



Expert Group Meeting on Strategies to Achieve Gender Equality and Empower all Women and Girls through the Gender-responsive Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

CONCEPT NOTE

The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) are organizing an expert group meeting on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5 “achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls” as a contribution to the in-depth review of the goal at the 2017 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF). The expert group meeting, on *Strategies to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls through the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, will provide an opportunity for Member States, UN entities, civil society organizations and other stakeholders to discuss ways and means for the effective implementation of SDG 5, particularly how to harness the synergies and address any trade-offs in the integrated and interlinked implementation of the SDGs. The key recommendations emanating from the meeting will contribute to the HLPF in its role to provide political leadership, guidance and recommendations for follow-up to the 2030 Agenda.

In its resolution 70/299 on “follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level”, the General Assembly decided that the HLPF, under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, will discuss a set of goals and their interlinkages at each session, representing the three dimensions of sustainable development, without prejudice to the integrated, indivisible and interlinked nature of the SDGs.

The 2017 HLPF will have the theme of "Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world" and will discuss the following set of SDGs in-depth: SDG 1 - end poverty in all its forms everywhere; SDG 2 - end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture; SDG 3 - ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages; SDG 5 - achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls; SDG 9 - build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation; SDG 14 - conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development. SDG 17 - strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development will also be discussed.

Focus

The expert group meeting will explore good practices, implementation challenges and gaps as well as lessons learned and identify strategies and measures that Member States and other stakeholders should take to effectively implement SDG 5. The meeting will also discuss the interlinkages between SDG 5 and other SDGs, emphasizing how the implementation of SDG 5 can make a crucial contribution to progress across all SDGs.



Participants

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

Date and Location

30-31 May 2017 at United Nations Headquarters in New York, Conference Room 11

Format

The first day will focus on accelerating the effective implementation of SDG 5 and its targets and will give consideration to concrete steps and measures in regards to each of the targets under SDG 5, including the means of implementation. Participants will present good practices and lessons learned in implementing SDG 5 at the national level as well as address existing and emerging gaps and challenges in implementation. The first day will include four interactive panel discussions on the following issues: eliminating all forms of discrimination against women and girls; eliminating all forms of violence and harmful practices against women and girls; ensuring women's economic rights and full, equal and effective participation and leadership in decision making; and data for SDG 5 and gender statistics. There will also be one roundtable discussion on addressing gaps and challenges – the way forward.

The second day will focus on capitalizing on the interlinkages between SDG 5 and other SDGs, including those with gender-sensitive targets, while taking into consideration that the HLPF in 2017 will have an in-depth discussion on SDGs 1, 2, 3, 9, 14 and 17. Participants will examine how the implementation of SDG 5 can make a crucial contribution to progress across all SDGs. Participants will present good practices and lessons learned in implementing the SDGs in an integrated and gender-responsive manner at the national level. They will demonstrate how measures for advancing other SDGs can be designed to accelerate progress on SDG 5. The second day will include four interactive panel discussions on the following issues: ending poverty and achieving food security through women's access to and control over economic resources; empowering women and girls through gender-responsive infrastructure; promoting sustainable and inclusive economic growth through women's economic empowerment; and ensuring institutional arrangements and financing to support the integrated implementations of the SDGs. There will also be one roundtable discussion on addressing gaps and challenges – the way forward.

For each panel discussion, three experts will make short presentations to frame the discussion, followed by an interactive discussion among all participants, including Q&A, facilitated by a moderator.

Outcome

UN Women and DESA will prepare a summary of the expert group meeting, highlighting key discussion points and recommendations, which will contribute to the HLPF in 2017.

Proposed reference documents

- Report of the Secretary-General on Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals <http://undocs.org/E/2016/75>
- 2017 HLPF Thematic review of SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/14383SDG5format-revOD.pdf>
- CSW 60 agreed conclusions on women's empowerment and the link to sustainable development <http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw60-2016/session-outcomes>
- CSW 61 agreed conclusions on women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work <http://undocs.org/E/CN.6/2017/L.5>

- Review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, Report of the Secretary-General http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/CN.6/2015/3
- Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the MDGs for women and girls: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw61-2017/official-documents>
- Institutional arrangements for Sustainable Development, Report of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/C.16/2017/5
- Report of the expert meeting in preparation for HLPF 2017 on Readying institutions and policies for integrated approaches to implementation of the 2030 Agenda: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/12704Report_Vienna_meeting_FINAL.pdf