

**11 session of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals
Statement by Iceland, Liechtenstein and New Zealand on
Gender equality and the empowerment of women**

Mr. Co-chair,

Allow me to express the appreciation of Liechtenstein, New Zealand and my own country, Iceland, for your excellent work on gender equality and women's empowerment in the OWG.

We are encouraged by the recognition you have shown for the importance of gender equality and women's empowerment to be reflected in the framework, in line with our commitments and most recently the outcome of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW).

The CSW called not only for a standalone goal on gender equality and the empowerment of women, but also for gender equality to be integrated through targets and indicators into all goals of the new development framework. In light of this strong recommendation, we ask the Co-Chairs to continue their work in ensuring the systematic integration of gender equality and women's rights across all of the focus areas of the framework.

In addition to suggestions to focus area 5 we have therefore made suggestions for further improving the comprehensive integration of gender equality targets and indicators across the new framework. As it will take about 10 minutes to read out all the suggestions, in the interest of time we will not do so but have a number of copies available here in the room with the delegations of Liechtenstein, New Zealand and Iceland. In addition we have shared these suggestions with the Co-Chairs and hope they can be made available to all Member States.

Finally, Mr. Co-chair,

On the work of the OWG, we cannot but emphasize the importance of a truly inclusive OWG. Some Member States have raised in their statements their wish to limit interventions only to OWG members. We believe this would be counterproductive and limit the very valid and beneficial contribution of non-members and civil society; be contrary to the normal working methods here at the United Nations; and quite frankly call into question the legitimacy of the OWG. We therefore feel obliged to raise the fundamental importance of inclusivity in the OWG for non-members and civil society.

**Working Document for 5 – 9 May Session of Open Working Group
Suggestions by Iceland, Liechtenstein and New Zealand
on Gender equality and empowerment of women**

Focus Area 1

On target e) we suggest the addition at the end of the target: “and ensure equal pay for equal work or work of equal value”.

On target f) we suggest the following additional wording: “including secure AND EQUAL rights to ACCESS, own, CONTROL AND INHERIT land, property and other productive assets and RESOURCES and access to financial services for all women and men”.

Focus Area 3

On target f) we suggest to start: “by 2030”, add “and rights” after health and end with “, information, education and services”.

Focus Area 4

On target f) we suggest the following addition after education for sustainable development: “education on human rights” and after culture’s contribution to sustainable development “and eliminating gender stereotypes”.

On target I) we suggest adding “and an environment free from sexual harassment and violence” after “for all students”.

Focus Area 5

We would like to strengthen the title of this area as follows:
“Empower women and girls and achieve gender equality”.

We strongly support target a) but would like to see of all ages replaced by girls. We also strongly support target b).

On target d) we suggest adding at the end “or work of equal value”.

On target f), we would ask the Co-Chairs to use the CSW wording: “ensure full, equal and effective representation, participation and leadership of women at all levels and in all fields of decision-making in the public and private spheres”.

On target g) we suggest following wording: “by 2030 end harmful practices against women and girls, especially child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation”.

On target h) we suggest following wording: “by 2030 value, reduce and redistribute the burden of unpaid care and household work”. In the interest of streamlining this target could be merged with d).

On target j) we suggest replacing promote with ensure and adding “statistics and sex, age and disability” after gender and before disaggregated and replace “sensitive” before budgeting to “responsive”.

We suggest adding an additional target in this Focus Area on: “Fully engage men and boys in efforts to promote and achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls”

Focus Area 7

We suggest adding an additional target in this Focus Area as:

f) By 2030, ensure that energy policies, governance and decision-making, and the planning, supply and management of sustainable energy solutions involve women in decision-making roles and respond to the needs of women and men, boys and girls, indigenous peoples, the aged and people living with disabilities.

Focus Area 8

We suggest adding an additional target in this area on:

“promote policies that support women’s full and equal participation in the formal economy”

On target k) we suggest adding: “and domestic workers” after “including migrant workers”.

Focus Area 9

On target a) we suggest adding “including policies that actively support closing the gap between women’s and men’s participation” after “enterprise formation with inclusion of SMEs”

Focus Area 10

On target b) we would suggest adding “especially for women and girls” after “safe public spaces” in target f)

Focus Area 11

On target a) we would suggest adding a target to read: “by 2030 include gender responsive policies in all natural resources management, which is inclusive of women and girls’ views and needs and sensitive to women’s role in the value chain”

Alternatively this target could be placed under focus area 5.

