

# TOOLS FOR ADVOCACY: Economic Rights References and Government Commitments in United Nations Agreements

The following chart offers examples of the commitments made by governments in 2000 at Beijing+5, WSSD+5 and the Millennium Summit on issues related to economic rights at the local, national and international levels. This is not a comprehensive list (see [www.wicej.org](http://www.wicej.org) for a full list), nor does it represent the exact wording of the documents.

Although not legally binding, governments are obliged to report to UN bodies annually and the documents can be used to hold officials accountable to commitments made by their governments. In many cases these references are preceded by qualifying language such as “suggest, urge or encourage,” rather than “will or must.” The documents can be found on the internet (see resources below) or by contacting the United Nations Department of Public Information, United Nations, New York, NY 10017, USA.

BEIJING+5	WSSD+5 (Section III)	MILLENNIUM DECLARATION
<p><b>Poverty</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ implement gender-sensitive national poverty eradication programmes (73d) that empower poor women and provide access to services, resources, job creation, credit (101d)</li> <li>■ design poverty eradication strategies, with women's participation, to empower women to meet negative social and economic impacts of globalization (101c)</li> <li>■ gender sensitive poverty-eradication strategies addressing social, structural and macro-economic issues (101e)</li> <li>■ national, regional and international cooperation to overcome challenges of globalization (101g)</li> <li>■ collaboration for poverty eradication, including international financial institutions, private sector, community organizations... (102c)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ assess social and economic costs of unemployment and poverty (9)</li> <li>■ put poverty eradication at center of economic and social development (25)</li> <li>■ reduce by one half number of people living in extreme poverty by 2015 (25)</li> <li>■ ensure a gender equality perspective at all levels to counteract the feminization of poverty (27o)</li> <li>■ involve people, including disadvantaged groups and women, in assessing the impact of poverty on particular groups, and in designing anti-poverty policies (27p,q,53))</li> <li>■ eliminate all forms of discrimination, including racial discrimination (60)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ halve by 2015 those earning less than one dollar a day, in hunger, and without affordable, safe drinking water (19)</li> <li>■ improve lives of 100 million slum dwellers by 2020 (19)</li> <li>■ promote gender equality and the empowerment of women as effective ways to combat poverty, hunger and disease (20)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Macro-Economic Policy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ IMF, World Bank, WTO and others called upon to support government efforts to implement POA (49)</li> <li>■ review macro-economic and social policies, including SAPs and debt, to ensure social services, equal access and control over economic resources (54, 74c)</li> <li>■ gender perspective into all budget processes (65, 73b)</li> <li>■ mainstream gender into macroeconomic and social development policies (73a)</li> <li>■ compile data disaggregated by sex, age, other factors: gender-specific research (77) including on socio-economic situation, paid and unpaid work (85b, 93e)</li> <li>■ assist countries in transition in programmes for political and economic empowerment of women (84d)</li> <li>■ no unilateral measure that impedes economic and social development, right to adequate standard of living, health, food, healthcare and social services. Do not use food and medicine as weapons. (90)</li> <li>■ disarmament to free resources for social and economic development and women (99k,l)</li> <li>■ participation of developing countries in global economic decision-making: women's participation (101a,b)</li> <li>■ gender-sensitive solutions to external debt and debt-servicing problems (101i, j)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ ensure that people are placed at the center of development—both national and international efforts needed (2)</li> <li>■ crucial role of governments in assuring that markets function within framework of ethical values (4)</li> <li>■ right to education, food, shelter, employment, health and information and women's human rights (5, 76)</li> <li>■ develop development-oriented solutions to external debt (6)</li> <li>■ no unilateral measure that impedes economic and social development, right to adequate standard of living, health, food, health-care and social services. Do not use food and medicine as weapons. (12)</li> <li>■ macroeconomic policies should enhance job growth and poverty reduction (27c)</li> <li>■ taxation should reduce income inequality (27d, 141)</li> <li>■ develop pro-poor growth strategies (28)</li> <li>■ poverty reduction strategies that rely on outside aid should be nationally “owned,” reflecting concerns of poor people (131-132)</li> <li>■ SAPs should include social development, gender, and poverty reduction goals (128-134, 136)</li> <li>■ cut military expenditures to increase funds for social development (139a)</li> <li>■ ensure effective involvement of developing countries and countries in transition in international economic decision-making (14)</li> <li>■ special attention to Africa, including debt relief, improved market access, increased aid and foreign investment, technology (107, 116, 119)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ affirms sovereign equality of all states and non-interference in the internal affairs of states (4)</li> <li>■ affirms international cooperation in solving international problems (5)</li> <li>■ poor nations' involvement in global programmes to support them (5)</li> <li>■ costs and burdens of globalization must be distributed fairly and equitably (6)</li> <li>■ UN must play the central role in managing worldwide economic and social development (6)</li> <li>■ make the right to development a reality for all, create a national and global environment conducive to development (11)</li> <li>■ good governance within nations and in the financial, monetary and trading systems (13)</li> <li>■ quota free access for exports of poorest nations (15)</li> <li>■ debt relief for heavily indebted poor countries, and cancellation of their official bilateral debts linked to policy conditions (15)</li> <li>■ call for increased aid from wealthy nations (15)</li> <li>■ measures to make other nations' debts sustainable (16)</li> <li>■ special attention to Africa, including debt cancellation, improved market access, increased aid and