



National Rural Women's Coalition (NRWC): Mapping Domestic Priorities and International Commitments

This document maps NRWC's domestic advocacy priorities against international frameworks and commitments on gender equality and women's rights

National Women's Alliances and the Sustainable Development Goals

The empowerment of women and girls, and achieving gender equality, are preconditions for achieving the [17 Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#) set out in the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) to eliminate global poverty and inequality. As the SDGs apply to all countries, Australia is expected to establish national frameworks to achieve these goals and report against progress. The SDGs, and Australia's international commitments to achieve them, present a critical opportunity for the Australian National Women's Alliances to enhance advocacy work and increase impact to advance women's rights and gender equality in Australia.

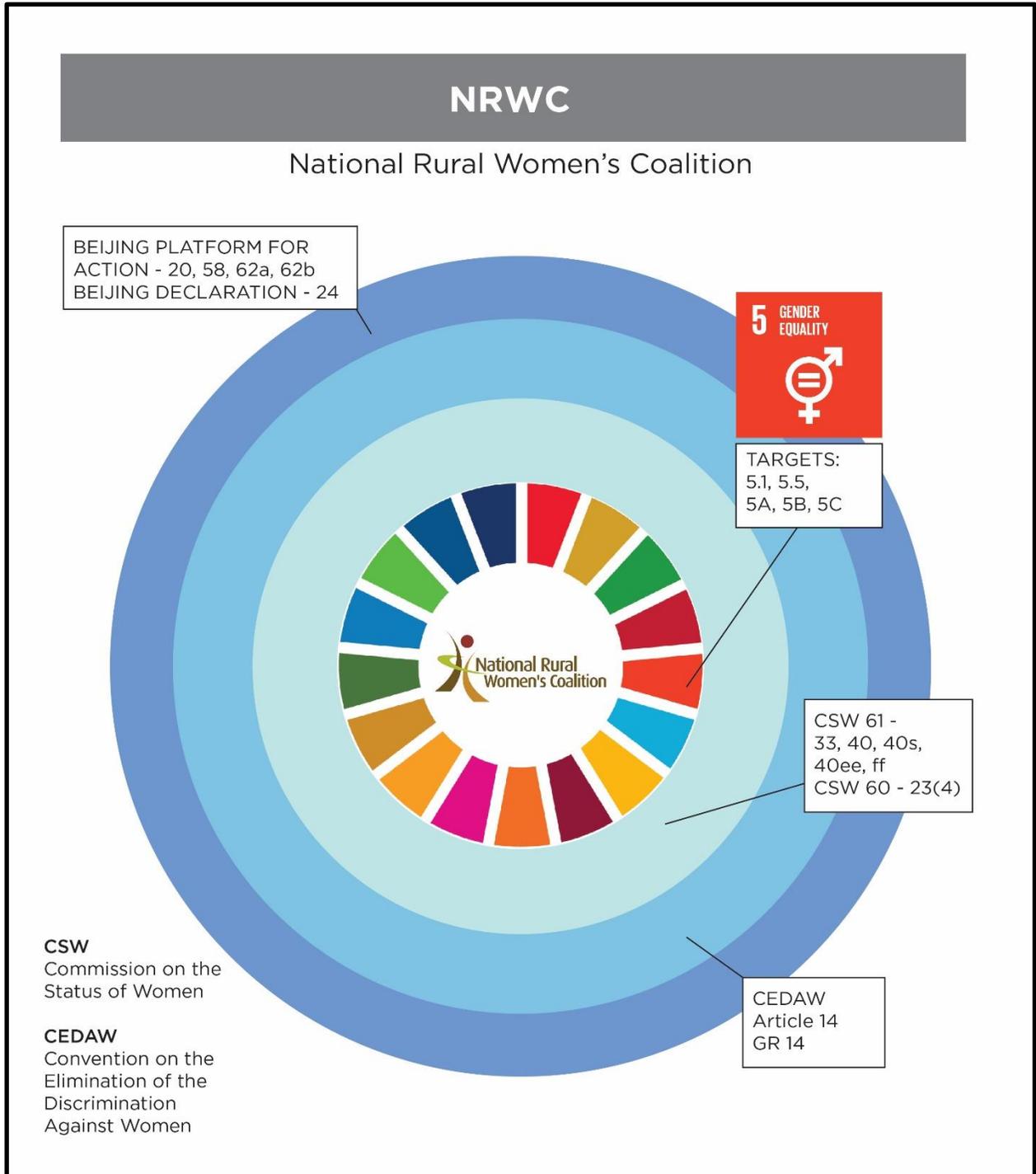
National Rural Women's Coalition (NRWC)

The [National Rural Women's Coalition \(NRWC\)](#) is a national advocacy platform for the voices of women living in rural, regional and remote Australia. The NRWC's wide reaching networks support the growth of vibrant rural, remote and regional Communities throughout Australia through influencing policy and decision-making; building the capacity of women's organisations and for rural, remote and regional women; and delivering innovative leadership and communication strategies and projects.

