

DRAFT CONCEPT NOTE (24 January)

Tackling global challenges to equality and inclusion through the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Expert Group Meeting

1. Introduction and Objectives

The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Secretariat will organize an Expert Group Meeting on the gender perspectives of Sustainable Development Goals 10, 13 and 16, as a contribution to the 2019 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF). The HLPF provides political leadership, guidance and recommendations on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It addresses new and emerging challenges, promotes the science-policy interface and enhances the integration of economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. The Forum also plays a central role in overseeing the network of follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level.

On 9 – 18 July 2019, the HLPF, under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, will consider the theme “Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality”. The HLPF will conduct an in-depth review of progress made, challenges and lessons learned in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development for the following set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

- [Goal 4](#). Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
- [Goal 8](#). Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
- [Goal 10](#). Reduce inequality within and among countries
- [Goal 13](#). Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
- [Goal 16](#). Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
- [Goal 17](#). Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

The theme of the 2019 HLPF invites deeper examination into the ways in which gender inequality and discrimination against women and girls in law and practice prevent the full realization of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs under consideration. As more gender-sensitive data and evidence is available on Goals 4 and 8,¹ the Expert Group Meeting (EGM) will focus on SDGs 10, 13 and 16. Their full realization in the face of current global trends and complex challenges carries specific urgency taking into account the commitment to leaving no one behind. The EGM seeks to assess progress on these SDGs, consider their interlinkages from a gender perspective, and demonstrate how strategies and approaches to addressing

¹ Some resources include: Higher Education Sustainability Initiative (HESI), Incheon Declaration and Framework for Action; CSW61 agreed conclusions on women’s economic development; ILO-Gallup Report, 2017, “Towards a better future for women and work: Voices of women and men”).

inequalities, tackling climate change and fostering peaceful, just and inclusive societies are made more impactful and effective by pursuing gender equality as a core consideration in implementation. This requires consistent attention to issues such as gender analysis, women's full, equal and meaningful participation in decision-making, particularly with regards to accountability of institutions, data disaggregation and gender-responsive planning and budgeting. Understanding how the SDGs are interlinked can make for better policies and more effective action to attain sustainable development results. The EGM provides an opportunity to discuss the latest evidence, good practices, implementation challenges, research and data gaps to strengthen the integration of a gender perspective in policies and programmes at all levels.

The EGM will develop a set of actionable recommendations to support the achievement of sustainable and resilient societies through the accelerated and gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda. EGM participants are expected to provide catalytic, evidence-based recommendations to inform the HLPF, as well as related and upcoming policy events and priorities, including UN priorities on conflict prevention, on sustaining peace, and on climate action, and guide implementation of the SDGs at the national level. The recommendations will be submitted to the HLPF as a contribution to the HLPF's role to provide political leadership, guidance and recommendations for follow-up to the 2030 Agenda. UN Women, in collaboration with co-organizers, will prepare a report on the EGM containing a summary of the discussions and the recommendations.

2. Profile of Participants

Participation will be at the technical/expert level and include representatives of Member States, United Nations entities, academia, civil society organizations and other stakeholders.

3. Date and Location

The EGM will be held on 27-28 February 2019, in Vienna, Austria.

4. Organization and Preparations

The EGM will take place over the course of two days and will include focused discussion on the gender perspectives of SDGs 10, 13, and 16, and possible interlinkages with other SDGs, through plenary and working group sessions. Each session will be framed by a short expert presentation, followed by interactive dialogue among experts. Time will also be allocated to discuss financing the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda, multi-stakeholder partnerships and gender statistics.

In preparation for the EGM, a background note will be shared with guiding questions and relevant resources to support the discussions. Each presenting expert will be invited to prepare a short contribution, share findings of new or existing research, new mappings or good practice and lessons learned from different case studies, as well as key policy recommendations. Rapporteurs will be identified at the beginning of the meeting to support the Secretariat team in consolidating key recommendations, for review and finalization in plenary.

Background Note and Guiding Questions

Since 2015, impressive efforts have been made to translate the promise of the 2030 Agenda into tangible results at the national level. However, this work has taken place in the context of global developments that stand in stark opposition to global commitments and goals.

