



WE DO Women's Environment
& Development Organization

For a just world that promotes
and protects human rights,
gender equality and the integrity
of the environment



Across all areas of WEDO's work, women's organizing is key. Women's capacity to act, speak, innovate and lead is a driver for sustainable change—and drives the mission of the organization.

As a global women's advocacy organization, WEDO envisions a just world that promotes and protects human rights, gender equality and the integrity of the environment. Believing that women's empowerment and leadership are key levers of change, the organization mobilizes and facilitates women's participation and perspectives in global, regional and national policy-making spheres—especially for sustainable development and effective global governance.

Mission

To contribute toward its vision for the world, WEDO's mission is to ensure that women's rights; social, economic and environmental justice; and sustainable development principles—as well as the linkages between them—are at the heart of global and national policies, programs and practices.

Approach

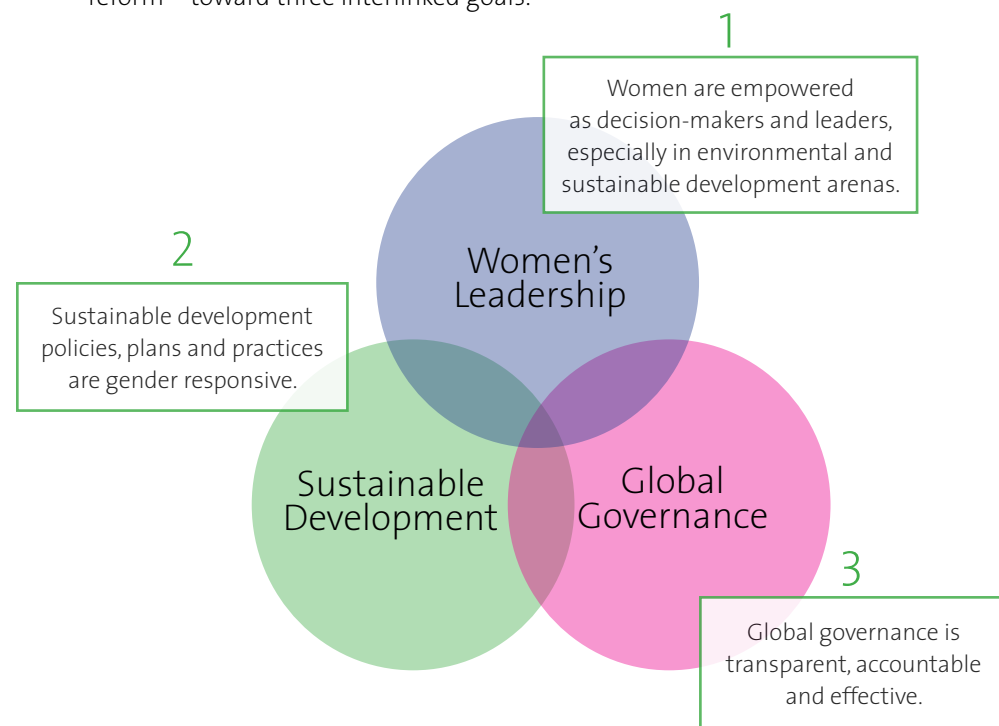
WEDO views strong and diverse partnerships as integral to meeting its goals. It allies with women's organizations; environmental, development and human rights organizations; governments; and intergovernmental organizations, including the United Nations, to achieve its mission. WEDO's core competency has been high-level advocacy in international arenas, while building bridges among a range of stakeholders.

"The strength of WEDO is their willingness to work with a range of activists from different countries. They have a clear vision about women's rights, they are a respected organization and they are good coalition builders."

—Program Partner

Goals

WEDO works on a range of cross-cutting issues—from climate change and natural resource management, to global governance and finance and UN reform—toward three interlinked goals:



Research and raising awareness, fostering and facilitating networks and campaigns, and building capacity and training—with women and women's organizations, gender advocates, government and UN actors, and many others—comprise strategies to meet WEDO's goals. While WEDO works at the international level primarily, it supports regional and national stakeholders, networks and governments to turn policy commitments on gender equality into action—striving to improve the lives of women and men around the world.

A Short History

WEDO was officially founded in 1991, before the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED, also known as the Earth Summit,) in Rio de Janeiro. WEDO's visionaries recognized a major gap in environmental policy-making: women's perspectives were seldom to be found. Given that women's time and labor is so often tied to natural resource management, especially in rural and least developed parts of the world, WEDO determined to bridge the gaps. It promoted women's perspectives from around the globe to influence the UNCED negotiations—helping to secure monumental policy commitments on gender equality and environmental issues.

This was the start of a two-decade history of high-level UN-related advocacy on the nexus of sustainability and women's rights. WEDO was a founding organization of the "women's caucus" at the UN, often chairing preparatory and advocacy sessions, working with and fostering the leadership of women from the global South to fight for gender equality language in negotiating texts as tools for social change at the national level.

This tradition still drives the bulk of WEDO's work, ensuring spaces exist for women's organizing and perspectives in critical sustainable development spheres. Simultaneously, WEDO's work builds on that history to keep challenging itself to achieve even more progress toward equality and justice.

Contact Us

Headquartered in New York, WEDO's international Board of Directors and staff are focused on global-level policy spheres and advocacy, while expanding regional and national staff presence and partners in multiple regions. Contact the WEDO office for more information—and to join with us in our work for a just, equitable and sustainable world.



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