



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
30 November 2022

English only

Commission for Social Development

Sixty-first session

6–15 February 2023

Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly:

Priority Theme: “Creating full and productive employment and decent work for all as a way of overcoming inequalities to accelerate the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”

Statement submitted by Asociación Colectivo Mujeres al Derecho – Siglas ASOCOLEMAD; 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

The Colectivo Mujeres al Derecho together with its allied networks in Latin America and the Caribbean and the Global South, shares and welcomes the postulates, reaffirmations and goals proposed as a reference framework to achieve “Create full and productive employment and decent work for all as a way to overcome inequalities to accelerate the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”

The management of crises or emergency situations such as COVID-19 have serious impacts on the lives of women and girls around the world, especially if gender dimensions are not considered, which we see as ignored within the generalized global response, including by states. Relevant and unheard issues such as work, family care, overload in domestic chores, economic autonomy, physical or sexual violence, women’s participation in decision-making, the availability of data by sex and gender analysis, are just some of the issues of concern that must be part of an effective response to this crisis.

Women in rural territories have contributed ancestrally to productive activities such as: small- and medium-scale agriculture, handicrafts, breeding of minor species and domestic activities; However, there has been a tendency to minimize its role and importance in the economic and social development of the region. Their contributions and participation are made invisible. Greater emphasis is placed on national plans and programmes and the reproductive role they play in the care, upbringing and care of their children.

According to the law, they are part of non-profit organizations. They work within their communities for access to land, housing, health, education, food security, productive projects. They do not always base their organizational work on a conception of rights or recognizing themselves as rights defenders. But in the end, they all work in search of improving their living conditions. They participate in public and decision-making spaces, develop productive and business, artisanal and agricultural, fishing and livestock enterprises, to seek economic independence, food sovereignty and in general contribute to the social transformation and development of their families and communities. (COLEMAD, 2020).

In sub-Saharan Africa, women represent over half of the agricultural labour force. Their substantive contribution to agriculture and their vital role in ensuring family food security have been widely documented.

However, gender-based inequalities in access to and control of productive and financial resources inhibit agricultural productivity and undermine resilience and sustainability efforts.

Dismantling structural constraints is crucial for reducing women’s unpaid work burdens and raising the returns to their labour. This includes increasing women’s access to labour and time-saving equipment and services; facilitating women’s shift to high-value crops; improving women’s access to non-labour agricultural inputs; and strengthening women’s land rights (Source: UN Women Brief on “Women’s Economic Empowerment”).

Although, according to FAO, agri-food systems are experiencing a rapid feminization of the countryside and agriculture and, consequently, the contribution of women to the economy increases significantly, this is still economically and statistically underestimated. The recognition of the participation of women in peasant production has not been sufficient to overcome the conditions of inequality, the role of women continues to be assumed socially, politically, and culturally associated with care work, thus imposing a subjective qualification of production activities, that is to

say that the denomination of production activities is conditioned by who develops them (man or woman) and not by the economic contribution and subsistence that they represent.

According to the latest report “PROGRESS ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS- THE GENDER SNAPSHOT 2021”, the scope of the impact indicators of goals 1, 2, 5, 8 have been stagnant due to the pandemic, and only worldwide, the assessment determined that only 1 in 18 indicators (including their sub-indicators) is “close to the target”.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is because of the above scenario in which, despite the evident contribution of rural women in the development of the rural economy and the conditions of inequality to which they are subjected because of their gender that we raise the following recommendations:

1. It is imperative that States effectively incorporate the commitments made through the ratification of the various international instruments related to the protection and guarantee of the rights of rural women in the CEDAW guidelines and the Beijing platform, in order to ensure that the quality of life of rural women is raised.
 2. To accelerate the recognition of the forms of women’s economy that include Ecofeminists by promoting financing for agroecological SMEs and women-led enterprises that must be part of sustainable development so that they can in turn generate jobs for women and young people. And for them, the extractivist and agro-industrial corporate corporatism generated by the environmental crisis that mainly affects women and children in marginalized regions must be stopped.
 3. That public policy bodies for women be strengthened, with special emphasis on those related to rural women, guaranteeing the necessary availability for the fulfillment of their objectives and mandates, taking as a principle the participation of rural women, respect for nature and the mitigation of climate change.
-