Over the past 25 years, the average daily income of the world's poorest 20 per cent has risen by a significantly smaller margin [\$0.79] than that of the other 80 per cent [\$8.91]. If current trends continue, estimates suggest that the richest one per cent will control nearly 66 per cent of the world's wealth by 2030.² According to the World Bank, two billion people are affected by fragility, conflict and violence.³ The resurgence of violent conflict in recent years has caused immense human suffering, at enormous social and economic cost. In 2018, more countries were experiencing some form of violent conflict than at any time in the previous 30 years,⁴ and for the fifth year in a row, wars, violence and persecution drove forced displacement worldwide to a new high: 68.5 million people were displaced at the end of 2017.⁵ In 2018, approximately 136 million people were in need of humanitarian assistance and protection, including an estimated 34 million women of reproductive age.⁶ Climate change has become an urgent challenge. From shifting weather patterns that threaten food production, to rising sea levels that increase the risk of catastrophic flooding, the impacts of climate change are global in scope and unprecedented in scale. In addition, austerity policies and a shift towards exclusionary and fear-based politics have deepened societal divisions, breeding conflict and instability, as well as renewed resistance to women's rights. Many hard-won gender equality achievements are under threat, women's human rights defenders are increasingly targeted and civil society space is shrinking.⁷

Many global challenges are deeply intertwined. A girl who is born into a poor household and forced into early marriage is more likely to drop out of school, give birth at an early age, suffer complications during childbirth, and experience violence, than a girl from a higher-income household who marries after reaching the age of adulthood. Gender, age, class, ethnic identity, location and conflict often intersect to aggravate and reinforce relative disadvantage and deprivation. Inequalities in wealth and income lead to a cascade of consequential social inequalities in a range of areas such as housing, work, energy, connectivity, health care, education, and related social benefits.

The increase in greenhouse gases linked to industrialization, deforestation, and large-scale agriculture has led to climate change and environmental degradation. Increasing scarcity of critical resources such as water, energy and land leads to instability and inequality, and drives conflict and displacement. These developments have a different impact women and girls, disrupt women's and girls' access to education and increase risks of gender-based violence, including childhood sexual abuse, intimate-partner violence,

² Background paper by UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS, UNICEF, UN Women and WFP to the 2018 Joint meeting of the Executive Boards, "Overcoming inequalities among and within countries, including gender inequality, to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals – reaching the poorest and most vulnerable populations first" <http://www.unwomen.org/en/executive-board/documents/2018/joint-meeting-of-the-executive-boards>

³ <http://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/fragilityconflictviolence/overview>

⁴ Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, *Global Trends: Forced Displacement in 2017* (Geneva, 2018).

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ UNFPA (2018). *Humanitarian Action 2018 Overview*.

⁷ UN Women (2018). *Turning promises into action: Gender equality in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. New York.

non-partner assault as well as trafficking in women and girls and their sexual exploitation.⁸ As a result, efforts to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls are undermined.

Rising levels of inequality and pervasive discrimination are not inevitable: institutions, laws, policies and practices make a difference. The 2030 Agenda recognizes rising inequalities within and among countries, the enormous disparities of opportunity, wealth and power, and persistent gender inequality as immense challenges confronting the world today. The 2030 Agenda is firmly rooted in human rights principles and the principle of leaving no one behind to ensure that the poorest and most vulnerable populations are reached first in efforts to achieve sustainable development.

Over 2.5 billion women and girls around the world are affected in multiple ways by discriminatory laws and the lack of legal protections.⁹ Gender-responsive strategies and investments in institutions, laws and policies that deliver substantive results for women and girls and promote their participation and leadership are crucial to promote economic growth, build peaceful, just and inclusive societies and tackle climate change. Identifying and reaching marginalized groups and designing and implementing rights-based and gender-responsive policies to redress the multiple deprivations they experience requires inclusive, participatory processes. Robust and timely data – disaggregated by sex, age, and other characteristics, such as income, geographic location, race, ethnicity, migratory status and disability – are needed to inform such participatory processes. Replacing discriminatory policies and legislation with those that are rights-based, is a key area for public action. Yet making equality real requires more than legal reform. Even where gender-responsive laws are in place, for example, entrenched inequalities, discriminatory social norms and harmful practices can undermine their implementation and positive impact. Laws need to be translated into policies and programmes and, critically, laws need to be complemented with adequate budgetary allocations to ensure their implementation so as to lead to transformative change.

