

**Report of the Expert Group Meeting on the CSW 60 Priority Theme:
Women's Empowerment and the link to Sustainable Development**

UN Women

**Glen Cove, New York
1 – 4 November 2015**

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The preparation of this report was led by Isha Ray and Itzá Castañeda, Co-Chairs of the Expert Group Meeting. The Co-Chairs are sincerely grateful to the other drafting committee members, Lydia Alpízar, Tessa Khan and Rita Muyambo, and to all Expert Group Meeting participants for their substantive contributions. The Co-Chairs would also like to acknowledge the assistance of Carla Kraft and Inkeri von Hase of UN Women.

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INTRODUCTION

The Expert Group Meeting (EGM) in preparation for the sixtieth session of the Commission of the Status of Women (CSW) focused on the priority theme of women's empowerment and the link to sustainable development. This was a timely focus given the recent adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.¹ The Expert Group analyzed the key challenges and recommendations for the implementation of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with emphasis on the implications for the realization of gender equality, women's empowerment and their human rights. The current report does not delve in detail into all 17 goals, but instead focuses on the interlinkages among them.

Linking gender equality and sustainable development is a moral and political imperative: supporting the human rights, capabilities and dignity of diverse groups of women is a central requirement of a just and sustainable world.² The EGM recognized that the 2030 Agenda has great potential to strengthen women's rights and gender equality going forward. However, structural impediments to financing the SDGs – holding development actors accountable, redressing power asymmetries within public-private-civil society alliances, and collecting comprehensive data to track and monitor progress – must be progressively overcome if sustainable development is to be realized for “the furthest behind.”³

Women's empowerment and sustainable development are terms that have been used generously but loosely in the international development and human rights communities. There are similarities across existent definitions and usages, but some definitions are explicitly political while others are cautiously technical; some usages are favored by donors and investors while others are preferred by social movements. Language matters. In this Report:

Women's empowerment goes beyond the idea that women are empowered when their capabilities are enhanced or when they are able to compete with men for jobs. Empowerment implies secure livelihoods, the ability to enjoy their human rights, a reduction in the unpaid work that hinders the enjoyment of rights, and meaningful participation as actors and leaders in the community.

Sustainable development goes beyond the Brundtland Commission⁴ definition of development that meets the needs of the current generation without jeopardizing the needs of future generations. Drawing on recent work by UN Women, sustainable development means economic, social and environmental development that ensures human well-being and dignity, ecological integrity, gender equality and social justice, now and in the future.⁵

¹ United Nations, *Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, 25 September 2015 (A/RES/70/1).

² United Nations, *World Survey on the Role of Women in Development: Gender Equality and Sustainable Development*, New York, 2014 (A/69/156).

³ For definitions of terms, please see Annex I: Glossary of Terms.

⁴ United Nations, *Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development*, 4 August 1987 (A/42/427, annex).

⁵ United Nations, 2014 (A/69/156).

Overall, the 2030 Agenda is an agenda for change with potential to advance the gender equality and women’s empowerment agenda. The SDGs are a significant departure from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Where the MDGs were vertical, with indicators that did not acknowledge the linkages amongst goals or the need for gender-equal progress on all of them, the SDGs are explicitly interlinked and horizontal. Their aspirations are transformative – with an absolute goal of eliminating extreme poverty, “leaving no one behind” in order to bring the benefits of sustainable development to all. The injunction to “leave no one behind” gives women’s rights groups and feminist advocates (and others) the power to negotiate; “the furthest behind first” mandate prevents countries from simply going after low hanging fruit, as many did in fulfilling the MDGs. The SDGs are also explicitly rights based, and are framed by the human rights norms and commitments made by Member States. The 2030 Agenda acknowledges *universality*, therefore it applies to all countries, whatever their stage of development; it focuses on tackling *inequalities* within and between countries; and it is *intersectional* in that it requires disaggregated, multi-characteristic individual-level data to track progress along the SDGs.

The reaffirmation of key international agreements such as the Beijing Platform for Action, adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995, the Cairo Declaration on Population and Development, adopted one year earlier, and the Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), adopted in 1979, amongst others, is also a reason to celebrate. There are significant and encouraging overlaps and complementarities between those global agreements and the recently adopted 2030 Agenda. Participants at the EGM also noted that gender equality and women’s empowerment are recognized in the 2030 Agenda as “a crucial contribution to progress across all the Goals and targets” (paragraph 20), and they are also enshrined in a stand-alone goal with specific targets (Goal 5), which includes issues left out of the MDGs such as unpaid care work and violence against women and girls. In this sense, the 2030 Agenda sets out a two-pronged approach to advocate for the implementation of crucial agreements made over the past decades to advance gender justice and women’s human rights globally.

CONTEXT FOR GENDER-EQUAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2030 AGENDA

Macroeconomic context

While recognizing the strengths of the 2030 Agenda and of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, it is important to analyze the macroeconomic financial and structural changes necessary to make gender equality and sustainable development a reality. Neither document openly acknowledges that, especially given the need for economic, social, and environmental sustainability, developed and developing countries alike cannot grow their way out of poverty and into development. Thus the 2030 Agenda does not address the concentration of wealth and privilege—almost half of the wealth in the world is in the hands of one percent of the population—and the clear need for redistribution. It addresses the

symptoms of extreme poverty, while leaving aside its root causes, including the role that women's unpaid work plays in subsidizing the entire economy. An estimated 60 percent of the value that circulates in the world is generated by women's unpaid work that is not accounted for in corporate or national ledgers. Also, as pointed out by feminist economists, the lessons of three decades of neoliberal economic policies have taught us that the state, far from being superfluous, has a key role in facilitating a development strategy characterized by greater equality, with attention to sustainability goals. A key challenge at this juncture lies in carefully defining that role, and in rethinking the relationship between the state and the market, and between the nation-state and local communities and households.

In terms of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, three unique roles that only the state can play are highlighted: First, the state is responsible for articulating national development goals and objectives. At the center of government policymaking should be a strategy for achieving inclusive and sustainable macroeconomic outcomes, including pathways towards near-full employment based on decent work. Second, the state, through its own public sector or through Official Development Assistance (ODA), can make counter-cyclical investments to protect the economy's most insecure participants during periods of instability and recession. Third, the state's developmental role includes defining regulatory frameworks and incentives that encourage private investors to align their own profit-making goals with broadly shared well being and human rights, including the goals articulated in the 2030 Agenda. Many states, at present, are unwilling or unable to fulfill these responsibilities, and that this would impede the progress of the 2030 Agenda.

