

(Translated from the French)

## Contact Group for Gender and Sustainable Development Contribution for the Rio+20 Conference • Document as at 30/10/2011

### Gender equality is central to the definition of sustainable development

*The Rio+20 Conference will be an opportunity to **redefine** a “sustainable development” reaffirming that ecological, social and economic equilibria can only be achieved if human rights are respected worldwide. Sustainable development must not boil down to a “green capitalism” or “governance by experts”. Economics is a tool in the service of social progress. Citizens’ expertise and democracy are vital for the proper management of common goods.*

*With a view to this, the Rio+20 Conference should address the **cross-cutting issue of gender**. This approach is designed to take into account the impact of the mode of development on social interaction between men and women, which is founded at present inter alia on political, economic, social, environmental and cultural inequalities and, conversely, the impact of gender mainstreaming on the emergence of a real sustainable development.<sup>1</sup>*

*To that end, the Gender and Development approach (GAD) was gradually developed and adopted by certain international development institutions and civil society movements and organizations, from the South in particular. This contribution to the review of the classical development paradigm has been a part of all United Nations conferences on the environment and development for thirty years, both institutionally and from the standpoint of civil society with, for example, the publishing of the Women’s Agenda 21 for a Healthy and Peaceful Planet ahead of the Rio Conference. In France, a platform on Women in support of the quality of life and of a feminist approach to sustainable development was developed for the Johannesburg World Summit 2002 in connection with the French grouping of NGOs known as the Collectif Joburg 2002.*

Ecological and environmental organizations, international solidarity organizations and social movements are agreed that a financial and economic, ecological, social, ideological and political **systemic crisis** is ongoing. Yet this observation often ignores **the issue of the evolution of social interaction between women and men (i.e. “gender”)**, whereas this issue is central both to crises and to their solutions. Changing this interaction is a strategic linchpin of the **transition** to a mode of sustainable development based on the equitable allocation of resources within the ecological limits of the biosphere. It involves debating and addressing very concrete individual and collective realities such as the exercise and breakdown of time, space, mobility, resources, income, and decision-making processes, which amounts to organizing and planning this transition by incorporating the gender objective into it. Public policies which are only aimed at “integrating women into development” do not call the nature of that development into question and instrumentalize the social role and work of women to offset, for example, the dismantling of collective services. These policies overlook the fact that women (particularly migrant women) often serve as a balancing variable on the labour market.

Women suffer the **negative repercussions** of the unsustainable development mode as they are obliged to combine their traditional responsibilities, such as performing household chores and caring for children and the elderly, with new economic and social demands, whilst facing up to increasing job insecurity.<sup>2</sup> In poor countries, erosion of biodiversity, the increasing rarity of water resources, the lack of sanitation infrastructure, desertification and conflicts resulting from land-grabbing and seed control affect them directly, whilst the decrease in collective services overburden them worldwide, in both rural and urban areas. At the same time, women are specific **actors** through their investment in the social and solidarity economy, through their preoccupation with environmental health, and through their contribution to equitable management of common goods, (shanty)towns and neighbourhoods. Women’s movements at local and international level propose important alternatives. Their momentum, their social utility and their

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<sup>1</sup> “Gender” is defined here as “a socially constructed definition of women and men. It is the social design of a biological sex, determined by the conception of tasks, functions and roles attributed to women and men in society.” “The gender approach promotes equality of formal and real rights for women and men, improved access to areas of self-expression and power, to inclusive human capital (health, education) and to production factors. The gender approach also encompasses prevention and repression of sex-based violence, the equitable sharing of resources and responsibilities, and a more comprehensive and sustainable human development for all men and women.” (Strategic Policy Paper on Gender and Development, released by the French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs in December 2007.)

<sup>2</sup> Women represent 70% of the 1.2 billion people living with less than one dollar a day.

achievements open the way for innovation and prefigure development modes of greater humanity and solidarity.

