



Report and Recommendations

Expert Group Meeting on “Building sustainable and resilient societies through the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”

5 and 6 June 2018, Nairobi, Kenya

Organized by UN Women, UN Environment and UN Habitat

Note: The opinions expressed in this report do not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations.

Introduction

On 5 and 6 June 2018, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), the United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment) and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), co-organized an Expert Group Meeting on “Building sustainable and resilient societies through the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”. The meeting took place as a contribution to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) at its July 2018 session.

The meeting provided an opportunity for Member States, UN entities, civil society organizations, academics and other stakeholders to discuss good practices, implementation challenges and lessons learned in the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda, with a focus on the Sustainable Development Goals under review during the 2018 HLPF: SDG 6 (water and sanitation), SDG 7 (energy), SDG 11 (cities and human settlements), SDG 12 (consumption and production) and SDG 15 (terrestrial ecosystems).

Participants focused on the integration of a gender perspective in SDGs 6, 7 and 11 on the first day, and SDGs 12 and 15 on the second day. Discussion of each SDG was framed by a short expert presentation, followed by interactive dialogue among the experts. In the afternoon of the second day, participants engaged in working group discussions on key recommendations for the 2018 HLPF on the integration of a gender perspective across the five SDGs.

Summary of discussions

Over the course of the two days, participants underscored that the unsustainable use of natural resources has contributed to increased water scarcity, pollution, environmental degradation and climate change, which all have disproportionate impacts on women and girls. Over-extraction, deforestation and unsustainable consumption and production patterns can jeopardize women’s and girls’ food security, livelihoods and health, further exacerbating gender inequalities and discrimination. The achievement of SDG 5 through the systematic integration of a gender perspective in policies, budgets and plans at all levels is critical to ensure that women and girls are not left behind and can contribute towards building resilient and sustainable societies.

In discussing the key interlinkages between the implementation of SDG 5 and the SDGs under review, participants emphasized the importance of identifying catalytic factors which will advance gender equality and achieve benefits that will contribute to the integrated implementation of multiple goals. Participants reiterated the need to break silos across sectors, integrate a people-focused approach to policies, plans and investments and focus more on building awareness about the 2030 Agenda and accountability. Moreover, interventions on the implementation of the goals should be developed with a better understanding of women’s roles and specific needs, identifying opportunities to address gaps critical to global environmental benefits and the achievement of the SDGs.

In every discussion, participants also underscored the importance of strengthening women’s participation and leadership in decision-making processes at all levels of governance, and ensuring that national and local policies recognize and aim to reduce and redistribute women’s unpaid care and domestic work. More work is needed to strengthen national statistical capacities to improve the collection, analysis and

use of data disaggregated by sex, age, geographic location and other relevant characteristics in order to strengthen the development of policies and programmes. In addition, participants highlighted the potential of using community-driven data to inform decision-making and measure progress.

SDG 6

Lack of access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation facilities has critical implications for the health and safety of women and girls. These challenges increase their burden of water collection and risks to illness and violence, as well as impede their education and work opportunities and mobility.

Participants highlighted the importance of designing and financing the infrastructure service chain for safe drinking water and for safe sanitation and hygiene to contribute towards the implementation of multiple SDGs. They stressed the importance of public investment in piped and treated water at city/municipal scale, to provide access to safe drinking water, while also noting the high financial and environmental costs of bottled water.

Moreover, the provision of public or shared sanitation facilities is essential for women's sanitation and hygiene needs, including menstrual hygiene management, as women spend time outside their homes at school, work, marketplaces, on the road and other public areas. Sanitation policy should ensure the protection and remuneration of sanitation and waste management workers, who are often stigmatized in society and include women engaged in unpaid work.

