

Position on the proposed Busan Joint Action Plan on Gender Equality and Development

Drafted by: the Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD), the Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID), the African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET), WIDE Network, Coordinadora de la Mujer/Bolivia of the BetterAid Coordination Group.

1. We recognise the effort of the Korean and US Governments to produce the *Busan Joint Action Plan on Gender* as an outcome of the High Level Forum 4. We also recognise the efforts of the Korean Government to promote Gender Equality as a central principle of the HLF4 and the Busan Outcome Document.
2. We welcome any efforts of states to increase funding to women's rights and empowerment and we urge governments to make substantial financial commitments to the advancement of women's rights.
3. However, we are not able to endorse the draft action plan in its current form. The current plan does not sufficiently promote the enjoyment of fundamental human rights and substantive equality. Women's civil society movements and organisations struggled for many years to achieve internationally recognised agreements to advance women's rights. The Beijing Platform for Action and the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) were the result of many years of struggle for women's rights and reflect an agreed framework and action plan for women. These instruments should explicitly frame any commitments made to increase development effectiveness and development cooperation.
4. We note with concern the conflation of economic growth with development. We urge states to recognise that empowerment of women requires fundamental shifts in social, political and economic structures. Women's rights will not be fully enjoyed by women in all our diversity simply by facilitating entrepreneurship of women. Evidence of many women's organisations suggests that this approach can instead exacerbate inequalities and rights violations.
5. While we remain committed to meaningful dialogue at local, national, international levels to inform the plan and instill the above mentioned values:

We call on the governments supporting the draft Global Action Plan to reconsider the draft action plan and instead use internationally agreed standards and processes as its foundation. The human rights-based plan should be developed in dialogue with women's rights organisations and gender equality advocates among others to contribute to democratic ownership, accountability, participation and be informed by the collective expertise of women globally.