The last twenty years have seen **the emergence and enhancement of women's organizations and feminist movements** which have contributed to criticism of capitalism and its links to the patriarchal structure and participated actively in local, national and international lobbies and in protest and proposition movements (social forums, G8/G20 counter-summits, etc.).<sup>3</sup>

In parallel, the rise of religious integrisms and a narrow understanding of the notion of "cultural diversity" – **the fourth "pillar" of sustainable development** – are powerful brakes and new factors of regression of – and resistance to – human emancipation.

## Take into account changes in gender interactions and the emergence of social movements

Gender interactions are seeing major changes. Worldwide, a **renegotiation** of female-male relations can be observed, in parallel with the renegotiation of North-South, centre-periphery, dominant-dominated relations, etc. These **changes in inter-sex social interactions** in all their geographical and cultural diversity have direct influence on all spheres of sustainable development at both territorial and global level: demography, **migrations**, production, consumption, management of **natural and technological risks**, security, **conflicts** and wars, access to and demands for rights, education, participation, the decision-making and political sphere, etc.

For example, the **demographic** issue cannot be separated from that of rights. Effective family planning requires the autonomy of women, full control of their sexual rights and procreation, their schooling as well as the education of women and men, the equitable sharing of resources and decisions, and the fight against violence, including forced marriages, early marriage, exploitation of little girls and young women, rape, etc.

The issues of women's rights and the equality of women and men have been part of the global debate on the ends and means of "development" for more than forty years now.

The specific contribution of women to sustainable development is laid down in **principle 20 of the Rio Declaration**: "*Women have a vital role in environmental management and development. Their full participation is therefore essential to achieve sustainable development.*" This is further developed in Chapter 24 of Agenda 21.

International institutions such as the UNDP have gradually refined their analysis of human development by supplementing the HDI with gender-sensitive indicators of gender and women's participation.<sup>4</sup>

At the 1995 Beijing Fourth World Conference on Women, the States pledged to implement **12 strategic objectives**, including one on equal access to the management of natural resources and preservation of the environment, another on the rising poverty of women, involving increased power-sharing and equality in decision-making, as well as making changing behaviours and eradicating stereotypes concerning the roles of men and women a condition for the implementation of public policies, in an integrated approach to equality ("*gender mainstreaming*").

In 2000, the **Millennium Development Goals** (MDGs) included a commitment to "*promote gender equality and empower women*" (goal 3). One challenge is to implement a cross-cutting approach to equality across all MDGs and their indicators.

In **2002, the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development** reaffirmed previous commitments and requested gender-sensitive information and the creation of female-male equality indicators by the States. At the Summit, the issue of legitimacy and the architecture of the international system, as well as the predominance of the international financial institutions outside the control of the United Nations, was raised strongly by women's organizations. They highlighted the importance of handling issues in areas such as agriculture and public services through bodies other than the WTO. Since then, the issue has taken on even more acute, with the extension of negotiations on environmental services, water services and energy but also with the development of bilateral negotiations between countries and the economic and trade agreement currently being negotiated between Canada and the European Commission.

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<sup>3</sup> C.f. annex: positions of women's and feminist organizations

<sup>4</sup> The UNECA AGDI index (African Gender and Development Index) thus follows the progress of international instruments in different countries.

Inequalities between women and men and their unequal participation in the elaboration, implementation and evaluation of policies is one of the main obstacles to the implementation of international commitments on sustainable development. The rights-based approach, and particularly **economic, social and cultural rights and environmental rights**, are a new lever, promoted by women's movements and organizations worldwide and particularly in the South. Sustainable development emphasizes different relationships with production, and calls for non-productivist development which leaves more space for social and collective "viability" and values which have historically been marginalized and left to women.

