

GENDER, LAND AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
International Conference, 5th of June 2014, Berne

KEYNOTE 1:

WOMEN'S LAND RIGHTS: THE KEY TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Speaker: Sabine Pallas, International Land Coalition ILC, Programme Officer Women's Land Rights

Why is gender so important in land governance? What role do women's land rights play in ensuring sustainable development and how can such rights be secured? This keynote address will provide an overview of key concepts and issues on gender and land, from women's access to land, inheritance and ownership to legal pluralism and empowerment, but will also explore how important women's land rights are in the wider debates on sustainable development.

In the current global context of rising pressures on land and violations of human rights on the one hand and increasing mobilisation and attention for land rights struggles on the other, a global consensus recognising the importance of securing women's land rights seems to be emerging. To what extent has any current consensus actually been translated into reality and what are the main challenges faced? How is this consensus changing in the post-2015 process of defining development goals?

Global regulatory initiatives like the Voluntary Guidelines on the Governance of Tenure of Land, Forests, and Fisheries (VGGT), which builds on an existing human rights framework enshrining gender equality, including in the CEDAW convention, as well as regional efforts like the African Land Policy Guidelines and Framework, show an encouraging trend towards addressing gender issues in land governance, as well as recognising the importance of women's land rights in particular.

A body of research on gender and tenure provides a growing evidence base for arguments in favour of securing women's land rights, and, despite some persistence of outdated "killer facts", the availability of data on the status of women's land rights is also improving. FAO'S State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA) 2010 - 2011 drew on a multitude of sources to illustrate the gender gap in agriculture, including the discrepancy between women's participation in the agricultural labour force, an average 43% in developing countries, and their lack of access to productive resources compared to men. Although data has its limitations and averages mask some of the variation across countries, the figures in the SOFA report clearly demonstrate the glaring gender disparities in land holdings in all regions, with fewer than 5% women landholders in North Africa and West Asia, an average of 15% in Sub-Saharan African, and reaching more than 25% in some countries in Latin America. In addition, women's landholdings tend to be smaller and even where women hold land (whether through title or another form of documentation), this does not automatically imply that they control what they produce.

This data confirms what is evident in rural areas: the situation of women remains difficult, as obstacles to realising their land rights persist, from structural obstacles based on unequal power relations that hamper women's participation in decision-making, technical approaches to land policy and administration that ignore gender issues and result in increasing inequalities, to large-scale invest-

ments that have captured so much attention in recent years and which have a different impact on women and men.

This keynote addresses attempts to provide an overview of the key issues surrounding women's land rights, including legal and policy frameworks, implementation challenges, approaches to improve women's access and control over land, as well as participation in decision-making. It will also raise a number of questions that emerge from current debates – to which there are no easy answers, but which we have to address if we are to meaningfully promote women's rights and, ultimately, achieve gender equality in land governance.

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KEYNOTE 2:

GENDER, LAND GRABBING AND THE SEIZURE OF PASTORAL AREAS: A THREAT TO LIVELIHOODS AND FOOD SECURITY IN THE SAHEL – THE CASE OF NIGER

Speaker: Marie Monimart, International Institute for Environment and Development IIED, Rural Sociologist and Fellow Reseracher

For the majority of rural women, land is the mother of all resources, the basis for accumulating material and immaterial goods, for social capital. The grabbing of agricultural land and pastoral areas in Sub-Saharan Africa aggravates the increasing difficulties in accessing these vital resources, but the understanding of the phenomenon is skewed by a lack of reliable data as to its scope and effects, altering perceptions and analyses. To speak of its impacts in terms of gender is relevant, but demands prudence. It is important to ground this problem in the context of sustainable family agriculture threatened by agribusiness and the dominance of markets. There is a lot at stake for those who maintain that fairness and social justice are the twin pillars of sustainable development. Gender discrimination in access to land and its aggravation by the many modes of land-grabbing that exist must first be recognised. Then its specific impact as to food safety, ecology, resilience to climate change, inclusion and social peace must be identified. Integrating gender in situation analyses and development visions must bring added value in order to promote innovative answers to accompany the fundamental changes under way. Beyond the analysis, gender is a part of the unavoidable transformation of power relationships on the path to fair and sustainable development.