Current challenges such as water pollution and water scarcity, as well as women's unequal participation in water management, were highlighted. Participants emphasized the need for integrated water resources management (IWRM) for sustainable water management, as IWRM integrates all sectors using water, including agriculture, energy, health and other sectors, and measures women's participation in local water management. The African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) Strategy for Mainstreaming Gender in Africa's Water Sector (2010-2014) was also highlighted as an example for countries to mainstream a gender perspective in their domestic policies on water. Strong links between SDG 6 and SDG 15 must be recognized and leveraged, as agricultural practices, fisheries, forestry and land management are all linked to long-term water supply and affect women's work and productivity in these areas.

SDG 7

Women are the primary energy managers in households. However, sustainable, modern energy infrastructure – which can relieve women of their disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work and enhance their educational and economic opportunities – often reaches them last. Furthermore, women's unequal rights to land and tenure security has implications on their access to different energy sources, which can further impact their health, food security, water usage and consumption patterns. It is essential to understand energy demand from the bottom up, and consider the energy use of the poorest women who will remain living in poverty without access to energy.

Participants stressed that energy-related policies and investments should address the demands of women to ensure the delivery of affordable, quality and reliable energy services to women and girls, while promoting renewable sources and improved energy efficiency. Decentralized energy sources and renewable energy projects can provide opportunities for increasing women's access to and management of sustainable modern energy. Governments and other stakeholders should undertake measures to strengthen the participation of women in energy governance and their opportunities for employment in

the clean energy sector, including in managerial positions and as entrepreneurs. Building good governance is necessary to create an enabling environment to improve the quality and affordability of electricity and other energy services.

As a result of gender stereotypes and discriminatory practices in educational and institutional systems, women tend to be underrepresented among energy policymakers and researchers. It is essential for women to be involved in the development of technology, including as researchers, to ensure that technology considers and serves women's needs.

SDG 11

National urban policies cover a wide range of sectors, including economic development, spatial planning and environmental sustainability, which must mainstream a gender perspective across all areas rather than taking a siloed approach. Participants also emphasized the need for a stronger representation of women as city planners, including grass-roots women who have developed innovative solutions to the issues faced by women living in cities, including in slums, and informal settlements. The need to strengthen rural-urban linkages was highlighted, as many women producers rely on access to urban markets. Capacity-building for policymakers and decisionmakers on integrating a gender perspective in urban policies can have transformative effects.

Inclusive and sustainable cities require integrating a gender perspective in national, subnational and local policies, planning and budgeting to ensure women's and girls' safety and mobility and their access to infrastructure and services. Eliminating gender-based violence in urban areas and enhancing women's and girls' access to basic services, health care, education, housing and transportation systems must be prioritized.

The need to improve the collection, analysis and dissemination of data disaggregated by sex was also emphasized by participants. Disaggregated data is important to monitor the deficiencies in the provision of water, sanitation, health care, schools and other services, in cities and in human settlements. Moreover, providing information on the use of time and space by women and men and understanding the needs of different groups of women is also necessary to tailor policies and interventions to better respond to women and girls in urban areas. Eliminating gender-based violence, by intimate and non-intimate partners, and sexual harassment is critical to promote inclusion and resilience. In addition, it is also necessary to increase access to public infrastructure and services and social protection systems for women and girls. Information and communications technologies, including mobile applications, can help to share information and provide rich sources of data, however there is potential for scaling up the use of ICTs to promote gender equality and empower women and girls.

SDG 12

Participants reiterated that gender equality is key to achieving the shift to sustainable consumption and production patterns, which promote equitable access to and control over resources and services as well as access to decision-making. They stressed that the production of goods and services, including manufacturing and agriculture, has a substantial impact on air, soil and water pollution levels, water and energy usage, natural resource extraction and waste management. In food production, storage, quality and consumption are important aspects to consider, and nutritional value and sustainable diets should be promoted, to reduce food waste and food loss. As household managers of food, water and energy and entrepreneurs of sustainable solutions, women can play a critical role in the transition to sustainable

consumption and production patterns, however they are often excluded from decision-making processes in both the public and private sectors.