### For equal distribution of power and access to decision-making processes

**Women** are considered one of the nine civil society Major Groups in sustainable development and **overlap** the other Major Groups (children and youth, farmers, indigenous people, etc.). On this basis their organizations are officially present in international negotiations on sustainable development.<sup>5</sup>

But in recent years, the **focus on global warming**, itself conceived as a scientific and technical matter, has tended towards being an essentially masculine **sector**. Whilst women are at the same time specific actors in global warming prevention and mitigation and are specifically impacted by natural disasters, they remain largely absent from high-level climate negotiations,<sup>6</sup> just as they are forgotten in environmental impact studies on the ground. As a result of the **gendered nature of power** – out of 192 countries, a dozen are led by women – women are also absent from other governance bodies, including illegitimate ones such as the G8 and the G20, from peace negotiations and from bilateral negotiations for economic agreements, etc.

In addition, **world governance of women's rights** has recently evolved, leading to the creation of UN Women, which was made official in July 2010 and which resulted from the merging and consolidation of the Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW), International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women (OSAGI) and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). This streamlining is a response to the constant need for cross-cutting strategies and policies in gender matters. It is vital that this lead to increased resources and not to greater demands with reduced resources, and that actions in favour of women be maintained and developed.

The gradual accounting for the gender approach, promoted since the beginning of the UN Decade for Women in 1975, has contributed to fuelling discussion of inequalities and domination systems, participating in the definition of "sustainable and equitable human development, particularly from the **Beijing Platform for Action** and the **priority given to gender mainstreaming** (across-the-board integration of female-male equality in all policies), which must be coordinated with specific actions in favour of women.

The wide variety of situations and contexts in the matter – even if female-male inequalities are a constant across all societies – are a good basis for debate and practices which can **enrich the notion of cultural diversity**, which became the fourth pillar of sustainable development at the 2002 Johannesburg World Summit. The debate and demands regarding cultural diversity and the necessary ownership and adaptation of the concept and practices of sustainable development by each society and in each context must be examined in interaction with the universal principle of the freedom and equality of women and men and taking into account gender analysis, which studies the links and reciprocal impacts between policies and female-male interactions.

*Lastly, recognition of "intersectionality" (relationship between gender, class, race and generation interactions) and methodological approaches referring to it, developed by the gender approach, is a new, fertile source for analysis and methodologies to invent for the implementation of sustainable development.*

### Essential governance factors: democracy, participation, education

It is unrealistic to aim for balanced human development whilst excluding or **marginalizing certain social categories from decision-making spheres** and coordination and negotiation mechanisms, as on the one

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<sup>5</sup> Within the Rio+20 organizing committee, the Women's Major Group Steering Committee is made up of parties including ENERGIA International Network on Gender on Sustainable Energy, IUCN Gender Department, GFC Global Forest Coalition, VAM Voices of African Mothers (Accra), WEDO Women Environment Development Organization, WECF Women in Europe for a Common Future, and WOCAN Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management.

<sup>6</sup> Between 1996 and 2010 (Cancun), the percentage of women in delegations progressed from 20% to 30% amongst negotiator countries. 12-15% of delegations are headed by women. Four parallel events out of 250 at Copenhagen and six out of 200 at Cancun were organized by women (WEDO figures).

hand this deprives these categories of their fundamental rights and, on the other, deprives societies of considerable human wealth. But, across the world, girls and women have lesser access to schooling, to literacy, to initial and continuous training, to technical and scientific training and to information and communication technologies.

Quantitative targets are set internationally for access to **education**. Meeting them involves attacking obstacles such as the lack of health and sanitation infrastructure, which hinders the schooling of girls. **Qualitative aspects** must also be better taken into account if the educational environment is not to remain a place where sexist prejudices are passed on, as is currently the case worldwide, including in scientific subjects (schoolbooks, curriculum, biased guidance, violence inflicted on girls, etc.).

Like all places of power above a certain level of decision, **research** and institutions of scientific expertise are essentially masculine.

In terms of **coordination**, the integration of female-male equality in the definition of Agendas 21 and national and territorial climate plans can provide a reference. From this point of view, the **European Charter for Equality between Women and Men in Local Life** is a useful tool to combine with local sustainable development strategies.

