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the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly
entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and
peace for the twenty-first century”**

Statement submitted by Forum of Women’s NGOs of Kyrgyzstan, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.



Statement

Agenda 2030 — Strengthening accountability for rural women's rights

New Global Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 gives good promises and opportunities to improve lives of rural women. Women need not only policy changes but adequate means of implementation, especially resourcing. Some of the major reasons are failure to mainstream in financial processes supporting national development are lack of adequate means of implementation, lack of accountability for women's rights and gender equality and women's ownership of national development. To reach real advancement of gender mainstreaming in policies and budgeting it is important that women's issues and needs are supported by a concrete mutual accountability processes and mechanisms at national and local levels with wide participation of civil society.

Rural women need accountability on legal reforms in support of legal frameworks that make it mandatory for all sectors and local governments to demonstrate how they are addressing gender equality and women's empowerment.

Rural women need to be actively involved into Agenda 2030 processes at country level and development partners should be accountable for inclusion of rural women in these processes with proper space and tools. If and when needed rural women and their organizations should be offered capacity building programs to be actively engaged in implementation and review of the Agenda 2030 processes. Now when domestication of the promising Global Agenda is going on in our countries it is time to advocate for inclusion of rural women's issues in policies and financial mechanisms as part of Sustainable development country strategies and programs, otherwise rural women will be left behind! We call to adopt national indicators of inclusion of women's organizations into processes of planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluating as well as development of indicators in the country.

With a strong rural women's participation in decision-making in implementation of the Agenda 2030 in our countries States will have more chances to reach national and global Sustainable Development Goals. In the rural areas now rural women have low chances to impact on local development planning and review, for example in Kyrgyzstan women have only 5 per cent of seats as head of local governance administration, they comprise only 10-12 per cent in local elected bodies. We call all development partners to address this challenge for rural women and increase opportunities for their full and effective participation at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life.

It is necessary to work out specific national and local indicators on achieving in countries the SDG Goal 5 and it is necessary to regularly and timely measure and report with use of these indicators on country results on gender equality and women's empowerment including women in rural areas. Global, national and local indicators are separate but interlinked set of indicators and are extremely important.

Today when we are in the period of linking the planning and financing we advocate for adequate finances for SDG commitments on women's rights and women's empowerment in rural areas. Based on the universal applicability of SDG Indicator 5.c.1. we call to domesticate this indicator and integrate into financial mechanism for sustainable development of the country and apply during local sustainable development planning; We recommend to ensure that in countries systems

in place that link budget allocations to analysis of gender issues and specific outputs designed to promote gender equality, to introduce tracking systems that link allocation of finance to policies to reduce gender gaps. For achieving accountability on means of implementation for rural women it is important to report regularly on success in leveraging diverse resources for gender equality and women's rights. We consider as important to report on women's rights and gender equality goal at national and local multistakeholders' bodies and process!

The other important issue is accountability of private sector. Private sector must regularly report to State on the status of human rights and on women's rights in private sector at national and local levels. We recommend including into national accountability processes section on private sector. It is important to focus on very specific requirements for the private sector to ensure that local rural women's rights and need are protected and supported in enterprises' and corporations' activities and budgets. States should ensure that private sector has internal monitoring and reporting frameworks in the country and local levels on how private enterprises' activities, performance and budget advance and protect women's rights and gender equality and how they fulfil international and national obligations on women's rights and how women's rights and needs are integrated into private sector.

Recommendations

We call to put in place a proper level of accountability for results for women's rights and women's empowerment in the area of linkage of finance flows with national development results. We recommend all development stakeholders and partners to advance gender mainstreaming in policies and budgeting at all levels including at local level and be accountable for actions towards achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls, including rural women and girls. We call governments in the current process of linking finance with national development planning to allocate sufficient resources and budget to reach SDG Goal #5 in countries; to set up a reporting component on filling financing and knowledge gaps on rural women's rights; on leveraging other sources of public and private finance for rural women's rights; adopt a legal and financial framework specifically aimed to make Official Aid and South-South cooperation accountable for rural women's rights and gender equality.

We call governments to ensure that private sector integrates human rights and women's rights standards into private sector work.

We call to include into National action plans on reaching Women's rights and gender equality full means of implementation with effective mechanisms for civil society participation, transparency, and accountability;

We call to develop and strengthen national rural women's rights programs. We call to regular and timely measure progress towards results of sustainable development for rural women and girls.

We call for full participation of women's organizations in development agenda setting at national and local levels, this will strengthen national and local women's movements politically and financially. Institutionalization of rural women's groups into local and national planning and financial decision-making processes and reviewing processes of Sustainable development in countries will be one of major steps towards strengthening accountability for rural women's rights. Rural women's organizations' engagement needs more support and more attention; rural women's organizations need better accountability to them for full implementation of State and

donors' commitments on women's rights and gender equality, including on commitments to such principles as Inclusiveness, Transparency, National and local ownership, wide cooperation within women's movement, women's organizations and with CSO.