Institutional and social context

The private sector is referenced multiple times in the 2030 Agenda as a crucial actor in sustainable development. But there is no acknowledgement in the Agenda of its potential negative impacts when it is unregulated, or when it is able to capture the priorities of development. Over the last 30 years, large, often transnational, corporate actors have come to enjoy an unprecedented level of legitimacy and influence in spaces where they did not have a significant presence before. An example is the increased role of corporations and of corporate foundations in policy processes related to the United Nations system, even as the space for civil society participation has shrunk. Implementation of the 2030 Agenda should be linked with the work of the UN Human Rights Council to elaborate a legally binding instrument to regulate, in international human rights law, the activities of transnational corporations and other business enterprises. Indeed, the private sector has expanded its role in international development, with money, but without commensurate accountability procedures; the "watchdog" roles of the normative UN bodies and national and transnational civil society have not kept pace with these changes. Against this backdrop, women's and girls' empowerment faces both new opportunities and also new challenges.

A significant impediment to achieving the SDGs is the large presence and growing strength of religious fundamentalisms, across all regions and all religions. Religious fundamentalisms, intersecting with other structural factors, create conditions for the

rollback of women’s rights, the entrenchment of discrimination, and a concomitant rise in violence and insecurity. Religious groups or authorities can claim to represent local cultural authenticity and resist domination by “foreign” or “westernized” forces. While gender equality remains a cornerstone of human rights and sustainable development, some development initiatives appear to accept culturally relativist arguments that curtail women’s rights, often out of a pragmatic desire to enable a development project to move ahead. But sustainable human development – with women’s and girls’ empowerment – requires an environment in which pluralism and diversity are preserved and promoted. The collective capacity of development actors to recognize and collaboratively address religious fundamentalisms, while protecting and honoring religious freedoms, is prerequisite to advancing social, economic, and gender justice and thus sustainable development.⁶

Implementation of the 2030 Agenda needs a strong civil society, particularly feminists and women’s rights advocates that can defend gains, continue to push for change and demand implementation of key agreements. In the current environment, this is becoming more difficult. Securing an enabling environment for the full participation of civil society organizations (CSOs) in all their diversity is a prerequisite for the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Of growing concern are the intensity and prevalence of, *inter alia*, (i) the increased criminalization of social dissent, killings, harassment and disappearances of women’s human rights defenders across the world; (ii) increased regulation of access to financial resources to support the work of civil society organizations; (iii) shrinking space for meaningful participation in decision making processes at all levels, including at the UN (for example at the CSW59 earlier this year); and (iv) the ongoing lack of resources to finance women’s rights organizations and movements, as funding for mobilizing activities is being supplanted by funding for measurable and quantifiable project-based “impacts.”

KEY CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR GENDER-EQUAL IMPLEMENTATION

Given this challenging context, the theme of women’s empowerment and the links to sustainable development is considered through three principles: universality, intersectionality, and gender equality as simultaneously a stand-alone and a cross-cutting sustainable development goal. The 2030 Agenda is *universal* and applies to all countries; all states must recognize their own internal gender inequalities, their role in perpetuating gender inequality in other countries, and all states must strive towards the empowerment of all women. The 2030 Agenda demands *equality of all genders*; all countries need support to overcome inequalities and exclusions that hinder sustainable development and the attainment of human rights. Gender equality is a stand-alone goal in the SDGs and is also well integrated into the targets for all other goals. *Intersectionality* is closely related to the integration of equality in and across goals; it refers to the multiple and intersecting

⁶ Ayesha Imam, “For Sustainable Success: Strengthening Development Approaches to Religious Fundamentalisms and Women’s Rights,” Association for Women’s rights in Development (AWID), 2015.

identities (and thus exclusions) of gender, class, color, caste, creed, ability, age, sexuality, migratory status and geographic location. (Non)universality, (in)equality and intersectionality frame women's (and men's) experiences in all that they do, and the extent to which these principles are recognized, in policy and in practice, significantly determine women's empowerment possibilities. These elements will be central to how the UN system supports Member States, at all stages of development, as they implement the SDGs.

The cross-cutting nature of gender equality means that there are common challenges to implementing any sustainable development goal; therefore, the focus is on the analysis of four key challenges for the implementation of all 17 SDGs. These are: (i) financing the SDGs towards the goal of gender equality, (ii) accountability of state and non-state actors in promoting gender-equal sustainable development, (iii) the significant asymmetries within the public-private-civil "partnerships" that fund, promote and monitor sustainable development, and (iv) data collection and disaggregation to monitor and evaluate the progress of the SDGs. Likewise, the recommendations for overcoming these challenges – some of which are persistent and growing – should be taken up for the entire 2030 Development Agenda rather than on a goal-by-goal basis.

Trade and investment liberalization

The 2030 Agenda and Addis Ababa Action Agenda give considerable emphasis to international trade and foreign investment objectives. The overall tenor of the targets is to strongly promote trade liberalization and to encourage greater global financial integration despite evidence that, in their current manifestations, both have contributed to increasing global inequality and have undermined women's economic and social rights. While growth in export-oriented industries has indeed expanded job opportunities for women, too many of these jobs are in low value-added and low-wage industries. In the manufacturing sector, the expectation that wages will rise as productivity of low-wage sectors increases has been undermined by evidence that the competitive advantage of firms depends on the lower pay of casual and informal sector women workers. Some trade and investment agreements have empowered investors to challenge labor and environmental policies in procedurally suspect arbitration tribunals, on the basis that these "restrictions" reduce the value of their investment.

The liberalization of agricultural markets has also had a disproportionate impact on women, who make up the majority of agricultural workers and are widely employed in subsistence production. It is particularly difficult for women to compete with large-scale, input-intensive frequently-subsidized farming because of structural barriers to accessing credit, land ownership, technical assistance and transport. The same structural barriers disadvantage women owners of small and medium-sized enterprises.

Recommendations

- Ex-ante and periodic human rights impact assessment of trade and investment agreements should be conducted, before any agreements are concluded. This is in line with the Guiding Principles on Human Rights Impact Assessments of Trade and Investment Agreements.
- Any provisions of trade and investment agreements that are inconsistent with the human rights obligations of governments should be revised or terminated, consistent with article 103 of the UN Charter, especially considering that trade and investment treaties generally provide mechanisms to enforce the rights of investors but not the rights of communities.
- Universal implementation of a living wage as a floor wage is essential to fulfill governments' obligations to ensure decent work for all under Goal 8 of the SDGs and in line with International Labor Organization (ILO) conventions and recommendations. Universal, non-discriminatory living wages can alleviate gender discrimination and the feminization of poverty.
- The right of women to organize in the workplace must be protected and strengthened. Trade unions play a critical role in promoting workers' rights and in amplifying the agency of workers in political decision-making at community, national and international levels. Major barriers to women joining a union include restrictive labor laws, intimidation in the workplace and the high percentage of women in casual or precarious jobs.