### **What is the “green economy”? Attacking the causes of inequalities and the ecological crisis or opening new markets?**

Capitalist economic globalization, based on predation of natural and human resources, wasting energy, putting everyone into competition and deepening inequalities as the system of distributing wealth, has undermined systems of solidarity, social protection, public services and the environment, hitting women hardest. The definition of a **green economy** is at the heart of the official Rio+20 agenda. Does it mean attacking the true causes of the ecological crisis or – on the pretext of the need for globalized management – privatizing carbon, land, biodiversity and seed to open new markets and bring common goods into a speculative market? Numerous civil society organizations fear that this focus on the “green economy” comes to the detriment of the need to rebalance sustainable development in favour of the social and environmental aspects of development.

We are seeing the erosion of biodiversities which, from being the collective properties of their countries and communities who employ and preserve them, become a “global” biodiversity managed at international level. This “globalization” refers to the new commodity status attached to biodiversity by transnational companies in the framework of intellectual property rights (IPR). From being collective property, biodiversity becomes the property of the few, its value depending on its commercial exploitation. This privatization, which leads to monoculture farming, biopiracy, the destruction of diverse ecosystems and land-grabbing, undermines the rights of nations and communities, despite them being included in the Convention on Biological Diversity.<sup>7</sup>

We are seeing the replacement of a production model which – caring for the soil – stored carbon in the ground, by an industrial model multiplying carbon emissions. Forests, already under threat from industrial plantations for paper and oil production, etc., are now threatened by a carbon credit market. The carbon market is based on the same principle as “global biodiversity management”: a single world system to regulate and control all greenhouse gas emissions, managed by those who caused the climate crisis themselves.

The IPCC considers that carbon capture in the soil offers possibilities for climate change mitigation. Various Clean Development Mechanisms (CDMs) have been proposed or are being examined, through which industrialized countries and transnational companies can respect their commitments to cut emissions whilst continuing to produce greenhouse gases, through financing projects, particularly in the South. Thus the REDD (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation) mechanism makes it possible to buy “cuts” whilst “preserving forests”. But replacing natural forests with industrial monoculture plantations intensifies biodiversity erosion. In addition, farmers and indigenous populations are expelled from their territories and deprived of their means of existence: the REDD+ mechanism also threatens agricultural land.

Programmes in the framework of the TEEB (The Economy of Ecosystems and Biodiversity) Study propose “ecosystem services” which could be traded like carbon credits. Other technologies are being examined,

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<sup>7</sup> Articles 3 and 4.

such as "synthetic biology" (combination of chemicals to create new organisms, such as bacteria) without any form of citizen control or environmental impact study. In the long run, all such mechanisms will enter a speculative market.

Women are particularly concerned by these problems posed by the definition of the "green economy". They are currently predominant in **community resource management** (biodiversity, water, energy, etc.) in the sustainable agriculture of the South. In many countries, women produce practically 80% of food but possess only 1% of land. Women's usage rights on community land and public resources for food, fuel, water and other vital resources must be secured in order to ensure that rural and indigenous women are not displaced and marginalized by government land policy and speculative companies.

Respect of indigenous territories and community governance systems are a powerful means to preserve common goods such as forests and other ecosystems. The role of women in these systems must be respected and enhanced. Popular movements, where women have a high presence, which aim to recover the diversity of production, must be supported.<sup>8</sup> Changes in favour of female-male equality at community level are an important social progress factor and must be supported.

In general, discussion of the "green economy" must include the following elements:

All discussion on the nature, the organization and the objectives of the economy must include the fact that productive human work is made possible by the existence of **domestic work**, household work and care, assumed to a very great extent by unpaid women in all the world's societies. Any definition of the economy ignoring this ancient exploitation structure is bound to reproduce current injustices.<sup>9</sup>

In parallel, at all levels of governance, **macroeconomic decision-making** is performed almost exclusively by men. Thus, all 27 central bank governors of the European Union Member States are men. The key decision-making bodies within these organizations are made up of 83% men and 17% women.