Focus Area 12

We suggest adding two additional targets that read:

“Integrate a gender perspective in environmental and climate change policies and strengthen mechanisms and funding to involve women in decision making and be responsive to the needs of women and girls.”

“Ensure gender balance in climate change decision-making bodies and equal access to climate information and technologies”

Focus Area 13

On target c) add “and that benefit both women and men” after small-scale fisheries

Focus Area 14

On target f), we would suggest adding “and decision-making on” before “natural assets and adding “, within societies and among women and men” at the end

Focus Area 15

On target t) we suggest adding: “gender equality” after “including in agriculture, water, energy, health”.

We also suggest adding two additional targets that read:

Under **financing and debt sustainability**:

increase and ensure financial resources and services across all sectors to achieve gender equality, empowerment of women, and the realization and enjoyment of women’s and girls’ human rights

under **strengthened global partnership for sustainable development**:

“ensure women’s full and equal participation in all institutions of global governance”

Focus Area 16

See separate submission from Liechtenstein.

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Focus area 1. Poverty eradication, building shared prosperity and promoting equality

End poverty in all its forms everywhere

- a) eradicate extreme poverty by 2030
- b) reduce the proportion of people living below national poverty lines by 2030
- c) by 2030 implement nationally appropriate social protection measures including floors, with focus on coverage of the most marginalized
- d) build resilience of the poor and reduce by x% deaths and economic losses related to disasters
- e) achieve full and productive employment for all, including women and young people, [and ensure equal pay for equal work or work of equal value](#)
- f) ensure equality of economic opportunity for all women and men, including secure [and equal rights to access, own, control and inherit](#) land, property and other productive assets and [resources and](#) access to financial services for all women and men

Focus area 2. Sustainable agriculture, food security and nutrition

End hunger and improve nutrition for all through sustainable agriculture and improved food systems

- a) all people have access to adequate (safe, affordable, diverse and nutritious) food all year round
- b) end malnutrition in all its forms, notably stunting and wasting in children under five years of age [and maternal malnutrition](#)
- c) by 2030 ensure sustainable food production systems with high yields, and reduce intensity of use of water by at least x%, chemicals by at least y%, and energy by at least z%
- d) by 2030 achieve access to adequate inputs, knowledge, productive resources, financial services and markets for small farmers and fishers, with a particular focus on women and indigenous peoples
- e) reduce the global rate of loss and waste along the food supply chain by 50 percent by 2030
- f) all countries have in place sustainable land-use policies by 2020, and all drought-prone countries develop and implement drought preparedness policies by 2020
- g) achieve climate-smart agriculture that is resilient and adaptable to extreme weather including drought, climate change and natural disasters
- h) achieve by 2030 protection of agricultural biodiversity, including through use of the practices and local knowledge related to agro-biodiversity and diversity of food

Focus area 3. Health and population dynamics

Healthy life at all ages for all

- a) by 2030 reduce the maternal mortality ratio to less than 40 per 100,000 live births, end preventable new-born and child deaths and reduce by x% child and maternal morbidity
- b) by 2030 end the epidemics of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases
- c) reduce by x% the risk of premature mortality from non-communicable diseases (NCDs), injuries and promote mental health with strong focus on prevention
- d) achieve universal health coverage (UHC), including financial risk protection, with particular attention to the most marginalized
- e) by 2030 ensure universal access to affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all,
- f) [by 2030](#) ensure universal access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health [and rights](#) for all, including modern methods of family planning, [information, education and services](#)
- g) decrease by x% the number of deaths and illnesses from indoor and outdoor air pollution and other forms of environmental degradation
- h) Eliminate narcotic drug and substance abuse

Focus area 4. Education and life-long learning

Provide quality education and life-long learning for all

- a) by 2030 ensure universal, free, equitable access to and completion of quality primary and secondary education for all girls and boys, leading to effective learning outcomes
- b) ensure that persons with disabilities have access to inclusive education, skills development and vocational training

- c) by 2030 increase by x% the proportion of children able to access and complete quality pre-primary education
- d) by 2030 achieve universal youth and adult literacy, with particular attention to women and the most marginalized
- e) by 2030 increase by x% the number of young and adult women and men with vocational training, technical, engineering and scientific skills
- f) integrate relevant knowledge and skills in education curricula, including ICT skills, education for sustainable development, [education on human rights](#) and awareness raising on culture's contribution to sustainable development [and eliminating gender stereotypes](#)
- g) all schools to provide safe and healthy learning environment for all students [and an environment free from sexual harassment and violence](#)

