



## STATEMENT for G20

The BRICS Feminist Watch, comprised of women's rights organizations and feminist activists from Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa is a new taskforce which aims to bring the voice of women from global South to the development decision-making fora. We believe that southern voices, especially the voices of women, are not heard and are not taken into account in global development decision-making.

### We recognize that:

- **Women still constitute 70% of world poor.** Women are food insecure, lack basic healthcare, access to education, employment opportunities and have little or no social security.
- **Women face multiple oppressions** on grounds of caste, race, class, religion, nationality, sexual orientation, ethnicity, language, literacy, disability, and age.
- Dispossession of and change of use in resources including land have **negative impacts on women's lives and livelihoods.**
- **Women bear an unfair and unequal burden** in providing food, water, fuel and care for themselves and their families due to prescribed gender roles. Lack of infrastructure and poor energy, and technology add to this burden as well as the effects of climate change.
- **All women work whether paid or unpaid.** Despite its obvious economic and social worth, much of the work that women do remains invisible, unaccounted, undervalued, and under-appreciated.
- **Women's reproductive work remains undervalued.** Women are liable to lose their jobs and livelihood owing to marital status, pregnancy and maternity. Especially if they work in the informal sector, women are forced to cut down on their rest and nutrition during pregnancy and after childbirth if they do not receive maternity allowances or paid leave.
- **Most women in developing countries are in subsistence forms of livelihoods.** G20 countries should recognize that women farmers and farm workers are important workforce for any developing country.
- **Women will bear disproportionate burden owing global macroeconomic change.** Information and Communication Technology (ICT) are the core enabling innovation area and all sectors of the economy are being digitalized and datafied. As low skill work is replaced by robots, work in general is poised to become highly precarious.



Therefore **BRICS Feminist Watch** calls upon G20 leaders to:

1. **Recognise all women as workers, farmers, producers as economic and development agents.**

- Women, as workers and producers, need to be guaranteed individual unmediated access, control, ownership and management of **productive resources** including
  - a. natural resources such as land, water, forests
  - b. financial resources such as credit, sustainable livelihoods including decent job,
  - c. social resources such as skills, energy, technology
  - d. other resources such housing, commons, markets
- Recognize that women traditionally and historically have **skills and knowledge** for livelihoods that ensure food security for all.
- Recognise, Reduce and Redistribute women's **unpaid work** in the care economy and the productive economy

**Recognize** women as a worker and unpaid work as work

- Redefine the whole concept of work to include all activities – economic, social, human and environment development.
- Recognise **care** as a public good and basic right.

- Ensure nine months of wage-adjusted leave for pregnant women so that they can breastfeed their baby for six months without loss of income

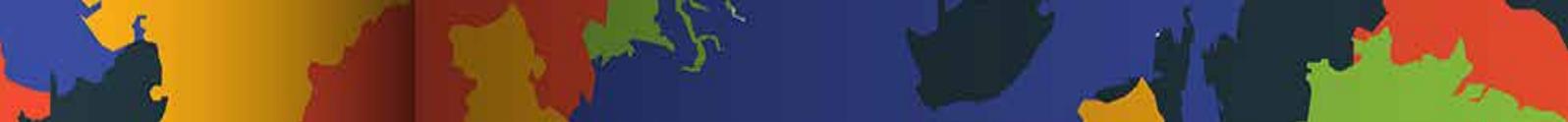
**Redistribution** of unpaid care work should be in three ways:

- *Redistribution from women to men.*
- *Redistribution from households to the state but not necessarily to the market:*
- *Redistribution of time and resources, particularly to the poor households.*

**Reduction:**

- To reduce women's time burden, and drudgery provide accessible basic services such as water, sanitation (toilets), education, health, fodder, energy, fuel and housing.
- Provide women-sensitive infrastructure for the care economy (child care/crèche, and adult care).
- Government should conduct time use survey periodically to review paid and unpaid work done by women.
- Recognize women as **individual rights holders** and not just as members of a family, household, or group. The rights should be unmediated rights of women as **independent citizens**. Their marital status should not have an impact on their entitlements.
- Ensure informed, meaningful and engaged participation of women in **decision-making processes** at all levels that impact their lives.





- All women work and are therefore entitled to **universal social security**.

## 2. Ensure protection and accountability mechanisms for women.

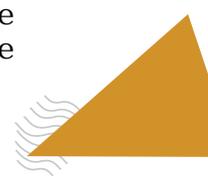
- Include gender-disaggregated data collection, analysis and monitoring as a precondition for the adoption of social, labor, economic and corporate policies;
- Include WROs in developing national mechanisms to monitor women's rights violations and guarantee efficient judicial and pre-judicial procedures to protect women from violence and violations of their rights;
- Remove the persistent gender discrimination in the labor market as well as in access to economic assets through a variety of measures, such as: enforcing norms and legal framework that punish sex-segregation and gender-based discrimination at work;
- Address poverty and structural inequalities including patriarchy and adopt and enforce laws and protect legal process to tackle violence and discriminatory norms including violence at the workplace and intimate partner violence;
- Introduce and enshrine in legislation the mechanisms to guarantee equal pay for equal work; provide incentives for employers in order to expand female jobs, providing training for women, etc.;
- Guarantee and protect bodily autonomy and universal access to SRHR (including abortion, ART, and other procedures) and SRH education (including for adolescents and marginalized women) without third party consent;

- a) Combat sexism in general and sexualization of women in the media.

- b) Guarantee universal social protection floors, long-term social welfare and economic policies, and the right to social security;
- c) Safeguard women's continued access to, and control over, natural resources(including land), especially in the case of indigenous women.

## 3. Foster women's leadership through economic and political empowerment.

- Create and support business models aimed at developing women's leadership potential (such as women's cooperatives and social enterprises);
- Provide state support for women-owned micro-entrepreneurship and Small-Medium Enterprises;
- Cultivate, monitor, and share best corporate practices aimed at supporting women and promoting them to decision-making positions;
- Ensure equal opportunity for self-determination and capacity to realize one's potential: guarantee equal access to quality education, create policies and programs to encourage





women to study science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) and to pursue their professional interests;

- Create and provide effective and accessible social protection schemes for self-employed entrepreneurs, including maternity and paternity benefits and healthcare;
- Allocate for women's economic empowerment and rights and support grassroots organizations and movements led by women, girls and youth.

#### 4. Put women at the center of all development partnerships

- Enshrine gender-disaggregated data collection and monitoring in the mechanism for overseas development partnerships to the recipient countries;

We challenge the mainstream economic development models, based on extractivism and the exploitation of resources, including women's bodies, labor and natural resources such as land, to shift the dominant development discourse towards an inclusive, sustainable, and just paradigm.

For more information on BRICS Feminist Watch contact [pwescr@pwescr.org](mailto:pwescr@pwescr.org)



- Make sure that women are equally represented in decision-making positions at the national and regional development banks;
- Make sure women from the global South are the primary beneficiaries of the G20 countries' development policies, especially those concerning access to education and healthcare;
- Promote broader consultation and proportionate representation of women from the global South (including women from BRICS) in all the G20 foras (including W20).

