



Feminist Alliance for Rights

POST-2015 WOMEN'S COALITION ASSESSMENT

SUMMARY

Post-2015 Women's Coalition Background

The Coalition was created to strengthen feminist engagement in the post-2015 sustainable development agenda and processes, to ensure the promotion of women's greater economic and decision-making power, and to facilitate the realization of women's civil, political and social rights. Its main objective was to amplify feminist voices and analyses during and beyond the formulation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Coalition grew out of a global network of over 300 civil society organizations initiated in 2005 to demand that the new UN Reform process reflect gender perspectives and further advance the gender equality and women's rights agenda. The network started operating as the GEAR (Gender/Equality/Architecture/Reform) Campaign during the March 2008 Meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW).

In September 2012, in the wake of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), the main architects of the GEAR Campaign became part of the core group that initiated the Post-2015 Women's Coalition. These founding members sought to build a "global coalition comprised of national, regional, and international women's, feminist, and social justice organizations and networks engaging in and monitoring UN-related processes and institutions, including UN Women, for the realization of women's rights and gender equality."

**SUMMARY OF FINDINGS FROM INTERVIEWS WITH
REPRESENTATIVES OF POST-2015 WOMEN'S COALITION MEMBER
ORGANIZATIONS**

The main strengths and contributions of the Coalition were:

- **Information-sharing:** useful announcements and briefings, especially during the sessions of the UN Open Working Group, the Intergovernmental Negotiations, the Commission on the Status of Women, and the UN General Assembly. More broadly, the Coalition's communications facilitated the sharing of information on gender equality issues.
- **Feminist analyses** of SDGs process and documents. The Coalition provided an important language framework that can be adapted regionally.
- **Access to regional and global platforms**, as well as tools to better understand the dynamics and technical aspects of international advocacy.
- **Amplification of women's voices**, especially from the Global South, and participation in international advocacy spaces.

- **Networking opportunities**, as a unique platform to engage with other organizations that share similar advocacy goals.
- **Credibility and legitimacy** provided to national/regional advocacy efforts.
- **Insider/Outsider strategy**, as an important element of its advocacy strategy.
- **Regional Meetings** allowed for diversity in participation of women’s organizations.
- **Opportunities for concrete action** by supporting advocacy and mobilization around common issues.
- **Recognition of CWGL’s contributions**, especially regarding coordination, funding, and communications.

Some of the main suggestions for improvement in the next phase of the Coalition were:

Prioritize a regional focus: invest more time and resources in regional organizing and outreach. Its leadership should reflect the diversity of regional voices.

Communication: enhance its message by creating social media strategies; key documents should be available in core languages; awareness about the implications of the “digital divide” between the Global North and the Global South.

Broadening the perspective of social change: connecting issues such as economic justice, climate change, peace and security; between SDGs goals, and between local and global advocacy.

Promoting a feminist framework: promote feminist analyses; provide an alternative global feminist platform; share expertise through thematic working groups; bring together a wide range of voices that will demonstrate the intersectionality of issues.

LEARNING FROM STRENGTHS

The Coalition’s membership, through regional meetings and also via online platforms, has identified that the next phase of work should continue to build on our strengths such as:

- Facilitating spaces for international advocacy and policy work.
- Bringing visibility especially to women’s organizations from the Global South.
- Strengthening regional advocacy networks.
- Bringing a feminist agenda to international development.
- Produce policy briefs, reports and announcements as tools for advocacy and education.

The role of Center for Women’s Global Leadership (CWGL):

The decision to expand the Steering Committee will facilitate coordination. In this new organizing model we recommend that CWGL:

- Retain an active role as a standing member of the Steering Committee, and continue to provide expertise and programmatic support, especially in the following areas:

- Human rights and economic policy/literacy
- GBV advocacy
- Feminist leadership development
- Keep its fiduciary obligations and assist with fundraising efforts.
- Continue to house and support the Coalition's staff.
- Help facilitate and convene meetings (Steering Committee and regional partners), and develop a policy to guide organizing procedures.