Gender-based discrimination and violence exacerbate the inequalities and exclusion faced by women and girls due to poverty, disability, limited decision-making powers or mobility, lack of access to quality education or decent work, or other factors. Yet women and girls often remain underrepresented in leadership positions across all sectors and their access to, and influence on, decision-making is often constrained by social norms and gender stereotypes, as well as women's limited access to financial resources. However, growing evidence shows that higher levels of women's participation in public life are associated with more inclusive, better governance. Another key challenge is that there are few mechanisms to bring attention to and seek redress for human rights violations. National ombudsmen, national human rights institutions, consumer forums, and similar institutions can play an important role in filling these gaps. Tackling discrimination and inequalities requires safe and inclusive spaces for public debate between government and other stakeholders to shape equitable and sustainable responses. Civil society organizations must be able to meaningfully participate to shape national priorities.

The resources available to Governments for implementing the 2030 Agenda are determined by national prioritization, taxation, international cooperation, decisions over deficit spending and the management of debt, trade, monetary policy and financial regulation. This means that there is potential scope for increasing revenue from both domestic and external sources. Progressive taxation, including in relation

⁸ UNODC (2018). World Drug Report. Women and Drugs: drug use, drug supply and their consequences.

⁹ McKinsey Global Institute (2015). *The Power of Parity: How Advancing Women's Equality Can Add \$12 Trillion to Global Growth*. McKinsey & Company, p. 75.

to corporate profits, personal income, property and inheritance and natural resources, and strengthening the efficiency of tax collection and compliance with legislation are effective strategies for mobilizing domestic resources. Mechanisms such as participatory gender-responsive planning and budgeting and social audits can enhance accountability and promote equitable resource management. Such practices together with anti-corruption measures can contribute to greater trust between the State and citizens, enhanced domestic resource mobilization and more equitable and effective use of public funds. Trans-border mechanisms are needed to prevent the diversion of tax revenue into tax havens.

The Expert Group Meeting provides an opportunity to connect the dots – by bringing together experts and practitioners from different fields, it will enable discussion that will result in stronger evidence and good practice of linkages across goals and related recommendations for effective normative frameworks, policies and other measures.

EXAMPLES OF LINKAGES ACROSS SDG 10,13,16 AND LINKAGES WITH SDG 5

INCLUSION AND PARTICIPATION/LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND	NO	Targets: 10.2; 16.7; 13.b; 5.5
EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES/EQUALITY OUTCOME	OF	Targets: 10.3; 16.b; 5.1; 5.c
RULE OF LAW/ROLE OF INSTITUTIONS		Targets: 10.3; 16.3; 16.6;
FISCAL/WAGE/SOCIAL PROTECTION POLICIES		Targets 10.1; 10.4; 5.4
REDUCING VIOLENCE/DEATH RATES		Targets: 13.1; 16.1; 16.2; 5.2; 5.3;
CROSS-CUTTING PRIORITIES: DATA DISAGGREGATION AND GENDER STATISTICS, FINANCING, HUMAN RIGHTS, MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION		



Growing evidence suggests that reducing inequality is not only an important goal in itself but also crucial for improving economic efficiency, productivity and environmental sustainability, all of which will have implications on gender equality. Inequality between countries limits the capacity of, and reduces the policy space for, poorer countries to achieve their sustainable development objectives, including gender equality commitments. Addressing these inequities will require greater global cooperation, including on policies for inclusive growth and issues such as financing, trade agreements that support developing countries and planned and well-managed migration. Inequality between women and men contributes to overall income inequality – due to the gender wage gap, the constraints women face in access to assets and the disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work they do. At the national level, gender-responsive fiscal and social policies are needed to reduce income inequalities between women and men.¹⁰

Facts & figures

- According to Oxfam, 82 per cent of the wealth generated in 2017 went to the richest one percent of the global population, while the 3.7 billion people who make up the poorest half of the world saw no increase in their wealth.¹¹
- In developing countries, income inequality rises by 11 per cent between 1990 and 2010.¹²
- Inequality within the household—for example, between women and men—is a strong contributing factor to the overall income inequality in society, accounting for up to 30 per cent according to a recent study.¹³
- Women generally earn less than men, have access to fewer assets and consequently have less wealth than men. Across countries, women are more likely than men to live below 50 per cent of the median income.¹⁴

Proposed questions for discussion

- What policy shifts are necessary to prioritize the rights of the poorest and most marginalized women and girls?
- How can governments and other stakeholders support subnational and local communities to make long-term investments in promoting more inclusive and equitable societies, specifically the participation and empowerment of women?
- How can legal reforms, shifts in social norms, and changes in economic and social policies coalesce to address the challenges faced by the most marginalized groups of women?
- What are examples of good practices in gender analysis and gender-responsive budgeting that have proven effective in systematically integrating a gender perspective in public expenditures and spending?

