



DRIVING THE GENDER-RESPONSIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



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UN WOMEN

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Photos above capture some of the key moments of the sixtieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW60) held at the United Nations Headquarters, New York, in March 2016. All photos: UN Women/Ryan Brown.

FOREWORD

LEAVING NO WOMAN OR GIRL BEHIND: FROM PROMISE TO REALITY

The year 2015 was historic. As UN Women turned five, a historic ‘gender equality compact’ was adopted by world governments and placed at the heart of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with truly transformative, comprehensive and universal ambition. Other milestones further strengthened this framework during 2015, including the Financing for Development outcome (Addis Ababa Action Agenda), the 1325 Global Review on Women, Peace and Security and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

Gender equality was recognized and affirmed as a precondition for the realization of sustainable development and also defined as a key sustainable development goal by itself, Goal 5. Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5 is a promise to “achieve (not just promote) gender equality and empower all women and girls.” The 2030 Agenda declares that justice for women and girls and their human rights matter because they are half of humanity, and their needs and potential cannot and must not be ignored.

With the new agenda, world leaders have set an expiry date for gender inequality, discrimination and violence against women. This was clearly seen at the historic and groundbreaking 27 September 2015 “Global Leaders’ Meeting on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment: A Commitment to Action”, co-hosted by UN Women with the Government of China, where 140 countries participated and nearly 70 Heads of State and Government from all regions came together in New York to move from commitment to action and to step it up for implementing the Beijing Platform for Action and achieving the SDGs for women and girls. Substantive equality and transformative change must be achieved by 2030 and must benefit the most vulnerable and marginalized. At the current pace, it would take another century to achieve our goal. Acceleration of transformation is not an option but an imperative.

This acceleration requires extraordinary political will, action and investment in the gender equality project to translate international commitments into national and local realities for women and girls. The road ahead has many challenges, and it is imperative to front-load progress, so that concrete results are already evident

by 2020 when the international community can take stock, recommit and do course correction as required.

Catapulting the rights and needs of the world’s women and girls, SDG 5, also known as the Gender Equality Goal, is a promise to all women and girls in their diversity of circumstance and status. Its six targets address the structural barriers to women’s enjoyment of their human rights and assure physical integrity and security, voice and choice. These include:

- End all forms of discrimination in law and practice;
- Eliminate violence against women and girls, including harmful practices;
- Ensure women’s equal participation and leadership at all levels of political, economic and public life;
- Recognize and redistribute unpaid care work and provide public services, infrastructure and social protection; and
- Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights.

The 2030 Agenda also promotes the economic rights of women and girls by calling for decent work, equal pay and equal rights, and ownership and control over economic resources—such as land, property, technology and financial services.

Sustainable Development Goal 5 and all other gender-sensitive targets in 11 other SDGs constitute a **Gender Equality Compact** that embraces the Beijing Platform for Action and the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) as foundational frameworks for sustainable development, offering a real opportunity and urgency to drive lasting change for women’s rights and equality.

The sixtieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW60) in March 2016, and its outcome, the Agreed Conclusions, heralded a road map for the gender-responsive implementation of all the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda. This must now guide Member States and the UN system to bolster efforts to make the SDGs a reality for all. UN Women, which has been assigned a central role in the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, must and will play its part.

A path-breaking aspect of CSW60 was the youth-led and organized first ever Youth CSW Forum. The outcomes of the youth forum were presented to the CSW and a young woman leader addressed the CSW opening plenary. Some 300 young women and men leaders participated and gave their vision of what the gender equality compact means to them and how they want to contribute to a gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We hope this becomes an annual feature of the CSW, to garner the inputs and perspectives of the global youth for creating a gender equal world soonest.

The CSW commitment was made in the presence of over 120 government ministers and deputy or vice ministers and 1,825 senior officials and parliamentarians. More than 4,000 civil society representatives gave voice to a range of issues crucial to women and girls at CSW60.

At CSW60, Member States reiterated their commitment in the 2030 Agenda to significantly increase investments to close the gender gap, to strengthen support for gender equality institutions at all levels, and to systematically embed gender perspectives into all aspects of implementation, including in their work on data and statistics, indicators, follow-up and

women's empowerment a reality, it is a call to all stakeholders, including governments, civil society, business communities, the media, academia, men and boys, and youth. The "10 I's" are fundamental to the way forward towards the 2030 Agenda. They include:

Inspiration from the intergovernmental normative frameworks and human rights conventions, including the historic gender equality compact and commitments of 2015, to achieve sustainable development, human rights, peace and security, and humanitarian response and related strategies at all levels. Governments must own the agenda and citizens must too, and both state action and movement building should happen simultaneously.

Implementation: localization through adoption and reform of laws, policies and measures including special measures and actions, the removal of discriminatory laws and policies, and ensuring their full, effective and accelerated implementation.

Indivisibility of the SDGs and targets—horizontal and vertical. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and all SDGs must deliver for gender equality and women's empowerment. In this regard, the prioritization of SDG 5 and gender-sensitive targets threaded across all SDGs in their implementation is a key task for all governments and will have a force multiplier effect on the achievement of all SDGs.

Integration of gender equality and women's empowerment across all SDGs and the entire 2030 Agenda, systematic mainstreaming in the implementation of its three dimensions, economic, social and environmental, an all-of-government approach including in development assistance activities and initiatives.

Inclusion of all key stakeholders, particularly civil

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