Focus area 5. Gender equality and women's empowerment

[Empower women and girls and achieve gender equality](#) ~~Attain gender equality and women's empowerment everywhere~~

- a) by 2030 end all forms of discrimination against women [and girls of all ages](#)
- b) by 2030 end violence against women and girls in all its forms
- c) by 2030 ensure equal access to education at all levels
- d) by 2030 ensure equal employment opportunities for women and equal pay for equal work [or work of equal value](#)
- e) by 2030 ensure equal access to, and control of, assets and resources, including natural resources management
- f) ensure [full, equal and effective representation](#) participation and leadership of women [at all levels and in all fields of](#) decision-making in [the](#) public and private [spheres/institutions](#)
- g) [by 2030 end harmful practices against women and girls, especially child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation](#) ~~by 2030 end child, early and forced marriage~~
- h) by 2030 [value, reduce and redistribute](#) the burden of unpaid care [and household](#) work
- i) by 2030 ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights
- j) promote the availability of gender [statistics and sex- and age, disability](#) disaggregated data to improve gender equality policies, including gender sensitive budgeting
- k) [fully engage men and boys in efforts to promote and achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls](#)

Focus area 6. Water and sanitation

Water and sanitation for a sustainable world

- a) by 2030, provide universal access to safe and affordable drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, especially for women and girls
- b) by 2030, improve wastewater management, recycling and reuse by x%
- c) by 2030, improve water-use efficiency by x% in all sectors, with particular focus on agriculture
- d) implement integrated water resource management, including appropriate trans-boundary co-operation
- e) by 2030, bring fresh water extraction in line with sustainable supply, protect and restore ecosystems, to provide water-related services
- f) by 2030, significantly improve water quality, eliminate pollution and dumping of toxic materials in water bodies, and protect aquifers
- g) invest in water harvesting and storage technologies, and double the rainwater harvested by 2030
- h) decrease by x% mortality and serious injuries, and decrease economic losses caused by water-related disasters, by 2030

Focus area 7. Energy

Ensure access to affordable, sustainable, and reliable modern energy for all

- a) by 2030 ensure universal access to sustainable modern energy services
- b) double the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix by 2030
- c) double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency, including in buildings, industry, agriculture and transport, by 2030
- d) by 2030 increase by x% the share of clean and low- or zero-emission energy technologies, including sustainable biomass and advanced cookstoves

- e) by 2030 phase out fossil fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption
- f) [by 2030, ensure that energy policies, governance and decision-making, and the planning, supply and management of sustainable energy solutions involve women in decision-making roles and respond to the needs of women and men, boys and girls, indigenous peoples, the aged and people living with disabilities.](#)

Focus area 8. Economic growth, employment and infrastructure

Promote sustainable, inclusive and sustained economic growth and decent jobs for all

- a) sustain income growth of the bottom 40% of the income distribution of each country to reduce income inequalities by 2030
- b) achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all who seek employment including for marginalized groups by 2030
- c) halve the number of youth not in employment, education or training by 2020
- d) by 2030 improve by x% the energy and resource productivity of economic activities and reduce by y% their waste and emissions per unit of output
- e) create appropriate climate for SMEs, entrepreneurship and innovation by 2020
- f) [promote policies that support women's full and equal participation in the formal economy](#)
- g) increase the share of high productivity sectors and activities in the economy, and strengthen productive capacities through technological upgrading and greater value addition, with a particular focus on LDCs
- hg) develop sustainable infrastructure accessible to all, with attention to needs of countries in special situations, and by 2030 provide access for 100% of rural populations to basic infrastructure and services
- ih) protect the rights of all workers, including migrant [and domestic](#) workers, in compliance with ILO fundamental rights at work
- ij) end child labour by 2030
- jk) encourage formalization of informal sector activities and employment