The design of public policies aimed at eliminating these gender imbalances in the structure of the economy itself is a priority.

The current economic and financial system is based on debt situations which weigh on the poorest to an extent which makes human development impossible. Debt reduction mechanisms and debt forgiveness should take into account the responsibilities and constraints of women.

- The process of marketization and privatization of **common goods must be stopped, and democratic systems must be put in place** to control material and cultural production, bringing in equal participation of women and men:<sup>10</sup> agriculture, community land, water, biodiversity and seed, access and control of common environmental, social (education, health, etc.), economic and cultural goods and services. **Women's bodies** themselves are increasingly marketized. The trade in human beings, which has become as lucrative as arms sales and drugs, must be fought in an effective and coordinated manner.

Twenty years after Rio, and in the light of the lessons of the financial crisis, the redefinition of sustainable development by civil society organizations must set down clearly the **hierarchy** of the components of development: the "economic development" sphere (and the private and public instruments to regulate finance) must serve human and cultural development. Rather than the "green economy", a "sustainable" economy should be designed, taking into account the ecological debt of the North and forgiveness of odious debt, budget mechanisms, and equitable redistribution of wealth (salaries, factors of production, etc.), with a gender mainstreaming objective. The sustainable economy should be supported by the diversity of economic organization models, which is part of sociocultural diversity, and their coordination at territorial level, from the most local level to global level, from microeconomic level to macroeconomic level.

## Which sustainable modes of production and consumption?

Impregnated with the myth of unlimited economic growth, the dominant "sustainable development" school of thought still tends to consider the world from a **patriarchal capitalism** perspective. Rather than reconstructing ecological cycles, this model focuses on technological difficulties. Rather than returning

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<sup>8</sup> Like the Seed Satyagraha in India, which defends the "common intellectual rights" of rural communities and seed banks (Navdanya), the French movement to re-sow biodiversity - with the *Réseau Semences Paysannes* (Farmers' Seed Network) and *Maisons de la Semence* (collective seed marketplaces) - and the *Semillas de la Dignidad* campaign in South America.

<sup>9</sup> The United Nations have thus estimated that unpaid work by women represents approximately 50% of world GDP (11 trillion dollars/year) and that women assume 75% of hours worked worldwide. However, they only dedicate a third of their time to paid work. The reverse proportion is true of men.

<sup>10</sup> Taking into account the fact that in certain countries women produce up to 80% of food, whilst possessing less than 2% of land worldwide.

human activity to regeneration, it maintains the categories of production and consumption, and presents “green consumerism” as an environmental panacea.

This model is ill-adapted to take into account the **many modes of adaptation and distribution of knowledge** and roles between women and men (as in the management of natural resources in the South). Women currently make up the majority of the people living on less than one dollar per day in poor countries, and also the majority of people living in poverty, with poor job security, or in single-parent families in Europe. Their average salary is on average 20% lower than that of men and their pensions are smaller. For this reason, and particularly because of lesser mobility, their **ecological footprint** is generally smaller than that of men, as highlighted by a Swedish study. The aim is not, however, that they benefit from "development" and exercise their economic and social rights simply through access to consumption and power. It is essentially a **change in power relations** and models of consumption which divide human beings and marginalize women.

Just as the whole planet cannot hope to live according to the polluting consumerist model set up by the West half a century ago, the objective is not that women – and the poor layers of society – reproduce the dominating system build on values socially considered to be "masculine". It means making it possible to exercise the fundamental rights of women and support the **redistribution of tasks and responsibilities between the sexes**, for greater justice and personal and collective emancipation.

