



Women's Major Group reflection on First Draft of HLPF Political Declaration
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22 May 2019

The Women's Major Group welcomes the first draft of the HLPF Political Declaration and its recognition of the need to direct and align the means of implementation with the 2030 Agenda. However, we are concerned that this draft does not have the vision and is not taking the risks needed to address systemic barriers to leaving no one behind.

There must be a profound shift from the dominant yet discredited fixation on economic growth to institutionalised leadership for development, justice and peace. This requires moving away from extractivist industries, military investments, and emaciated humanitarian, gender equality and human rights action, and re-orienting towards empowering feminist and social movements and human rights for all. Governments, corporations, the military industrial complex, international financial institutions, and other power holders must be held accountable to human rights and leaving no one behind.

The Declaration should:

- Stress that leaving no one behind is at the core of the 2030 Agenda and recognise that a **rights-based approach is not an option, but an obligation**, and call for mechanisms to strengthen linkages with human rights and international law
- **Reaffirm commitment to achieving gender equality** and removing structural barriers to the equal human rights of women and girls, regardless of sexual orientation and gender identity, race, ethnicity, age, ability, class, or otherwise;
- **Call for acceleration of the human rights of women and other at risk groups as a key priority and catalytic investment**
- **Commit to enabling women and girls human rights defenders, environmental defenders, and peace activists** to act free from violence, fear of imprisonment, or other human rights abuses;
- **Recognise that peace and development are mutually intertwined**; call for accelerated action on commitments on Women, Peace and Security and disarmament; and call for **post-conflict reconstruction to redress inequalities**;
- **Call for consistent ex-ante and post gender, human rights and environment impact assessments** of all economic policy, financing mechanisms (including PPPs), international financial institutions, and trade agreements;
- Affirm that **public-private partnerships should not be advanced unless they are accountable** through a legally binding corporate accountability mechanism;
- **Recognize that austerity policies have a disproportionately negative impact on women and girls** and call for **gender equitable social protection systems**;
- **Urge strengthened gender sensitive data collection, analysis, and disaggregated data**, to ensure **gender-responsive planning**;
- **Call for action to promote development justice**, including distributive justice, economic justice, environmental justice, gender justice, and social accountability.

The Ministerial Declaration should have bold vision and build on national and regional forums to address structural gender inequalities, discrimination, and violence to ensure the SDGs truly benefit those who are marginalized and systematically excluded.