

# **Women's Major Group Key Messages on Financial Means of Implementation**

**for Joint Session between FfD and Post-2015 Processes**

**April 21-24 2015**

- Means of implementation is not-gender neutral; how financial resources are mobilised and whether or not they're mobilised has clear implications for women's human rights and gender equality.
- Women comprise the majority of people living in poverty; are the majority of informal and agricultural workers and workers in vulnerable or precarious forms of employment; bear the burden of unpaid care work, which is exacerbated by a decrease in access to essential services; and are the most vulnerable group to natural disasters. It is therefore essential that financing for development is adequate to achieve sustainable, equitable development that fulfils women's human rights.
- All MoI policies should therefore be formulated in light of their human rights and gender equality impacts.

## **Financing for women's rights organisations**

- Unlike previous FfD outcome documents (the Monterrey Consensus and Doha Declaration) there is no mention in the FfD zero draft of dedicated resources to advance gender equality.
- Beyond financing for women's rights organisations, FfD and MoI must provide for the full financing of national gender equality plans of action and strategies, including those mandated under the Beijing Platform for Action.

## **Women's participation in financing for development policy-making**

- The FfD zero draft limits the call to mainstream gender equality to financial and economic policies (para 6), rather than to all development policies, including FfD policies at all levels and in all sectors (compared with Monterrey Consensus para 64, Doha Declaration para 4).
- Gender-responsive budgeting must be ensured in all aspects of fiscal policy.

## **Domestic resource mobilisation**

- Calls to broaden the tax base (e.g. para 20) should not result in an increase in regressive taxes, which disproportionately impact women as consumers of most staples and basic goods. We welcome the call in para 18 of the zero draft to "promote equity, including gender equality as an objective in all tax and revenue policies, including incentives we give to domestic and foreign investors and tax treaties and agreements."
- While we appreciate that the FfD Zero Draft recommends to upgrade the United Nations Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters, we prefer a clear call for the

establishment of an a well-resourced intergovernmental body on tax under the auspices of the UN with the necessary technical support, including gender expertise.

- We call for resource mobilisation via a financial transaction tax and taxation of other harmful activities.

### **International public finance and ODA**

- In para 56 of the FfD zero draft, countries are only “urged” to meet the 0.7% deadline of 2020. We ask that countries “commit” to meet the 0.7% deadline by 2020 through binding timetables. Aid is difficult to enforce and hold accountable without binding timetables.
- All financing for climate and biodiversity must be additional and untied.
- The implication in para 63 of the zero draft that strong safeguards in multilateral development banks may be unduly burdensome is extremely concerning. All MDB financing must be subject to robust gender and human rights safeguards.

### **Private finance and private sector**

- We are extremely concerned about the prominent role given to private finance in the zero draft and to public-private partnerships (PPPs) in the SDGs. Private finance is profit-oriented and tends to invest with short-term horizons, which tends to be incompatible with the equitable provision of public goods, such as social services. Further, modalities for private financing such as blended financing increase public debt burdens and can shift risks to the public sector while privatising profits. Private finance must be conditioned on ex ante assessments of its alignment with human rights and sustainable development objectives, and with binding accountability frameworks.
- We are deeply concerned that para 42 in particular instrumentalises the economic participation of women as a means to competitiveness and profitability, instead of recognising women’s inherent human rights to equal participation in all facets of political, economic and social life.

### **Debt**

- The zero draft blatantly ignores four key areas where the UN has ongoing work in relation to debt sustainability and restructuring (the UN ad hoc committee on a multilateral framework for sovereign debt restructuring, the UNCTAD-convened working group on sovereign debt workouts, the Guiding Principles on Foreign Debt and Human Rights and the Principles on Responsible Sovereign Lending and Borrowing) and only refers to work of the IMF and World Bank in this area.

### **Trade:**

- We welcome the reference in para 81 of the zero draft to ensure trade and investment agreements are negotiated transparently and do not increase inequality, harm the environment, and that ISDS clauses are subject to proper review to ensure the right to regulate in areas critical for sustainable development. We add that it is necessary for all trade and investment agreements to be subject to ex ante and period gender, human rights, and environmental impact assessments, and that all trade policies should be oriented towards the creation of decent work and productive diversification.

### **Agriculture**

- We welcome the reference in the zero draft to ensuring that women and men have equal rights to economic resources, including ownership and control over land, inheritance, natural resources and other forms of property (para 42). We prefer this to target 5a of the SDGs which very problematically makes women’s equal ownership and access to land subject to national laws.