Women, especially those who work in the informal sector or engage in unpaid waste management work, are often unknowingly exposed to hazardous materials. Participants stressed that production systems for all industries should pursue sustainable practices to eliminate or limit toxicity related to hazardous waste and chemicals and environmental pollution and promote fair labour standards and safe workplace environments. Stronger legal and regulatory protection and greater investments and incentives are required to promote consumption and production patterns that are sustainable and gender-responsive.

Sustainable consumption and production policies provide important opportunities to trigger transformative changes in economic and social systems and promote the human rights of women and girls. It is imperative to integrate a gender perspective into sustainable consumption and production national action plans, which are the key policy instruments at national level that create the enabling policy environment to achieve SDG 12. Participants also highlighted several initiatives, including the opportunity for governments and other stakeholders to work closely with the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable and Production Patterns (One Planet Network) secretariat to strengthen data collection on gender mainstreaming for SDG 12. They also suggested that UN interagency programmes, such as the Partnership for Action on Green Economy can provide support to help mainstream a gender perspective into national inter-ministerial steering and coordination mechanisms.

SDG 15

Efforts towards the implementation of SDG 15 require building resilience in landscapes and ecosystem-based economic development. In this context, participants underscored the importance of women's participation in decision-making and their economic empowerment, including by engaging women as land and forestry managers and farmers. Participants expressed concern for resource depletion and overconsumption of finite natural resources, and the air and water pollution generated by extraction processes. These acts and their impacts increase the burden on women, who often rely on common resources, and impede them from moving out of extreme poverty.

The increasing number of killings of women land and environmental defenders, and the enhanced risks faced by women due to conflicts and climate change impacts are especially concerning and require urgent action. The failure to engage women in peacebuilding processes risks weakening how natural resource issues are addressed and limit the potential for women to participate in natural resource governance and benefit from resource-related reforms. Participants underscored the importance of integrated multi-stakeholder land development approaches to ensure sustainable solutions and leverage the synergies between gender equality and environmental conservation. Specific allocations of budgets towards gender projects and holistic impact assessments were also highlighted as good practices.

Participants also stressed the need for legal reform and enforcement to protect women's rights to land tenure and forestry, which are often impacted by discriminatory customary systems and norms. Women's access to improved knowledge, technology and innovation and their full, equal and effective participation in land, forestry and natural resources management are essential pathways for gender equality and women's empowerment and environmental conservation. Monitoring and evaluation systems also need to be strengthened, researching and measuring beyond obvious or traditional elements, to ensure sustainable approaches to ecosystems management that improve the situation of women and girls.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are based on the discussions of the Expert Group Meeting:

Overall recommendations

We call upon national and subnational governments, and other stakeholders to undertake the following measures to ensure the gender-responsive implementation of SDGs 6, 7, 11, 12 and 15, which will be reviewed along with SDG 17 at the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) taking place from 9 to 18 July 2018 in New York:

1. We underscore that gender equality and sustainable development are interdependent and mutually reinforcing and that women have a vital role to play in achieving sustainable development.
2. We emphasize that governments as duty-bearers are responsible for the progressive realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, recognizing the cross-cutting nature of SDG 5 to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. Governments are responsible for promoting understanding and education on sustainable development and ensuring the full implementation of national sustainable development plans and gender-responsive policies and action plans.
3. We emphasize that governments and all other stakeholders, including the private sector should promote the human rights of women throughout their life course and eliminate the direct and indirect discrimination faced by women within political, economic and social systems, while recognizing women's important role and contribution to achieving sustainable development and working towards the accelerated implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.
4. We highlight the importance of creating an enabling environment at all levels of government to mainstream a gender perspective in the development of all national sustainable development policies, planning processes and budgets, to ensure gender-responsive procurement, expenditures and design of services, and to ensure, maintain and expand the use of public services.
5. We underscore the need to promote and secure women's rights to natural resources through a synergetic set of measures that include legal recognition of women's rights, legal literacy programmes, enforcement measures, equal access to grievance mechanisms and conflict resolution, and advocacy, including with customary and traditional authorities.
6. We reiterate the importance of strengthening the voice, agency, participation and leadership of women, including grass-roots women, young women, indigenous women and women with disabilities, in decision-making processes at all levels and throughout the full cycle of policy and programme development from conceptualization, design, impact assessments, stakeholder consultations, budgeting, implementation, to monitoring and evaluation.
7. We emphasize the importance of strengthening the collection, analysis and use of data disaggregated by sex, age, geographic location and other relevant characteristics in order to strengthen the provision

