



Means of Implementation, Gender Equality and Women's Human Rights¹

Tuesday, July 17, 2018

Key data

- We live in the world of gross wealth inequality. The 8 richest men in the world own the same wealth as 3,5 billion people in bottom-income range, Sixty-nine of the largest 100 economies in the world are corporations and 10 corporations are richer than 180 countries combined.
- In 2015, 19.4 per cent of all sector-allocable ODA was allocated to conflict and post-conflict countries, of which 40 per cent targeted gender equality. Only 5 percent of the gender-focused ODA allocated to those countries was marked as having a principal focus.² The share of sector-allocable official development assistance (ODA) supporting gender equality must be increased.
- Total world military expenditure rose to \$1739 billion in 2017, an increase of 1.1 per cent in real terms from 2016³. Last week at the NATO Summit, governments were asked to DOUBLE their military funding. Meanwhile ODA is just a drop in the bucket.
- Only 23% (17 of 74) of National Action Plans on Women, Peace and Security have some allocated budget⁴.
- 8 big fossil fuel and chemical companies (BP, Chevron, Exxon, Mobil, Shell, Dow, Dupont, Sinopec) are responsible for trillions of USD in Climate-related, Plastic-waste and Chemical-pollution cost, but they are not being held accountable for payment of damage costs.
- There is more money flowing out of the Global South to the the Global North through illicit financial flows and trade-mispricing than arrives from the Global North,
- While governments express skepticism that the \$3 to \$5 trillion dollars required annually to finance the 2030 Agenda can be mobilised, between \$21 and \$32 trillion dollars sits undisturbed in offshore tax havens.
- After banks have been bailed out with public funds, the financial crisis is long past and economies are doing well, governments have continued with austerity measures, cutting further in social services that are especially important for women, and further privatizing public goods and services. This increases the burden of unpaid care on women.

Key messages

- The HLPF process, unfortunately, is putting governments from the global south in a position where they need to promote their actions in order to access funding from donors and the private sector, instead of accessing funds on the basis of commitment from rich countries in the name of global partnership, international solidarity and historical responsibility.
- Member States should oppose the push of blending of ODA with privatization investments. Public Private Partnerships remain problematic. We oppose the privatization of public services and facilities, including large scale infrastructure as well public services such as health, education, children and elderly care. They are fundamental human rights and an obligation of the state, and should be guaranteed..

¹ For reference: See the Women's Major Group HLPF 2018 Position Paper at <https://tinyurl.com/y7bry64r>

² <http://undocs.org/S/2017/861>

³ <https://www.sipri.org/media/press-release/2018/global-military-spending-remains-high-17-trillion>

⁴ <http://www.peacewomen.org/member-states>

- Conditionalities linked to funding provided by international financial institutions (IFIs) contribute to the feminisation of poverty and the deepening of gender inequalities.
- Illicit financial flows & trade mispricing, as well as tax evasion and tax incentives for multinational harmful industries are hindering the fulfillment of States' obligation to mobilise the maximum available resources for the realisation of human rights, including long-agreed commitments on women's rights and gender equality.
- It is necessary to strengthen, and promote and invest in, effective, meaningful and transparent public policy that integrates a human rights and gender perspective and support the mainstreaming of gender aspects in financing, budgeting and taxation.

Recommendations

- Undertake a gender, environment & human rights impacts assessment of macro-economic policies (by IFIs, governments), including trade & investment agreement and taxation; make rectifications where the burden is unequally distributed. Assessments should include women in design, implementation & follow-up⁵.
- Enlarge policy space is protected to curtail illicit financial flows by implementing financial regulations & macro prudential measures such as capital control techniques; eliminate investor-state dispute settlement clauses to ensure states' capacity to fulfill human & women's rights and tackle illicit financial flows.
- Design and harmonize comprehensive cross-border methodologies to collect and analyze comparable data on tax evasion, avoidance, gender biases of tax structures and links between human trafficking and IFIs. Promote joint data collection and analysis between Tax authorities, National Statistics Offices and Women machineries.
- All member states should support the binding treaty on Transnational Corporations for human rights & the establishment of intergovernmental global & regional tax body to address loss of tax revenue and incentives.
- Prioritise investments in accessible, affordable and quality social infrastructure and essential public services that reduce and redistribute women's unpaid care and domestic work, and that enable their full participation in politics⁶.
- Ensure adequate budgetary allocation to ensure social safety nets and innovative social protection floors⁷.
- Provide effective gender budgeting on all aspects of national, regional and international level. This is essential to address barriers to women's participation including by building in gender analysis of how legislation, policies, programmes and schemes meet the socio-economic, political, and other rights of women; by identifying the adequacy of budget allocations to gender sensitive policies; by evaluating the impact of these actions on women and men in all their diversity.

Those of us who speak up in the feminist movement are being silenced, persecuted, and our already little funds are being cut. We call on governments, to have feminist policies and to fund the women human rights and environmental defenders and feminist movements. **Women's rights and feminist movement & organisations are the core MOI.** The most comprehensive, quantitative research collating data from over 40 years found that autonomous feminist movements are key drivers of progressive policy in the realm of women's rights. Social and women's movements, play a central role in advancing development justice that tackles inequalities of wealth, power and resources between countries, between rich and poor, and between men, women and other social groups.

⁵ (2017). What Member States can do to ensure Women's Meaningful Participation in the UN System? WILPF. Available at: <https://wilpf.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/BOOKLET-3-Member-States-online.pdf>

⁶ (2015). Addis Ababa Action Plan on Transformative Financing for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment. UN Women. Available at: <https://www.oecd.org/dac/gender-development/Action%20Plan%20on%20Financing%20Gender%20Equality.pdf>

⁷ Coomaraswamy, R. (2015). Preventing Conflict, Transforming Justice, Securing the Peace: A Global Study on the Implementation of UNSCR 1325. UN Women. Available at: <http://peacewomen.org/security-council/2015-high-level-review-global-study>