In Sub-Saharan Sahelian Africa, fair access to agricultural land and pastoral area resources is threatened by a negative nexus combining agricultural land grabbing, land commodification, new land policies, demographic pressure, the destruction of common spaces (including pastoral areas), the increasing insecurity of poor farmers, increasing discrimination against women... Land grabbing by numerous, not only international, actors though usually criticised, is one aggravating factor amongst others. The negative impacts of grabbing on the national – State or private – level are less recognised and those occurring at local or family level even less so. Scarcity and the lack of alternatives push the men in the family to develop various strategies to grab land intended for women. The most extreme cases lead to the exclusion of women from all agricultural activity, contributing to a defeminisation of agriculture, to the feminisation of poverty (Niger, Haiti) and, finally, to social exclusion.

These situations are part of the weakening of modes of access and of women's rights to land. The various modes of access are linked to their social status: marital situation, age, ethnicity, religion and dominant ways of life and of production. These rights are unclear, insecure, shifting and often more weakened than secured by new land legislation (including property titles). Two or three legal systems (customary, religious, current) often coexist and these "tectonics" are discriminatory towards women and men who do not know or cannot claim their rights against those who "tell the law". Rural civil-society organisations are as yet insufficiently prepared to fight to defend these rights against giant private combines or the State and are even less engaged in the defence of women's

right to land. The vulnerability of those who are marginalised to various modes of land grabbing is aggravated: they join the ranks of the landless, the excluded, the urban, workless poor.

Available studies show that compensation offered by grabbers is lower than the loss incurred by smallholders or nomadic herdsman. Women will have nothing to say about financial compensation; they will be discriminated against at the level of possible job creation or of access to improved land (irrigated areas). Limited mobility and the absence of training give them even fewer alternatives than men.

Decision-makers involved in the search for sustainable and fair development can be neither neutral nor blind to this type of question. For reasons of efficiency and justice: social exclusion is a time-bomb (Mali!) and the negative nexus mentioned reduces the time we have to dismantle it. Gender is an important lever for developing initiatives and innovations. We note an increasing awareness of the importance – and the urgency – of the question of fair access to land. Sadly, these concerns are not integrated into important strategies to fight against poverty or to help resiliency in the face of climate change. Innovative actions (examples of support to the village of Zégouso in Mali (by a Swiss NGO), of the “Initiatives femmes et terroirs – IFETE” project in Niger (CARE I and CARE Denmark)) show that it is possible to act positively and may inspire strategies, programmes and policies.

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WORKSHOP 1: GENDER & FOOD SECURITY

Speaker: Marie Monimart, International Institute for Environment and Development IIED, Rural Sociologist and Fellow Reseracher

GENDER, A NEGLECTED POTENTIAL TO ENSURE DURABLE FOOD SECURITY

Changing gender roles, but stubborn clichés that bias decisions

Concerning food security, the most common view amongst decision-makers in the North and South is that primary responsibility for agricultural and pastoral production rests with men, whereas that of women is primarily reproductive (“care”). The huge changes over the last 30 years in Sub-Saharan Africa have neither been studied from the point of view of gender nor answered satisfactorily. The head of the family or of the smallholding is always seen as the year-round provider of food for the entire family: even if this is no longer the case, men remain the main target of development efforts. Family fields sometimes only provide food for half of the year, or even far less; able-bodied men emigrate and leave women to “manage”, but how? This is the question generally forgotten, even though women’s access to land and common spaces is constantly shrinking. Gender roles are also evolving in terms of access to other resources or to their transformation – be they natural or material (trees, “wild” plants, water, credit) or immaterial (knowledge, organisation, communication). “Modern” technologies (motorisation, new information and communication technologies) are starting to be better distributed between men and women, especially in the younger generation. Gender as a specific analysis tool allows these changes to be better known and integrated into policies supporting food security and sustainable development: the production of empirical knowledge thus creates added value.

Food security or sovereignty? Acting on production or on decision-making power?

To produce more to feed more? The increase in agricultural production (in the broad sense) only constitutes part of the answer (e.g. lessons to be learned from the latest food crises in the Sahel and especially in Niger).

The nexus of gender – food security – family agriculture – equitable and sustainable development takes on its full meaning here: produce what, thanks to whom, for whom, where? Gender is here no longer a simple analysis tool, but acts as a lever in the unavoidable question of the transformation of the balance of power: agribusiness against family/pastoral agriculture, farmers’ seeds against genetically modified organism GMOs/Monsanto, rich urbanites against the rural poor, North against South. If family agriculture produces 75% of the world’s food, it is important that decisions concerning food production, transformation, purchase and sale, diversity and quality be made equitably at the family smallholding level (gender, generations) and that they be supported by both national and development-aid policies. The question of equitable access to resources thus returns to the forefront: a link has been made between the defeminisation of agriculture, poverty and malnutrition (Niger, Sahel, Haiti). If agriculture is feminised, it is by cheap, underpaid and vulnerable labour (often in agribusiness, cash crops) and not by independent, trained producers.

