

'Green' Economy Equity at its core

Towards Rio+20

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WECF | Women in Europe for a Common Future
Women International for a Common Future | **WICF**

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UN GA RESOLUTION 64/236



RIO+20

United Nations Conference
on Sustainable Development

- Renewed commitment for Sustainable Development
- A **Green Economy** in the context of sustainable development and **poverty eradication**
- Institutional framework for sustainable development

Female face of Poverty

Living with less than 1 dollar a day

Women

- are 70% of the 1.3 billion poor
- work 2/3 of the world's working hours
- receive only 10 % of the world's income
- own only 1 % of the world's property
- Women receive 32-40 % less than men's wages (in the same position)

FAO explains wage gap by gender discrimination

- Women are largely employed in the agricultural sector (59%).
- 90 % of the wage gap between men and women in developed or developing countries is unexplained:
- in other words, it is attributed to gender discrimination
- Reducing gender discrimination would increase food security

Source: Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) of the UN, (2010), 'Gender dimensions of agricultural and rural employment: Differentiated pathways out of poverty: status, trends and gaps'

Legacy of un-gendered poverty eradication & economic policies

- Development and economic programs and policies have **failed to value** women's contributions
- Economy has conventionally been understood in relation to '**making money**'

Towards valuing the Care Economy

- Work that takes place **outside the market** economy is currently ignored
 - unpaid work in family farms and businesses
 - feeding, caring for and ensuring the well being of families and communities
- = the bedrock of human wellbeing

Changing the care-less economy

- Women do most of the care
 - Poor women have no choice but to bring in money as well as look after their families
 - They have to juggle constantly the demands on their time
 - It narrows their options and pushes them towards work, which is poorly paid and informal
- [Source: ITUC and Rosalind Eyben](#), Institute of Development Studies and former Chair of the [OECD DAC Network on Gender Equality](#)

Women most hurt by crisis

- Women have been more severely affected by the Global Economic and Financial Crises
- the **invisibility** of care means that the reforms to the 'care-less' economy, leave women having to assume greater responsibilities in ensuring their families' well-being, if not survival in times of budget cuts
- **E.g. 70% of UK austerity measures negatively impact women**

Avoiding women's double burden

- Increased women's participation in the productive economy is not possible if these same women need to spend many hours per day to fetch water, gather fuel, grow food for survival, care for children and ill.
- Then we are not doing women a favour. We are increasing their overall burden.

Assure basic livelihood conditions

- For women to take part effectively in the productive economy we need to ensure women's basic livelihood conditions and access to natural resources – food for own use, housing, water, sanitation, energy – these need to be accessible and affordable for women

Experience from the EECCA region



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Protecting Livelihoods from irreversible damage