External debt

The proposals to address external debt in the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda are a regression from previous commitments. This is particularly alarming given a recent assessment by Jubilee Debt Campaign that 22 countries are currently in debt crisis, and 71 countries are at risk of debt crisis.⁷

The impacts of sovereign debt on women's human rights and gender equality are well known. Women's rights are affected by the diversion of resources from social services, and by the policy conditionalities frequently attached to international debt relief mechanisms. Any reductions in essential public services are a double burden: women rely more than men on public services and social protection guarantees, and women are left to fill the gaps in service provision with their unpaid labor. Cuts in public sector hiring also have grave implications for women, for whom the public sector (i.e., provision of healthcare, education, food, childcare, water and sanitation) is an important source of decent work.⁸

⁷ Tim Jones, "The New Debt Trap: How the response to the last global financial crisis has laid the ground for the next," Jubilee Debt Campaign, 2015.

⁸ *Report of the UN Working Group on Discrimination against Women in Law and in Practice*, 2014, (A/HRC/26/39).

Recommendations

- UNCTAD’s Principles on Responsible Sovereign Lending and Borrowing should be implemented, as well as the UN Basic Principles on Sovereign Debt Restructuring Processes and the UN Guiding Principles on Foreign Debt and Human Rights. These are important instruments that address sovereign debt restructuring and recognize the shared responsibility of lenders as well as borrowers.
- Governments’ obligations to implement the SDGs should be incorporated in debt sustainability assessments before countries assume further debt, and in any analysis of domestic debt and external private debt.
- An independent, transparent and timely debt resolution mechanism at the global level is recommended. This is a necessary alternative to the fragmented, ad hoc and often inequitable legal approach that currently exists for restructuring debt—a problem exacerbated by the growing number of creditors as debt has moved from banks to capital markets.

International private finance and public-private partnerships

The private sector has been welcomed as a key source of the trillions of dollars annually required to implement the SDGs. While parts of the private sector—particularly small and medium-sized enterprises—are an important source of livelihood for women, the current guidance on implementation of the SDGs privilege the role of large and transnational businesses.

Attracting foreign direct investment is necessary for sustainable development, but FDI flows are increasingly short-term and speculative rather than “sustainable.” Further, in 2014, the highest value growth in greenfield investment was in the primary sector, which is driven mostly by extractive industry in developing countries.⁹ The development of extractive industry usually does not create decent work in local communities; in fact it can lead to negative social and environmental impacts that have seriously compromised women’s human rights.¹⁰

Public-private partnerships (PPPs) have also emerged as a key modality for the implementation of the SDGs. Although one of the principal justifications used by governments for entering into PPPs is that they are an efficient way to share costs, the performance of PPPs is rarely compared to traditional public procurement and delivery systems.¹¹ PPPs often include long-term state guarantees for profits for the private partners; thus PPPs can create significant liabilities for governments, and, as noted by the World Bank’s Independent Evaluation Group, these risks “are rarely fully quantified at the project level.”

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development, “Mining and women in Asia: Experiences of women protecting their communities and human rights against corporate mining,” 2009.

¹¹ UNCTAD. *Trade and Development Report*, 2015.

Fiscal costs aside, PPPs should not be relied on to finance the social and human rights goals that are at the heart of the 2030 Agenda. PPPs are concentrated in sectors and markets that are most profitable, such as energy and telecommunications.¹² But if PPPs are used to provide social services, such as health and education, there is a risk of exacerbating existing inequalities and the exclusion of already marginalized women.

Recommendations

- PPPs (and any large-scale investments) should be preceded by an independent, thorough, ex-ante assessment of the fiscal, environmental and social risks and potential benefits involved. Where necessary, support should be provided to governments to redress imbalances in the negotiating power between public and private parties (discussed below).
- Core social and environmental services should be “ring-fenced” from public-private partnerships if the enforcement capacity of the public sector is weak. This includes drinking water, primary health care, education, and any services for vulnerable groups, such as prisons and aged care facilities. The risks of privatizing such services are reflected in the trend of re-municipalization of water services in many parts of the world.
- Establishing a legally binding human rights framework for businesses is strongly recommended.
- Governments should support the process currently unfolding in the UN Human Rights Council to elaborate a binding instrument ‘to regulate, in international human rights law, the activities of transnational corporations and other business enterprises.’¹³ This process is an opportunity to address the practical and political impediments local communities face when confronting powerful companies (or powerful governments) regarding human rights violations.
- Free, prior and informed consent of local communities, including indigenous communities, to infrastructure and extractive projects should be ensured.

Domestic resource mobilization and allocation

Both the 2030 Agenda and Addis Ababa Agenda stress domestic resource mobilization for financing sustainable development. Equally important are gender-sensitive fiscal policies. National and international tax policy play key roles in shaping the domestic resource base and gender equality in developing countries. Developing countries currently lose billions of dollars each year as a result of tax evasion and tax avoidance. National tax systems are often regressive; this feature negatively impacts poor women who, because of their lower incomes and their primary caregiver roles, must spend a greater proportion of their income on basic goods and services.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ “Elaboration of an international legally binding instrument on transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect to human rights,” 2014 (A/HRC/26/L.22/Rev.1).

On the expenditure side, investment in physical and especially social infrastructure can create the conditions for gender equality through supporting full employment, decent work and the reduction of gender competition for jobs. Public spending on essential and enabling infrastructure should be thought of as a social investment rather than as a national expense. Governments need the fiscal space to adopt counter-cyclical policies, whereby increased spending on goods and services, including social protection, can soften the blow of unemployment and recession. This is essential to achieve the SDGs.

Recommendations

- A universal, intergovernmental tax body housed within the UN is strongly recommended. At present, international tax reform is principally discussed within the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), which excludes over 100 developing countries – arguably with the most at stake – from participating in decision-making.
- National public spending should be countercyclical more than procyclical; this pattern will offer protection and employment to poor women and men, and other vulnerable communities during difficult economic periods.
- Corporate taxation rates should be increased, in general. Average global corporate income tax rates (direct and indirect) have fallen from 38.0 percent in 1993 to 24.9 percent in 2010.
- Governments could consider a transaction tax to reduce the macroeconomic instability caused by financial speculation.
- The revenues collected through all forms of taxation should be invested / distributed to promote greater equality.
- Gender- and human rights-responsive budgeting should be implemented across all national ministries and sectors. Gender-responsive budgeting (GRB) promotes gender equality by assessing the effect of government revenue and expenditure policies on both women and men.