Finally, **the integration of gender in food security/sovereignty issues is an asset for sustainable development in the face of environmental and climate changes:** improving the productivity (modernisation) of family agriculture should and must be through sound technologies: green agriculture, organic inputs, protection of natural regeneration, local governance of cultivated and non-cultivated species and of coveted resources, local, quality production, in the face of the temptations of the market and of globalisation (e.g. shea nuts). Innovating through gender can thus be a remarkable lever for change (see Niger): rather than lament, let us dare.

WORKSHOP 1: GENDER & FOOD SECURITY

Co-Speaker: Tina Goethe, Bread for All

GENDER & FOOD SECURITY FROM A NGO PERSPECTIVE

Women farmers as an underused resource for development?

The eminent role of women in farming and food security is hardly disputed anymore. However, the discrimination against women regarding access to resources (land, agricultural inputs, credit and knowledge) is often analysed from an economic perspective: Closing the gender gap and addressing women as producers is needed in order to enhance productivity. The women farmer is perceived as an undervalued and underused resource (FAO SOFA Report 2011 “Women in agriculture: Closing the gender gap for development”).

This growth-driven motivation for gender-equality tends to disregard an underlying discriminating structure and the relation to power dynamics among, as well as between, men and women.

Globalised food systems change gender relations

To strive for gender justice within the context of agriculture and food security, we need to analyse not only local gender relations but also the food systems in which women and men work and consume. These have been changing dramatically within the last decades, with international corporations extending their market share all along the food chain (agrochemical and seed corporations, food corporations, retailers etc.), determining to an increasing extent who produces, what, how, under which conditions and for whom. The greater influence of the financial markets and their actors during the last 10 years, turning land and agricultural goods into financial assets (e.g. large scale land acquisitions), is also changing the working and living conditions of people living in agriculture and rural areas.

The undoubted need to strengthen rural women and women food producers, their access and control over resources, should not be misused as a back door to introduce new technologies and land tenure systems that might weaken local communities. The potential impact of private land ownership on small scale food producers – women and men - should be carefully examined before being advocated as an instrument to strengthen women’s rights. The introduction of new seed varieties and seed regulation favouring private seed companies will also have an important impact on the scope for decision-making of (women) farmers.

Swiss Addax Bioenergy and its agrofuels production in Sierra Leone

Since 2010 Bread for all, together with the Sierra Leone Network on the Right to Food (SiLNoRF), has been monitoring the impact of a huge agrofuel project by the Swiss based company Addax Bioenergy. The impact on women is also monitored. The 2014 report (to be published in June) states:

“The Northern Province of Sierra Leone where the Addax project is located is a region where women are traditionally marginalised and discriminated in both the use and ownership of land. Women are not allowed to own land in this part of the country but they have some limited access to use the land. This situation could be aggravated by the Addax project.

Women do not receive land-lease agreement payments (as only male land owners can receive these payments). Many women interviewed stated the male land owners kept the land-lease money for themselves without sharing it with women.

Moreover, only a small minority of women can be employed by the company. SiLNoRF witnessed that a small minority of Addax workers are women (less than 10%)”.

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WORKSHOP 2: GENDER & CLIMATE CHANGE

Speaker: Lorena Aguilar, International Union for Conservation of Nature IUCN

WOMEN DO MORE THAN INSPIRE CHANGE – THEY CREATE IT: CLIMATE CHANGE GENDER ACTION PLANS

*Can gender sensitive climate change strategies support/reopen national discussions on land tenure?
Can REDD+ processes at the national level have an impact in promoting a more equitable access to land?*

Climate change is the biggest threat that humankind has ever encountered. It undermines the very foundation of socioeconomic development and will increase inequality and poverty. It has been widely accepted that the impacts of climate change are diversely distributed among different regions, generations, ages, genders, classes, income groups and occupations.

However, for more than twenty years, gender was absent from the negotiations or mandates within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Now, following several years of advocacy, capacity building, and awareness raising, governments have agreed multilaterally that gender equality is a key component in achieving climate change goals.

