliminary Data Analysis based from Desk Research |
| September 2020 | Submission of Final Monitoring Design  2nd Installment of Sub-Grant (40%) |
| September – December 2020 | National Consultations, Monitoring and Research |
| December 2020 | Submission of the zero draft of the People’s Development Justice Report |
| January – February 2021 | Production of National Briefers and Regional Analysis for CSO Forum & APFSD  2nd version of the draft report  Preparation for CSO Forum & APFSD 2021  Finalisation of the Peoples Development Justice Report |
| March 2021 | 3rd Regional Meeting of Partners  CSO Forum & APFSD 2021 |
| May 2021 | Final People’s Development Justice Report |
| July 2021 | HLPF 2021 |
| August 2021 | End of Project  Project Narrative and Financial Report  Final Installment (20%) |

## Programme Activities

1. **1st Regional Meeting of Partners**

**Methodology and Approach**

In this meeting participants will gain knowledge of the Feminist Development Justice Framework and indicators. This will also be a space for participants to share their analysis of the SDGs and to present their plans of action for monitoring and review nationally. It is an opportunity for all partner organisations to learn from each other’s approaches and priority areas, to share knowledge and resources, and to collectively address potential challenges. The meeting will go over the template for the National Monitoring and Review of the SDGs and Development Justice shadow report, advocacy tools and opportunities as well as other participatory monitoring and evaluation tools which can be used for the project. This training will take place back-to-back with the 2020 Asia Pacific CSO Forum on Sustainable Development and the Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) in Bangkok, Thailand so that partners can build their capacity and be familiar with regional engagement processes.

**Expected Outputs**

* Participants understand the objective, approach, and time frame of the Women2030 Sub-grant: National Monitoring and Review of the SDGs and Development Justice.
* Training participants gain skills and capacity on the key tools and concepts of the project including baseline setting, gender assessments, shadow reporting and data collection and analysis along with the M&E tools and methodologies to be used in their national consultations and trainings.
* Participants have a clear understanding of the Development Justice Indicators and have identified their priority areas for monitoring and review.
* Participating organisations have a more detailed plan of action for the next 10-15 months.

1. **Refining National Plan and Pre-Consultation Planning**

After the 1st Partners Meeting, each organisation will debrief with their organisation, constituencies, existing networks and coalitions to refine their plans for the next 10-15 months. This is an opportunity to coordinate with the rest of the organisation to ensure better integration of the sub-granting project with on-going organizational work and initiatives. This is also the time where the organisations can plan or begin to conduct their consultations to reach a broad range of constituencies and community members. This is the initial data collection and policy research phase, any information that is collected including reflections on the process will be discussed in the 2nd Regional Training of Partners.

The objectives of this period should include:

* Gaining the support, collaboration and ownership of the organisation, local partners and constituencies
* Integrating the project with relevant initiatives and better coordinate staff support within the organisation
* Identify potential challenges and other resource requirements
* Test and assess methods and tools from the meeting for the local trainings, monitoring and review, and objectives
* Developing advocacy plans and carrying out advocacy on the SDGs and Development Justice (on-going throughout the course of the project)

1. **2nd Regional Meeting of Partners**

At this meeting, partners will submit a more detailed action plan to APWLD which can include any significant modifications to their proposal that requires discussions. This meeting will focus on skill building specifically on data gathering, analysis and reporting (shadow report, monitoring and evaluation, and the open source database.) More specific skills like media advocacy and communications will also be covered in this training. This will be an opportunity to reflect on the monitoring and review work they have done so far, including best practices, and lessons learned as well as to address any gaps, challenges and further knowledge requirements. Finally, the 2nd Regional Training of partners will be an important space to map out advocacy opportunities and campaign strategies for Development Justice in national, regional and international level in the subsequent month.

**Expected Outputs**

* Participants have a collective and strengthened understanding of data collection, data analysis, and reporting work for this programme.
* Participants have a clear Feminist Monitoring, Learning and Evaluation plan to track their impacts and lesson learnt for the 18 months programme.
* Participants have clear monitoring plan, and evidence-based advocacy plans and strategy, in particular, to work with their constituencies and community members to use their findings to advocate for Development Justice in the local and national level; and also have a concrete plan with APWLD for advocacy in the regional and international level.

1. **3rd Regional Partners Meeting**

This training will take place while partners will be in the final stages of the finalization of the shadow report. This will be an opportunity to reflect on the findings and analysis, to identify gaps and lesson learned. We will also use the meeting to reflect the impact of the programme on whether any capacity built, any new tools and resources created, any changes in laws and policies whether locally, nationally and regionally and whether the project had built and strengthened feminist movement and movements advancing development justice. It will also include the sharing of best practices, and lessons learned as well as to address any gaps, challenges and further knowledge requirements. Finally, the 3rd Regional Training of partners will be an important space to strategize and develop collective campaign and advocacy based on partners report for the next 5-6 months. This meeting will take place back-to-back with the 2021 Asia Pacific CSO Forum on Sustainable Development and APFSD so that partners can engage with regional processes using their report.

**Expected Outputs**

* Participants are able to confidently apply feminist development justice lens to monitor and evaluate the implementation of SDGs at various levels. Participants have clear evidence-based advocacy plans and strategy, in particular to work with their constituencies and community members to use their findings to advocate for Development Justice in the local and national level.
* Participants will also have a concrete collective plan with APWLD and other partners for advocacy in the regional and international level.
* Participants exchange knowledge on monitoring SDGs at the national level and be able to provide constructive feedback on the 2nd draft of Peoples’ Development Justice reports for their peers.

1. **Consultations, Research and Monitoring**

The team will conduct local and national consultations, focus group discussion, key informant interviews, policy research and monitoring. Based on the data and information collected, the team will make a draft of Peoples’ Development Justice report (shadow report) and submit to APWLD for review by December 2020.

The final People’s Development Justice Report is to be completed by May 2021. This report can be written in any language but English version is expected to be sent to the APWLD secretariat. Guidelines for the final shadow report will be discussed and finalised at the meeting.

The final programme narrative and financial report along with financial receipts are expected to be submitted by the end August 2021.