



GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The Women in Global South Alliance (WiGSA) is a cross-continental solidarity network of Indigenous, Afro-descendant, and local community women from Africa, Asia, and Latin America that unites in a shared vision to work together and catalyze changes to existing structural inequalities, historical injustices regarding the recognition of women's tenure and human rights, and advocate for direct access to global funding. WiGSA advocates for women's self-determination rights and the respect of and the full exercise of women's collective and individual rights, including the respect for a dignified life free from violence.



WiGSA's mission is to change the current global structure of donor funding and directly address the vast gap in international financial support currently supporting women's roles in managing resources, achieving global climate and conservation goals, and securing land tenure rights. WiGSA promotes the incorporation of a gender-transformative, gender-specific, women-specific, and intersectional lens into existing global funding

architecture and programming, as well as the scaling up of funding for Indigenous, Afro-descendant, and local community women in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. It brings together voices, views, knowledge, and the diversity of women's rights agendas and their strategies to accelerate systemic changes at local, national, and international levels, including transforming territorial governance by applying women's perspectives.



WiGSA constitutes a collective safe and trustworthy space for women, where Indigenous, Afro-descendant, and local community women can gather, discuss, and collectively co-create intersectional advocacy strategies for the defense of tenure rights over their lands and territories. It also advocates human rights for all from women's perspectives without fear or being prevented by the limitations of sociopolitical hierarchical structures or gender and human power relationships.

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The following principles outline the values that guide WiGSA in its internal relationships, decision-making, planning, and development of joint advocacy. These principles also support WiGSA's positioning when crafting declarations and defining representation of the network in international and national spaces, and in dialogues with governments, allies, and donors.

As a collective space, WiGSA is guided by the central principles of unity, inclusion, respect, equity, equality, solidarity, representation, transparency, and intercultural communication to enable Indigenous, Afro-descendant, and local/traditional/rural women across continents and from a diversity of ethnicities, identities, and countries of origin to work together and advocate for grassroots women's tenure and human rights.

WiGSA believes that when a woman opens a door for advancing women's rights, it is not just for her own benefit but for the well-being of her entire community.



1. UNITY

WiGSA is a unique space that brings together diverse women's voices and organizations, enabling learning and promoting solidarity for collective advocacy for the integral defense of women's collective and individual rights across Africa, Asia, and Latin America. WiGSA is not divided by continent or region, nor does it have separate chapters; WiGSA's strength, innovation, and power lie in its capacity to link women's rights-based agendas, voices, and priorities across continents. It does not intend to replace the role of each organization in its respective continent or country, but rather adds value by being a united cross-continental network. Members interact, act, and make decisions together to promote and defend the rights of Indigenous, Afro-descendant, and local community women.



2. INCLUSION

WiGSA is a safe and trustful space that embraces and welcomes Indigenous, Afro-descendant, and local community women and girls from different ethnicities, identities, education levels, regions, and countries of origin. Members come together to voice their perspectives and collectively craft innovative strategies to advocate direct access to global funding to support women's efforts for the recognition and respect of their tenure rights, lands and territories, traditional knowledge and skills, and human rights. WiGSA is a non-discriminatory network and women's movement that welcomes intersectional perspectives and diverse identities where priorities are shaped collectively, providing equal opportunities for voices to be heard and involved in decision-making.



3. EQUALITY AND EQUITY

WiGSA acknowledges that women across continents experience multidimensional forms of exclusion and discrimination from the wider society and from members of their communities, including from women in positions of power, based on hierarchical sociocultural systems, economic class structures, and political power. Therefore, WiGSA applies **principles of equality** to welcome all Indigenous, Afro-descendant, and local community women regardless of sociocultural, economic, or political status, ethnicity, race, or identity. We all have equal rights, dignity, and respect, coming together on equal footing. Equally, WiGSA applies **principles of equity** for fairness and justice to all women, preventing differentiation, discrimination, and exclusion emerging from hierarchical structures of power. **WiGSA is a safe and trustworthy space, free from social and political disparities that prevent women from expressing their ideas or allow some women to impose their power and prestige on other women.** This principle also applies to resource allocation within WiGSA, which gives equal opportunity to all its members.



4. RESPECT

All women deserve and offer equal respect to one another. WiGSA, as a solidarity network, acknowledges and values each person's innate merits, identity, and dignity. All WiGSA members, both as individuals and as representatives of a collective and their respective organizations, have an equal voice in collective decision-making. WiGSA members are committed to listening to their colleagues' opinions and to being listened to attentively and respectfully, and providing feedback respectfully when opinions differ or disagreements arise.



5. REPRESENTATION AND VOICE

All WiGSA women's voices, perspectives, and representation are equally valued. WiGSA ensures and promotes the inclusion of intergenerational and intersectional voices, as well as the rotation of participation. Representation at various international events and decision-making spaces is assessed based on the opportunity, knowledge, capacity, gaps in voice and perspectives, availability, and commitment to speak on behalf of and for the benefit of WiGSA and the broader women's community. WiGSA does not apply hierarchical considerations, power positioning, social prestige, or status for defining representation and voice.



6. SOLIDARITY

WiGSA, as a solidarity cross-continental network and women's movement, fosters a sense of awareness of shared interests, weaving objectives and resistance strategies while encouraging reciprocity and empathy and strengthening unity and support for one another and the collective. WiGSA helps make visible the struggles of women's organizations in transforming structural systems of violence and exclusion.



7. TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

WiGSA encourages clear, ethical, and accountable processes within the framework of these guiding principles for collective decision-making. Its members are responsible for all collective actions, openly expressing conflicts of interest and avoiding influencing WiGSA to make a decision that favors the representing organization or benefits only an individual. WiGSA is participatory in its decision-making, and members are accountable to each other to ensure good governance.



8. INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION AND AWARENESS

WiGSA acknowledges its multicultural composition, worldviews, and backgrounds. As a result, WiGSA promotes intercultural communication to effectively engage its members, recognizing the diversity of cultures, ethnicities, and languages, the particularities of sociocultural meanings, social practices, cultural boundaries, and ways of communicating and expressing perspectives. Multicultural communication and awareness within WiGSA aims to achieve mutual understanding, respect, and trust, thereby empowering the network to build cohesion, establish common ground, and position itself to influence external actors.

