



International Solidarity: Local Needs, Global Action¹

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Overview

In September 2015, the international community adopted a series of ground-breaking agreements that collectively expressed a degree of international solidarity and global cooperation we had never seen before. However, we now live in an atmosphere of growing nationalism, xenophobia, fundamentalisms, unilateral action, and militarism that jeopardizes the achievement of the global agreements of 2015 and threatens women's human rights.

As an international network of feminist advocates, the Women's Major Group (WMG) knows that our problems demand global action and solidarity across borders. Achieving climate, gender, development, and trade justice requires global actions informed by local needs. These cross-boundary structural issues often have intense impacts on local communities that then bear the brunt of both coping and finding local solutions, but these solutions cannot address the root of the problem because they are deep and structural - requiring global action.

Transformative global actions to tackle the structural issues requires a fair and functional global system in which civil society, social movements, and environmental and women's human rights defenders occupy their rightful seat at the table.

Key Messages

- Without the experiences of women in all their diversity being reflected in global debates and policies, their needs, views, and ideas will remain hidden to decision-makers. This invisibility prevents the achievement of sustainable development and the realization of women's human rights since global policies do not reflect local needs.
- Meaningful participation of women's civil society in global debate requires sustained and adequate funding to women's groups; guarantees of personal safety for those who participate; and open, transparent, and accessible deliberation processes with dedicated space for civil society to speak.
- Specifically, at the HLPF, the Major Groups and other stakeholders generally and the WMG particularly, play a crucial role in safeguarding and enhancing space for civil society and feminist activists to engage together at the global level to make local issues visible. All stakeholders - from Member States to UN agencies to other civil society actors - must preserve and respect that space.
- Systemic issues can and must be addressed at the global level, as well as the national and local level, with analysis and action that moves beyond the rigid boundaries of nations. In order to achieve its mandate, the HLPF must create the space for this type of collective thinking and accountability. Currently, the HLPF risks becoming a funnel for exclusively national interests to be summarized on the global stage without ensuring accountability to issues without borders, e.g. climate change, migration, inequality, trade, and illicit financial flows.

¹ For more information, see www.womenmajorgroup.org