Official development assistance (ODA)

ODA remains a particularly important source of financing for least developed countries and fragile and conflict-affected States. To meet the estimated \$3 to \$5 trillion dollars a year required annually to finance the SDGs, OECD-DAC governments must meet their long-standing obligations to dedicate 0.7 percent of their GNI to ODA, to provide 0.2 percent to least developed countries, and to meet their obligations to provide \$100 billion annually in climate finance.

Trends emerging in international public finance suggest an erosion of developed countries' willingness to meet their obligations. These include the introduction of new measures, such as “Total Official Support for Sustainable Development,” that merge together development assistance and emergency aid the use of public finance to leverage private finance without assessing the developmental impact of such funds. The

extraordinary burdens imposed by the refugee crisis in Europe has made donor countries such as Sweden and Norway reallocate their aid resources away from development assistance to deal with the crisis. The OECD-DAC governments' increased spending on humanitarian assistance is welcome, but this should not dilute their commitment to development financing (which, indeed, can prevent humanitarian crises down the road).

Recommendations

- OECD-DAC countries should commit to meeting their obligation to spend 0.7 percent of GNI on ODA. Aid coherence should be ensured via sector-wide strategies.
- Humanitarian assistance, e.g. for natural disasters or refugee crises, should not be merged into a generic “assistance” category along with investments for long-term development or human rights promotion / protection.
- Countercyclical assistance should be prioritized.
- ODA should be tracked for gender equality at a country level, in development finance institutions and in UN agencies, funds and programs. The accuracy of reporting on gender-equality related expenditures should be periodically tracked, as these are often overestimated in current reporting practice.

Financing for the UN and women's rights CSOs

Sustainable, predictable and quality financing of the UN system is essential to enable it to meet its mandate, including supporting the implementation of the SDGs. However, over the last few decades, contributions to the UN development system have dramatically shifted from core funding towards non-core or earmarked funding, mostly for projects from a single donor, or small group of donors, on program-specific topics. In 2013, 92 percent of funding was in the form of bilateral, project-based funding. This trend has undermined coherence and fostered competition amongst agencies; at worst it has led to mandate creep and shifted the focus of the UN away from its core functions of protecting and promoting the human rights of those most at risk. Partly as a result of this decline in core funding, the UN system is seeking more private sector financing and partnerships, reinforcing the trend towards earmarking. Private funds are also pro-cyclical, swelling when the global economy is doing well and subsiding during economic downturns; countercyclical public funding is more likely to support employment, social services and social protection for vulnerable populations.

Similarly, the 2013 AWID report *Watering the leaves, starving the roots* shows that, while there is greater attention to the rights of women and girls, this has not improved the funding situation for women's organizations. They, too, are primarily reliant on project support rather than long term flexible funding (AWID shows that 48 percent of responding organizations had never received core, and 52 percent had never received multi-year, funding). This keeps women's organizations small - even when they would like to grow - and increasingly reliant on self-funding. Thus women's organizations are

also exploring partnerships with private companies and corporate foundations.

By simply empowering individual women and enabling individual success stories does not address the structural problems holding back most women and girls. Prioritizing resources to support feminist and women's rights organizations from a variety of sources, such as domestic resources, overseas development aid and other forms of governmental and intergovernmental financing, is crucial to achieving women's rights and gender justice in the long run.

Recommendations

- Increased core funding to the UN system is needed as a matter of priority. Governments should increase core funding, and at the very least meet their current obligations, in support of the normative, oversight role of the UN system – this is a function that the UN is uniquely positioned to perform.
- Governments should jointly commit to limiting earmarked non-core resources, and ensure that non-core resources facilitate coherence and integration.
- Donors should contribute earmarked funds only after they are fully paid up on assessed contributions. One proposal to fund integrated programming is to introduce a 10 percent overhead on all earmarked contributions to the UN system and its Trust Funds, which can then be channeled towards core activities.
- Resources given to support women's rights organizations, in all their diversity, should be flexible, responsive, and long term. Such funding would support core work, leadership development, and movement building. Thus governments and multilateral institutions should allocate resources to women's capacity building, and not only to programs with quantifiable outcomes.

Accountability

Accountability for any organization (or individual) is the condition of being responsible for its decisions and its actions, and of being expected to justify these decisions and actions if called upon to do so. When the United Nations was founded post World War II, accountability for promoting or violating human rights was understood to rest with the state; the state was the ultimate duty bearer. This understanding still permeates the UN system and the global human rights community more generally.

While fully recognizing that states are not uniformly capable or willing either to recognize or to protect the human rights of their citizens, most states remain at least nominally accountable to their citizens, and that civil society organizations have at least some access to state entities to demand their rights, or redress when these rights have been violated. Member States are signatories to the 1948 *Universal Declaration on Human Rights*, and to the host of (binding) summits and agreements on women's rights and environmental protection that followed, e.g., Rio (1992 and 2012), Beijing (1995), Cairo (1994), and Copenhagen (2009). Despite their responsibilities, however, many states have not invested in the physical or social infrastructure needed to progressively

realize women's rights, and have not alleviated the inequalities and exclusions that hinder progress on sustainable development.

Furthermore, the steady shift by donors and foundations from core funding to earmarked funding, as discussed above, has weakened accountability within the UN system itself. Earmarking has tended to turn UN agencies and programs into contractors for bilateral projects; this is eroding the multilateral character of the UN system and undermining democratic governance. In particular, contradictions in powerful state and non-state partners simultaneously fragment the UN's work through selective earmarking and calling for the system to become efficient and "deliver as one." UN partnerships with various non-state donors have limited public disclosure requirements, and therefore such accountability that exists is only for those who participate voluntarily. The UN's role and comparative advantage is public service and strengthening universal human rights and normative standards. Its main challenge is how to uphold the internationally agreed standards of women's (and human) rights, as it is expected to fulfill an ever-increasing number of mandates with a shrinking core budget allocation.

In contrast, over the past 20 years, non-state actors have become more powerful players in setting the development agenda. This is a growing trend, from the more visible national and international levels to the less visible local levels. Holding non-state actors accountable is even more challenging than holding states accountable. Transnational civil society (or international NGOs) have played critical roles in emergency relief, development assistance and human rights vigilance for many decades, but are ultimately unaccountable to the governments and citizens of the countries in which they work. In small highly indebted countries, this accountability gap may inadvertently undermine the rights of sovereign nations. In the wake of structural adjustment and shrinking public services, powerful paramilitary and fundamentalist religious organizations have moved into the health, education, and drinking water spaces. These organizations are also unaccountable to governments or to lay citizens, and they are often opposed to the principles of full gender equality.

