



2ND UNIVERSAL ETHICS SUMMIT



2ND WOMEN LEADERS SUMMIT

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DIALOGUE AMONG CIVILIZATIONS CULTURES AND RELIGIONS

November 10, 2010, Seoul, Korea

TO THE ATTENTION OF:

The Group of Twenty (G-20) World Leaders

G20 Women Leaders Declaration

“The Gender Dividend: The Profitability of Investing in Women”

From villages to Board rooms and Governments, investing in women is investing in the future of humanity. Empowering half of the human race provides a benefit that is crucial in meeting the global challenges of our time and for future generations. Should this not be addressed, the adverse cost to humanity and the planet is incalculable.

Our leaders must mark this critical moment with bold and courageous action, embodied by moral principle. By ending the persistent inequalities between men and women, we can reap the double dividend of empowered individuals, and secure and prosperous societies.

Only through inclusive governance, new structures and effective partnerships can women and men together birth a better future. Through investing in women our leaders express their deep commitment to fundamental change and to advancing a culture of peace.

Action Points

- **Our leaders should introduce a globally agreed tax on all financial products transactions as a fundamental reform of the financial system.**
- United Nations Women, the new UN Gender entity, allows our leaders the opportunity to revolutionize the way UN programmes are formulated and delivered in countries, providing greater impact upon women and their families on the ground in member states. Education, health, housing, decent work or the creation of livelihoods and access to financial resources are some basic needs that can be addressed programmatically at the grassroots level. **Our leaders must provide robust financial support and human capital to UN Women, in order for Ms. Michelle Bachelet, in her role as Under-Secretary General and Executive Director, to help accelerate the progress of the world’s women in all areas of life, throughout a woman’s life cycle, thus impacting communities in every country.**
- **Domestically, our leaders must utilize gender sensitive budgeting and the vigorous funding of national machineries and institutional mechanisms relating to gender and development.**
- Gender equality is at the heart of the Millennium Development Goals. Empowering women is a

goal in itself but is also a fundamental mechanism serving to achieve all of the other MDGs. After 10 years of inadequate action **our leaders must now step up their contributions and deliver this funding. Additionally, we urge the appointment of a cabinet level officer to advance them.**

- The nature of war has changed in the past 100 years with ever greater impact on non-combatants, primarily women and children. The military industrial media complex has perpetuated a pervasive cult of violence and the threat of nuclear weapons has not created a more secure world. **Our leaders must actively support disarmament and budgetary reductions in military spending, adding to both effective security policies and to freeing up finances to fund development and environmental and social well-being.**
- To ensure stable societies and economies and avoid future conflicts, **our leaders should design and apply comprehensive education policies for both conflict prevention and resolution and a culture of peace.**
- The absence of women at the peace table and in post conflict development processes has contributed in part to the egregious rape of women, girls and boys. UN Security Council Resolution 1325 recognizes the participation of women at the peace table, in peace negotiation and post conflict development. Subsequent Resolutions concerning the circumstances of children in armed conflict and sexual assault during conflict reflects how the current waging of war has targeted women and children. **We urge our leaders to embrace new styles of leadership and provide funding to enable women to participate in all spheres of influence and decision-making.**
- The many forms and multiple layers of violence against women are persistent obstacles to gender equality. Domestic violence is the most pervasive form which affects women everywhere. **We urge our leaders to ensure that financing for development includes investing in programmes and services to eliminate violence against women in all forms.**
- The traditional work of women – care giving for children, the disabled and the elderly, drawing water, growing and cooking food for their families - is the backbone of society and of social and sustainable development. This unremunerated work is not valued by not being included in GDP-GNP. **We urge our leaders to change the quantification of GDP-GNP to reflect the productivity of the world's women who work in this manner.**
- The global commons – the climate, the waters, the atmosphere, and the forests – the living systems upon which biodiversity and societies depend, are at unprecedented and grave risk. **Our leaders must work together to protect life and reassert the sustainability of the global commons by ensuring that sovereign wealth funds shift a significant portion of their portfolios exclusively to “green” long term investment.**
- Women and children are disproportionately affected by environmental degradation. **Our leaders should learn from time-honored wisdom and experience, imminent in ecosystem sustainability and subsistence production and from emerging technologies, to fund, develop and implement alternative economic paradigms.**
- **We urge our leaders to effectively deliver humanitarian responses to women and children who**

suffer disproportionately in natural disasters.

- Corporations are creations of law and their scope is predetermined. Corporations place too much emphasis on the singular metric of stockholder value and profits, while they have an unrecognized and significant impact upon many stakeholders and the environment. **Our leaders must comprehensively regulate the corporate sector in areas of responsibility and governance.**
- **Our leaders must establish long term investment plans to implement policies integrating ethics of care into economics so that both men and women achieve work and family balance.**
- **We urge our leaders to establish an ongoing high-level working group within the G20 to review, develop and report gender impact assessments of financial policies.**

The Gender Dividend Declaration is endorsed by:

Won Buddhism International

Designed Wisdom, Inc.

East West Association of Sikh Women for World Peace

Franciscans International

International Federation of Women in Legal Careers

Muslim Women's Institute for Research and Development

Religions for Peace

Source of Synergy Foundation

Temple of Understanding

United Religions Initiative

Voices of Peace Choir