



# WOMEN'S ENVIRONMENT & DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

9 East 37<sup>th</sup> Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, NY 10016  
212.973.0325 | wedo@wedo.org | [www.wedo.org](http://www.wedo.org)

## ANNUAL REPORT 2015

As a global women's advocacy organization, WEDO envisions a just world that promotes and protects human rights, gender equality and the integrity of the environment.

To contribute toward its vision for the world, WEDO's mission is to ensure that women's rights; social, economic and environmental justice; and sustainable development principles—as well as the linkages between them—are at the heart of global and national policies, programs and practices.

WEDO works on a range of cross-cutting issues—from climate change and natural resource management, to global governance and finance and UN reform—toward three interlinked goals:



### WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP

Women are empowered as decision-makers and leaders, especially in environment and sustainable development arenas.

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Sustainable development policies, plans and practices are gender-responsive.

### GLOBAL GOVERNANCE

Global governance is transparent, accountable and effective.

## WEDO LEADERSHIP: ON PROGRESS IN 2015



WEDO has always been an innovative leader demonstrating the existing linkage among environmental resources, social and economic justice, political participation and women's rights. Ignoring their interdependent relationships will prevent us from building strong and robust democracies in a globalized world. No doubt we have made progress and continue to move forward on today's burning development issues such as climate change. However, we know much more must be done and can be done.

MARCELA TOVAR RESTREPO  
CHAIR, BOARD OF DIRECTORS



The 2030 Agenda addresses climate change, which is already rolling back development gains and exacerbating gender inequalities. We have a climate goal and a threshold for temperature rise, but it is not yet ambitious enough. WEDO will continue to build with all its partners to make change for women and girls, and for the world, to tackle the drivers of climate change and launch a transformation toward energy sources that are not only sustainable but also safe and gender-responsive.

ELEANOR BLOMSTROM,  
PROGRAM DIRECTOR / HEAD OF OFFICE



Our movements are rising, unafraid to speak truth to power, and unwavering in our campaign for climate justice. This is where you can find hope that COP21 and the Paris Agreement will be the turning point for a more just and sustainable world, as we are more determined than ever to push world leaders to keep their promises. We will never give up on our beautiful planet.

BRIDGET BURNS, ADVOCACY AND COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

## WEDO NETWORK

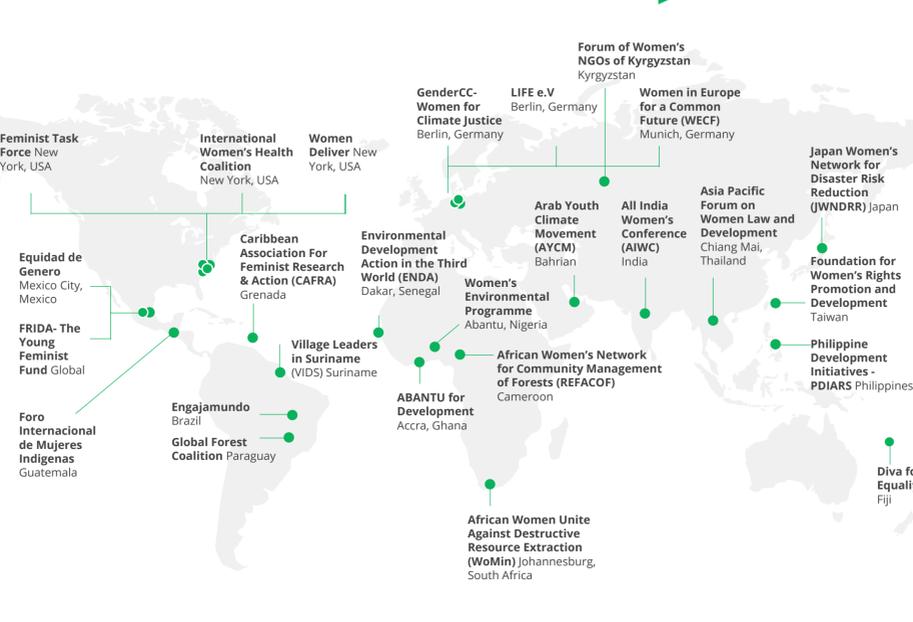
WEDO views strong and diverse partnerships as integral to meeting its goals. It allies with women's organizations; environmental, development and human rights organizations; governments; and intergovernmental organizations, including the United Nations, to achieve its mission.

