



# Rabat Declaration for Feminist Economic, Social, and Environmental Transformation

**May 2025**  
**Rabat, Morocco**



This declaration emerged from the heart of the Middle East and North Africa, a region with a long history of resistance against colonialism and exploitation. From Palestine to Sudan, from Egypt to Iraq, our peoples have borne enduring struggles against imperialist hegemony and global capitalism.

From this land that has not been defeated despite wars, occupation, and starvation, we raise our voices from Rabat to affirm that the peoples of the South, especially women and marginalized groups, are not merely victims of this system, but also at the forefront of confronting it and formulating radical and just alternatives to it.

The peoples of the Global South are facing profound crises rooted in the economic and political domination of patriarchal, imperialist, colonial capitalism, which perpetuates poverty, discrimination, and environmental dispossession. Women and marginalized groups, in particular, bear the brunt of these crises through increased debt

burdens, austerity, erosion of social services, and an intensifying climate crisis.

We, activists from the Middle East, North Africa, and the Global South, gather in Rabat to declare our commitment to a radical transformation of the global system, grounded in economic, social, and environmental justice, and guided by a democratic feminist vision that centers women and gender-diverse people.

## Our Demands

In an oppressive global economic system, we reject the ongoing capitalist colonial model that plunders our resources, destroys our environment, and deprives us of our rights. We declare our steadfast rejection of the logic of hegemony and affirm that true justice can only be achieved by liberating the economy from the grip of imperialist powers and rebuilding a world order based on sovereignty, solidarity, and gender equality.

We demand systemic transformation and the dismantling of unbalanced power relations and structural barriers that drive and perpetuate injustice, exploitation, the climate crisis, and violence. A commitment to transforming the global economic system, delinking from existing hegemonic models, and rebuilding international relations based on sovereignty, dignity, and justice between countries of the South must encompass:

1. **Sovereignty of the Global South** supported by the **democratization of global economic governance**, and the adoption of **alternative economies** that emphasize sustainability, wellbeing, and justice.
2. The unconditional **cancellation of Global South debts**, recognizing debt as a coercive colonial tool that disproportionately harms women.

3. A **just, progressive, and gender-transformative tax system** that redistributes wealth and ensures the financing of social services, while eliminating regressive taxation that burdens women.
  4. **Unconditional climate finance**, through new grant-based funding that ensures the implementation of feminist, community-led climate solutions.
  5. Placing the occupation of Palestine, the wars ravaging Arab and Southern countries such as Yemen and Sudan, the neo-colonial domination of the Global South, and the demand for collective liberation at the core of the global movement against militarism and violence. Complete **demilitarization**, redirecting spending towards care and welfare, climate action, and justice.
  6. **An end to criminalization of migration**, and full respect of the rights of refugees, migrants, and displaced peoples.
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## 01 Southern sovereignty and a just financial system, grounded in material solidarity and alternative economies

Feminists of the MENA region and Global South demand an alternative feminist global system rooted in gender justice and equality. We reject the illusion of "economic growth" that further destroys the planet and exploits people. Justice cannot be achieved without systemic change and dismantling the hegemony of Western countries over knowledge, power, and global financial institutions. We demand:

- \* Structural and radical change to international financial institutions (IMF, World Bank, WTO)—or replacement with new systems led by the countries of the South.
- \* Reparations for the ecological and historical damage caused by the accumulation of wealth in the Global North built from the exploitation of the lands, bodies, and resources of the people of the Global South and the Middle East and North Africa (MENA).

- \* Adopting alternative development models that are not based on extractivism and exploitation, but on human rights and environmental and social justice.
- \* The provision of transparent and gender-disaggregated data to support informed, just decisions.
- \* Rejecting epistemic imperialism and the intentionally perpetuated dependency on colonial education and research systems that delegitimize and undermine Global South knowledge, expertise, and authority.
- \* Reclaiming feminist and Global South narratives and traditional and indigenous knowledge systems.
- \* Materializing and building a genuine South-South solidarity that goes beyond rhetoric and is based in unity, liberation, and empathy, recognizing the interconnectedness of our struggles and uniting in resistance for our collective liberation.
- \* Feminists, civil society, and all people and elites in the Global North taking responsibility for dismantling the systems of imperialism, militarism, and extractive capitalism their governments perpetuate. Solidarity requires confronting complicity, redistributing resources, and advancing action rooted in accountability and collective liberation, not charity.
- \* Accountability from elite-led and international NGOs and reject their dominance over feminist organizing, decision-making, and civic space in the South, particularly given the shrinking civic space.
- \* Creating a feminist economy that promotes cooperative and localized economies and integrates social and environmental justice. One that is not based on rapacious economic growth, adopts the principles of self-sovereignty over resources such as energy and food, and builds an economy founded on care and justice rather than profit.
- \* An economic democracy with meaningful public participation in decision-making rather than the current monopolization by capitalist elites.