Central Asia: political transition and environmental risks

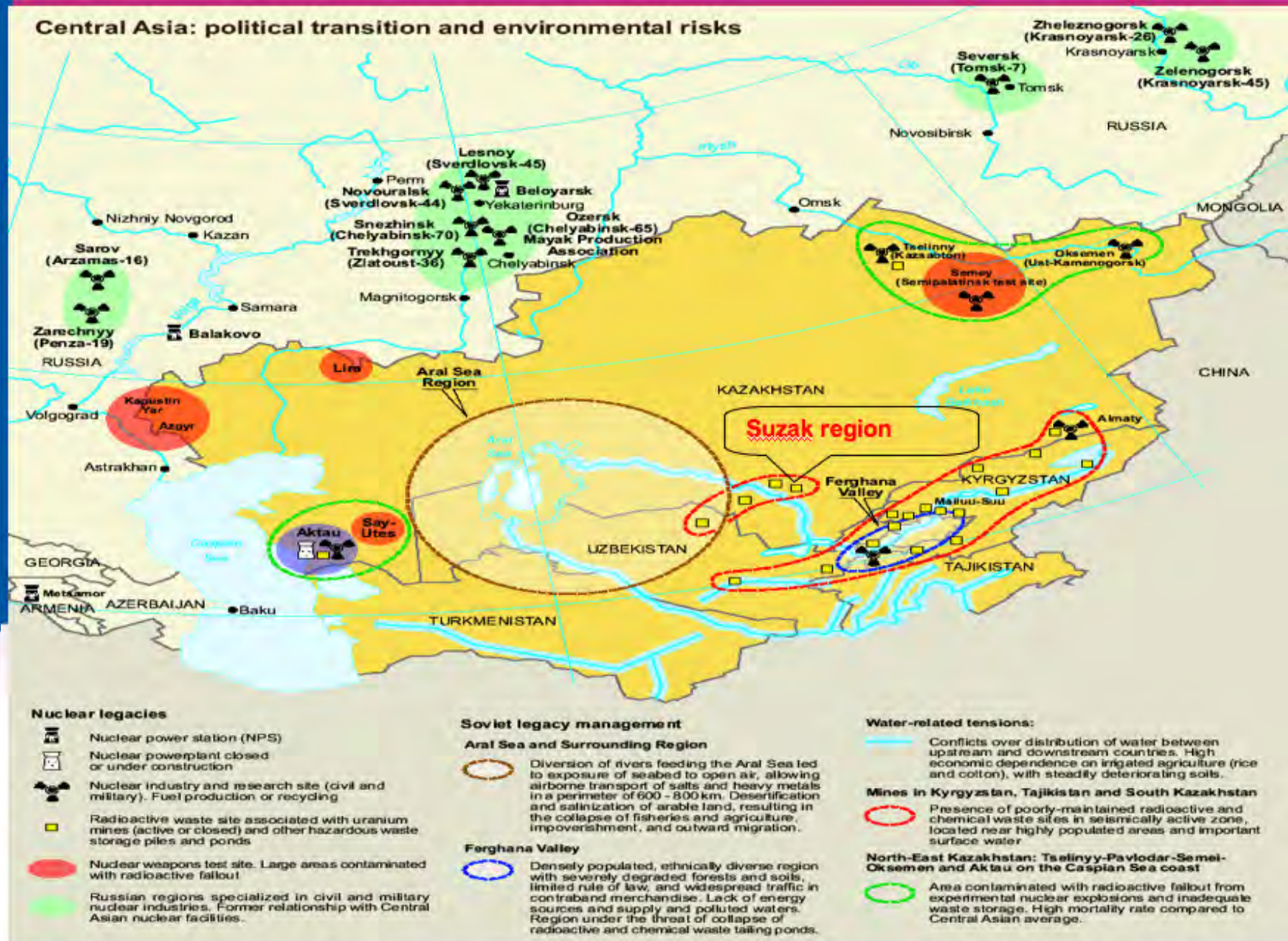
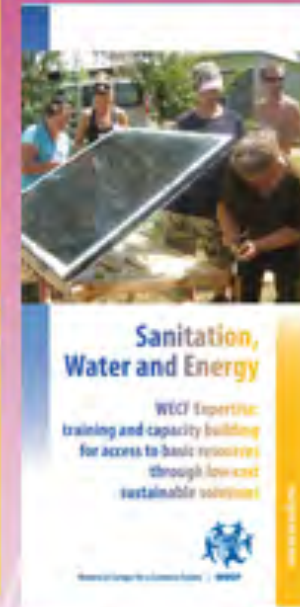


Fig 1. Suzak region in red; region of poorly - maintained radioactive and chemical waste sites in seismically active zone located near highly populated area and important surface water

Women priorities access to sustainable household energy



Trainer of Trainers



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Community Trainings



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Green and Equitable Economy

- The economy should support well-being **for all** within the carrying capacity of the planet
- Currently; most of humanity (women) and the planet are used to produce the wealth **of a few**

Markets needs legal frameworks and incentives to assure equity

- The vulnerable and poor cannot rely on market mechanisms alone
- They need rights to protect their lives and livelihoods
- **A 'green' economic system must promote social equity and gender equity**

Aims for Rio+20 from Gender perspective

- **Social protection floor**

- or right to employment rural women e.g. India
- Social security to women in poor households e.g. Brazil

- **CSR reporting and auditing commitments**

- safe, decent and **healthy jobs** (chemicals, radiation..)
- **Impact** on women and communities at/around production sites (farms, factories, mines)

Making the economic sector work for society and environment

- Abolishing **perverse subsidies** = cheapest way to sustainable development
- Financing social and environmental protection:
 - **Financial Transaction Tax** (tobin)
- Significant share to local community development
 - Learn from good practices

Transparency, Accountability and Redress

- Commitment to implement Rio Principle 10*
- Assure (women's) equal access to timely information, effective public participation and affordable justice

* Examples exist a.o. in UNECE Aarhus Convention, Biosafety Protocol as essential elements of capacity-building, in many national legislations in all regions

Precautionary principle

- Independent **technology assessment** before widescale market introduction, geo-engineering etc
- Full insurance and financial funds for **nuclear and uranium mining** activities (clean up, decommissioning, waste)
- Legally binding global **framework for chemicals (and waste)**

Women Political Empowerment

- MDG aims at 30% women in Parliament
- Currently 16% of ministers are female, 6% of heads of state

Speed up, e.g. via legislation:

40% women in company boards (Norway)

30% women in local councils and national government (India and many others)

Aim at 50% in all decision making posts



Thank You

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