NRWC's Advocacy Priorities

1. Creating support networks and community engagement programs for the empowerment and increased respect of Rural, Regional and Remote women, ensuring they can meet their physical, mental and social needs.
2. Developing the leadership and decision-making skills and opportunities of and for rural women.
3. Ensuring a 'Rural, Regional and Remote' lens is applied to all policy issues, including access to and affordability of services; acceptance of diversity; education; employment opportunities; food sustainability; gender equality; health; housing; security; and telecommunication and technology.

International Frameworks and Commitments



Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Sustainable Development Goals directly related to NRWC

GOAL 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	
Target	Indicator
5.1 end all forms of discrimination against women and girls <u>everywhere</u>	5.1.1 Whether or not legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex
5.5 Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision making in political, economic and public life	5.5.1 Proportion of seats held by women in (a) national parliaments and (b) local governments 5.5.2 Proportion of women in managerial positions
5.a Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws	5.a.1 (a) Proportion of total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, by sex; and (b) share of women among owners or rights-bearers of agricultural land, by type of tenure. 5.a.2 Proportion of countries where the legal framework (including customary law) guarantees women's equal rights to land ownership and/or control.
5.b Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women	5.b.1 Proportion of individuals who own a mobile telephone, by sex
5.c Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels	5.c.1 Proportion of countries with systems to track and make public allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment

Sustainable Development Goals indirectly related to NRWC

GOAL 2: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	
Target	Indicator
2.3 by 2030 double the agricultural productivity and the incomes of small-scale food producers, particularly women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs,	2.3.2 Average income of small-scale food producers, by sex and indigenous status

knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment	
GOAL 10: Reduce Inequalities within and amongst countries	
Target	Indicator
10.2 by 2030 empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status	10.2.1 Proportion of people living below 50 per cent of median income, by sex, age and persons with disabilities

UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

61th CSW (2017) Agreed Conclusions

33. The Commission recognizes the important role and contribution of rural women and girls to poverty eradication, sustainable development and food security and nutrition, especially in poor and vulnerable households. The Commission also recognizes the importance of the empowerment of rural women and their full, equal and effective participation at all levels of decision-making.

40. The Commission urges governments at all levels and, as appropriate, with the relevant entities of the United Nations system and international and regional organizations, within their respective mandates and bearing in mind national priorities, and invites civil society, the private sector, employer organizations and trade unions, as applicable, to take the following actions:

40.(s) Improve the security and safety of women on the journey to and from work and the security and safety of women and girls on the journey to and from educational facilities through gender-responsive rural development strategies and urban planning and infrastructure, including sustainable, safe, accessible and affordable public transportation systems, street lighting, and separate and adequate sanitation facilities, so as to facilitate women's access to places, products, services and economic opportunities;

(ee) Strengthen and support the contributions of rural women and women farmers to the agricultural sector, food security and nutrition and the economic well-being of their families and communities, and to enhancing agricultural and rural development, including small-scale farming, and ensure that they have equal access to agricultural technologies, through investments and the transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms, and innovation in small-scale agricultural production and distribution, supported by integrated and multisectoral policies that improve productive capacity and incomes and strengthen their resilience, and address the existing gaps in and barriers to trading their agricultural products in local, regional and international markets;

(ff) Support remunerative non-agricultural employment for rural women, by taking measures to improve working conditions, increase access to productive resources, invest in relevant infrastructure, public services and time- and labour-saving technologies, promote rural women's paid employment in the formal economy and address the structural and underlying causes of the difficult conditions faced by rural women;

60th CSW (2016) Agreed Conclusions

Priority theme: The Equal Sharing of responsibilities between women and men

23 u. Recognize the important role and contribution of rural women and girls as well as local communities to food security, poverty eradication, environmental sustainability and sustainable development and commit to supporting their empowerment, and ensure rural women's full, equal and effective participation in society, the economy, and political decision-making;

Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

There are 55 references to rural women in the BJ PFA and the +5 review

Beijing Declaration

26. Promote women's economic independence, including employment, and eradicate the persistent and Beijing Declaration 11 increasing burden of poverty on women by addressing the structural causes of poverty through changes in economic structures, ensuring equal access for all women, including those in rural areas, as vital development agents, to productive resources, opportunities and public services;

Beijing Platform for Action - Chapter II

20...the plight of women living in rural and remote areas deserves special attention given the stagnation of development Platform for Action in such areas. In developing countries, even those in which national indicators have shown improvement, the majority of rural women continue to live in conditions of economic underdevelopment and social marginalization.

Beijing Platform for Action - Chapter IV

Women and Poverty: Strategic objective A.1. Review, adopt and maintain macroeconomic policies and development strategies that address the needs and efforts of women in poverty

58(n) Formulate and implement policies and programmes that enhance the access of women agricultural and fisheries producers (including subsistence farmers and producers, especially in rural areas) to financial, technical, extension and marketing services; provide access to and control of land, appropriate infrastructure and technology in order to increase women's incomes and promote household food security, especially in rural areas and, where appropriate, encourage the development of producer-owned, market-based cooperatives.

Strategic objective A.3.