The rapid rise of corporate power in setting and evaluating the international development agenda is of concern. In partnership with the United Nations, or with the public sector, or on their own, transnational corporations and their philanthropic arms are investing not only in physical infrastructure (which is important for national economies), but also in social infrastructure. This is not inherently a problem; it *becomes* one if it is not balanced by measures to regulate them, or to hold them accountable for rights violations or environmental damages (see the case study below). The commitment to the SDGs is wholly voluntary, yet states' obligations to protect businesses under global trade agreements are mandatory. In effect, there is an accountability gap and an asymmetry of partnership (discussed below).

Several multilateral lenders, who work through both corporations and governments, have taken steps to promote women's empowerment, security of tenure and gender-responsive land reforms, girls' education, and inclusive financing mechanisms for the poor and marginalized. Many have pushed for internal reforms to raise women within their

institutions to visible managerial positions. These efforts are all positive, though they reflect a rather instrumental view of women's rights (i.e. participation in the marketplace) over the intrinsic value of equality, opportunity and protection of all genders. These positive efforts would be undermined if equal attention is not given to the impacts of private sector investments; for example, if mega projects located in protected areas caused the loss of livelihoods and a related increase in prostitution, the victims of these impacts would mostly be poor women. Regulation and accountability norms should differentiate between large, and micro and small, enterprises. The latter generate more jobs for the poor, may be disadvantaged by regulations that only larger companies can adhere to, and, unlike big companies, are more likely to be run by women.

Overall, decent work is a desirable outcome of women's empowerment, regardless of whether the work is in the private, public, non-profit, or entrepreneurial sector. The four pillars of decent work, as agreed by the ILO, are: (i) job creation, (ii) worker's rights, (iii) social protection and (iv) social dialogue. These form a solid base for building an economic agenda for women, which values women's paid and unpaid work.

Recommendations

- Accountability for implementation of the SDGs is voluntary and weak. A framework of accountability for state-private-civil partnerships that includes reporting, monitoring and review guidelines is a priority for this early period. To this end, an intergovernmental framework for partnership accountability for independent evaluations of development interventions should be established.
- Existing agreements and mechanisms should be consistently used in regulation and accountability, namely, the Guidelines on Cooperation between the United Nations and the Business Sector, issued by the UN Secretary General, and the Guiding Principles for Business and Human Rights, endorsed by the UN Human Rights Council, which – albeit voluntary – do provide global standards on human rights linked to business activity.
- A global (or regional) mechanism to support states, especially smaller poorer states, to strengthen their capacity to hold non-state investors in physical or social infrastructure accountable, and to enforce their existing human and environmental protection laws, is recommended.
- As a universal and democratic multilateral body, the UN is a more appropriate forum to consider sovereign debt restructuring than a discussion led by a major creditor institution, such as the IMF. The process of developing such a mechanism was initiated in the UN in 2014, and should be supported, especially by creditor nations.
- Collective bargaining, and policies to put more women in leadership and decision-making positions are ways to hold governments, businesses and other organizations accountable for human rights, women's empowerment, and sustainable development. All countries should work consistently towards their progressive realization.

- UN Women and international women’s rights organizations, in particular, should advocate for more support for mobilizing and organizing grassroots communities; this funding is in retreat but it is essential for ensuring accountability.
- The significant support of major donors, including international philanthropy, is a key source of financing, and should proceed with built-in accountability mechanisms. Any significant offer of financing by non-state actors should be accompanied by risk assessment—and communication—of the impact of such financing on the overall implementation of priorities.
- The core capacity of the UN System and civil society actors to contribute to the accountability of the public and the corporate sector, at national and international levels, should be strengthened.
- The UN system itself must become more accountable and transparent for what it delivers and with what human and financial resources. This includes more openly and transparently reporting on the gender equality results of its work. One option is to use the UN System Wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-SWAP), which enhances the system’s ability to hold itself accountable for its work on gender equality.
- The UN should disclose if a UN official or professional under UN contract has any kind of relationship with the corporate sector, including corporate philanthropy (Any official relationship with the national government can also be a conflict of interest, but these relationships are usually well-known).
- The UN Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) mechanism should be more consistently and effectively used as part of the overall process of UN system-wide transparency.

Asymmetric “partnerships”

It is clear that partnerships will be central to delivering the 2030 Agenda. But partnership arrangements for development (sustainable or not) are commonly asymmetric. Although “partnership” implies equal rights for all participants, many partnership models today side-line legitimate but less powerful public bodies. The weakness of monitoring and accountability mechanisms (discussed above) exacerbates this imbalance. In most countries, partnership tools and fora exclude women’s self-organizing and thus structurally neglect women’s rights; the same trends have existed in the UN system for some time.

The prevailing patterns of private-public partnerships in social services delivery and UN-based partnerships with non-state actors are cause for concern. The fundamental concerns are that, notwithstanding the merits of multi-stakeholder partnerships, these partnerships are often highly asymmetric and that market power inevitably becomes political power, unless it is checked. Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) are often negotiated confidentially to protect commercial secrecy; and many of these contracts are so complex that potentially affected women as well as the general electorate have little access to their terms and conditions.

The UN system itself is being subtly changed as a result of its numerous, also asymmetric, partnerships in the sustainable development space. Member States have not provided reliable funding streams at a level sufficient to enable the UN to carry out the mandates that they – as a group – have given it. Given this void, the heads of UN agencies have sought private and philanthropic finance, and this has led to a proliferation of business sector and foundation partnerships, voluntary initiatives and multi-stakeholder collaborations. This is a relatively new phenomenon, as the UN was not historically of interest or relevance to most corporations. With their rising participation, they naturally do not see themselves as silent funders, but rather as partners in policy discussions and even in problem and priority analysis. They are in a financial position to influence where UN-sponsored investments go, to set the broader development agenda and, *de facto*, the human rights and women’s empowerment monitoring agenda.

While these donors fund crucial humanitarian and development work, the broader human rights or women’s rights communities have little access to them. Only a few favored CSOs have the entry to exert influence. Second, these shifts mean that strategic decisions are increasingly being made based on financing rather than a transparent multilateral voting or decision-making process. Third, the concentrated sources of these funds exacerbate asymmetries in the partnerships. Fourth, contributions made by countries such as the USA through these partnerships evade multilateral oversight. And finally, these channels allow Member States to play their own double-standard games, whereby funders are allowed into the halls of decision-making but CSOs are kept out “because” the UN is an intergovernmental body.

