**Constribution from Ms. Nicole Ameline (France), Member of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (09 03 2021)**

**Questionnaire on the contribution of development on the enjoyment of human rights**

**I. Please share your views on the contribution of development in promoting and protecting human rights, including its context, concept, and means of implementation.**

1. *Civil and political rights*

Development alone has not proven to have a direct impact on women's civil and political rights. Only a strong political will promote new rights based on the implementation of the CEDAW Convention, universal basis of women's human rights adopted in 1979, aiming at the effectiveness of these rights. Indeed, even if the representation of women in national Parliaments has become a priority, the current figure of 25.5% of women in Parliaments worldwide reflects the slow and still unconsolidated nature of women's role in elections and the role of public institutions.

Women's rights are not yet sufficiently consolidated to withstand crises, and the regression of women's human rights is a global risk all over the world. Yet they remain a sine qua non for sustainable development.

1. *Economic social and cultural rights*

Development projects and programs linked to international public aid and the massive intervention of NGOs in humanitarian action have integrated knowledge, respect and promotion of women's rights in the definition of development objectives. Labor needs have have led to an increasing evolution of the female labour force. However, the systemic absence of a policy of professional equality, regarding equal pay, the segmentation of the labor market and the persistence of stereotypes, keep women in a situation of social and professional inferiority.

Certain modes of resource development and exploitation have had a negative impact on the evolution of women's status, depriving them of their environment (such as extractive activities), resources (such as access to land), financing or training (in science and agriculture).

Access to economic and social rights remains today a challenge for all women around the world and is also an obstacle to sustainable development.

1. *The right to peace, the right to development, environmental rights and digital rights.*

New technologies and the use of digital knowledge are shaping today's world. If women are not fully engaged at all levels of the digital system, the use of algorithms could lead to structural inequality in the conceptualisation of the world as a result of stereotypes and the under-representation of women in this field.

Climate change is another example. Organic food, the sustainable agricultural model, new energies - these are all opportunities for women to take on new responsibilities. However, this progress will not happen without new governance and a new global strategy, based on a clear timetable and indicators, aimed at achieving parity in all areas. The CEDAW Committee has fully integrated this vision in line with the SDGs of a global vision of human rights as a tool and also as a sine qua non for development.

Regarding the right to peace, the CEDAW Convention strongly recalls the place and role of women's rights in sustainable development, crisis and conflict prevention and resolution, and recognises and promotes the links between women's rights and development. More than ever, women’s access to decision-making, responsibility in their homes, states or in cases of forced displacement in the organization and management of refugee camps, must be promoted. The perspective of equality at all stages of crisis resolution must respond to the need to strengthen women's awareness of their rights and their ability to enforce them. Indeed, while women remain the first victims of crisis, conflicts and poverty-related situations, they are now recognised as powerful forces for peace and a key to preventing, managing or resolving these issues. Women’s participation is a known predictor of peace. Statistical analysis of the largest dataset on the status of women in the world today shows that where women are more empowered in multiple spheres of life, countries are less likely to enter to war with their neighbors, to face issues with the international community, or to face crime and violence within their society. The causal direction is not yet clear, but it is evident that gender equality is a better indicator of a state’s peacefulness than other factors like democracy, religion, or GDP. Similarly, gender inequality has been revealed as a predictor of armed conflict in a number of empirical studies, whether measuring conflict between states or within states.

**II. How to ensure that development contributes to promoting and protecting human rights?**

1. *At the international level*

We can ensure this by:

- Strengthening the capacity, action and visibility of the Treaty Bodies and consolidating the reforms undertaken in order to support Member States more effectively. As well as by supporting initiatives undertaken to broaden the impact of the Human Rights Committees in terms of research and resources and exchange of practices (e.g. CEDAW Knowledge Hub project).

- Promoting development assistance and cooperation to strengthen national capacities.

- Establishing 'due diligence' in leading of change and accountability to Treaty Bodies.

- Creating new international thematic partnerships and meetings at the international level on key sectors to accelerate social, economic and political transformation (infrastructure, resource management, digital transition, local development, poverty alleviation).

- Integrating future generations and the mobilisation of civil society in this objective. The Forum for Equality between Generations can be a sustainable instrument for transmitting values and accelerating reforms.

- Involving the private sector on the issue of sustainable change and the promotion of good practices (indicators, CSR, management).

- Innovating and promoting anticipation in sectors of the future such as artificial intelligence, in order to guarantee the fundamental right to equality in this founding field of a new world.