¹⁰ UN Women (2018). *Turning promises into action: Gender equality in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. New York.

¹¹ Oxfam (2018). *Reward Work, Not Wealth*.

¹² Malghan, D. V. and Swaminathan, H. (2016). What Is the Contribution of Intra-Household Inequality to Overall Income Inequality? Evidence from Global Data, 1973-2013. IIM Bangalore Research Paper No. 522. <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.2835276>.

¹³ UN Women (2018). *Turning promises into action: Gender equality in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. New York.

¹⁴ Ibid.

- What are good practice examples that ensure women’s full, equal, effective and meaningful participation and leadership in decision making and that also bring marginalized women into processes that affect them?
- How can good practices conducive to reducing inequalities be adapted to, and brought to scale in different socioeconomic and cultural environments as well as different regions?
- What steps need to be taken to address the gaps and challenges in collecting, analyzing and using gender statistics to evaluate the differentiated impacts of inequality on women and girls and inform policymaking to deliver measurable results towards gender equality?

Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and between countries

- **Target 10.1:** By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40% of the population at a rate higher than the national average
 - **Target 10.2:** By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status
 - **Target 10.3:** Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including through eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and actions in this regard
 - **Target 10.4:** Adopt policies especially fiscal, wage, and social protection policies and progressively achieve greater equality
 - **Target 10.5:** Improve regulation and monitoring of global financial markets and institutions and strengthen implementation of such regulations
 - **Target 10.6:** Ensure enhanced representation and voice of developing countries in decision making in global international economic and financial institutions in order to deliver more effective, credible, accountable and legitimate institutions
 - **Target 10.7:** Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies
 - **Target 10.a:** Implement the principle of special and differential treatment for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, in accordance with WTO agreements
 - **Target 10.b:** Encourage ODA and financial flows, including foreign direct investment, to states where the need is greatest, in particular LDCs, African countries, SIDS, and LLDCs, in accordance with their national plans and programs
 - **Target 10.c:** By 2030, reduce to less than 3% the transaction costs of migrant remittances and eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5%
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Human-induced climate change is having a profound impact on ecosystems and by extension on ecosystem services on which all life depends. Significant changes in the temperature of land and water bodies are increasing the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events and natural disasters, including droughts, fires and floods. This has a disproportionately negative impact on women and children, who are 14 times more likely than men to die during a disaster. Women's livelihoods are also impacted by the adverse effects of climate change, including through reduced crop and forest yields and acidification of the ocean, which negatively affects the harvesting of marine life. Globally, women are heavily engaged in agriculture (SDG 2), are largely in charge of foraging (SDG 7 and 15) and fetching water (SDG 6) and play an important role in small-scale fisheries and seafood marketing (SDG 14)—all areas facing disruption. Mitigating actions are urgently needed to protect the planet and the health and livelihoods of all people adversely impacted by climate change.¹⁵ Poorly designed or implemented, adaptation projects can increase greenhouse gas emissions and water use, increase gender and social inequality, undermine health conditions, and encroach on natural ecosystems.¹⁶

Facts & figures

- The year 2017 was one of the three warmest on record and was 1.1 degrees Celsius above the pre-industrial period. An analysis by the World Meteorological Organization shows that the five-year average global temperature from 2013 to 2017 was also the highest on record. The world continues to experience rising sea levels, extreme weather conditions and increasing concentrations of greenhouse gases.¹⁷
- Projections indicate that by 2050, climate change will have reduced the production of rice, wheat and maize by 15, 49 and 9 per cent, respectively, in South Asia and by 15, 36 and 7 per cent in sub-Saharan Africa, resulting in higher food prices and heightened food insecurity.¹⁸
- Reductions in crop yields will also affect food distribution within households, with potentially gender-unequal nutritional outcomes.¹⁹

¹⁵ UN Women (2018). *Turning promises into action: Gender equality in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. New York.

