

## SI Where We Stand Statement Sustainable Development

**Soroptimist International** champions the three pillars of sustainable development: economic, social, and environmental. Social equity, gender equality and environmental justice must form the heart of sustainable development. The primary challenges to achieving sustainable development affect women and girls more adversely. Multiple discriminations render women and girls more vulnerable to the volatilities associated with climate change, environmental degradation, natural disasters, and economic hardships. The role of women and girls, particularly through education and leadership, is vital to overcoming these challenges and progressing towards sustainable development. Women and girls must be empowered and enabled to fully and effectively participate in sustainable development policies, programmes, and decision-making.

**Soroptimist International** urges governments to:

- Ratify and implement the Convention on Climate Change, adopted in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, Agenda 21, particularly Chapter 24, and the Rio+20 Agreement, and to work together internationally to realise their aims;
- Implement policies and programmes which recognise the central role of women in sustainable consumption and production;
- Redistribute wealth, resources, and power to tackle gender inequalities and discrimination;
- Adopt the recommendation by the Women’s Major Group to “enact policies that recognize and redistribute the unequal and unfair burdens of women and girls in sustaining societal wellbeing and economies, intensified in times of economic and ecological crises”;
- Ensure that women are involved in decision-making around sustainable development and that all policies include a meaningful gendered perspective;
- Collect sex-disaggregated data to monitor and evaluate the effects of climate change and natural disasters on women and girls;
- Engage with civil society to ensure maximum participation, particularly for women and girls, and support for necessary changes in community behaviour.

**Soroptimist International** will continue to:

- Support the development of safe and sustainable energy solutions that prevent negative impacts on the health of people and of the planet and that do not further deplete existing community resources;
- Work with partners and governments to redistribute amongst different social groups regarding the use of natural and financial resources;
- Encourage economic growth that also achieves social and environmental development;
- Demand the active participation of women and girls in decision making;
- Act as a watchdog for transparency and accountability for all sectors, including governmental, non-governmental, and private;
- Protect of natural resources from short-term exploitation.

**Soroptimist International**

- **Uses education** as the primary tool for achieving sustainable development;
- **Empowers** women and girls to speak out about the inequalities that current development models allow to continue;
- **Enables opportunities** for women and girls to actively participate in setting the sustainable development agenda for the future.

For more information see [www.soroptimistinternational.org](http://www.soroptimistinternational.org)