WEDO has a network of 30,000 plus activists and individuals interested in the women/environment nexus; we coordinate/ play a facilitative role in several alliances bringing together over 800 women's organizations from every region of the world; in the last few years we have provided leadership development via direct training, capacity and logistical support to over 350 women — 90% from the global south and least developed countries, to attend and intervene in international and regional policy spaces & effectively promote women's human rights and environmental justice — and we are continuing to bring all of these initiatives together via movement building and effective campaigning for a peaceful and healthy planet.

In 2015, WEDO built connections and strategic partnerships with hundreds of women's organizations across 8 regions, including some of the key partners mapped below.

Partnership and companionship — walking side by side in a common direction — is a principle WEDO cultivates, a main contribution to what we see as a (necessary) feminist revolution. Strengthening commonalities and celebrating diversity amongst the women's global movement, we sustain each other — because we are among friends.

THAIS CORRAL, WEDO CO-FOUNDER



Working at the nexus of women, environment and development WEDO is a proud member of the following alliances/networks:



In 2015, WEDO also played a facilitative role for two of the major civil society spaces upholding space for women's rights activists to intervene in global and regional political processes:

UNFCCC WOMEN AND GENDER CONSTITUENCY  
Co-Focal Point

WOMEN'S MAJOR GROUP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT  
Organizing Partner

## WEDO PROGRAMS AT A GLANCE



**On Women Mobilizing for Climate Justice**, "We may differ in locations but women share a similar fate, struggle and injustice when it comes to climate change. We need gender equality, human rights and climate justice and the time is NOW!"

MARIA NAILEVU, FIJI  
CLIMATE JUSTICE ADVOCATE



**On the WDF**, "The program has given me confidence to better articulate the inputs that I want to see within adaptation and the rest of the negotiating text. The sleepless nights haven't come to nothing, we were able to get something for the people who are suffering and for the developing communities."

PATIENCE DAMPTHEY, GHANA  
WOMEN DELEGATES FUND (WDF) PARTICIPANT



**On Advocacy**, "Young women and young feminists are in many regards leading the way and engaging in increasingly intersectional and gender-aware forms of advocacy."

MAJANDRA RODRIGUEZ ACHA, PERU  
CLIMATE JUSTICE ACTIVIST & YOUNG FEMINIST

## WEDO KEY PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

**Women's Major Group** — WEDO is one of 8 Organizing Partners of the Women's Major Group (WMG) for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2030, which is made up of over 600 organizations representing thousands of women's and feminist groups and networks working at local, national, regional and international level. As the administrator of funds for the WMG, in 2015 WEDO facilitated the travel of 107 women to attend various monthly government negotiations for Post-2015, as well as the 60th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (FD), the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), and the 21st session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (COP21), where members made linkages to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), led interventions, drafted positions and hosted side events. By region, 24 women were from Latin America & the Caribbean; 26 from Africa; and 39 from Asia and the Pacific Islands. 85% of the funding participants came from the global South.

**Mobilizing Women for Climate Justice Program** — With the support of the Oak Foundation, WEDO has been able to coordinate and facilitate a variety of projects at the nexus of gender equality, human rights and climate justice both in the lead up to COP21 and beyond. The overarching goal of the Mobilizing Women for Climate Justice Program is to shift the narrative and ensure the inclusion of women's political voices in diverse spaces including at the international policy level. 7,000+ individuals joined the Women's Global Call for Climate Justice in 2015; 50 campaign partners pledged actions for climate justice from 25 different countries; 30 women advocates from 8 regions supported to 3 UNFCCC meetings; 7 technical advocacy and media training strategy sessions were held.

**Women Delegates Fund** — Across 20 UNFCCC meetings and a total of 167 trips, through a program entitled the Women Delegates Fund (WDF), WEDO supported 50 female government delegates from the Global South to participate in the UN climate negotiations and provided capacity building, negotiations training and networking opportunities to an additional 250 women delegates to the UNFCCC. In 2015, the WDF supported women from the countries on the map below:



**Changing the Narrative** — In 2015, WEDO worked to reframe the narrative on climate change, namely to ensure women's voices and a women's rights perspective were central to the climate debate. As CNN reported, even though media coverage of climate change has increased significantly, only 15% of those interviewed on climate have been women. Working alongside women activists from around the world, WEDO

pushed to change the coverage. WEDO's initial analyses of media coverage at COP21 indicate over 100 articles, interviews and TV spots that feature advocates of the Women and Gender Constituency, including spots on Amy Goodman's Democracy Now and feature articles in environmental outlets such as Grist. Check out key highlights from our Storyful!