This presentation will start by considering how the Parties to the UNFCCC address gender considerations in their climate change efforts. Data provided by the recently launched Environment and Gender Index (EGI) will be shared, in order to “set the stage” with special focus on two of its indicators: access to agricultural land and property rights.

With these global mandates in place, the next urgent step is implementation. The presentation will focus on the answers of 13 visionary governments and on creating innovation as a society as a whole by tapping into a resource that is usually forgotten, namely, the transformative power of women in developing official climate change plans (ccGAPs).

The result is a powerful compendium of actions comprising both adaptation and mitigation, to be taken by women and various stakeholders in a variety of sectors, covering topics as diverse as land tenure and use, agriculture and food security, forests and REDD+, water, energy, health, urbanization, integrated coastal management, waste management, tourism, and disaster risk management, amongst others.

From Africa to Latin America to Asia and North America, women refuse to be passive actors as the planet faces one of its most crushing threats. One household, one community, one nation at a time, women can take the lead in sustaining our fragile planet.

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WORKSHOP 2: GENDER & CLIMATE CHANGE

Co-Speaker: Patrick Sieber, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC

TACKLING GENDER EQUALITY ASPECTS WITHIN THE PORTFOLIO OF SDC'S GLOBAL PROGRAMME CLIMATE CHANGE (GPCC): COMBINING SPECIFIC SELECTED GENDER ACTIVITIES WITH THE USE OF A MORE TRANSVERSAL APPROACH IN THE CASE OF OUTSOURCED OPERATIONAL WORK

Building upon the theoretical foundations about gender and climate change that Lorena Aguilar (IUCN) shared in her presentation, this short input aims to provide workshop participants with some concrete information about how the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) is attempting to meaningfully contribute to the transformational changes regarding gender and climate change necessary to avoid the climate collapse. And more specifically, to provide insights into the strategy of the thematic Global Programme Climate Change (GPCC) that fosters promising avenues in gender-related aspects throughout its work.

Examples are provided in the presentation to illustrate the two main approaches currently addressing gender equality issues: On the one hand, we directly support activities that help to further raise awareness about the necessity to make progress on gender issues in the context of the framework convention on climate change (UNFCCC). And on the other hand, we strive to address the topic in a transversal manner throughout the operational work that we mandate – systematically putting an emphasis on gender aspects at the different levels of intervention. Whereas we are in the position to shape and co-determine decisions in the first, the second approach requires particular consideration when selecting key implementation partners that will themselves play the major role in conveying the key messages that will make a difference in their day-to-day work. The example of the regional programme on social forestry and climate change that we are supporting in South-East Asia is an interesting example to show how this can work in practice.

Drawing some lessons on what works well and where we see potential for improvement with regard to the applied strategy will then (hopefully) lead us towards a more interactive exchange – which might even allow mapping out further opportunities and discussing alternative options that are worth considering to complement our current thematic activities in the future. The discussions might further evolve towards addressing the issue of how donor agencies in general could additionally support the strengthening of the collaboration among various stakeholders in order that the full potential of women in achieving climate change goals can be realized as soon as possible.

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WORKSHOP 3: GENDER & WATER

Speaker: Sascha Gabizon, Women in Europe for a Common Future WECF and Women's Major Group WMG

GENDER, WATER AND LAND RIGHTS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR A NEW GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA POST-2015

1. Gender aspects of water

Water use and management are typically divided by gender. These gendered roles and uses create expectations for women and men that can raise barriers against social change and improvement.

2. Socio-economic and land right aspects of water

Socio-economic status is also a determining factor for access to water. For instance, women and girls from poorer, marginalized communities, who often do not have secure land rights, are generally more dependent upon open water sources.

3. Water and violence against women and girls

Research shows that women can face direct competition with men for communal water resources during droughts. This may be further exacerbated in areas where freshwater resources are in decline due to environmental degradation and poor water resource management. Physical threats to women can also arise in areas where local conflicts flare up over disputed access to natural resources. Water points and grazing lands, for instance, can become potential flashpoints for violent conflict that put women at particular risk.

4. Increased competition for water

Water use is estimated to increase by about 50 per cent in the next 30 years. Compounding the relative scarcity of water is the steady deterioration in water quality in most transition and developing economies. The poor who pay the highest price for water systems are the most vulnerable in a water crisis. The two sectors in the world that use the most water are chemical intensive agriculture and fossil fuel-based energy production.

