



# Socialist International Women

## SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL WOMEN

### Council Meeting

Geneva, Switzerland, 28 and 29 June 2016

### The UN Sustainable Development Goals – Gender Sensitive Budgeting and Climate Change

#### RESOLUTION

The Socialist International Women (SIW) strongly believes it is vital that the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and climate change discussions recognise the urgent need for gender budgeting destined to address issues specifically affecting women and girl children. Budgeting practices with a focus on gender which take into account the needs and priorities of women and girls are critical to ensure that they are able to live healthy, safe and productive lives. Encouraging the political will to employ gender sensitive budgeting can ensure the allocation of financial support for essential areas such as provision of quality reproductive healthcare, enabling women to buy land, providing access to quality education and seed funding to start their own businesses.

The SIW asserts that gender sensitive budgeting is an urgent issue and critical to ensuring truly sustainable development within all communities, particularly those where extreme climate change is already affecting environments and livelihoods. The participation of women in decision making and discussions encourages the full utilisation of collective knowledge and skills. Adequate funding is vital in enabling women to fully participate on a parity democracy basis with men in the sustainable development of their regions and nations, for the benefit of all citizens worldwide. The SIW reaffirms its core belief in the principles of parity democracy, where gender equality and sensitivity is nurtured and integral within all areas of society and political processes.

The devastating effects of climate change are becoming progressively more visible across every continent and an increasing number of inhabited regions worldwide. The need to reduce global warming is overwhelmingly acknowledged as critical and urgent. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals recognise the urgency of addressing this situation, specifically in *Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts*. In addition, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21/CMP11) agreement reached in Paris in 2015 supports achievement of the vital goal of keeping global warming below 2°C.

The devastating impact of global warming and climate change is being experienced in a variety of ways, including drastically changing weather patterns causing bush fires and droughts, rising sea levels, and increased numbers of extreme weather events, such as flash flooding. Current estimates predict that the earth's average surface temperature will rise more than 3°C during the 21st century if urgent remedial action is not taken. Focus now must be on affordable, scalable environment friendly solutions to producing energy for living and commerce, and radically reducing toxic emissions into the air and oceans.

It is impossible to calculate the full human, economic and environmental cost of the continued impact of climate change and the long-term implications for all regions and nations worldwide. The women and men from the most poorest and vulnerable communities are frequently the most affected, with a disproportionately high impact on

women and children. In many regions, women are the primary farmers, food gatherers and water gatherers for their communities. When climate change affects the availability of these resources, it is women and girl children who must travel further and further in their efforts to find them. Women and their children are also frequently left behind and all but forgotten in isolated regions, unable to re-locate themselves to more favourable areas due to lack of resources.

In regions where extreme climate change forces mass migration to find shelter, food and work, women and girl migrants are far more likely to suffer physical and sexual violence than their male counterpart migrants. They are also more likely to be subjected to the horrors of human trafficking for sexual exploitation and slave labour.

With these alarming finds, the SIW calls for urgent action to:

*Invest* in climate change research to better understand the effects climate change will have on countries, regions and peoples.

*Implement* measures to protect and support those most vulnerable from the effects of climate change, in particular women and children.

*Invest* in measures and implement policies that can help reduce the impacts of climate change, for example: reducing pollution, improving and or implementing recycling schemes, making public transportation energy efficient, creating green spaces etc.

*Invest* in affordable, scalable environment friendly solutions to producing energy for living and commerce.

*Implement* policies that reduce deforestation, biodiversity loss, and ocean acidification.

*Promote* the inclusion and development of gender sensitive budgeting policies in local and national party manifestos and literature.

*Challenge* gender discriminatory budgeting practices and encourage support for gender sensitive changes which take into account the needs and priorities of women and girls.

*Initiate* discussion of gender sensitive budgeting issues within local communities, commercial organisations and national government bodies.

*Support* the allocation of funding for gender sensitive initiatives and encourage political focus on the implementation of gender sensitive budgeting practices.

The Socialist International Women (SIW) calls on all Governments, Member Parties of the Socialist International and NGOs with beliefs and core values similar to the SIW, to encourage and support gender sensitive budgeting practices to enable the full participation of women in the decision making processes of nations and regions on policies and interventions regarding sustainable development and climate change.

SIW calls on all Governments to report regularly on the implementation of the national strategy of the SDGs.