¹⁶ IPCC, 2018: Summary for Policymakers. In: Global warming of 1.5°C. An IPCC Special Report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty. World Meteorological Organization, Geneva, Switzerland.

¹⁷ E/2018/64

¹⁸ Nelson, G. C., M. W. Rosegrant, J. Koo, R. Robertson et al. 2009. *Climate Change: Impact on Agriculture and Costs of Production*. Washington, DC: IFPRI (International Food Policy Research Institute).

¹⁹ UN Women (2018). *Turning promises into action: Gender equality in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. New York.

- The time needed for food production, processing and preparation, to which women already contribute 60 to 70 per cent²⁰ of their total labour time, is also likely to increase as a result of shrinking agricultural yields.²¹

Proposed questions for discussion

- How can governments and other stakeholders accelerate the integration of gender equality and human rights considerations in national and subnational climate change adaptation and mitigation policies, plans and programmes? What are best practices and gaps in integrating a gender perspective in nationally-determined contributions called for under the Paris Agreement?
- How can the scientific community and the industry work together with governments and other stakeholders to ensure that emerging climate-solutions, including climate-resilient technologies are gender responsive?
- What are examples of good practices in gender analysis and gender-responsive budgeting that have proven effective in systematically integrating a gender perspective in climate policy and climate action?
- What are lessons learned from measures and strategies to increase the participation and leadership of women in climate change and environmental decision-making processes, including in sectors such as energy and agriculture?
- What steps need to be taken to address the gaps and challenges in collecting, analyzing and using gender statistics to evaluate the differentiated impacts of climate change on women and girls and inform policymaking to deliver measurable results towards gender equality?
- How can climate finance mechanisms including the Green Climate Fund, the Global Environment Facility and the Adaptation Fund ensure that their concrete gender-specific guidelines and requirements deliver for women and girls?
- What are some existing practices/lessons learned to raise women’s capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing States?

Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

- **Target 13.1:** Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries
- **Target 13.2:** Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning
- **Target 13.3:** Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning
- **Target 13.a:** Implement the commitment undertaken by developed-country parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to a goal of mobilizing jointly \$100 billion annually by 2020 from all sources to address the needs of developing countries in the context of meaningful

²⁰ Doss, C. R. 2010. “If Women Hold Up Half the Sky, How Much of the World’s Food Do They Produce?” Background paper for The State of Food and Agriculture 2010–11: Women in Agriculture – Closing the Gender Gap for Development. Food and Agriculture Organization, Rome.

²¹ UN Women (2018). *Turning promises into action: Gender equality in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. New York.

mitigation actions and transparency on implementation and fully operationalize the Green Climate Fund through its capitalization as soon as possible

- **Target 13.b:** Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing States, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities



Effective, accountable and inclusive institutions are critical for achieving gender equality and sustainable development by enabling women to access justice and other essential public services. Where governance institutions fail to ensure adequate citizen engagement in public decision-making processes, or ensure fair and transparent resource allocation, corruption, organized crime, inequalities and social unrest tend to increase—often with detrimental consequences for women and girls. In developed and developing countries alike, law and justice institutions—such as the police, the courts and the judiciary—continue to fail millions of women and girls while tolerance and impunity for crimes against them remain widespread. Women’s under-representation in institutions of global, regional and national governance and their lack of power to shape these institutions contribute to perpetuating gender bias. Although the gender dimensions of conflict and the pivotal role women play in building and sustaining peace is increasingly being recognized, the opportunities to promote women’s leadership, enhance their access to justice and build more peaceful and inclusive societies for all are not sufficiently harnessed.²² Disarmament and arms control play a key role in preventing and ending violent conflict, yet the world is moving towards increased militarization, the continued spread of small arms and growing inter-State tensions – trends which stand in stark contrast to the promise of the 2030 Agenda.

