Women's Major Group Position Paper for the 2020 High Level Political Forum (HLPF)

Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development

<u>Summary</u>

Even before the onset of the crisis caused by COVID-19, the world faced mutually reinforcing crises: crises of inequality, environmental degradation, rising insecurity, protracted armed conflicts, growing fundamentalisms, unchecked corporate power all happening alongside outright attacks on multilateralism, participatory democracy, civil society, and environmental and women human rights defenders. The COVID-19 pandemic has made systemic gaps, inequalities, and crises more visible - it did not create them. The need for a substantial system change towards a more just and equal transition has never been more necessary.

Women and girls in all of our diversity are on the frontlines of this new crisis, too: from the exponential increase in unpaid care work to our loss of employment and livelihoods, especially given our overrepresentation in informal work, to the rise in all forms of violence, including gender-based and domestic violence, to the outright risk to our lives given our role as caregivers and healthcare workers, to the challenges of accessing sexual and reproductive health care, supplies, and services. In addition, the rise in authoritarian measures taken by governments, as well as power grabs by political leaders, threatens all civil society and social justice movements.

These crises are unfolding against the backdrop of several important milestones for gender equality and the human rights of women and girls in all their diversity. This year we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, which recognized that women's rights are human rights. We celebrate the 20th anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 1325, which cemented the importance of women's participation in peace and security. And, of course, this year we commemorate five years of the 2030 Agenda, which dedicated an entire standalone goal to ending gender inequality, as well as recognizing gender equality as a crosscutting issue across the whole of the Agenda.

These agreements would not have been possible without the work of dedicated movements. Without empowered and well-resourced feminist, women's and girl-led movements at the table, policies ignore their gendered impacts. Without these movements the dominant thinking that has led us to this moment of crisis will continue unchallenged and unabated, and progress to achieve the 2030 Agenda will continue to stagnate, if not deteriorate.

In order not to lose the gains and the promises of these anniversaries we commemorate, feminist, women's, girl-led and social movements globally must be resourced, protected, and respected. Resourcing, protecting and respecting our movements not only is the right thing to do, but it will also drive inclusive, accelerated action by creating the public pressure that generates political will and accountability, as well as creating inclusive justice-oriented policies. Feminist and women's and girls' rights advocates have continuously questioned "business as usual" and have pushed for more just and egalitarian visions of the world. Drawing on our tools of analysis policy makers will be able to envision new ways of doing things that respond to the needs and the rights of those most left behind.

Since the first High Level Political Forum in 2016, the Women's Major Group has consistently demanded that:
- Governments meaningfully include women and girls in all their diversity in the decision-making, implementation, review and follow up of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at all levels;
- Governments place gender equality and the human rights of women and girls in all their diversity in the center of SDG policymaking, implementation, and follow-up and review;
- Governments and other relevant bodies, including the UN, invest in the collection, analysis, and dissemination of gender data, including data that is sufficiently disaggregated, as well as recognizing, valuing and utilizing civil society generated data and remaining responsive to emerging trends that enable people-centered decision-making;
- Governments protect and enhance civil society space, and protect the lives of environmental and women human rights defenders;
- Governments hold non-state actors accountable for human rights violations, including against environmental and women human rights defenders
- Governments and other actors, including the private philanthropic community, adequately finance feminist, women's and girl-led movements, as well as the gendered implementation and follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda; and
- We all work collectively to dismantle fundamentalisms and systems of oppression including patriarchy to neoliberal capitalism to militarism.

Given the central role that feminist, women's and girl-led movements play in driving systemic changes, governments and other actors should take these recommendations seriously, in order to accelerate action for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and uphold their human rights obligations.

1. Introduction

The year 2020 contains landmark anniversaries for feminist, women's, and girl-led movements. In this year we will celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, which recognized that women's rights are human rights, the 20th anniversary of UN

Security Council Resolution 1325, which cemented the importance of women's participation in peace and security, and five years of the 2030 Agenda, which dedicated an entire standalone goal to ending gender inequality.

As a community, we have much to celebrate. Since 1995 women's political representation has doubled; the global maternal mortality rate has fallen significantly; and the largest number of girls ever is in school.[1]

And yet these celebrations come against the backdrop of mutually reinforcing crises: crises of inequality, environmental degradation, rising insecurity, protracted armed conflicts, growing fundamentalisms, all happening alongside outright attacks on multilateralism, participatory democracy, civil society, and environmental and women human rights defenders.