Recognizing the asymmetric levels of development, power and resources between developed and developing countries, and among the diverse actors that will implement the 2030 Agenda, *a genuine global partnership to advance the Agenda should act as a balancing force*. The goal should be to ensure that developed countries’ policies (in particular those related to financial regulation, cross-border investments, debt, and trade) do not have negative spillovers on developing countries, and on their attempts to protect their peoples and their environments. In this context, the call by many Member States for increased investment by the UN in support of South-South and triangular cooperation should be supported. In addition to today’s UN-based partnerships and country-based PPPs, these currently less well-developed partnerships could promote a more democratic delivery of the SDGs.

The language of multi-lateral partnerships and multi-party stakeholders could set up a false equality among the partners. Ensuring that genuine partnerships – which are both desirable and necessary – are inclusive, accountable, and in line with international normative commitments, including gender equality commitments, will be a key role for the UN system going forward.

Recommendations

- All partnerships should be premised on all parties’ commitments to the international human rights framework.

- Member States should establish a new normative framework of resource sharing based on solidarity, and common but differentiated responsibilities, in all new partnerships.
- Recognizing the emphasis on multi-stakeholder partnerships, Member States should assess not only the benefits but also the social and environmental costs of direct and indirect partnerships, including an assessment of who reaps the benefits and who faces the costs.
- Member States should assist in building UN institutional capacity for screening partnerships, monitoring, evaluation and impact assessments on gender equality; these should be shared publicly with concerned stakeholders.
- Enhanced participation opportunities for civil society and in particular women’s rights organizations and marginalized groups must be ensured. In this regard, it is important to preserve and strengthen the Major Group structure.
- An enabling and safe environment for all CSOs is a pre-requisite for equitable participation at local, national and international levels, at all stages of the partnership process (planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating); this will support the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Data design, collection and disaggregation

SDG 5, “Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls,” and its nine targets address several key issues, from the top down (e.g., whether or not legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce and monitor gender equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex), and from the bottom up (e.g., percentage of time spent on unpaid care and domestic work by sex, age and location). Gender equality is a cross-cutting goal in the SDGs; overall, more than 25 percent of the targets over all 17 goals explicitly or implicitly address gender equality and empowerment of women and girls. Moreover, there is a strong emphasis on intersectionality, with a chapeau statement from the Inter Agency and Expert Group (IAEG) on SDG indicators to disaggregate data design and collection, “where relevant, by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability and geographic location, or other characteristics, in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics.” This is an enormous improvement over the narrowly defined targets and indicators of the MDG era, in which the household was the *de facto* unit of analysis for most targets, and which did not mandate the cross-tabulation of any feature of marginalization or vulnerability against others.

SDG 17 calls to support National Statistical Offices (NSO) to design and collect these disaggregated data: “Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.” More support to NSOs would be needed to collect disaggregated data at national scales; to develop NSOs’ analytical capacity for measuring and monitoring risks, vulnerabilities and inequalities; and to work with NSOs and women’s rights groups at all scales to use—and communicate—these data. All these steps are necessarily to effectively track progress on the SDGs. At-scale disaggregation of all indicators of sustainable development would also facilitate the tracking of indicators of violence against women and girls, and all 52 Gender Equality Indicators adopted by UN Statistical Commission following the Beijing Platform for Action (1995).

The NSOs of fragile or conflict-ridden states would need additional support, because any sort of data in such situations is extremely difficult, and possibly dangerous, to collect.

Overall, the SDG era calls for a data revolution of sorts, and that data revolution must also be a gender data revolution. It will undoubtedly be a challenge for the SDG monitoring and evaluation agencies to find the needed funds for this. Yet funding for the additional data needed to track the SDGs is critical, and has to be allocated early. This is because the data needs of the SDG regime outstrip those needed for tracking the progress on the MDGs; in many cases, baseline data on women's access to and use of transport, energy, diverse natural resources, etc., do not exist. For other data items such as inter-family division of food or resources, or for data on sexuality-based or caste-based violence, data design and collection should be sensitive to the safety of the respondents and their families. These data can be collected, and several groups have innovative practices for NSOs and other researchers to lean on, but it requires specialized training to collect them. Experts agreed that the stronger states with a longer track record of data design and collection must accept some responsibility towards those who have less capacity to develop these indicators. The UN also has an important role to play in supporting data design and collection, as well as capacity building, in these states.

To make this data revolution comprehensive and participatory with respect to both women's empowerment and gender equality, it will be necessary to implement innovative public and peer-to-peer platforms for gathering and employing "big data" while providing safe and participatory spaces for women and marginalized groups. The voluntary nature of the SDG framework has no concrete means to enable meaningful civil society participation in gathering data, follow-up and monitoring; it does not even acknowledge the possibility of independent or alternative civil society shadow reporting as an accountability tool. But country-based data support has to trickle down to well below NSO levels. Human rights, gender equality standards and participatory processes should be conveyed and protected at all times in implementation and monitoring and evaluation, even if this makes data collection more challenging. These are always the challenges of inclusion and procedural justice, and the data collection regime must embrace them. Finally, public data systems should not escape the need for prior and informed consent, just because the collection of disaggregated data is now "mandated."

Not all states will be able to collect and maintain longitudinal data on all the SDG indicators. Progressive realization of the full dataset over time is the aim. From a gender equality and women's empowerment perspective, some indicators, currently collected on a household rather than an individual basis, should be prioritized for immediate disaggregation across all countries to enable comparative analyses. These could include: access to safe and affordable water and sanitation, access to safe and affordable domestic energy, health and livelihood impacts from global climate change (if measurable), title to the home or to land, percentage of time spent in unpaid work, access to affordable finance, and access to affordable information and communication technologies. Even this shorter list will impose additional tasks on the least developed countries. But considering the rhetoric of "leave no-one behind," monitoring the differential impacts of unsustainable development and estimating the extent of inequalities is imperative.

Without these, it is a challenge to identify who does not have access to essential services and why certain groups face systemic exclusions. With these, it is possible to measure the progressive reduction of multiple inequalities, including gender inequality, for selected social, economic, political, and environmental SDG indicators.