Women are currently predominant in **community resource management** (biodiversity, water, energy, etc.) in the sustainable agriculture of the South and in the **social and solidarity-based economy**. These activities will be an important lever in relocalizing human activities and in developing activities based on decentralized renewable energies – so long as the collective infrastructure and services linked to this relocalization take into account the specific needs of women and better allocation of care roles.

To work for the equality of women and men is to contribute to momentum to change lifestyles to a more sustainable mode. Sexist stereotypes – whose eradication figures in international commitments (Beijing Platform for Action, CEDAW, EU Strategy for equality between women and men, etc.) – fuel consumerism because they contribute to assigning women and men social roles independent of their own aspirations and potential. Advertising is a demonstration of this, as a vehicle for a vision of the development model and human interactions based on materialism, competition, and, most often, sexism. The pressure brought to bear on women, from childhood, to focus on their physical appearance, like that on men to strive for power and speed, impacts on the consumption of unsustainable goods and services and trivializes violence. This is one of the most difficult objectives to meet, and has not yet been the subject of coordinated, determined strategies. It is, however, a critical objective in defining and preparing for a sustainable lifestyle and consumption.

Similarly, the definition of **parental equality** would also have an impact on consumption, the organization of work and family time, the creation of collective infrastructure and childcare, for example. Current thinking on consumption-side “sustainable development” tends to ignore the gender issue. If increased domestic working time caused by more balanced consumption (cooking fresh, local produce, reduced use of inefficient appliances, etc.) is not accompanied by redistribution of tasks between women and men, and if, particularly in the South, the development of biofuels, monoculture farming, GMOs and REDD programmes, means confiscation of their lands, women will turn away from this "green progress" – quite legitimately.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> In Europe, women dedicate 3 hours and 50 minutes to household tasks (care of children and adults included), compared to 2 hours for men. In rural Africa, women often work 16 hours per day, compared to 8 hours for men.

## Proposals

### Governance

- **Introduce gender equality** in all the processes and bodies for participation, dialogue and decision-making at all levels, whether local, national, subregional and international, including in the new bodies likely to be suggested and created following the Rio+20 Conference.
- Integrate in the Rio+20 Conference preliminary discussions and Action Programme the **analysis and naming of the obstacles** that have prevented the implementation of gender equality decided 20 years ago by the Rio Earth Summit's Agenda 21. **Analyzing the failures** in the implementation of the Agenda 21 and the major Rio conventions will help explain them and draw up proposals to correct them **from a gender perspective**.
- **Make the human rights approach** the backbone of the definition of all sustainable development policy and strategies. All public and private corporate decision-making should be preceded by an analysis of the impact of human rights that include gender equality – in connection with environmental rights. Development mechanisms and actions should be assessed from that perspective, including in particular climate mitigation and adaptation mechanisms, the REDD+, carbon emission trading markets, compensation mechanisms, agricultural development and food security.
- **Harmonize** UN Women strategies and tools, Agenda 21, the Beijing Platform for Action and the CEDAW Convention in relation to the issue of gender equality / ecological equilibria by also integrating more systematically the issues of armed conflict, peace and reconstruction translated in particular by the United Nations resolutions on the participation of women (Resolution 1325) and so on.

**The eradication of discrimination** against women to which States committed themselves by signing the CEDAW Convention is central to ensuring policy coherence in the following key areas among others, namely access to land including to community land and land tenure; to property rights; to credit; to education and training; to technologies, including ICTs; to legal aid; and to guaranteed sexual and reproductive rights.

- Take account, in **ensuring consistency between the three Rio Conventions** (on Climate Change (UNFCCC), on Biological Diversity (CBD), and to Combat Desertification (CCD), and the Rio Declaration on Forests) and their national and regional implementation plans. In particular, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the only Rio Convention that does not cover the gender dimension,<sup>12</sup> should define a Gender Action Plan.

