

0.1 (update of 2011 paper)

PSM POSITION PAPER GENDER

- 1) Recognizing the Universal Declaration of **Human Rights** “Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and unalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world.”
- 2) Promote the adoption and implementation of policies by national governments that ensure legal equality for women, including **rights to land and other productive resources; access to financial services, business registration and operation, healthcare, education and employment opportunities.**
- 3) Encourage women’s capacity to organize themselves and foster women leaders. Protect rural women worker’s wages and labour conditions and cultivate their roles as small scale entrepreneurs. Ensure that **women’s leadership and expertise** feed into work on food security such as guidelines and initiatives related to land, investment, and nutrition, particularly for women smallholder farmers.
- 4) Provide access to **proper maternal health services** for women and focus particularly on **nutrition for the first 1000 days** of mother and child. Include improvement of women’s, adolescent girls’ and children’s nutritional status as an explicit goal and expected outcomes of agriculture, food and nutritional security-related programmes, strategies and policies.
- 5) Encourage investors, donors, and governments to focus on supporting women smallholder farmers, including **access to resources such as inputs, irrigation, energy agricultural extension services, grain storage, processing and packaging centres and information.**
- 6) **Education programs** should make specific reference to the needs of women, including rural women. There is a pressing need for literacy, - both traditional and digital - basic math skills, and general education for women in developing countries. Multiple studies have also found women’s education plays a positive role in achieving goals for child schooling and nutrition.
- 7) It is important to have gender sensitive approaches to increase access to **agricultural extension services.** Specific training with mechanisms to manage gender-based biases on access to land, banking, and marketing opportunities are needed to close gaps for rural women and avoid perpetuating long term gender inequities.

- 8) Access to **banking services** that ensure women directly receive payment for their agricultural production. Savings accounts are needed, as is affordable micro-credit, insurance and access to opportunities in the value chain.
- 9) Supporting **co-operatives and other enterprises** that allow smallholder women farmers to aggregate their harvests, negotiate better prices, and introduce value-added processing, package, storage and marketing.
- 10) Educational goals for **orphans and vulnerable children** in developing countries should be assessed at a national level. In many developing countries, agriculture can be the primary means of employment for the vast majority of the population. When the family unit is disrupted, many of these children lose their opportunity to **learn basic farming skills**.