Facts & figures

- An estimated four billion people are excluded from the benefits of the rule of law, and as a result, are deprived of the means to live in dignity and escape poverty.²³
- Sexual violence experienced by women is prevalent, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. In 2016, about 7 out of every 100 women (aged 18-29 years) experienced sexual violence by age 18. By comparison, the ratio is 1 out of 100 in Southern Asia.²⁴
- A total of 87,000 women were intentionally killed in 2017. More than half of them (58 per cent) – 50,000 – were killed by intimate partners or family members, meaning that 137 women across the world are killed by a member of their own family every day. More than a third (30,000) of the women intentionally killed in 2017 were killed by their current or former intimate partner – someone they would normally expect to trust.²⁵
- A higher proportion of women (35 per cent) than men (19 per cent) are in prison for drug-related offences. These women are more likely to have suffered gender-based violence and/or experienced childhood adversity.²⁶
- More than 570 different flows involving trafficking in persons were detected between 2012 and 2014, affecting all regions; many involved movement from lower-income to higher-income countries. In

²² UN Women (2018). *Turning promises into action: Gender equality in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. New York.

²³ Commission on Legal Empowerment of the Poor (2008). *Making the Law Work for Everyone*, Report of the Commission on Legal Empowerment of the Poor, vol. 1, p. 19. New York, Commission on Legal Empowerment of the Poor and UNDP.

²⁴ UNSD Global SDG Indicators Database (<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/>), retrieved December 6, 2018.

²⁵ UNODC (2018). *Global study on Homicide. Gender-related killing of women and girls*.

²⁶ UNODC (2018). *World Drug Report. Women and Drugs: drug use, drug supply and their consequences*.

2014, the majority of detected trafficking victims were women and girls (71 per cent), and about 28 per cent were children (20 per cent girls and 8 per cent boys). Over 90 per cent of victims detected were trafficked for sexual exploitation or forced labour.²⁷

- At least 1,019 human rights defenders, journalists and trade unionists have been killed in 61 countries since 2015. This is equivalent to one person killed every day while working to inform the public and build a world free from fear and want.²⁸
- In 2017, there were an estimated 857 million small arms in civilian possession, which are often involved in various forms of violence, including forced displacement and sexual and gender-based violence.²⁹
- Global military spending has reached a staggering \$1.74 trillion in 2017, a 57 per cent increase since 2000. Whereas most countries worldwide limit military spending to less than 2 per cent of their gross domestic product (GDP), some now spend over 3 per cent of GDP on the military and others now allocate more public money to the military than to education.³⁰
- Since 1998, more than half of countries (116 of 197) have established a national human rights institution that has been peer reviewed for compliance with internationally agreed standards (the Paris Principles). However, only 75 of these countries have institutions that are fully compliant.³¹

Proposed questions for discussion

- What kinds of institutional arrangements have enabled integrated approaches to the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the national level and the building of strong institutions for peaceful, just and inclusive societies? How have such arrangements facilitated collaboration and partnerships among governments and other stakeholders?
- How can institutional mechanisms tasked with implementing the 2030 Agenda ensure the alignment of new or existing gender equality policies and strategies with broader national sustainable development efforts?
- Why is progress on women's access to justice and related services, including for gender-based crimes, lagging behind global commitments? How can global legal, normative and policy frameworks, such as CEDAW (and General Recommendations, including 30, 33 and 35), Security Council resolutions on women, peace and security, and priorities around prevention and sustaining peace, be leveraged to accelerate and guide implementation?
- What are the challenges and opportunities for achieving targets for peace, justice and inclusion, inclusive of women's participation in justice policy design and justice delivery, and how can formal and informal justice mechanisms support the implementation of SDG 16?
- Under what conditions are women's organizations able to attract members and funding, and influence public policies?

²⁷ E/2018/64, paragraph 127

²⁸ E/2018/64, paragraph 131

²⁹ Out of some 1,013 million small arms in the world, almost 85 per cent are in civilian hands – the majority unlicensed. Data come from Small Arms Surveys (2018). Estimating Global Civilian held Firearms Numbers, p. 3., and Small Arms surveys (2018). Civilian inventories. (<http://www.smallarmssurvey.org/weapons-and-markets/stockpiles/civilian-inventories.html>), accessed in August 30, 2018.

³⁰ www.sipri.org/databases/milex.

³¹ E/2018/64, paragraph 133

Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

- **Target 16.1:** Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere
- **Target 16.2:** End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children
- **Target 16.3:** Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all
- **Target 16.4:** By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime
- **Target 16.5:** Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms
- **Target 16.6:** Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels
- **Target 16.7:** Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels
- **Target 16.8:** Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance
- **Target 16.9:** By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration
- **Target 16.10:** Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements
- **Target 16.a:** Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime
- **Target 16.b:** Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development