

**Women Major Group's contribution for the 8th session of the
Open Working Group on the Sustainable Development Goals:**

Rule of Law and Governance 7/2/2014

Women stabilize governments through restorative justice and good governance. The rise of the globalization of community resources has worked to destroy many women's leadership traditions as women are increasingly focused on crisis management and immediate survival needs.

Women's rights are human rights. If women are not able to maintain their traditional strengths they are less able to build long-term stability peace and promote good governance.

Among some Indigenous Peoples, including Muskogean and Haudenosaunee, the women chose or meted punishment for the victimizer in a manner that protected women. This often allowed the man to re-enter his original or another society so the community could collectively move forward. The values at the core of this type of process allow the victim or female representative to determine the fate of the victimizer through a community process serving families of the victim and victimizer, who must work together. This is a model of restorative justice with women in the role of peace-builders, investigators, judges, law enforcers, law-makers, health care providers, and short- and long-term community planners.

Currently many "modern" governments ignore the traditional agricultural leadership of women. For countless millennia in the Americas women were in charge of working with Earth to provide staple foods for family and community. New governments ignored traditional village and kinship civil governments led by women because food growth is monetized, mechanized and excludes women from distributing food in the community. This exclusion of women from traditional government caused a dramatic rise in violence against women and economic hardship, which dramatically soared from the colonial era (ca. 1500) to present. Since the age of colonialism we are in the era of misogyny, which is also seen in geoengineering of Earth and now culminating in climate change. The correlation is exemplified by the entity producing the most carbon, the US, also being the most effective colonizer and dislocator of women (see footnote). Because women have been excluded from traditional government, carbon emissions have increased dramatically. If we are to reduce carbon emissions, women's traditional governmental roles must be supported by the international community.

The dispersal of the female Hawaiian legislative body, followed by the violent invasion, sank Hawaiian women into generations of poverty as they were removed from ancestral lands but the words of Queen Lili'uokalani, illegally deposed and held under house arrest, brought about significant change. Her strong valuation of law and order, and her Hawaiian model of restorative justice led Hawaii away from conflict and built an enduring peace, now flourishing in its 6th generation. With traditional knowledge and powers, women face colonial wars of aggression and model effective crisis management that bears fruit a dozen generations into the future. Where traditions of female governance are supported by the international community, the world

benefits. Perhaps Earth can recover from unsustainable development more quickly if Hawaiian Kingdom could restore Kuhina Nui, the Great Woman consulted before any bill was signed into law. If she did not believe the bill would benefit the People in "pono", the righteous, way, she vetoed it and the bill was returned back to the Parliament. This safeguard is typical of many original governments that vest power in wise women.

Women worldwide use their traditional powers in the face of violence to try to maintain or re-establish fair, responsive, and accountable justice systems that will stabilize society, economy, and representative government. The Women of Liberia Mass Action for Peace united Muslim and Christian women in their traditional roles as peace-builders to assert their right to participate in peace negotiations. Their work for peace, truth, and reconciliation culminated after 20 years of internal and international conflict, in the election of President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, the first African woman to use her traditional peace-building powers in an African presidency. The women in white still work to maintain the rule of law that has kept President Sirleaf from being deposed as her predecessors had. Where women have power there is stability.

Good governance is marked by public access to legal recourse when laws are not enforced. Access to public services can only be assured through access to legal advocacy and technology. Women organize effectively to assert community value for ecosystem health. Too often in the past this has resulted in the systematic rape and murder of women asserting their right to clean water, wind, and earth. In the future SDG targets can protect women as they freely assemble, associate, communicate, and assert their traditional powers to protect their families from environmental health risks.

Women who could be leading governments are too often imprisoned. Leading carbon emitters and human rights violators, US, Russia, and China, are world leaders imprisoning women with the US keeping more than one million women in state custody, approximately 1 in 30 of whom experience pregnancy while held. Children suffer also from the arbitrary incarceration of non-violent women. These women, many of whom are jailed for political or health issues, are excluded from political participation. By coordinating with women's groups addressing trafficking of drugs, weapons, minerals, and people, UN Members could reduce incidents of actual crime and situations that implicate women who are politically, economically, and physically disempowered by state apparatus. Universal access to health care administered by women would also reduce social conflicts that cause women to be imprisoned and disenfranchised.