1. *At the national level*

We can ensure this by:

- Promoting priority attention of States Parties on equality as a key factor for sustainable development.

- Impulsing a strong and accelerated consolidation of national legal frameworks with a view to eliminating persistent discrimination and ensuring substantive equality in all sectors of political, social and economic life.

- Strengthening the visibility of the CEDAW Convention and lift reservations to its application.

- Establishment of priority strategies and new mechanisms ensuring the link between strategic choices in terms of development and equality between men and women.

- Promoting the use of temporary special measures able to promote the acceleration of equality.

- Providing initial and ongoing training of public stakeholders.

- Strengthening the responsibilities of HR institutions, public institutions and civil society to lead this major cultural change.

- Allocating budgets adapted to equality as a factor of economic and social transformation.

- Focusing on the sectors of the future, opening up girls' education and training to all sectors of the future, including science, technology and artificial intelligence.

*Through global and regional partnership, civic space and engagement*

We can ensure this by:

- Promoting decentralised governance respectful of equality and committed to the SDGs in the framework of the respect and promotion of women's fundamental rights.

- Consolidating and identifying local budgets serving this dual objective.

- Establishing local plans, developed and implemented on a principle of parity, and based on results objectives.

**III. Please share any concrete examples of best practices of contribution to the enjoyment of human rights.**

- The mobilisation of Parliaments in the consolidation of legal frameworks ensuring the protection and promotion of women's rights (legislative watch, parliamentary structures dedicated to human rights).

- The use of quotas in all areas of public administration and private governance has enabled many countries to accelerate the political transformation of governance for the benefit of democracy and sustainable change. In the absence of a strong political will, development remains uncertain and slow.

- Strengthening the competence of INHRIs in monitoring International Conventions.

- The creation of indicators in the field of artificial intelligence (ex GEEIS / SDG / AI founded by a French non-profit organization - Arborus) is a fundamental anticipation.

- Global awareness campaigns on violence (Me Too) effectively contribute to the fight against stereotypes and discrimination.

- The thematic partnerships envisaged within the framework of the Generation Equality Forum to strengthen social innovation in conjunction with civil society.

**IV. Are there any other aspects relating to the contribution of development to the enjoyment of HR you would recommend for the study to focus on?**

**SDGs integrated into CEDAW action:**

It is not only a question of protecting women from the negative effects of development, but of making their full participation in governance and environmental decisions and strategies at the international, national and local levels, a priority axis of sustainable change.

It is not only a question of responding to current and future prejudices related to climate change or environmental damage to which women are primarily victims, but of building equitable, balanced and sustainable development.

In accordance with the SDGs, the CEDAW Committee immediately from 2015 integrated the 2030 vision and clearly established the link between equality and development by introducing this reference in a systemic way in its dialogues with States and its concluding observations.

The last 5 General Recommendations are very topical with regard to this issue:

- General Recommendation 34 on the rights of rural women

- General Recommendation 35 on gender-based violence against women

- General Recommendation 36 on the rights of girls and women to education

- General Recommendation 37 on gender aspects of risk reduction and natural disasters in the context of climate change

- General Recommendation 38 on girls and women victims of human trafficking in the context of migration

**The urgency reinforced by the Covid-19 crisis:**

The severe impact of the Covid 19 pandemic on women's rights, marked by the sharp increase in violence and social precariousness, shows that despite all the efforts and progress made, the situation of women remains generally precarious. Worldwide, women remain the first victims of crises, conflicts and environmental changes, but at the same time they must be considered as the first forces of change.

This awareness calls for increased commitment and action to ensure equality and significantly change in the status of women. Significantly changing the status of women means responding to the urgent need for post-Covid reconstruction and more broadly to the challenges of our time (migration, climate change, migration, poverty, etc.). It means considering equality as a priority axis of development and making the 2030 decade that of a fairer, more balanced and sustainable world.

**The Cedaw Committee highlighted three principles of action:**

- Principle of extra-territoriality aimed at preventing and combating all forms of discrimination that may be related to State or non-State activities under the jurisdiction of the State Party, inside and outside the national territory.

- Principle of intersectionality based on the interaction of multidimensional discriminations that not only add to each other but amplify their impact on the most vulnerable populations.

- Principle of transversality imposing a systemic and integrated approach to equality in public policies in order to effectively fight against discrimination and ensure the women’s empowerment.