5. Increased competition between women and corporations for water

As the environment deteriorates, women's livelihoods become increasingly risky. Food and water security go hand in hand. Without water, women cannot process food, much less grow it.

Women in rural settings are often highly dependent on natural resources for their livelihoods, and are therefore particularly susceptible to changes in the availability and quality of these resources: land, forests and water. Land tenure also plays an important role in women's control over and access to water. In most African countries, women's legal property ownership rights are not secure. Damages to women's farmland, forests or fishing waters from extractive processes - and women's displacement from land as a result of mining activities - abound.

Industrial and agricultural over-consumption of water, often lead to unsustainable pressure on water resources and irreversible damage to the underlying aquifers.

6. Implementing the Human Right to water and sanitation

Access to potable water is considered an equal right, regardless of ability to pay. As water has commercial value, powerful interests compete with marginalized communities for access to scarce freshwater supplies. Catarina de Albuquerque, UN Special Rapporteur on the right to safe drinking water and sanitation, recently called upon States to prioritize the water needs of people over industrial consumption, pointing to tensions between the growing appetite for increased energy production and the human right to water and sanitation.

7. Recommendations for new global sustainable development agenda post-2015 / sustainable development goals SDGs

- a) People over Corporations – changing current rules and regulations
- b) Human rights based goals and targets
- c) Laying the foundation: Legal protection of land and resource rights for women

WORKSHOP 3: GENDER & WATER

Co-Speaker: Nathalie Rizzotti, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC

FOCUS ON WOMEN AND WATER

Eradicating gender inequalities requires a holistic approach. However, gender considerations in relation to water have often been framed within the context of the burdens faced by women to ensure access to water and sanitation as a result of traditional gender-based division of labour. This approach downplays women's socio-economic interests in water resources as part of their right to productive assets and resources, to secure livelihoods, and to participate in decision-making. It offers only a partial understanding of the complex interlinking between gender equality and water. The relation between women's empowerment and equality is multifaceted, with many other implications beyond access to drinking water and sanitation.

Therefore Switzerland through its SDC Global Programme Water Initiatives commits to a water-secure and equitable world by:

- Exerting influence at the global level to secure equitable and sustainable water management including trans boundary issues, prioritizing access to water supply, sanitation and hygiene as well as access to water for family agriculture addressing gender and governance aspects.
- Ensuring that the Human Right to drinkable water and sanitation is respected, in particular for the poor and vulnerable groups.
- Positioning SDC and Switzerland as influential players in the international dialogue on water.

The global programme works from the local level, with innovative and replicable projects, to the global level by influencing policy.

Strategic partnership

In order to reinforce the water and gender focus in the GPWI and its holistic approach, the GWPs developed a strategic partnership with Women for water partnership, which consists of 25 women's civil-society networks with subsidiaries in approximately 100 countries. This partnership facilitates women's meaningful participation at all levels from the local to the global.

The Human Right to drinkable water and sanitation recognized as a basic value

Switzerland works in translating on the ground the official recognition of the Human Right.

The Human Right to water supports the principles of non-discrimination and equality, participation, access to information and accountability.

The UN GA resolution of November 2013 reaffirms its commitment to Human Rights and recognizes the need to give due consideration to the Human Right to water in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda, taking into account an approach that supports the promotion and protection of Human Rights.

Switzerland stands for a global water goal for the post-2015 agenda

Switzerland supports a standalone water goal (along with a standalone goal on gender equality) that is based on 4 pillars namely WASH, water resource management, wastewater management and water quality and resilience to water-related disasters. Each pillar needs to promote women's rights and gender equity.

Finally, the UN High Level Panel on the post-2015 Development Agenda (2013) report acknowledges inequalities as one of the biggest challenges the world faces. In this context, the Special Rapporteur on the Human Right to Water and Sanitation has formally proposed that any future water goal should encompass a general obligation to progressively eliminate inequalities. This proposal has been endorsed by many other UN Special Rapporteurs, as well as by several water professionals, and is also supported by Switzerland.

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WORKSHOP 4: GENDER & RESOURCE CONFLICTS

Speaker: Silja Halle, United Nations Environment Programme UNEP

WOMEN AND NATURAL RESOURCES: UNLOCKING THE PEACEBUILDING POTENTIAL

As the primary providers of water, food and energy at the household and community levels, women in rural settings are often highly dependent on natural resources for their livelihoods, and are therefore particularly susceptible to changes in the availability and quality of these resources during and after conflicts. In particular, lack of access to land – which underpins rights to all other natural resources and is a key asset for securing productive inputs – can force women into increasingly vulnerable situations and expose them to higher levels of physical and livelihood risk, with trickle-down impacts on community welfare. The structural discriminations that women face regarding resource rights and access also limit their political participation and economic productivity.