foreign investment, technology (28)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Education, Health and Social Services</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ equal access to education, health and social services; adequate, affordable and universally accessible health care (54, 55)</li> <li>■ close gender gap in primary and secondary education by 2005 (67c)</li> <li>■ ensure free compulsory and universal education for all by 2015 (67c, 95g)</li> <li>■ policies to address gender aspects of such diseases as malaria, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS (72a)</li> <li>■ reduction of maternal morbidity and mortality (72b, 79c)</li> <li>■ budget resources for highest attainable standard of physical and mental health (72g)</li> <li>■ universal access to high quality primary health care, including sexual and reproductive health care, by 2015 (79b)</li> <li>■ monitor impact of health-sector reforms on women's health and human rights (79e)</li> <li>■ access to safe and affordable drugs and treatments (79h)</li> <li>■ ensure refugee women's access to basic social services (99m)</li> <li>■ protection and treatment for women re:HIV/AIDS; affordable treatment (103b,c)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ ensure access to all basic social services, in particular education and health, even during financial crises (13, 27t, 86, 87, 132b)</li> <li>■ support countries in transition to provide adequate resources for social development and reverse cuts in public spending for social services (24, 31,99)</li> <li>■ ensure rights and basic social services for migrants, and social and economic integration (68)</li> <li>■ close gender gap in primary and secondary education by 2005; free compulsory and universal education for all by 2015 (80a)</li> <li>■ equal access to education, health and social services; adequate, affordable and universally accessible health care (84, 114, 120)</li> <li>■ reduction of maternal morbidity and mortality (85)</li> <li>■ international financial institutions should promote development that supports health and education (91)</li> <li>■ debt relief and new financial support for education (93)</li> <li>■ access to essential medicines at affordable prices; intellectual property rights conducive to social and economic welfare (98, 100-103, 124)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ guarantee access to complete primary schooling for all by 2015 (19)</li> <li>■ guarantee equal access to all levels of education for girls and boys (19)</li> <li>■ reduce maternal mortality rate by three quarters and under-five child mortality rate by two-thirds by 2015 (19)</li> <li>■ reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS and malaria by 2015 (19)</li> <li>■ encourage the pharmaceutical industry to make essential drugs more widely available and affordable for all in poor nations (20)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Agriculture and Environment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ ensure land reform, changes in economy to promote rights of poor and rural women; women's equal access to and control over economic resources (68h)</li> <li>■ gender-sensitive agricultural and environmental policies; support women farmers with training (71b)</li> <li>■ food security, clean water related to health (72e)</li> <li>■ recognize and value work of rural women producers; enhance their access to and control over resources (94e)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ encourage sustainable rural development (27i)</li> <li>■ address hunger, malnutrition and food insecurity at the household level; recognize women's role in food security; food security as essential element in poverty eradication and social policies. (30)</li> <li>■ good health linked to food security, health financing, and trade in health goods and services (104)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ change current unsustainable patterns of production and consumption (6)-</li> <li>■ seek ratification of the Kyoto Protocol and reduction in emissions of greenhouse gases (23)</li> <li>■ stop the unsustainable exploitation of water resources; promote equitable access and adequate supplies of water (23)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Women's Labor, Labor Rights</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ address double burden of women's paid and unpaid work (66b)</li> <li>■ address gender stereotyping as a cause of work segregation (67d)</li> <li>■ address root causes of trafficking in women for prostitution, forced labor, forced marriages (70a); combat and eliminate trafficking; laws to protect victims (70b,c; 96a, 97)</li> <li>■ safe working conditions for health-care workers (72f)</li> <li>■ ensure social protection for women affected by changes in work due to globalization; and for women in new, flexible forms of work (74b)</li> <li>■ protect rights of women workers by removing structural and legal barriers (82a)</li> <li>■ balanced representation of women and men in all jobs (82f)</li> <li>■ equal pay for equal work or work of equal value, decrease wage gap (82h)</li> <li>■ respond to reasons men and women are affected differently by job creation and retrenchment associated with globalization (82i)</li> <li>■ social responsibility of private sector (82m)</li> <li>■ respect ILO Declaration on Rights at Work and conventions (94b)</li> <li>■ rights of migrant women (98b)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ improve the working conditions of “informal” sector workers, respecting basic worker's rights, providing social protection (27i, 44, 45)</li> <li>■ support ILO programme on decent work, equal opportunities for women, basic rights of workers (35); ratify ILO conventions (38)</li> <li>■ promote safe and healthy settings at work (38e)</li> <li>■ encourage corporate social responsibility to contribute to social development goals (17, 41)</li> <li>■ collect employment data disaggregated by sex, age and other categories, including informal, agricultural and service sectors and new forms of employment; measure unpaid work (42).</li> <li>■ strengthen minimum wage legislation (46)</li> <li>■ rights of migrant workers (47)</li> <li>■ eliminate labor discrimination in employment: equal pay for equal work or work of equal value (49, 80d)</li> <li>■ combat and eliminate trafficking in persons (69, 70)</li> <li>■ improve pay and benefits for teachers for quality education (94)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ combat trafficking in persons (9)</li> <li>■ give young people the chance to find decent and productive work (20)</li> <li>■ respect for all internationally recognized human rights (24)</li> <li>■ protect rights of migrants, migrant workers and their families (25)</li> </ul>