Provide women with access to savings and credit mechanisms and institutions

62(a) Enhance the access of disadvantaged women, including women entrepreneurs, in rural, remote and urban areas to financial services through strengthening links between the formal banks and intermediary lending organizations, including legislative support, training for women and institutional strengthening for intermediary institutions with a view to mobilizing capital for those institutions and increasing the availability of credit;

62 (b) Encourage links between financial institutions and non-governmental organizations and support innovative lending practices, including those that integrate credit with women's services and training and provide credit facilities to rural women.

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)

CEDAW Article 14

[CEDAW Article 14](#) is the only provision in an international human rights treaty which specifically pertains to rural women. However, all rights under CEDAW apply to rural women, and article 14 must be interpreted in the context of the Convention as a whole. When reporting, States parties should address all articles that have bearing on the enjoyment of rights by rural women and girls. Accordingly, the present GR explores the links between article 14 and other Convention provisions.

Article 14

1. States Parties shall take into account the particular problems faced by rural women and the significant roles which rural women play in the economic survival of their families, including their work in the non-monetized sectors of the economy, and shall take all appropriate measures to ensure the application of the provisions of the present Convention to women in rural areas.
2. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in rural areas in order to ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women that they participate in and benefit from rural development and, in particular, shall ensure to such women the right:
 - (a) To participate in the elaboration and implementation of development planning at all levels;
 - (b) To have access to adequate health care facilities, including information, counselling and services in family planning;
 - (c) To benefit directly from social security programmes;
 - (d) To obtain all types of training and education, formal and non-formal, including that relating to functional literacy, as well as, inter alia, the benefit of all community and extension services, in order to increase their technical proficiency;
 - (e) To organize self-help groups and co-operatives in order to obtain equal access to economic opportunities through employment or self-employment;
 - (f) To participate in all community activities;
 - (g) To have access to agricultural credit and loans, marketing facilities, appropriate technology and equal treatment in land and agrarian reform as well as in land resettlement schemes;
 - (h) To enjoy adequate living conditions, particularly in relation to housing, sanitation, electricity and water supply, transport and communications.

CEDAW General Recommendation 34 on the rights of rural women

As many of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) address the situation of rural women and provide an important opportunity to advance both process and outcome indicators, [CEDAW General Recommendation No. 34 on the rights of rural women](#) specifically intends to guide States parties on the implementation of their obligations with respect to rural women. While the GR focuses on rural women in developing countries, some of its recommendations also pertain to the situation of rural women in developed countries. It is recognized that rural women, even in

developed countries, suffer discrimination and challenges in various areas, including economic empowerment, participation in political and public life, access to services, and labor exploitation of rural migrant women workers.¹

I. Rural women in developed countries

88. Rural women in developed and developing countries often face similar challenges in terms of poverty and exclusion, and may have similar needs in terms of accessible services, social protection, and economic empowerment. As in many developing countries, rural economies in developed countries tend to favour men, and rural development policies in developed countries may also at times pay scant attention to women's needs and rights. Rural women in developed countries (as well as in developing countries) continue to need targeted policies and programmes which promote and guarantee the enjoyment of their rights. Many of the recommendations made in preceding sections will be relevant to the situation of rural women living in developed countries; nonetheless, there are unique issues which merit special attention.

89. For example, many migrant women workers in developed countries are employed in agriculture, and often face serious violations of their human rights, including violence and exploitation, as well as denial of access to services, including health care. Additionally, the move to industrial farming in many developed countries has tended to marginalize small farmers, having a disproportionate impact on rural women. There is a need therefore to facilitate and support alternative and gender-responsive agricultural development programmes which enable small-scale women producers to participate in and benefit from agriculture and rural development. Additionally, while rural communities in developed countries may often be well connected to social services and have access to transportation infrastructure, water, sanitation, technology, education, health care systems, etc., the situation is not equal across all rural communities. In many places such access is noticeably lacking, and women living within these rural communities not only experience deprivation of such rights but also an increased burden of care work as a result. This is particularly true CEDAW/C/GC/34 23 in peripheral or remote rural communities, including indigenous ones, which are isolated and which tend to have higher levels of poverty.

90. States parties should ensure implementation of GR 26 (2008) on women migrant workers, paying special attention to rural women working as seasonal migrant farmworkers in the agricultural sector. They should in this regard ensure legal protection for the rights of rural women migrant workers and access to remedies, protecting both documented and undocumented rural women migrant workers from discrimination or sex-based exploitation and abuse.

91. States parties should facilitate and support alternative and gender-responsive agricultural development programmes which enable small-scale women producers to participate in and benefit from agriculture and rural development. Such programmes should support women-led farms and women as farmers, and promote women's traditional farming practices.

92. States parties should improve the living situation of rural women, particularly indigenous ones, who reside in peripheral regions which tend to be poorer, more isolated, and less connected to social services. They should prioritize the development of these rural communities, engaging local women in the design and implementation of rural development plans.

¹ http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CEDAW/Shared%20Documents/1_Global/INT_CEDAW_GEC_7933_E.pdf