### Civil societies

- Introduce, at United Nations and national level, strategies and systems for **helping the “Nine Major Groups” of civil society to facilitate coordination between them** and take account of women's organizations as working transversally with the Major Groups.
- During the Rio Conference, women's movements championed reflection and demands in the fields of **disarmament and of nuclear power exit** (elimination of subsidies, dismantling, decontamination, etc.): these key objectives which condition the lives of future generations should be integrated into discussions on ways of ensuring a sustainable economy.
- Women's movements also affirmed the importance of **guaranteeing the precautionary and polluter-pays principles**: an international Convention on corporate social responsibility and accountability should be established, incorporating accountability for violations of women's rights and of environmental health.
- Enhance and support women's organizations in the South and the North. The **participation** of civil society regional advisory women's groups should be broadened and open up to **intersectionality** of movements, i.e. cultural, social class and intergenerational diversity. Emerging organizations and networks working on gender issues and sustainable development should be encouraged.

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<sup>12</sup> Ressources et actions Genre & changement climatique: <http://www.adequations.org/spip.php?article1253> (In French only).

- Take account of and support women's initiatives in **the social and solidarity economy** in the South and the North and make **agro-ecology** a priority **in the context of respect for food sovereignty** and of the development of short channels.

#### Ways of implementation

- Integrate, in a participatory manner, a gender dimension into the national and territorial Agendas 21 such as climate plans, with **gender-sensitive impact and assessment indicators**. This implies providing all the actors involved with training in this approach.
- make mandatory **gender-sensitive national (and local) budgets with** cross references between gender-specific indicators and “sustainable development” indicators.
- **Integrate** into economic analysis and decision-making the **issue of domestic work** and of care for others and the earth, their redistribution and interfacing with the so-called productive sphere; and the issue of **informal work** which is done mostly by women, and of the switch to more formalized work in general and, in particular, in the context of so-called “green” occupations (that must be defined and analyzed in terms of their real usefulness and ecological and social impact).
- Integrate the **new indicators of wealth and** development that take account of this domestic and care work in all its monetary and non-monetary forms.
- Introduce **parity** in access to training and to new so-called “**green**” **jobs**, including technologically intensive jobs and jobs dealing with renewable energies, water and sanitation; encourage the masculinization of **social and care work**.
- Integrate into the reflection on **transition** to sustainable development the ongoing debate and the proposals for redefining the social roles of sex, parenthood, working and family time, the sharing of housework between women and men, care for dependent people, and so on.
- Integrate gender equality and the diminution of violence against women as major indicators of the new **indices of wealth and well-being**.

#### Cross-cutting aspects

- Place at the heart of the redefinition of the sustainable development path the policies for **preventing and punishing discrimination and violence against women** (and children, girls especially). These acts of violence, some of which are on the increase, include rape, the use of medical technology to prevent the birth of female children, early marriage and pregnancy.
- Link objectives and action plans on the evolution of ways of life and consumption that will prove decisive in defining this transition, with commitments to **eradicate gender stereotypes**, particularly in advertising and the media.
- **Non-sexist education** is one of the keys to sustainable development: adults, and very young children, should be trained to identify and unmask sexist stereotypes conducive to violence and restricting the human potential. Education on the environment and for sustainable development should incorporate this notion and its concrete expression into education tools and practices.



## Contact Group for Gender and Sustainable Development, France

This position paper was issued by the **Contact Group for Gender and Sustainable Development**, which currently consists of the following associations:

*Adéquations, Association Femmes et développement (AFED), Aster International, ATTAC Gender and globalization commission, the French Coordination for the European Women's Lobby (CLEF), Collectif 13-MMF, EluEs contre les violences faites aux femmes (EVFF), Enda Europe, Fondation pour les Femmes africaines (FFA), Genre en Action, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), World March of Women against violence and poverty-France, Rapsode Production, Feminist Network "Ruptures", L'Université Nomade, Université Européenne Populaire, Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECF), and private individuals.*

*The Contact Group for Gender and Sustainable Development remains open, as well as the position paper which is not a set document and may be supplemented with thematic annexes.*

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