



## **Ecofeminist transformative analysis of energy in Africa – an exploratory paper**

### ***Terms of Reference***

#### **The leading objective:**

To present an exploratory ecofeminist transformative analysis of energy in Africa to inform the development of the African women-led campaign for energy, food and climate justice and set an agenda for further analysis and research by WoMin and its allies regionally and in leading campaign countries – the DRC, Uganda, Nigeria and South Africa - in 2016 and 2017.

#### **How we will use it:**

We are commissioning this analysis to inform us and assist with the development of the energy, food and climate justice campaign, which has as one of its core and underlying aims supporting the resurgence of a powerful radicalised African women's movement. The energy thrust is critical to the campaign but we are lacking in skills and knowledge in the secretariat and amongst our allies. The women and energy analysis pertaining to the Africa region which has been developed by other organisations seems weak and definitely does not reflect the political perspectives we would wish to cultivate and advance as WoMin. We will therefore need to build our own analysis on energy in Africa from which to build our understanding of energy development in the region and women's role in it. This will guide our future activities of forming alternatives from an eco-feminist and development justice perspective over time. This exploratory paper will be the first of a number of papers linked to the campaign which will follow in 2016 and 2017; the exploratory paper will suggest the themes and issues to be explored more deeply through subsequent papers and will also start to frame a research agenda that might be needed regionally and in each country leading the energy, food and climate justice campaign. The paper will be published as one of a series of analysis on women and energy, and other questions related to the focus of the campaign, in Africa. Some of the papers could be published in collaboration with other organisations, such as Via, RWA, FOEI etc.

#### **The audience and implications for format:**

The main audience is civil society organisations and movements, mainly in Africa, that are working on or mobilising around fossil fuels, environmental and climate justice, and energy. We specifically hope to reach women's rights organisations and movements working on energy or with an interest to work on energy. Our key and priority audience is the community organisations, trade unions, various sectoral movements and solidarity/ support NGOs we are working with in the four countries

that will lead the campaign and the other six countries (Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique, Malawi, Zimbabwe and Ghana) we will be working with more distantly. The paper will need to be written in a very accessible writing style, with a simple glossary of terms. It should be illustrated with appropriate photographic images. We will translate into French and Portuguese in the first quarter of 2016.

### **Our main questions:**

In this 20-30 page exploratory paper we will start to unpack the **question of energy in Africa from a 'structural' or transformative feminist perspective**. The main assumption we make which must guide the writing of the paper is that the average reader know very little about energy and has a weak grasp of core gender concepts. We would like to answer the following key questions through this first exploratory paper:

- What are the basic concepts and ideas for making sense of energy (the basics of energy: course 101 if you like)? What is energy, where does it come from, what is the relationship between energy and society? What are the main forms of access for the majority of communities and women in Africa at this time? What state policies shape women's access to energy in Africa? For example, we recently learned that women in the Vaal in South Africa are given free access to some of the lowest grade coal. Because it is free, women use it and will continue to do so, even if they are made aware of the negative impacts.
- What are the costs (in terms of labour, health etc.) and benefits (of control and affordability) to women of the main sources of energy in Africa now? Here we must introduce some of the key gender concepts for making a gendered analysis of energy.
- What are the major sources of energy *globally* (coal, oil, gas, uranium, hydro, agro fuels etc.) and the key challenges relating to these energy sources, including within this a gendered analysis? Here we will introduce extractivism, inequalities in access, climate change, corruption and so forth.
- What is the trajectory framing the rise of renewables under a capitalist corporate-driven model, including from an African feminist perspective?
- What are the key principles that could frame WoMin's political demands in this area, incorporating the perspectives and needs of the majority of working class and peasant women in Africa?
- What are the questions that would require deeper analysis or research in 2016 and 2017?

### **Deadline:**

We will start the research before the end of October 2015 and will conclude in April 2016.