## PUBLICATIONS/ARTICLES/VIDEOS

### HIGHLIGHTS

WEDO's expertise and advocacy were featured in various outlets including *Democracy Now*, *Huffington Post*, *The Guardian*, *Human Rights Watch*, *Marie Claire*, *the Thomson Reuters Foundation*, *Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security*, *The Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)* and the *Forum for Women and Development (FOWD)*.

Gender Equality in the Climate Agreement (Publication)  
Gender-Just Solutions (Publication)  
Roots for the Future: Gender and Climate Change (Publication)  
What Women Want From Paris (Publication)  
Climate finance in Paris: A Reason to Hope? (Article)  
National Climate Commitments Must Include Human Rights and Gender Equality (Article)  
Sustainable Development Goals and Women's Empowerment (Article)

These Women are in Paris To Make Sure Female Voices are Heard During Climate Change Negotiations (Article)  
Why Climate Change Is A Women's Rights Issue (Article)  
Eleanor Blomstrom on France24's the "51 Percent" (Video)  
Press Conference from the Major Group at the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (Video)

## REACH



### WEBSITE:

With a soft launch of WEDO's new website redesign, page views have grown over 269.8% to date.

In 2015, *The Guardian* highlighted WEDO as one of twenty accounts you need to be following on Twitter if you're interested in sustainability issues.

WEDO's Facebook page surpassed 10,000 likes in December, 2015, with our most popular post reaching 50,564 people.

## EVENTS

**25 Advocacy and Capacity Building Skills Trainings** for over 200 grassroots activists  
**30 Awareness Raising / Outreach Events**  
**7 technical advocacy and media training sessions** were conducted for the Women Climate Justice Advocates Project

**FEMINIST FORUM**  
The Women's Major Group hosted a "Feminist Forum" on September 24, 2015 in the lead up to the United Nations Post-2015 Summit. This provided a crucial space for the global women's and feminist movements to join forces and ask what's next? Women's and feminist organizations & women's rights advocates and activists will be crucial actors in making sure the 2030 Agenda will not become a paper tiger.

**GENDER-JUST CLIMATE SOLUTION AWARDS**  
WEDO, as part of The Women and Gender Constituency, co-hosted the official side event on December 12, 2015 at COP21 in Paris, France. The event highlighted a few key 'gender-just' solutions, giving practical technical examples of projects for climate mitigation or adaptation that take into account gender equality and sustainable development. In addition, the side event launched the 'Gender-Just Solutions' publication, highlighting 30 technical, non-technical and transformative solutions for climate action.

**WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP IN CLIMATE DIPLOMACY NETWORKING RECEPTION**  
WEDO, on behalf of the Women Delegates Fund and the Global Gender and Climate Alliance (GGCA), in partnership with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), co-hosted a side event on June 3, 2015 during the Bonn Climate Change Conference (ADP2-9). The reception discussed the progress and gaps in advancing women's leadership in climate change policy making and in international diplomacy more broadly.

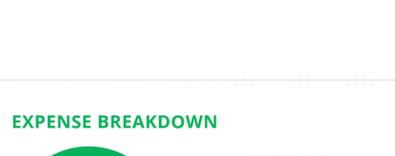
**ART & ACTIVISM**  
As an organized action under the Women's Global Call for Climate Justice campaign, WEDO officially unveiled the six winning poster designs and runners-up in a high-level event in New York City's WeWork Bryant Park on Thursday, November 12, 2015 and launched them online on Friday, November 13, 2015. The international contest garnered more than seventy design submissions from six continents in multiple languages.

## INCOME & EXPENSE BREAKDOWN

JANUARY 1, 2015 - DECEMBER 30, 2015



EXPENSE BREAKDOWN



## 2015 DONORS

- Anonymous
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Finland
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Iceland
- Hewlett Foundation
- Oak Foundation
- United Nations Development Programme
- UN Women
- Women in Europe for a Common Future

## 2015 BOARD OF DIRECTORS & ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- MARCELA TOVAR-RESTREPO, CHAIR
- CARMEN CHIONG, TREASURER
- ANNETTE TJON SIE FAT, BOARD MEMBER
- KATHERINE MCDONALD, BOARD MEMBER
- SAYIDA VANENBURG, BOARD SECRETARY
- JULIAN WALKER, BOARD MEMBER
- SOON-YOUNG YOON, BOARD MEMBER
- MONIQUE ESSÉD FERNANDES, INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE CHAIR
- IRENE DANKELMAN, INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

For more information, visit [wedo.org](http://wedo.org)