At the same time, conflict often leads both women and men to adopt coping strategies that challenge traditional gender norms. To meet the needs of their households and compensate for loss of revenue usually provided by male family members, women may assume new natural resource management roles, either by taking up alternative income-generating activities or by moving into traditionally male sectors. In the aftermath of conflicts, capitalizing on these shifting roles can contribute to breaking down barriers to women's empowerment and enhancing women's productivity in sectors that are often critical to economic recovery and sustainable development.

Failure to recognize the challenges and opportunities awarded to women in conflict-affected settings by their various roles in natural resource management also risks perpetuating inequalities and deepening grievances linked to natural resource rights, access and control, which have proven to be powerful catalysts for violence. Addressing issues of inequality related to resource access and ownership, participation in decision-making and benefit-sharing early on in the peacebuilding process is therefore a critical condition for lasting peace and development.

Based on a new policy report released by UNEP, UN WOMEN, UNDP and the UN Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO), this presentation will explore the complex relationship between women and natural resources in conflict-affected settings, reviewing challenges and opportunities across three main categories of natural resources: renewable and extractive resources, and land.

It will seek to make the case for pursuing gender equality, women's empowerment and sustainable natural resource management together in support of peacebuilding. The report, which is the product of a two-year collaboration between the four agencies, draws on field research from over 20 different countries and some 200 academic sources and institutions.

WORKSHOP 4: GENDER & RESOURCE CONFLICTS

Co-Speaker: Annemarie Sancar, Center for Peacebuilding KOFF, Swisspeace

PEACEBUILDING FOR MORE GENDER JUSTICE GOES BEYOND THE QUESTION OF ACCESS TO RESOURCES!

Natural resources are commodities; their value is determined by the market which is driven by the principles of growth and the maximizing of profit. Market has no gender – at first sight! Human beings appear as “homo oeconomicus”, smart consumers and an unlimited resource as a labour force. Natural resources are scarce public goods, they are heavily fought over and often a cause of dispute, violence and conflict when the access to extraction and commercialization rights are disputed. What seems normal from a liberal market perspective is often an absolute disaster for the civil society living in the regions.

Gender issues are relevant at different levels. The access of women to land and water is but one challenge which is evident from a practical view and well described. Of course, the availability of basic resources is key for the improvement of living standards and everyday conditions.

Conflicts which are related to the competition for natural resources have to be addressed more systematically. With the idea of promoting peace and gender justice, interventions should also tackle other more complicated and interlinked issues. Who are the main actors? Who is involved in the broader processes of decision making about the access to natural resources? Who benefits from the profit made by extraction in a long and transnationally organised value chain? Who is responsible to guarantee human rights and work in dignity for the people living close to extraction areas? And what does the category of gender mean for the organisation of this market?

Since the main actors, who do have access to natural resources, and the profits of extraction defy state control or monopolize state regulation by means of agreements, etc., official gender strategies are not really effective. Projects for women’s empowerment are important, of course, because they at least help women to survive.

It is a fact that women are taking over new spaces and diversifying their roles beyond patriarchal restrictions. Still, such diversification does not lead to empowerment or gender justice, and the “after conflict” situation is sometimes even worse. Why do women have to take over so many more roles without getting any additional resources for it? Men should be aware that even if they are involved in conflicts as soldiers, even if they migrate for additional income, they should get used to other roles. The states can influence a new diversity of masculinity, be it by economic incentives through taxes or by legal changes. States would become stronger if they could push and promote a manifold integration of men in different areas of society.

Women are often the only people responsible for maintaining living standards, since it has always been up to them to provide care. The absence of men in conflictive situations or war only underlines this so-called naturally given division of labour. If post-conflict and peace building programs aim at a

gender-just society, they have to struggle for a system which guarantees the access to social security, protection and basic services within the human rights framework.

Gender justice and women's empowerment are based on a society which does not externalize care-work, but sees it as a fundamental component of sustainable development. This has a cost, and this fact must be taken seriously by the big market players when they talk about sustainability. Only then can gender relations be transformed into a society based on justice.