



IN BRIEF



UN WOMEN AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Photo: © Valencia CF/Lázaro Dela Peña.

What's the Issue?

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) seek to change the course of the 21st century, addressing key challenges such as poverty, inequality, and violence against women. Women's empowerment is a pre-condition for this.

Women have a critical role to play in all of the SDGs, with many targets specifically recognizing women's equality and empowerment as both the objective and as part of the solution. Goal 5 is known as the stand-alone gender goal because it is dedicated to achieving these ends.

Deep legal and legislative changes are needed to ensure women's rights around the world. While a record 143 countries guaranteed equality between men and women in their Constitutions by 2014, another 52 had not taken this step. In many nations, gender discrimination is still woven through legal and social norms.

Stark gender disparities remain in economic and political realms. While there has been some progress over the decades, on average women in the labour market still earn 24 per cent less than men globally. As of August 2015, only 22 per cent of all national parliamentarians were female, a slow rise from 11.3 per cent in 1995.

Meanwhile, violence against women is a pandemic affecting all countries, even those that have made laudable progress in other areas. Worldwide, 35 per cent of women have experienced either physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence.

Our Solutions

UN Women works to empower women and girls in all of its programmes. Advancing women's political participation and leadership and economic empowerment are two of the entity's central goals.

UN Women joined the voices of many global actors in pointing out that violence was absent from the Millennium Development Goals. Women have a right to equality in all areas. Equality must be embedded across legal systems, upheld in both laws and legal practices, including proactive measures such as quotas. Since all areas of life relate to gender equality, efforts must be made to cut the roots of gender discrimination wherever they appear.

UN Women supports more women to get on ballots, attain political office and go to polls to vote. The entity assists women to secure decent jobs, accumulate assets, and influence institutions and public policies, while underlining the need to recognize, reduce and redistribute the burden on women for unpaid care. It promotes women's role and leadership in humanitarian action, including in conflict-prevention and efforts to ensure peace and security. UN Women advocates for ending violence, raising awareness of its causes and consequences and boosting efforts to prevent and respond, including ensuring the rights of women living with HIV. The entity also works to ensure that governments reflect the needs of women and girls in their planning and budgeting, and engage men and boys, urging them to become champions of gender equality, including through its HeForShe initiative.



SDG 5:

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

5.1: End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere

5.2: Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation

5.3: Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation

5.4: Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate

5.5: Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life

5.6: Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences

5.A: Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws

5.B: Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women

5.C: Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels



Sustainable Development Goals:

SDG 1: No poverty

SDG 2: Zero hunger

SDG 3: Good health and well-being

SDG 4: Quality education

SDG 5: Gender equality

SDG 6: Clean water and sanitation

SDG 7: Affordable and clean energy

SDG 8: Decent work and economic growth

SDG 9: Industry, innovation and infrastructure

SDG 10: Reduced inequalities

SDG 11: Sustainable cities and communities

SDG 12: Responsible consumption and production

SDG 13: Climate action

SDG 14: Life below water

SDG 15: Life on land

SDG 16: Peace, justice and strong institution

SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

PLANET 50-50 BY 2030 STEP IT UP FOR GENDER EQUALITY

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HOW WOMEN AND GIRLS WILL BE AFFECTED BY EACH OF THESE GOALS AND HOW THEY WILL BE KEY TO ACHIEVING THEM, GO TO:

www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/women-and-the-sdgs