

WWSF 17 Days of Activism for the Empowerment of Rural Women and their Communities 1-17 October
Rural Women Rise – Claim your Rights to development and peace - an Idea whose time has come.

MANIFESTO 2016

Because 2016 is a new beginning with the adoption of the United Nations **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** for 2030

Because **SDG Goal 5** listed below ensures to 'Achieve Gender Equality and Empower All Women and Girls by 2030'

Because **SDG Target 13** focuses on capacity building to involve women and local communities to reduce climate change

Because 2016 marks **WWSF 25th** anniversary, celebrating its annual empowerment programs, including the **Prize for rural women**, the **17 Days campaign** for rural women to rise and claim their rights, as well as the Swiss **White Ribbon** initiative to end violence against women and girls by 2030

Selected Facts & Figures (UN sources)

- **70%** of the world's poor are women
- **145** out of **195 countries** guarantee equality between women and men in their constitutions as of 2014
- Rural women are roughly **1.6 billion** and represent more than a quarter of the total population
- Rural women represent **two thirds** of all illiterate people
- Worldwide, women and children spend **140 million hours each day** collecting water
- Women are **key** to achieving the UN **Sustainable Development Goals** by 2030

Join the 17 Days Campaign, download the Empowerment Kit for information and ideas for action.
Regularly hold States accountable to their SDG commitments and International Human Rights Laws.

SDG Goal 5 + 13.b (Link: <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>)

- **End all forms of discrimination** against all women and girls everywhere
- **Eliminate all forms of violence** against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation
- **Eliminate all harmful practices**, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation
- **Recognize and value** unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate
- **Ensure women's full and effective participation** and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life
- **Ensure universal access** to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Program of Action of the Intl. Conference on Population and Development, and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences
- **Undertake reforms** to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws
- **Enhance** the use of **enabling technology**, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women
- **Adopt and strengthen** sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels
- **13.b Promote** mechanisms for **raising capacity** for effective **climate change**-related planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing States, including focusing on women, youth & local marginalized communities.

