

**Women's Rights and International Development Policy  
WIDEs Proposal for the elaboration of General Recommendation  
for the Women's Convention (CEDAW)  
May 2015**

## **Summary/Abstract**

This paper is to serve as a **basis** for the comprehensive improvement of the monitoring and reporting methods of CEDAW member states in the context of development co-operation and international development seen from a gender perspective.

In the **introduction** of this publication WIDE explains the **background** and **reasons** for this proposal for the elaboration of a general Recommendation by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) on the issue of women's rights and gender justice in international development policies.

In chapter 1 "**The Committees growing emphasis on issues of international development**" reflected within the Committee's concluding comments and observations to member states' reports is highlighted and underscored by various examples in "Northern" and in "Southern" regions of the world.

Against this background a survey is sketched in chapter 2 on the "**Situation of women in countries of the global South**" and possible reasons for their persistent poverty, above all in the rural areas, are outlined. In this context the role of development-cooperation programmes and of economic policies of international organizations and institutions and their consequences for women are scrutinized.

In chapter 3 "**Policy coherence for women's human rights in the context of international development – strategies and actions**" follow reflections and concrete requests and proposals for the realization of women's rights and gender justice in the field of development co-operation as well as in the areas of financial, budgetary, economic, trade-related, agricultural, environmental and migration policies.

The starting point of chapter 4 on the analysis of the recommendations of selected "**Human rights instruments on women's rights and international development**" consists in a reference to the "**Maastricht Principles**" which were presented in 2011 by experts in international law and human rights as the basis for the recognition and implementation of extraterritorial obligations of states in the field of development co-operation, trade, investment, taxation, finance and environmental policies. Against this backdrop a condensed analysis of **messages** contained in the "Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women" (CEDAW) and in other United Nations human rights instruments on the issues of "gender equality and international development" follows. This section is based on the intention to make visible the often proclaimed international support of these issues and to unveil at the same time inconsistencies and gaps in this respect.

In the "**Conclusions**", chapter 5, it is pointed out that the commitment to gender equality in the context of international development policy can be articulated very positively and comprehensively

in human rights instruments and by states' representatives at international meetings, but that these messages are often controversial in themselves and differ from case to case. Moreover the realization of these proclamations is often lacking and endangered by economic interests and enterprises. **Women's rights and gender justice** in the context of international development co-operation and development policy and the respective obligations of states should therefore be specifically defined and formulated and be reflected in a pertinent CEDAW General Recommendations on this issue.

Full text: [http://www.wide-netzwerk.at/images/pdf/2015/wide-proposal-cedaw-recommendation-dev-policy-may%202015\\_final.pdf](http://www.wide-netzwerk.at/images/pdf/2015/wide-proposal-cedaw-recommendation-dev-policy-may%202015_final.pdf)

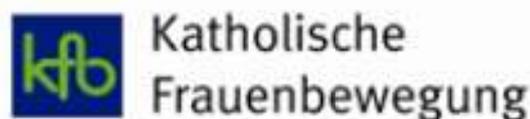
### Supporters of the WIDE Proposal for the elaboration of General Recommendation for the Women's Convention (CEDAW):

- Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID)
- Center for Women's Global Leadership, Rutgers University
- WIDE+
- WOMEN –Dutch Gender Platform
- Miriam – Bildungsprojekt zur Frauenförderung
- Frauensolidarität
- Katholische Frauenbewegung Österreich



**miriam**

proyecto para la promoción intelectual de la mujer  
chak rech kaya' uk'iyem uwach uno'jib'al ri ixoq  
bildungsprojekt zur frauenförderung



feministisch-  
entwicklungspolitische  
informations- und  
bildungsarbeit



**frauen\*  
solidarität**