- \* A new social contract based on a healthy, dignified life for all without exception, and adopting new indicators of development that focus on wellbeing and quality of life.
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## **02** Breaking the shackles of debt and financial imperialism

We condemn the debt system as a modern tool of oppression imposed on the countries of the South to drain their wealth, exploit their resources, and cultivate dependency.

- \* We demand complete, immediate, and unconditional debt cancellation for the South, recognizing debt's illegitimate and odious nature rooted in unjust, colonial policies.
  - \* Hold international financial institutions (such as the IMF and the World Bank) accountable for their role in deepening economic and social crises.
  - \* End austerity policies as a colonial tool that undermines basic services and disproportionately harms women and marginalized groups.
  - \* In addition, we call for independent, feminist, people's debt audits.
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## **03** End wealth disparity and finance social services through a just, progressive, and gender-transformative tax system

- \* Progressive and proportional taxation of major wealth and capital accumulation, assets, and income, while abolishing regressive taxes such as the value-added tax (VAT). We reject the current tax system, which protects the rich and increases the suffering of the poor.

- \* Taxation of wealthy, large corporations and the abolition of tax havens that enable the accumulation of wealth among corporations.
  - \* The financing of public services (health, education, transportation, water) through fair tax policies, as these services serve the basis for alleviating the gendered burden of unpaid care work.
  - \* The removal of taxes on essential products, such as reproductive and health products, to ensure accessibility for all.
  - \* Transparency and accountability in tax policy, and make tax data available and disaggregated by gender, age, race, and other relevant demographics.
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## **04** **Climate Justice and Climate Finance—No Green Colonialism!**

We reject the false claims of major industrialized countries that they are "leading the just transition" while they continue to plunder the resources and people of the South. We demand:

- \* The provision of predictable, unconditional, adequate, and new and additional climate finance as obliged by Global North countries to the Global South as a matter of equity, justice, and historical responsibility. We demand a fair, grant-based, independent mechanism that prioritizes adaptation and loss and damage, ensuring transparency, justice, and independence. Climate finance is a right, not a privilege.
- \* Divestment from false solutions such as carbon offsets and market mechanisms that are destructive to local communities.
- \* The centering of women, indigenous peoples, and historically marginalized communities in climate policymaking, as they are the most affected as well as leaders of gender-just climate solutions.

- \* Colonial countries and the Global North to immediately halt the extraction and exploitation of fossil fuels, ensuring that the South can implement a just transition to renewable energy commensurate with their economic and social conditions.
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## **05** Palestine, Sudan and Yemen at the heart of the fight against colonialism and militarization

Economics and climate change cannot be separated from politics, nor justice from liberation. Militarism is the vehicle of imperial capitalism. It perpetuates violence, patriarchy, and resource extraction—and it cannot be reformed, it must be dismantled. We must recognize our collective liberation is deeply interconnected.

- \* We condemn Zionism as a form of settler colonialism, which is destroying both land and people in Palestine. We call for the boycott of the Israeli economy and its supporters, and the end of economic normalization with the apartheid regime.
  - \* We see the struggle against globalization as inseparable from the liberation struggles of Palestine, Sudan, and Yemen as well as those across the world such as Congo. Justice is indivisible. We demand the liberation of Palestine, Sudan, Yemen and all other peoples, communities, and nations across the region and world facing occupation, colonization, and oppression.
  - \* Conflict and violence are tools of plunder and control. We demand demilitarization, centering and investing in care, life, and dignity for all.
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## **06** An end to the criminalization of migration, and full respect of the rights of refugees, migrants, and displaced peoples.

Especially in a time of intensifying climate breakdown, war, and extractivism, mobility is a right, and should not be treated as a threat – especially when the host country is often responsible and accountable for the conditions inducing migration, whether it be economic distress caused and perpetuated by present forms and historical colonialism, war and occupation, or climate impacts.

- ✦ Ensure the freedom of movement and the protection of the rights of refugees, migrants, and displaced peoples.

We urge all progressive, democratic forces and peoples to unite in this global struggle to shape a world rooted in justice and sustainability—liberated from all forms of domination, exploitation, and colonial control.



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May 2025, Rabat, Morocco

## Signatories

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مايو ٢٠٢٥، الرباط، المغرب

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**As of 18 November. More signatories coming**

**اعتباراً من 18 نوفمبر. المزيد من الموقعين قادمون**