The current UN system and Interpol is handicapped by its prejudices against women and original nations while we fight transnational organized crime in isolation. For example the Mayan Q'eqchi' People in Guatemala asserted rights for sustainable development but women were systematically raped because of violations of UNDRIP requiring Free Prior and Informed Consent to develop. Women's groups and Indigenous Peoples have been organizing to fight transnational organizations trafficking humans, minerals, weapons, and drugs, to achieve

sustainable development goals with few resources and much comparative success. Through dialogue with women in leadership positions, UN Members can take more ownership of the sustainable development process, modeling the laws of young nations on the time-tested laws of original nations and older societies that understand that law and order is the domain of women. Women solve problems and proactively plan communities that avoid conflict and instability.

Recommendations:

1. Good governance through consistent enforcement of law and order.

a) More effectively track and hold accountable lawless transnational corporations as they change or conceal identities and locations internationally.

b) Reduce corruption by 100% by allowing women, minorities, and Indigenous Peoples to use traditional methods of restorative justice to deter corruption and violence in the future.

c) Develop international response mechanisms to land-grabbing violence patterns, including low intensity conflicts, by instituting feedback mechanisms from grassroots women's groups and Indigenous Peoples' Organizations (IPOs). This will reduce number and length of conflicts.

d) Increase women's participation in national government through international finance mechanisms encouraging national governments to grant microcredit to women's sustainable development projects and work with original governments representing Indigenous Peoples.

e) Develop more humane standards for law enforcement officers. Make rape perpetration a disqualifier for participating in "security" forces.

f) 40% female representation in judicial, legislative, and executive positions, including law enforcement.

2. Good governance provides services and not hardships for Peoples.

a) Work toward 0% carbon emissions to promote survival of constituents due to climate changing disasters, loss of natural resources, and sea level rise. Protect ecosystems that provide essential services.

b) Provide universal internet access, education, and health care with student IDs or health ID issued by educational or medical workers and not law-enforcers for travel, purchase, banking, communications.

c) Diversify financial systems, explore alternatives to consumption-based currencies backed by mined metals. Allow women to return to leadership of agrarian activities and civil planning. Consider national treasuries backed by healthy ecosystems that support sustainable manufacture to support the national consumption.

d) 80% reduction in female imprisonment, 100% increase in health care and intervention for women suffering from drugs, trafficking, and prostitution.

e) SDG benchmarks must include the work of women in GDP and GNP estimates through a voluntary ecosystem health index or women's development index.

3. Good governance requires working internationally in a consistent manner.

a) Promote international economic organizations that are rewarded for their implementation of CEDAW, ICESER, UNDRIP, CBD, the UN Charter, UN DRC, all drug, guns, conflict minerals, and human trafficking instruments through trade incentives and tariffs. Enable women to develop coherent international instruments to address conflict mineral trafficking.

b) Require projects funded by World Bank and EU to comply with CEDAW, UNDRIP, that allows for participation in government and negotiating process with Indigenous Peoples' governments in order to plan better sustainable development projects.

c) 100% enforcement of war crimes laws, including prosecuting military rapes, punishing the rapists in accordance with the women's traditions and wishes. Allow original nations to enforce laws against rape where jurisdiction is disputed between UN Members.

4. Good governance identifies and promotes Indigenous Peoples' governance that empowers and protects women, children, elders and disabled.

a) Enforce existing labor, education, child-protection, and human rights laws to facilitate educational opportunities including but not limited to Expert Mechanism Advice No. 1 (2009) on the right of indigenous peoples to education; Study on lessons learned and challenges to achieve the right of indigenous peoples to education (2011); Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; Article 29 (1) of the Convention on the Rights of the Child; Article 13 (2) of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

b) Peace, rule of law and good governance need to be specified as a stand-alone goal and cross cutting across other post 2015 frameworks.

c) 100% implementation of FPIC negotiations to work with Indigenous Peoples advising and directing sustainable development is a necessary target if we are to mitigate, reverse, adapt to, and survive climate change. Allow us to return to women-led models of restorative justice and learn from traditional models of women's leadership when planning sustainable development projects to protect all women dependent on the local and global ecosystem and its services.

<http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/briefs/c2010br-02.pdf> US has lowest percentage of indigenous in the Americas.

<http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/SeriesDetail.aspx?srid=749&crid=> US is leading carbon emitter