

Attachment 8



INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN
ALLIANCE INTERNATIONALE DES FEMMES
www.womenalliance.org

Women's equal access to and control over productive resources

Discussion paper from the Delegation to FAO / CFS
to the World Congress 2017
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After more than 100 years IAW faces new challenges to its goal of achieving equal rights and equal responsibilities for women. Women – and to a large part women and girls in rural surroundings – don't know **how to assert and enjoy their rights of ownership**, or even worse: they don't have in their national legislation the right of ownership, neither of wages out of labour, nor of property inherited or bought.

Often this situation leads to helpless poverty: in some countries women will not be able to get into the local markets or to get their property registered legally as they don't have enough money to pay the charge of administration. There are even countries where women have to get the allowance to manage their own properties, very often in rural areas with old customs still alive. Without a registered property no financial institution will give them a mortgage, so they will not be able to enhance their economical or ecological potential. Often those women are not able to defend themselves in court, as legal procedures usually demand an advance payment. So they even are exposed to the danger to be degraded to Extreme poverty.

Women and girls in the situation of Extreme poverty in all countries around the world are usually exposed to increasing violence (f.i. forced prostitution, forms of new slavery, poor elderly women are accused to be witches; widows and girls will be forced to marry).

Point 1 of the discussion: GENERAL RECOMMENDATION No 34 (2016) of CEDAW IAW will promote women's access to resources in a way that "no one is left behind".

Motivate member organisations around the world to take action for the abolition of hunger and the empowerment of the poor in their region by promoting Peace, Sustainable Development and Human Rights.

- Members advocate for the promotion of the General recommendation No 34 (2016) of CEDAW on the rights of rural women (CEDAW/C/GC/34). They advocate to transfer its goals in legislation, if not possible, translate its focus in public policy at regional or local level.
- Members take special attention to paragraph "G. Land and natural resources" of the General recommendation No 34 (2016) of CEDAW where States i.a. are urged to take measures to achieve the substantive equality of women's rights to land, water and other natural resources and that they have full legal capacity.

Point 2 of the discussion: SDGs IAW will promote women's equal access to and control over productive resources as land and property rights, water rights and developments programs.

The promotion of women's equal access to and control over productive resources as land and property rights, water rights and developments programs as designed in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDG) (Resolution 70/1 of September 25th, 2015 of the General Assembly of the U.N.) is important and gets attention by our member-organisations worldwide.

- While the world has achieved progress towards gender equality and women's empowerment under the Millennium Development Goals (including equal access to primary education between girls and boys in most countries), women and girls continue to suffer not only discrimination and violence in every part of the world, but too many of them are living with constant malnutrition or hunger and violence, three big handicaps for any fight for equality.
- **IAW Members therefore take special care for SDG goal 5: "Gender equality" together with SDG goal 2: "Zero hunger". IAW promotes the knowledge, that women are the first to understand the need for healthy food for their families, that women are a large part of the workers – often unpaid – in agriculture, forestry and fisheries, and that promoting women to get equal access to and control over productive resources therefore means enhancing decent incomes, getting healthy local produced food for local markets and a better protection of environment (f.i. no far-away transports).**

Point 3 of the discussion: FAO / CFS / IFAD / WFP

IAW and its members promote the information on the international institutions of the United Nations in Rome amongst its membership.

IAW and its member organisations want to be represented by a delegation and will support their work at and with the **Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO www.fao.org)**, an agency of the U.N. in Rome. By this step, IAW follows the work of Bettina Corke who edited in 2010 the first edition of her booklet < How to end hunger now! - A handbook to facilitate the work & activities taking place to end hunger & poverty > - and in 2014 a second, revised brochure. Bettina has taken care that IAW became a registered NGO on the list of FAO and a member of the important network "ad hoc group of international ngos" (www.ahgingos.org) where you will find our logo near to other important NGOs on the website.

After 2014, the institutions in Rome have understood the importance of the Civil Society Movement (CSM) where many grassroots are included and which has a right to speak during the **Commission on Food Security (CFS www.cfs.org)** on the subjects as every state-representative.

In 2016 all agencies got a researched report on Women and since then understood the importance of the female part of actors in all questions of food and nutrition. By the **International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD www.ifad.org)** – the international financial institution and specialized agency of the U.N. dedicated to eradicate poverty and hunger in rural areas, our member-organisations could get help for those of their own member-organisations who fulfil the criteria.

Members will be informed about the **Gender newsletter of IFAD** and get in contact with the regional and/or subregional offices of FAO by the 2015 presented Decentralized Offices. In these offices "where knowledge becomes action" a **Gender focal point of FAO** can be contacted. The delegation of IAW to FAO (ojekehl@bluewin.ch) will get members connected with the gender focal point of the corresponding regional and/or subregional office of FAO on demand. Some active Gender focal points invite the NGOs of their region regularly to meetings in their decentralized Offices.

The second contact possibility: members will announce themselves as a member of IAW to the Civil society Service of FAO (e-mail to FAO-CivilSociety@fao.org) with cc: to the IAW Delegation in Rome (under ojekehl@bluewin.ch) to get the possibility on the following benefits of partnering with the Rome Agencies:

- Give a voice to stakeholders, particularly women and ensure that their views and opinions are taken into account;
- Increase the effectiveness of FAO field projects and programs by building on experience in participatory approaches, poverty alleviation and sustainable agriculture, as well as their capacity to act quickly and flexibly targeting the most vulnerable groups;
- Build public support and political will to attain food security objectives.

- Technical and institutional support In the scaling up of successful approaches which benefit the poor.
- Greater influence on public policy, service delivery, finances and human resources development.

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