The COVID-19 pandemic is not only a crisis itself but its effects have also exposed and deepened all of the inequalities and injustices we have been fighting to eliminate across the three pillars of sustainable development. Feminist activists have, and continue to, raise these systemic and structural issues in various policy spaces including at the High Level Political Forum (HLPF).

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, we must act on the calls to reassess the way in which humans have been living, which has been to the detriment of nature, animals, and human society. The COVID-19 crisis has shown us that we can no longer ignore the degradation of the environment, loss of biodiversity, including animal extinctions, and glaring social inequalities and marginalization, which endanger human existence.

The good news is that women and girls in all of our diversity can lead the way out of these crises for the simple reason that feminist, women's, and girl-led movements drive the actions needed for structural and systemic changes in solidarity with other justice movements.

Accelerated action, one part of the theme for this year's HLPF, comes from political will. Feminist, women's, and girl-led movements that are supported, resourced, respected and protected, are crucial to driving this political will, and for ensuring accountability that political will translates into action.

Accelerated action for sustainable development will come when women's and girl-led movements, especially at the local level, exert their power alongside other justice movements and demand that States respect, protect, and fulfill human rights. Achieving gender equality and the 2030 Agenda can only be possible through such an inclusive and democratic approach.

But what should this action look like? Here we should also turn to feminist and women's, and girls' rights movements whose practices and analytical tools point the way to transformative pathways, the other part of this year's HLPF theme. Feminist and women's and girls' rights advocates have continuously questioned "business as usual" and have pushed for more just and egalitarian visions of the world. Drawing on our tools of analysis - such as intersectionality -

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[1] Secretary-General. 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. (E/CN.6/2020/3).

policy makers will be able to design and implement policies in new ways that respond to the needs and the rights of those most left behind.

Without the equal participation of empowered feminist, women's, and girl-led movements at the table, policies ignore gendered impacts; the dominant thinking that has led us to this moment of crisis continues unchallenged and unabated; and progress to achieve the 2030 Agenda will continue to stagnate or, even worse, decline. Now more than ever we need accelerated action based on bottom-up, rights-based, and community-driven approaches to development that are carried out through multilateral and multi-stakeholder partnerships.

2. Understanding accelerated action and transformative pathways

Intersectional feminist analysis can unlock the transformative potential of the 2030 Agenda and show new pathways for accelerated action. Intersectional analysis and action question power structures based on patriarchy, capitalism, racism, and other forms of oppression, leading to more inclusive approaches, which is the only way to address inequities and fulfil the goal of the 2030 Agenda to *leave no one behind*.

Black feminists pioneered intersectional analysis, which requires us to take into account the specificities and compounding nature of our identities, as well as structural inequalities. Fulfilling the promise of leaving no one behind requires an intersectional approach. Marginalization and discrimination exacerbate one another pushing people farther behind. Without understanding this most basic fact, the most well-meaning policies will fail to reach those most in need.

In addition to understanding the intersecting nature of identities and structural barriers, feminist, women's, and girl-led movements understand the interconnectedness of issues and sectors. In building cross-movement solidarity and actions, our movements live up to the promise of the 2030 Agenda.

To achieve the 2030 Agenda, governments at all levels will have to adopt the inclusive, transformative thinking of justice-oriented movements and organizing, including that of feminist, women's, and girl-led movements, in order to move out of siloed policy making processes. The 2030 Agenda itself specifies that the individual goals are interrelated and interconnected and must also be considered alongside other human rights and development obligations.

In practice this means that:
- We cannot end the environmental and climate crises without ending about violence against women and girls or the extractive economic system.
- We cannot guarantee decent work and economic development without addressing about human trafficking, the crisis of care, the gendered division of labor, ageism, and patriarchy.
- We cannot create sustainable and resilient cities and communities, without remedying sexual violence and the destruction of biodiversity, forests, and other natural resources.
- We cannot ensure healthy lives and wellbeing, without guaranteeing the bodily and sexual autonomy of women and girls in all their diversity or the integrity of our natural environmental systems.
- We cannot secure sustainable peace without the full and meaningful inclusion of women and girls who have experienced war and conflict at the peace tables and in all conflict resolution and peace building processes.

To achieve the 2030 Agenda in the next decade, governments will have to understand and act on this understanding.

