

## REGIONS REFOCUS 2015

### *Fostering Structural Change for Justice*

In 2015 the world's governments will define a global agenda for sustainable development, amidst global trends of rising inequality, declining economic growth rates, and mega public-private partnerships that accelerate the scramble for resources, assets, and markets. **Regions Refocus 2015** confronts this global context by identifying and advancing progressive policies, rooted in regional perspectives, to restructure economic, ecological and social relations towards justice.

An initiative housed at the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, **Regions Refocus 2015** fosters regional and cross-regional policy dialogues between civil society, governments, sub-regional alliances, and the UN. Supporting regionally grounded and feminist understandings of global policy processes, Regions Refocus aims to influence key regional development debates and intergovernmental spaces including the Post-2015 Summit (September 2015) and the Third Conference on Financing for Development (July 2015).

**Regions Refocus 2015** currently encompasses nine workshops addressing regionally-defined policy priorities:

- "Pacific Partnerships on Gender, Climate Change and Sustainable Development," Nadi, Fiji, 9-13 June (Pacific);
- "Addressing Social and Economic Inequalities: The Need for a New Paradigm," Beirut, Lebanon, 14-16 June (Arab States);
- "Infrastructure Development in Africa: High Ambitions, High Risks," Johannesburg, South Africa, 25-26 August (Southern Africa);
- "Hidden Money, Hidden Resources: Financing Development with Transparency," Lima, Peru, 13-16 October (Latin America);
- "Education to Guarantee Rights: For A World of Dignity," Lima, Peru, 26-29 October (Latin America);
- "Africa Mining Vision and ECOWAS Minerals Development Policy," Accra, Ghana, 3-7 November (West Africa);
- "Sexuality Policy for Structural Change," New Delhi, India, 5-7 December (South Asia);
- "Toward a Just Development Architecture: Policy Discussions with European Governments," New York, USA, 9-10 December (Europe);
- "Caribbean Partnerships for Economic Justice and Sustainability," Bridgetown, Barbados, 6-7 January 2015 (Caribbean).

As a contribution to each of these workshops, **Regions Refocus 2015** has compiled a vast resource analyzing government proposals on development priorities articulated in each region, to inform ongoing advocacy and policy processes.

The initial phase of **Regions Refocus 2015** culminates in a cross-regional dialogue and launch of a collaborative publication in New York on 26 January 2015, just as negotiations begin for the Financing for Development and post-2015 processes. This event and publication will present regionally situated experiences and feminist analysis of transformational policies and issues insufficiently addressed in the global arena. It will feature regional perspectives on overcoming global obstacles that impede systemic change.

Political pairings active in **Regions Refocus 2015** include Diverse Voices and Action for Equality, Pacific Youth Council, Secretariat of the Pacific Community, and UN Women; Third World Network-Africa, Economic Community of West African States and the UN Economic Commission for Africa; and Arab NGO Network for Development, the Arab Administrative Development Organization affiliated to the League of Arab States, and the UN Economic and Social Commission for West Asia.

**Regions Refocus 2015** is led by **Anita Nayar**, Director, with **Kathryn Tobin**, Policy Coordinator, **Victoria Cotino**, Program Associate, and **Devin Tellatin**, Program Assistant. **Regions Refocus 2015** is supported by the Ford Foundation and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research.