



**Commission on the Status of Women
Fifty-ninth session**

Managing the transition from Millennium Development Goals to Sustainable Development Goals: Lessons learned for gender equality from the Millennium Development Goals and galvanizing transformative change.

PANEL DISCUSSION

by

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3.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m.**

*The views expressed in this paper are those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the United Nations.

Distinguished Chair, Moderator, panellists, state representatives, civil society and social movement colleagues, and friends.

These simultaneous, layered and overlapping multilateral processes present significant navigation challenges for governments, women-led civil society, development agencies, UNWomen and the UN as a whole. So this panel provides a necessary moment to discuss how to ensure strongest and most substantive gender equality and women's human rights focused outcomes into the post2015 development agenda, including lessons learned from the Millennium Development Goals, Open Working Group and other processes.

First, any global development agreement must be consistent with long-agreed gender equality and women's human rights agreements, and be clearly human rights framed.

Secondly, the UNFCCC COP21 later this year must come up with congruent binding and ambitious mitigation targets, DRR and adaptation measures (including social adaptation focus) and address loss and damage. No gender just and sustainable development is possible without a climate just world, as is already plain to see.

Third, while being universal, the SDGs must address regional contextual realities, and directly speak to structural barriers against recognition and fulfilment of gender equality and women's human rights. Upcoming indicator work must reflect this.

Just to use my region, the Pacific, as an example, there are still epidemic proportions of sexual and gender based violence, and some of the lowest global rates of formal representation of women in national legislature, at around 5 percent. There are also still 9 Pacific countries that criminalise homosexuality, despite recent positive progress. Also consistently insufficient resourcing of Women's machineries and gender and development initiatives, and a need to deepen women-led and diverse CSO engagement in national and regional intergovernmental processes. All of this is recognised and already being progressively addressed now by governments, CROP agencies, CSOs and more. But what is needed now, is that as well as measuring national compliance with international agreements, these upcoming Pacific SDG goals, targets and indicators drawn down through RPPA and other mechanisms, must measure specific progress against key regional structural, political, economic, social and other barriers for Pacific women and girls of all ages, in all their diversity. This is also acknowledged in paragraph 77h of the S.A.M.O.A Pathway outcome document.

Fourth, Imperatives such as human rights, gender equality and empowerment, women, peace and

security, health, education, climate change, healthy oceans and environmental sustainability are articulated in the 17 proposed SDG goals. While present in goals and targets, a transparent, participative and human rights based indicator development process is required to ensure cross-measurement of gender equality and women's human rights across the SDGs - there can be no piecemeal options. Therefore cautioning that the upcoming indicator development process must not be shaped by perceived time constraints but toward best results for all countries and reflective of special circumstances.

Fifth, as just articulated by Regions Refocus 2015, TWN and DAWN, we need to also pay careful attention to the quality of the intergovernmental negotiated outcome through to July 2015 in Addis Ababa, on financing for development through public and private means, and through domestic and international policies and programs. This is a wider and defined process, but strongest FFD outcomes must also be reflected in the p2015 Development agenda. In FFD, as in the post2015DA, we must defend the right to development as central to women's human rights and vice versa; through the guiding principle of common but differentiated responsibilities (CBDR) as contained in the Rio Principles of 1992, and the need for means of implementation (MOI) that reflect such principles. Such MOI consists of both financial resources including new and untied aid, and concessional lending, and non-financial measures including technology transfer and capacity building, and also addressing international systemic issues of unfair finance and trade.

Sixth, while there is now textual agreement on universality and non-retrogression of human rights over time, we cannot settle for any reductive goals, targets and indicators that do not articulate changes needed to address the failure of the current development model.

In moving from the MDGs to the SDGs, the Post 2015 Development Agenda must focus on full gender equality and women's human rights and the right to development, reflected in the following ways, in process and in substance toward:

- Gendered multidimensional poverty indicators including intersectional and interlinkage frames;
- Attention to ending intersecting violence, discrimination and invisibility of certain groups of women, including lesbians, bisexual, trans women and gender-non-conforming people, sex workers, and many others- requiring specific desegregated indicators on legal status and protection, levels of violence and discrimination, and progress toward realisation of universal human rights.
- Women with disabilities also suffer high levels of intersectional discrimination and marginalisation. So

the SDGs must also measure the extent of ratification of CEDAW and CRPD and respective Optional Protocols; and ensure that CRPD Article 6, Women with Disabilities and CRPD Article 7, Children with disabilities and other CRPD Articles containing gender equity measures are prioritised;

-We must also measure the extent of protection of multilateralism and of the role of women-led civil society within the CSW and wider UN system;

-Also the extent to which we can address and rein in fundamentalisms regressing long and widely agreed women's human rights, and the extent of increased regulation of transnational corporations and IFIs to lessen their negative impact on development and human rights agendas, so that States have sufficient fiscal policy space to implement gender just, progressive development options.

Overall,

Why do we measure at all, and better than before? To know whether, and how many women and girls throughout their life cycle, and in all their diversities, are able to live healthily, safely, securely, in equality with others, and in full recognition and fulfilment of all their human rights.

The SDGs must also therefore measure progress toward a new fairer system of global production, consumption and re-distribution; and adherence to a global ecological sustainability and reparative plan reflecting the scale, scope and urgent realities of already stretched planetary boundaries and loss and damage already experienced and coming, from climate change. This too is a gender equality and human rights imperative.

This work requires both incremental change and transformative shifts, from the MDGs to the SDGs, and beyond. Those of you in this room with the evidence and information know that nothing less will suffice.

Thank you for your time Distinguished Chair, fellow speakers, state delegates and friends. I also look forward to our shared discussions for the rest of this important session.