Recommendations

- In accordance with Goal 17, the capacity of NSOs should be built up, disaggregating by the criteria in the IAEG’s chapeau statement, but also by rural and urban within a country. When data collection has to be supported by external financing, the source of funding should be disclosed.
- Key SDG outcomes should be tracked every 5 years (at a minimum the urgent ones discussed above) to allow course correction if needed, and to facilitate cross-country and within country interim tracking. Waiting 15 years to find out if gender equality and women’s empowerment goals have been met is unacceptable.
- Seriously off-track countries may need additional assistance – for instance, if their GDP / capita falls below an agreed-upon threshold and the expense of data collection is deemed too burdensome.
- Data collected through household surveys should be, when possible, overlaid with spatial data as a validation measure. This may be especially important for conflict-ridden countries.
- All data collection should have prior and informed consent; all sources of technical and financial support should be transparent.
- Citizens should be enabled to collect and disseminate relevant data through innovative, relatively inexpensive crowd-sourced platforms (these data should also be disaggregated).
- A citizen-data collection protocol should be developed so that these data can “speak to” and “fit with” national level data (this gives legitimacy and allows aggregation). In short, SDG 17 should address capacity at all levels.
- When data are aggregated by country, they should also be presented by rural-urban, by upper and lower quintiles, and by the top 5 percent to track if inequalities are deepening; the goal of data collection, ultimately, is to enable a fair and sustainable future especially for those “furthest behind.”

SUMMARY OF KEY RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE EGM REPORT

Recommendations for member states of the United Nations

- The primacy of human rights over inconsistent international obligations must be restored.
- Ex-ante and periodic human rights impact assessment of trade and investment agreements should be conducted, before any agreements are concluded.
- Governments’ obligations to implement the Sustainable Development Goals in debt sustainability assessments must be evaluated before countries assume further debt.

- Corporate taxation rates should be increased (in general), by common agreement, as this is not feasible on a country-by-country basis.
- Core social services that serve the poor should be ‘ring-fenced’ from public-private partnerships, especially if the regulatory capacity of the public sector is weak.
- The right of women to organize in the workplace must be protected.
- Gender- and human rights-responsive budgeting should be implemented across all national ministries and sectors.
- OECD-DAC countries must fully commit to meet their obligation to spend 0.7 percent of GNI on ODA.
- Counter-cyclical international assistance (and national spending) should be prioritized over pro-cyclical expenditures.
- ODA should be tracked for gender equality at a country level, in development finance institutions and in UN agencies, funds and programs.
- Key SDG outcomes should be tracked every 5 years to allow course correction if needed, and to facilitate cross-country and within country interim tracking.
- All data collection should have prior and informed consent; all sources of technical and financial support for the data collection should be transparent.
- Citizens should be enabled to collect and disseminate relevant data through innovative, relatively inexpensive crowd-sourced platforms.
- When data are aggregated by country, they should also be presented by rural-urban, by upper and lower quintiles, and by the top 5 percent to track if inequalities are deepening; the goal of data collection, ultimately, is to enable a fair and sustainable future especially for those “furthest behind.”

Recommendations for the United Nations system

- All UN partnerships should be formed within a framework of human rights; this should be non-negotiable.
- An independent, fair, transparent and timely debt resolution mechanism at the global level should be developed.
- A universal, intergovernmental tax body housed within the UN is strongly recommended.
- Governments should increase the allocation of assessed and /or core resources (depending on the agency) in support of the key normative, oversight role of the UN system.
- Donors should contribute earmarked programmatic funds only after they are fully paid up on assessed contributions; alternately, an “overhead” could be charged on earmarked funds that could then be used to shore up core oversight activities.
- Any significant offer of financing to the UN system by non-state actors should be regulated and made transparent. The UN should disclose the funding it receives from all sectors – government, business, or philanthropic.
- Independent and sustainable financing for women’s rights organizations and activists should be protected.

- UN Women and international women’s rights organizations, in particular, should advocate for more support for mobilizing and organizing grassroots communities, and should strengthen their participation within the UN system.
- An intergovernmental framework for partnership accountability, that acknowledges power asymmetries among partners, and that would undertake systematic impact assessments and independent evaluations of development interventions, is strongly recommended.
- The UN system must become more accountable and transparent for what it delivers and with what human and financial resources. This includes more openly and transparently reporting on the gender equality results of its work.
- The UN Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) mechanism should be more consistently and effectively used as part of the overall process of UN system-wide transparency.

Recommendations specifically for CSW 60

- The CSW should play an important role in providing inputs and periodically assessing the QCPR, with a particular focus on gender equality and women’s human rights and empowerment.
- This assessment should be a permanent issue on the agenda of the CSW.
- The CSW should build up its engagement and collaboration with relevant UN Human Rights Special Procedures and Mechanisms, using their work as part of the accountability by member states and non-state actors in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda
- The CSW should strengthen the meaningful engagement and participation of feminist and women’s rights organizations and other civil society actors in its work.
- The CSW should highlight an intersectional approach to the implementation and accountability of the 2030 Agenda; for instance, it could include historically excluded women as a Priority Theme every year.
- For CSW 61, the Priority Theme should be indigenous women, which will coincide with the 10th Anniversary of the adoption of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

ANNEX I: GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Note: Many key terms used throughout the EGM Report have multiple meanings in the feminist, environment and development literatures. This glossary clarifies how these terms are used in the Report.

Accountability

A legal and ethical principle that refers to the obligation of state and non-state actors (public sector, private sector, particularly multinational companies, public private partnerships (PPPs), civil society and international organizations) to account for their activities, accept responsibility and where relevant liability for their actions, and to disclose the risks and impacts of their activities in a transparent manner, including financial risks and impacts.

From a human rights perspective, accountability includes that of duty-bearers to rights holders, for their decisions and actions (including failure to act to uphold rights).

Cross-cutting and stand-alone

A stand-alone goal is a desired end in and of itself (e.g. SDG1 or SDG5). A cross-cutting goal is an end that is necessary for the achievement of several other goals; the 2030 Agenda recognizes that gender equality is both a stand-alone goal as well as cross-cutting. Cross-cutting does not mean only “mainstreaming”; in practice, mainstreaming has become the routine checking off of various indicators without a grounded understanding of whether these indicators genuinely reflect progress on gender equality.

Gender equality

The understanding of gender equality for the purpose of this report is that elaborated by the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women: “... a purely formal legal or programmatic approach is not sufficient to achieve women’s de facto equality with men, which the Committee interprets as substantive equality. In addition, the Convention requires that women be given an equal start and that they be empowered by an enabling environment to achieve equality of results” (see A/59/38, part one, annex I, General Recommendation No. 25).

Intersectionality

Intersectionality has multiple meanings and applications, depending on whether or not there is a feminist theoretical or legalistic focus, or a more organic, political understanding of intersectionality as a product of feminist movement activism that reveals the interconnected nature of the multiple systemic oppressions (racism, sexism, transphobia, ableism, xenophobia, classism, etc.) that women are variously subjected to.