Focus area 9. Industrialization and promoting equality among nations

Promote sustainable industrialization and equality among nations

- a) ensure adequate policy space and a conducive policy environment for industrial development, including encouragement of industrial entrepreneurship and enterprise formation with inclusion of SMEs [including policies that actively support closing the gap between women's and men's participation](#)
- b) create decent industrial sector jobs and promote job-rich industrial development
- c) achieve high productivity levels across industrial sectors in all countries
- d) by 2030 increase industrial diversity particularly in developing countries, with a focus on shifting towards higher value-added activities
- e) by 2030, increase by x% the resource-efficiency of industry, reduce by y% harmful chemicals used and waste generated, and decrease by z% the intensity of carbon emissions from the industrial sector
- f) increase by a factor of x the share of environmentally sustainable products and services in GDP
- g) by 2020 implement plans and measures to strengthen the technological capabilities of industrial sectors, including plans to accelerate development and adoption of environmentally sound industrial technologies and processes
- h) by 2030 retrofit x% of existing industries on global level based on energy and resource-efficient technologies and environmentally sound industrial processes

Focus area 10. Sustainable cities and human settlements

Build inclusive, safe and sustainable cities and human settlements

- a) By 2030, ensure universal access to adequate and affordable housing and basic services for all, and eliminate slum-like conditions everywhere
- b) By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport for all, improve road safety and urban air quality
- c) enhance capacities for integrated urban planning and management
- d) by 2030, reduce the ecological footprints of cities by x%
- e) by 2020, increase by x% the number of cities adopting and implementing policies and plans towards resilience and adaptation to climate change and natural disasters

- f) by 2030 enhance social cohesion and personal security, and ensure universal access to inclusive and safe public spaces, [especially for women and girls](#)
- g) by 2030 ensure that all cities are accessible and offer opportunities to persons with disabilities
- h) protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage

Focus area 11. Sustainable Consumption and Production

Promote sustainable consumption and production patterns

- a) by 2030 [include gender responsive policies in all achieve sustainable natural resources management, and use of natural resources which is inclusive of women and girls' views and needs and sensitive to women's role in the value chain](#)
- b) by 2030 reduce waste by x% through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse
- c) improve the resource productivity of economic activities by x%, including through sustainable supply chains by 2030
- d) by 2030 redouble efforts to raise awareness for creating a culture of sufficiency and sustainable lifestyles, including sustainability information on products and services
- e) by 2020, encourage economic incentives that promote sustainable consumption and production patterns including through a product life-cycle approach
- f) by 2030 increase by x percentage points the share of companies reporting on corporate social and environmental responsibility, including integrated reporting
- g) by 2030, all financial sector actors incorporate sustainable development principles in their business practices
- h) create incentives for sustainable tourism

Focus area 12. Climate change

Take urgent and significant action to mitigate and adapt to climate change

Build a climate change goal based on the outcome of COP21 of the UNFCCC

- a) hold the increase in global average temperature below an x°C rise in accordance with international agreements
- b) build resilience and adaptive capacity to climate induced hazards in all vulnerable countries
- c) integrate climate adaptation and emissions reductions into development plans and poverty reduction strategies
- d) introduce instruments and incentives for investments in low-carbon solutions in infrastructure, industry and other sectors
- e) [integrate a gender perspective in environmental and climate change policies, strengthen mechanisms and funding involve women in decision making and be responsive to the needs of women and girls.](#)
- fe) improve education and awareness raising on climate change
- g) [ensure gender balance in climate change decision-making bodies and equal access to climate information and technologies](#)

Focus area 13. Conservation and sustainable use of marine resources, oceans and seas

Take urgent and significant actions for the conservation and sustainable use of marine resources, oceans and seas

- a) by 2030, prevent, control and reduce by x% marine pollution and marine disposal of waste and tailings, including from land-based activities
- b) by 2030, restore and protect marine ecosystems from destruction, including by halting and preventing ocean acidification
- c) by 2030, regulate harvesting to restore fish stocks to ecologically safe levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield, and support sustainable small-scale fisheries [and that benefit both women and men](#)
- d) develop and ensure the full implementation of existing regional and international regimes governing oceans and seas, including for resources in areas beyond national jurisdictions
- e) by 2020, eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and destructive fishing practices
- f) establish Marine Protected Areas, consistent with international law
- g) by 2030, eliminate fishing subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing

Focus area 14. Ecosystems and biodiversity

Protect and restore terrestrial ecosystems and halt all biodiversity loss

- a) by 2020 halt the loss of all biodiversity, including habitats, and protect threatened species
- b) by 2020 ensure conservation and sustainable use of ecosystems, including through restoration of degraded critical ecosystems
- c) maintain genetic diversity of both farmed species and their wild relatives
- d) by 2030, ensure sustainable management of all forests and mountain ecosystems, halting deforestation and increasing reforestation by x%
- e) by 2030, achieve a land degradation neutral world
- f) ensure fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from [and decision-making on](#) natural assets, including genetic resources, [within societies and among women and men](#)
- g) end poaching and trafficking of endangered species
- h) by 2030, eliminate invasive alien species
- i) ensure inclusion of indigenous and local communities in decision making, and promote traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples

Focus area 15. Means of implementation/Global partnership for sustainable development

Strengthen global partnership for sustainable development

Means of implementation

Trade:

- a) promote open, rules-based, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading and financial systems, including complying with the agricultural mandate of the WTO Doha Round
- b) provide greater duty-free and quota-free market access to least developed countries in keeping with World Trade Organization decisions
- c) improve market access for agricultural and industrial exports of developing countries, especially Least Developed Countries, and at least double the share of LDCs' exports in global exports by 2020

Technology transfer, technological capabilities:

- d) enhance regional and international cooperation for science, technology, and innovation and solutions-oriented research, and enhance knowledge sharing, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation
- e) promote transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies to developing countries
- f) fully operationalize the Technology Bank and STI Capacity Building Mechanism for LDCs
- g) strengthen institutions and build capacities in developing countries to undertake research, development and adaptation of technologies, including clean and environmentally sound technologies
- h) support fully research and development of vaccines and medicines for the common diseases of developing countries, notably LDCs

Financing and debt sustainability:

- i) full implementation by developed countries of ODA commitments on an agreed timetable based on agreed principles
- j) mobilize additional financial resources from multiple sources, including reducing the cost of remittances
- k) encourage long-term private foreign investment and inclusive finance
- l) ensure adequate financial resources for investments in sustainable development
- m) ensure debt sustainability and debt relief
- n) promote inclusive, participatory decision-making at both national and international levels, including the conclusion of reforms for increasing effective participation of developing countries in international financial institutions
- o) [increase and ensure financial resources and services across all sectors to achieve gender equality, empowerment of women, and the realization and enjoyment of women's and girls' human rights](#)

- | [p\)](#) strengthen domestic resource mobilization, including by improving tax collection and the efficiency of public spending, reducing tax evasion and avoidance, improving stolen asset recovery, and strengthening systems to harness domestic savings for investment
- | [qp\)](#) promote sustainable public procurement, including through national targets

Capacity building:

- q) expand by x% globally the number of scholarships for students from LDCs to enroll in higher education programmes in developed countries and other developing countries, with focus on science, engineering and management
- r) substantially strengthen capacities for sustainable development data collection and analysis with a focus on generating disaggregated, timely and high-quality data
- s) countries progressively introduce expanded measures of progress beyond GDP into national accounting, with supportive statistical capacity building in developing countries
- t) develop and implement capacity building programmes in developing countries, especially LDCs, in support of the national plans implementing sustainable development goals, including in agriculture, water, energy, [gender equality](#), health as well as in disaster prevention and reduction capacity and sustainable natural resources management

Strengthened global partnership for sustainable development:

- u) engage all stakeholders in implementation of the SDGs, including through effective, innovative and accountable partnerships in cooperation with governments that mobilize financial resources, develop and disseminate technologies and provide technical expertise
- v) [ensure women's full and equal participation in all institutions of global governance](#)
- | [w\)](#) regular monitoring and reporting of progress on SDGs within a shared accountability framework, including means of implementation, the global partnership among Member States and multi-stakeholder initiatives and partnerships

Focus area 16. Peaceful and inclusive societies, rule of law and capable institutions

Peaceful and inclusive societies, rule of law and capable institutions

Creating peaceful and inclusive societies:

- a) by 2030 reduce by x% crime, violence and exploitation especially of children and women including by reducing organized crime and human trafficking
- b) by 2030 eliminate discriminatory laws, policies and practices, empower marginalized groups, in the social, political and economic fields
- c) by 2030 establish inclusive, participatory decision-making, including at local governments, taking into consideration the interests of future generations d) by 2020 provide information and education on a culture of non-violence
- e) by 2030 implement planned and managed migration policies

Rule of law, capable institutions:

- a) by 2030 develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels
- b) by 2030 provide equal access to independent and responsive justice systems including related to property and tenure rights, employment, business, taxation, trade and finance
- c) by 2020 provide public services for all, including legal identity
- d) improve access to information on public finance management, public procurement and on the implementation of national development plans
- e) by 2030 decrease by x% corruption in all its forms and illicit financial flows
- f) remove unnecessary restrictions of freedom of media, association and speech