



High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development 2017

Achieve Gender Equality and Empower all Women and Girls through the Gender-responsive Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

UN-Women and UN-DESA organized an Expert Group Meeting, on 30 and 31 May 2017 at United Nations Headquarters in New York, on SDG 5 “achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls”, to provide a contribution to the in-depth review of the goal at the 2017 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF). The meeting identified strategies for the effective implementation of SDG 5, and the interlinkages between SDG 5 and other goals.

The following recommendations are based on the discussions of the Expert Group Meeting

1. We emphasize that business as usual – in terms of strategies, policies and funding – towards achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls no longer works. Concerted action and transformative change is needed for the implementation of SDG 5 to realize substantive gender equality - the full enjoyment by women and girls of their human rights in practice - and for the gender-responsive implementation of the entire 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We reiterate that the systematic mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda is crucial.
2. We emphasize the urgency to eliminate all structural barriers to gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, such as discriminatory laws and policies, gender stereotypes and negative social norms, and all forms of violence against women and girls. These barriers also hinder efforts to eradicate poverty and to achieve all the SDGs.
3. We note with concern that the feminization of poverty persists. We stress the mutually reinforcing links between the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and the eradication of poverty, and the opportunities to build on these synergies. We also stress that eradicating poverty requires that women and girls who face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination require targeted attention.
4. We stress the critical importance of ensuring women’s full, equal and effective participation and leadership at all levels, in all areas, and in all efforts aimed at the eradication of poverty and promoting prosperity.
5. We highlight the need for a safe and enabling environment for all civil society actors, including women’s and community-based organizations, feminist groups, women human rights defenders and girls’ and youth-led organizations, so that they can fully contribute to achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, the eradication of poverty and the promotion of prosperity in a changing world.

6. We recognize that investment in women and girls is critical for economic growth and the achievement of all SDGs. In that regard, significantly increased investment to close all resource gaps for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls is needed.
7. We recognize the need for improved and coordinated collection, analysis, dissemination and use of gender statistics and data disaggregated by sex, age, income and other characteristics relevant in national contexts. Better data are needed on the formal and informal economy, inter alia, on women's poverty, income and asset distribution within households, unpaid care work, women's access to, control and ownership of assets and productive resources, and women's participation at all levels of decision-making. More qualitative research and knowledge are also needed.
8. We underscore that achieving all targets of SDG 5 is necessary for realizing the 2030 Agenda in its entirety. We also underscore that all the other SDGs need to be implemented in a gender-responsive manner so that they deliver results for women and girls.
9. Action in concert with all stakeholders in the following areas will accelerate eradication of poverty and the promotion of prosperity in a changing world:
 - (a) Link up the implementation of the 2030 Agenda with existing efforts to comply with international commitments and human rights treaty obligations, such as those under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; anchor all actions and efforts for realizing the SDGs in human rights norms and standards, and prioritize the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at the core of all implementation efforts.
 - (b) Address structural barriers in the implementation of SDG 5 and the gender-responsive implementation of the entire 2030 Agenda, including gender stereotypes and social norms that perpetuate inequality, violence and discrimination against women and girls, through: assessing whether existing domestic laws and policies are discriminatory or based on stereotypes, and revising them accordingly so that they actively contribute to the accelerated gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda; enhancing education for girls and boys, women and men, to address gender stereotypes and expanding awareness raising campaigns to challenge patriarchal norms; and working with opinion leaders, community leaders, traditional leaders, and at the grassroots level for transformative attitudinal and behaviour change.
 - (c) Mainstream a gender perspective in all action to address systemic issues affecting SDGs implementation, including macroeconomic, trade and financial policies, climate change, conflict and militarization, migration, among others.
 - (d) Ensure the full integration of gender equality policies and strategies into national sustainable development frameworks, through: including national gender equality mechanisms as full members in national planning and decision-making processes or bodies with regard to 2030 Agenda implementation; improving structural policy environments to facilitate policy integration and coherence, especially among areas such as labour, economic, infrastructure, trade, fiscal, social protection and gender equality policies; and strengthening capacity of public services/public sector personnel to undertake gender analysis and plan and implement policies that integrate gender perspectives in all SDGs action.

(e) Strengthen the participation of all stakeholders in the implementation of SDG 5, including by strengthening opportunities for women's organizations to participate in and contribute to all processes related to SDG implementation at all levels, particularly at the local level.

(f) Enhance the engagement and accountability of the private sector in its contribution to the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.

(g) Mobilize political will to prioritize existing resources towards policies and programmes that advance gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. In that regard, governments are encouraged to institutionalize a gender-responsive approach to public financial management, including gender-responsive budgeting, tracking across all sectors of public revenue and expenditure, and strengthening financial support for institutions in relation to gender equality and the empowerment of women at the global, regional and national levels.

(h) Strengthen availability and use of gender statistics, including by: strengthening collaboration between national statistical offices, gender equality mechanisms, civil society and the UN system in data collection and methodological development; strengthening the collection of gender statistics and enhancing and complementing quantitative data with qualitative information and research; disaggregating data on the basis of income, sex and age, and other characteristics, paying particular attention to women and girls subject to multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination; and building capacity to analyze and use sex-disaggregated data and gender statistics to inform policy-making across the entire 2030 Agenda.

For further information:

<http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2017/5/announcer--experts-meet-at-the-un-ahead-of-high-level-political-forum>