



THE REMAKING OF SOCIAL CONTRACTS

FEMINISTS IN A FIERCE NEW WORLD

Edited by **GITA SEN** and
MARINA DURANO
for DAWN



About the editor

The remaking of social contracts

Dr Marina Durug was a member of DAWN's Executive Committee from 2008 to 2011, working on gender issues in international trade policy. She was a postdoctoral fellow at the Women's Development Research Centre, University of the Philippines-Diliman, and is now an Associate Professor at the Asian Center at the University of the Philippines-Diliman. She has a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Manchester.

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About DAWN

DEVELOPMENT ALTERNATIVES WITH WOMEN FOR A NEW ERA (DAWN), founded in 1985, is a network of feminist scholars, activists and advocates from the economic South who work for economic and gender justice and sustainable and democratic development. DAWN provides a forum for feminist analyses and advocacy on issues affecting the human rights, livelihoods and development prospects of women, especially poor and marginalised women, in the South. It supports women's mobilisation and building the capacity of young feminists to challenge inequitable power relations at all levels, and to advance feminist alternatives. DAWN draws strength from, and is committed to further empowering women's movements in the South to counter social, economic and political inequality, violence and exclusion.



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About the editors

GITA SEN is Adjunct Professor of Global Health and Population at the Harvard School of Public Health, and was until recently Professor of Public Policy at the Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore. She has been for many years a feminist analyst, activist and advocate on the political economy of globalization, and on sexual and reproductive health and rights. She is a member of DAWN's Executive Committee.

MARINA DURANO was a member of DAWN's Executive Committee from 2008 to 2011, working on gender issues in financing for development, including the examination of gender issues in international trade policies. She was a post-doctoral fellow at the Women's Development Research Centre (KANITA) of the Universiti Sains Malaysia, and is now an Assistant Professor at the Asian Center at the University of the Philippines–Diliman. She has a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Manchester.

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Feminists in a fierce new world

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Foreword

This book addresses some of the critical challenges of the fierce new world that marks the early decades of the twenty-first century. The complex interplay among the economic, ecological, political and social challenges of today have left the world lurching from crisis to crisis. This has had especially harmful consequences for people who are subordinated, oppressed and exploited, and threatens the very survival of our planet. Massive increases in inequality reflect a symbiosis between the extreme and growing wealth of some and deepening risks to the survival and livelihoods of many. The runaway celebration of greed in both North and South is matched by a reckless flouting of ecological boundaries, and rapid growth of militarism and conflict. Such challenges run counter to the deepened commitments to human rights and the upsurge in social movements that we witnessed in the last quarter of the previous century.

In an effort to address these complex issues, the United Nations is in the throes of a process to reach multilateral agreement on a new set of development goals after the time frame of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) ends in 2015. While many key global actors are caught up in the frenzy of negotiating the Post-2015 Development Agenda, it is important for civil society movements not to lose sight of the longer and larger perspective on growth, development and human rights, even as we speak out and advance our political critiques and alternatives in this global process of shaping the future of our earth and its peoples. This book is an attempt to address some of these larger questions. Its approach is based on DAWN's reflections on our thirty years of collective processes of feminist analysis, advocacy, popular resistance and movement building towards creating, together with other civil society allies, strong alternatives that will help move our world out of global gridlock.