Intersectionality is a tool for analysis, advocacy and policy development that addresses multiple discriminations and helps to understand how different sets of identities impact on access to rights and to enhance women’s empowerment.

Leave no one behind

The 2030 Agenda explicitly recognizes the disadvantages faced by certain groups; stresses the need to “leave no one behind”, and identifies those groups that are over-represented across several indicators of deprivation and exclusion. However, all people belonging to a particular

group do not experience exclusion equally. Intersections of group-based characteristics often overlap, leading to considerable disparities within groups, and deny universal human rights and basic development opportunities.

To implement the principle of “leave no one behind,” all states must take urgent steps to improve the quality, coverage and availability of disaggregated data, this is necessary to address “the furthest behind first,” and to address the needs of the most marginalized and excluded.

Sustainable Development

The understanding of sustainable development for the present report is in line with the definition proposed in the *World Survey on the Role of Women in Development: Gender Equality and Sustainable Development* (2014, A/69/156): *Sustainable development, is economic, social and environmental development that ensures human well-being and dignity, ecological integrity, gender equality and social justice, now and in the future.*

Achieving sustainable development means to overcome structural economic, social and environmental barriers that disproportionately impact women and girls; to tackle intersecting inequalities and multiple forms of discrimination based on gender, age, class, caste, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, disabilities, and other status; and to create diverse, vibrant, equal and just societies for all people.

Universality

In the context of the 2030 Agenda, universality reflects the moral principles that no-one and no country should be left behind and the recognition of universal principles, standards and values applicable to all countries and peoples within the human rights framework.

Universality also requires the recognition that the interconnectedness of national and global development challenges requires universal commitments to address them and that everyone and every country should be regarded as having a common responsibility for playing their part in delivering the global vision of progress towards a safe, just and sustainable space for all human beings to thrive on the planet. However, the different goals and targets represent different degrees of challenge and ambition for different countries depending on their context, present state of development and other national circumstances, including human rights and gender inequalities.

Women’s Empowerment

Women’s empowerment goes beyond the idea that women are empowered when their capabilities are enhanced or when they are able to compete with men for jobs and political positions. Empowerment implies secure livelihoods, and the control over their own bodies and lives, the ability to enjoy their human rights, the reduction in the unpaid work that hinders the enjoyment of rights, and meaningful participation as actors and leaders in the community, in the way they engage with economic power and structures.

ANNEX II: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

EXPERTS

Barbara Adams

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United States

Michaela Bergman

European Bank for Reconstruction and
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United Kingdom

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United States

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Tessa Khan

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Isha Ray

University of California, Berkeley
India / United States

Violet Shivutse

Shibuye Community Health Workers /
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Lydia Alpizar

Association for Women's Rights in
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Itzá Casteñeda

IUCN Global Gender Office
Mexico

Kate Donald

Center for Economic and Social Rights
United Kingdom / based in United States

Beena Johnson Pallical

National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights
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Marieke Koning

International Trade Union Confederation
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Patricia Miranda

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UN Women
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Inkeri van Hase
UN Women
New York

Carla Kraft
UN Women
New York

ANNEX III: PROGRAMME OF WORK

Sunday, 1 November	
Time	Agenda Item
7:00—9:00	<i>Dinner - Optional</i>
Monday, 2 November	
7:00—9:00	<i>Breakfast</i>
9:00—9:30	Registration of experts
9:30—10:00	Briefing of experts (organization of work) and election of co-chairs of EGM and drafting committee
10:00—10:30	Welcome and opening of the meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purna Sen, Director, Policy Division, UN Women • Seemin Qayum / Diana Ranola (housekeeping)
10:30—11:00	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
11:00—12:45	Panel discussion on relation between the 2030 Agenda and the Beijing Platform for Action and other frameworks that advance women’s human rights <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anita Nayar, Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation • Lydia Alpizar, Association for Women’s Rights In Development (AWID)
12:45—1:00	Special remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lakshmi Puri, ASG and Deputy Executive Director, UN Women
1:00—2:00	<i>Lunch</i>
2:00—3:30	<i>Discussion of background paper:</i> “Financing for Gender Equality in the Context of the SDGs” Author presentation: Stephanie Seguino , University of Vermont / SOAS, University of London Discussants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sarah Gammage, International Center for Research on Women (ICRW) • Isha Ray, University of California, Berkeley
3:30—4:00	<i>Coffee / tea break</i>
4:00—5:30	<i>Discussion of background paper:</i> “Delivering Development Justice? Financing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” Author presentation: Tessa Khan , Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development Discussants: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kate Donald, Center for Economic and Social Rights (CESR) • Patricia Miranda, Fundación Jubileo / Latindadd (Latin American Network on Debt, Development, and Rights)
5:30—6:00	Wrap up and close (discussion of recommendations)
6:00—9:00	<i>Dinner</i>

Tuesday, 3 November	
7:00—9:00	<i>Breakfast</i>
9:00—9:30	Summary of key points from Day 1 (Co-Chairs)
9:30—11:00	Discussion: Intersectionality: Bringing the Margins to the Center of the 2030 Agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amina Mama, University of California, Davis • Beena Pallical, National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights • Krishanti Dharmaraj, Rutgers Center for Women’s Global Leadership
11:00—11:30	<i>Coffee / tea break</i>
11:30—1:00	Discussion: Accountability Mechanisms (States, Private Sector, Civil Society, UN System) I <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marieke Koning, International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) • Lauren Gula, UN Global Compact
1:00—2:00	<i>Lunch</i>
2:00—3:30	Discussion: Accountability Mechanisms (States, Private Sector, Civil Society, UN System) II <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barbara Adams, Global Policy Forum • Ingrid Fitzgerald, UN Fit for Purpose
3:30—4:00	<i>Coffee / tea break</i>
4:00—5:30	Discussion: Data and Indicators for Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment in the 2030 Agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ginette Azcona, UN Women
5:30—6:00	Wrap up and close (discussion of recommendations and selection of working groups themes)
6:00—9:00	<i>Dinner</i>
Wednesday, 4 November	
7:00—9:00	<i>Breakfast</i>
9:00—9:30	Summary of key points from Day 2 (Co-Chairs)
9:30—11:00	Working groups on conclusions and recommendations (themes to be determined)
11:00—11:15	<i>Coffee / tea break</i>
11:15—1:00	Working group presentations (10 minutes each) Discussion
1:00—2:00	<i>Lunch</i>
2:00—3:30	Presentation of draft outline of report and key recommendations (Co-Chairs) Discussion and adoption
3:30—4:00	Closing remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-Chairs • Purna Sen, Director, Policy Division, UN Women