

Setting the Table for Green Growth in the 21st Century: How Do We Assure Everyone a Seat in an Era of New Political and Economic Institutions?

**“Walking the Talk:
Transforming Economic
Powers to Advance
Women’s Rights, Justice
and Sustainability”**

**Graça Samo, Forum Mulher/World March of Women,
Washington DC, 11 Sept 2012**

RURAL WOMEN



Nothing about us
without us!

What we know, that we are proud off:

- ◉ Gender Equality and the empowerment of women are gaining ground worldwide...
 - > Heads of states
 - > Serving government as ministers.
 - > Women are exercising ever greater influence in business.
 - > More girls are going to school, and are growing up healthier and better equipped to realize their potential (UN SG)

But, a global shame:

- ◉ Despite the momentum, there is a long way to go before women and girls can be said to enjoy fundamental rights, freedom and dignity.
- ◉ Rural women and girls (1/4 global population) routinely figure at bottom of every economic, political and social indicator from income, education, health and participation in decision making.

Another world is possible!

- If rural women had equal access to productive resources, agricultural yields would rise by 4 per cent, strengthening food and nutrition security and relieving as many as 150 million people from hunger.
- Rural women, if given the chance, could also help end the hidden development tragedy of stunting, which affects almost 200 million children worldwide.



The Talks & Speeches...

“It makes no sense that women farmers receive **only 5 per cent** of agricultural extension services. Investing in rural women is a **smart** investment in a nation’s development.”

(Ban Ki-moon UN, SG)

The country cannot waste 53% of its human potential (...). It isn't smart not to use the synergy from this group of society: the women.

(Luísa Diogo, former PM,
Mozambique)

“Women are not an interest group. (...) when any of our citizen cannot fulfill their potencial for factors that have nothing to do with their charecter, talent or work ethics, that diminishes us as a country”.

(Barak Obama)



Walking the Talk...

**“We cannot solve our
problems with the same
thinking we used when we
created them”.**

Albert Einstein

Transforming Economic Power

Globaly, We need paradigm shift:

- ◉ Can we talk about **Development (Prosperity)** without Economic growth?
- ◉ Can we shift the power from corporations to the people?
- ◉ Everyone counts! – Reproductive Work and the Care Economy.

Transforming Economic Powers

Locally...

- ◉ Value the 53% of our population: Women;
- ◉ Reclaim our natural resources and biodiversity for the nature itself and for the peoples.
- ◉ Invest on local and community initiatives (Xitique, cooperative schemes, Associativism).
- ◉ Leadership and empowerment.

Remember...

- **The personal is political**, so listen to women, give them voice and they will tell you about their knowledge, needs and dreams, – then help them to go for it.

Finally...

- Be Smart, help women to re-create and develop local solutions - one does not fit all!

And yes...

women can!

WORLD MARCH OF WOMEN



NOTHING ABOUT US
WITHOUT US!