



Food Justice Project

Food Justice Solidarity

Exchanges



**The 4th International World March of
Women**

6th-7th October 2015

Nairobi

Background

The World March of Women is an international feminist action movement which connects grassroots groups and organizations that work to eliminate the root causes of poverty and Violence Against Women (VAW) The 4th International World March of Women was held in Nairobi, bringing together over 400 women from various countries including Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Zimbabwe ,Ghana, Burundi, Rwanda, Mozambique ,Senegal ,South Africa ,Democratic Republic of Congo(DRC),Ethiopia , Western Sahara and Spain.

Fahamu in partnership with Ibon International- Africa presented sessions on Maputo Protocol, Climate Justice and Food sovereignty which entailed discussions on the content of Maputo Protocol, climate change and women, defining food sovereignty, women and natural disasters, corporate capture of our food system including a deliberation on Genetically Modified (GM) food.

The convening further discussed feminism, social movements and the rationale for the existence of social movements.



The Issues

It was unanimously agreed that movements are important in the push for change given the various issues affecting women. The need to bring more men on board in women spaces to enable change of attitude was also emphasized.

On climate change it was concurred that women are adversely affected since they are the who travel long in search of water and other resources during drought.



Marching against Teenage Pregnancy, Violence Against Women, FGM , School Drop out and Early Marriages

Food sovereignty discussion touched on corporate capture of our food system by Multinational companies, the increased poverty among farmers due to continuous use of fertilizers and pesticides and Crops Act and how it would impact on women.

Participants from Ethiopia and Mozambique shared that GMOs were being forced on them as citizens under the guise that it would address food insecurity in their countries.



What are women's demands?

It was observed that all of us irrespective of our countries or part of the continent we come from are gradually undergoing exploitation of production system through extinction of indigenous foods and replacement with Genetically Modified food.

The session recognized the fact that given that women are the majority of producers, they are also the ones most affected by natural disasters such as floods and droughts.

Political Declaration

As a result of the debates, the Political declaration of the participants at the 4th International World March of Women declared that:

- The introduction of genetically modified seeds by multinational corporations is causing the degradation of our soils, the loss of traditional biodiversity and boosting the dependency of peasant and small-scale agricultural producers that need to keep buying pesticides and GM seeds to keep cultivating. Many times the industrial chemical used have severe consequences to the lives of women, men and children



Discussions on regional issues and how they impact on women rights

- Women still face many challenges to access, control and ownership of land in Africa. This is getting worse everyday with the influence of the big corporations plundering the natural resources including land, water and mineral resources
- The mercantilization and exploitation of life and nature is presented to s as the inevitable consequence of development. Biodiversity is becoming a commodity for big transnational companies. Nature is systematically raped and polluted and important resources of life such as water have been privatized, limiting the access to entire communities



Deliberations on Women Issues across the African Continent

- The greed of the Capitalist system is causing economic dependency, starvation and malnutrition of millions around the world. Multinational companies expropriate lands from peasants, force communities to migrate, pollute nature, spreading poverty in the Global South



Deliberating on how militarism has affected women in Africa and the world at large

- Militarization is becoming harder and harder in our continent and is threatening us everyday. We are horrified to witness how armed conflicts and non-conventional wars are spreading all over the world, producing fear, violence, diseases, hate, poverty and feeding fundamentalism
- Violence whether it comes from armies, private security companies, mafia or organized crimes, staff from international peace missions or even states, is benefitting the capitalist system in which women always suffer the most
- Culture is used in many occasions to justify and underpin women's oppression and violation of their human rights .FGM, early marriages, marital rapes and domestic violence are too many times explained as particular expressions of our " own " African culture that should be respected and kept
- Fundamentalisms, be it religious, ethnic, or cultural is getting stronger every day and is spreading dangerously in different areas throughout our region, inflicting inhuman living conditions and violating women rights all over



Marching against exploitation of nature

- We women of World March of Women Africa we say enough is enough to all these forms of violence and inequalities .We are here to defend the life, the nature and all natural resources that should be put in the service of all the people's and for the benefit of future generations
- We say no to all forms of militarism and militarization of our lives. Our resources should not be investing to promote wars but to build peace, solidarity, equality, freedom and justice for all
- We reaffirm our commitment in occupying the spaces where decisions affecting our lives re taken such as the COP 21, to denounce all forms of mercantilization of our common goods and defend climate justice

Conclusion

The meeting focused on food, climate as key issues that have impacted on women across Africa and beyond, it was also a good opportunity to strengthen networking, information sharing and learning across regions for purposes of information sharing on both climate justice and food sovereignty issues.



Marching to demand rights