of basic services. We call on governments, national statistical offices, international organizations and academia to recognize and invest in community-generated and context-specific gender-sensitive indicators and data, including those produced by grass-roots women and their organizations and to integrate those data into formal reporting and monitoring on SDGs.

8. We recognize that capacity-building for sustainable development should be multi-directional between countries of the Global South and Global North, between governments and civil society, including grass-roots organizations, between donors and recipients, between the private sector and public interest groups, between policymakers and researchers across sectors, to share knowledge, good practices and lessons learned for integrating a gender perspective, in policies, plans, programmes and budgets and for on-going institutional and programme assessments.
9. We emphasize that planning, investments and management of infrastructure and basic services provisions, in both urban and rural areas, should take into account women's use of time and space due to their unpaid care and domestic work, also in combination with paid employment, and aim to reduce and redistribute the disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work undertaken by women and girls.

Specific recommendations

SDG 6

- Invest in safe, accessible and affordable water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) infrastructure in public spaces to promote dignity of women and girls, set norms and expectations on the provision of public infrastructure and services, and break stigmas about women and girls, including around menstrual hygiene management;
- Take measures to protect and restore water-related ecosystems and surface water, which more than 150 million people use as their primary drinking water source, by addressing and preventing water pollution, improving water quality, including through treating and re-using wastewater, and tackling water scarcity, in particular by addressing water inefficiencies in the agricultural sector;
- Recognize and remunerate sanitation and maintenance workers, who are often stigmatized in societies, especially cleaners of unsewered toilets, including women who engage in this work without pay within local communities, often as part of their unpaid care and domestic work;
- Enhance access to safe drinking water and sanitation by providing institutional structures and multi-stakeholder processes to ensure women's full and equal participation in decision-making on water use and allocations;

SDG 7

- Address the energy poverty experienced by women and the discrimination they face in their access to land, productive assets and natural resources, and provide them with full and equal access to energy sources that are accessible, affordable, renewable, modern and adaptable to local contexts,

and that aim to reduce and redistribute the unpaid care and domestic work that women and girls expend on energy-related activities and improve their well-being and quality of life;

- Invest in the development of clean energy technologies, especially those that can be scaled up, and enhance women's access to technology, including through government subsidies;
- Reform tax laws to increase designated revenue towards the provision of affordable and modern energy to women and the most marginalized populations;
- Ensure that energy policies consider the energy needs and priorities of poor urban and rural women to reduce their experience of energy poverty while improving food security, livelihood options and sustainable ecosystems;
- Strengthen the voice, agency and full and equal participation of women, including as researchers and scientists, in the development of energy technologies, in monitoring and impact assessments and in energy governance to improve the quality and affordability of energy and electricity services; take measures to increase women's employment in the clean energy sector; and promote women's entrepreneurship in the energy sector through public investment and support;

SDG 11

- Strengthen the development of evidence-based policies, infrastructure and services to ensure women's rights and access to safe, affordable and accessible housing, healthcare, educational, commercial and other facilities, employment, public transport and public spaces in cities;
- Prioritize measures to end all forms of violence against women and girls in public and private spaces within urban settings;
- Strengthen women's leadership and participation in local governments both as elected officials and technical staff as well as in participatory decision-making processes on urban planning and budgeting;
- Strengthen and improve rural-urban linkages, including through investment in infrastructure and services that ensure the access of women producers to urban markets;

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_21983

