



**Workshop on a Human Rights Approach to Economic Policy in Agriculture:
Engendering the Kuala Lumpur Guidelines in Response to a Fierce New World**

January 26 & 27, 2011 / Miriam College, Philippines

Background Note

For DAWN, the “fierce new world” that we now live in is an international system of conflicting, fragmented, unequal and ambiguous policies that is replete with threats to gender and economic justice. Unprecedented crises of finance, food and climate change have unleashed simultaneous pressures on governments, citizens, social movements and other stakeholders to innovate on policies. However, as market-based solutions have become more influential in policy decisions, they have also tended to marginalize and exclude equity and fairness concerns and led to growing ambiguity over human rights approaches internationally but also across the economic South.

DAWN had promoted the Kuala Lumpur Guidelines in a recent Expert Meeting on Human Rights Impact Assessments for Trade and Investment Agreements held at the South Centre in Geneva on 23-24 June 2010 and convened by the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food and other groups. In recent years, human rights have gained widespread interest as a policy approach among NGOs, academics, parliamentarians, governments and UN human rights bodies. By engaging with these processes, DAWN will be able to promote gender perspectives in the human rights discourse, methodologies and processes around economic policies.

The three-part Kuala Lumpur Guidelines are designed as a tool to provide basic information and a methodology for use by anyone concerned with ensuring the primacy and centrality of human rights of those affected by trade, investment and finance rules as well as fiscal, monetary and other economic policies related to agriculture. The Kuala Lumpur Guidelines aim to contribute to the further interpretation of international human rights law in relation to the design, implementation and monitoring of economic law and policy as pertaining to agriculture. It was developed by a group of non-governmental organizations under the leadership of the ESCR-Net and the Center of Concern.

Proactively, DAWN will convene a small capacity-building workshop of women and men activists working in the rural areas / agriculture sector in the Asia region for training on the use of the Kuala Lumpur Guidelines. Most of the invited activists in Asia have had joint research and advocacy with two global networks with which DAWN has had ongoing relations, namely, the International Working Group on Trade-Finance Linkages and the Agribusiness Action Initiative. The Southeast Asian Council for Food Security and Fair Trade (Malaysia), one of the groups that participated in the drawing up of the KL Guidelines, is also a key invitee. Quite importantly, the workshop will find ways of strengthening the guidelines by interlinking feminist perspectives of human rights, international law, economics and sustainable development. The workshop will be an opportunity for activists to increase their appreciation of how an engendered human rights approach may be useful in contesting and engaging with economic policies and institutions whose actions affect women and their families and communities as well as the sustainability of the agricultural areas in the Asian region.

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Time	Activity	Resource person/s
January 25, 2011		
(whole day)	Arrival & check-in	
7:30 – 9:00 pm	Welcome Reception	
January 26, 2011		
7:30 - 9:00 am	Breakfast	
9:00 – 9:45	Welcome & Self Introductions	
9:45 – 11:00	Introduction to the Kuala Lumpur Guidelines: Demystifying the Legalistic Language	Aldo Caliani, Center of Concern
11:00 – 11:30	BREAK	
11:30 – 1:00 (pm)	Feminist Perspectives on Human Rights & Economic Policies	Gigi Francisco
1:00 – 2:00 (pm)	LUNCH	
2:00 – 3:30 pm	<p>Panel Presentation & Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation, Transparency & Access to Information (Paras 36-39) • Human Rights Impact Assessment (Para 40) • Progressive Realization & Non Retrogression (Paras 41 – 43) <p><i>Key concerns: What are some specific situations? How are women affected differentially? What can we demand? What are challenges that CSOs encounter in demanding the state to fulfill its duties and obligations? Can the KL Guidelines be a tool to advance gender justice?</i></p>	Participating Groups / Invited Resource Persons
3:30 – 4:00 pm	BREAK	
4:00 – 5:30	<p>Panel Presentation & Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progressive Realization & Non Retrogression (Paras 44 – 47) • Maximum Available Resources (Paras 48 – 49) • Duties of Immediate Implementation (Paras 50 - 51) <p><i>Key concerns: What are some specific situations? How are women affected differentially? What can we demand? What are challenges that CSOs encounter in demanding the state to fulfill its duties and obligations? Can the KL Guidelines be a tool to advance gender justice?</i></p>	Participating Groups / Invited resource Persons
5:30 – 6:00	End of Day Announcements	
Evening	FREE NIGHT	
January 27, 2011		



7:30 - 9:00 am	Breakfast	
9:00 – 9:30	Recap of Previous Day / Clarifications	
9:30 – 11:00	Presentation of the use of the Training Resource How does the methodology of the KL Guidelines work? Where & how can we integrate gender / women’s rights?	Aldo Caliani
11:00- 11:30	BREAK	
11:30 – 1:00 (pm)	Panel on Intergovernmental Organizations & Embassy Representatives <i>How are international organizations respecting human rights and promoting economic and gender rights in their economic mandates? How are countries promoting human rights/ economic and gender rights in their Economic Policy Extraterritorially?</i>	Invited resource persons
1:00 – 2:00	LUNCH	
2:00 – 3:30	Panel on Approaches and mechanisms on human rights in Asia (Para 55) <i>Are economic policies subject to these? How? What (else) can be done? Nationally? Regionally? How can we bring in gender analysis and feminist perspectives?</i>	Legal Experts & Educators HR Activists
3:30 – 4:00	SNACK	
4:00 – 5:30	Plenary Discussion on Use of the KL Guidelines <i>What are possibilities? What are constraints? Can we collaborate on a / some projects? How can we engender further the KL guidelines</i> Can we have some people volunteer to use the training resource?	Participating Groups
5:30 – 7:30	REST	
7:30 – 9:00	Final caption & distribution of Certificate of Participation	
January 28	Departures	