Feminists and women's rights activists question what is accepted as the natural order. We question not only the social norms that circumscribe our lives and potentials, but also the political and economic systems that prioritize competition over cooperation, exploitation over conservation, and profit over co-existence.

In other words, feminists and women's rights activists understand power and the politics of power. In order to create change, you have to understand power and how it operates. Sustainable development is not a wholly technical undertaking in which an innovation or an increase in supply will remedy all problems. Building a new school will not improve educational attainment for girls, for example, if communities do not value girls' education, prevent them from leaving their homes, or force them into marriages.

Moreover, sustainable development can only succeed when there is a large-scale social dialogue about the implementation, monitoring, and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda. Persons and groups impacted by policies must be change agents themselves participating fully in the development of policies that affect them.

Feminist, women's, and girl-led movements, alongside other social justice movements, have pushed societies to discuss and confront topics once considered taboo, advancing safe space for conversations leading to progressive policy change. For example, improvements in laws to end violence against women and girls, came from advocacy led by autonomous feminist and women's rights movements. Many of these topics, including gender-based violence, have now become part of the 2030 Agenda, as a direct result of our advocacy.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) can never be achieved without addressing systemic barriers that WMG has highlighted for years, including neoliberal capitalism, unjust financial, trade and investment agreements, corporate power, land and resource grabbing, patriarchy, fundamentalisms, militarism and conflict, and the resurgence of authoritarian governance.

To do this requires wise, compassionate, and visionary leaders, policies rooted in human rights, and a massive increase in political will to transform the oppressive systems that have been built on inequalities. Feminist, women's, and girl-led movements, alongside other social justice movements, are up to the task and will continue demanding that our governments are as well.

3. Global Sustainable Development Report

The 2019 Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR) suffers from the same technocratic thinking that ignores power and systemic barriers in favor of actions that leave power structures unchallenged. Though not quite business-as-usual, the GSDR does not live up to the "systemic transformation" it acknowledges we require. The GSDR could have outlined "systemic transformation" had it used the tools of feminist analysis described above.

Economic System

The GSDR strongly critiques some growing inequalities within and between countries, as well as some elements of the current economic system, including the reliance on flawed measures, such as GDP that ignore negative externalities and encourage economic growth and consumption at all costs. The focus on the environmental costs of current economic models of growth and consumption is a welcome contribution to other ongoing efforts and campaigns on these issues. However, the GSDR's criticism ignores the human cost and exploitation the current economic system requires and causes.

Despite the initial criticisms, the GSDR's recommendations in the Call to Action will not remedy these problems since they focus on investments rather than fundamentally re-envisioning economic systems and modes of production. Despite the premise of challenging growth and the dominant, destructive paradigm associated with the pursuit of growing GDP, the report's Call to Action fails to follow its critiques to their natural outcomes and put forward substantive actions to move away from the market-driven model of development.

Instead of transformative action, the report focuses on the private sector and public-private partnerships (PPP). The report encourages the private sector to contribute more funds to a wide array of endeavors, including through PPPs, but completely fails to address the need to regulate the private sector, hold it accountable for its human rights violations, and tax it appropriately. More funding from the private sector will not lead to sustainable development if corporations continue to go unregulated, avoid their tax obligations, and violate human rights.

While the report's Call to Action briefly addresses tax avoidance, the report should have included a comprehensive analysis recognizing the ways that tax loopholes and incentives - that serve as corporate giveaways - systemically deprive the public sector of resources, enable environmental destruction, encourage the exploitation of communities in a race-to-the-bottom, and, as a result, increase inequality.

Corporate Capture
The power of the corporate sector can be seen everywhere from inadequate climate policy to agricultural monopolies to research funding where 61% of funding for research and development comes from the corporate sector.[2]

The report invokes the private sector throughout the report as an important partner in achieving sustainable development, sometimes on par with civil society, and sometimes without reference to civil society. At times it posits the private sector as a benign or helpful partner in various activities and at others a source of great inequality and degradation. For example, in the section on the global environmental commons, the report claims that transnational corporations can be a valuable partner with the scientific community in managing the global environmental commons. One sentence later, the report acknowledges that these partnerships may "risk reinforcing inequitable corporatist governance structures of the global commons."[3]

This discordant approach to the private sector - where it is both a valuable partner and also a bad actor - dulls any critique of its role in perpetuating and deepening inequality, environmental

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[2] Independent Group of Scientists appointed by the Secretary-General, *Global Sustainable Development Report 2019: The Future is Now – Science for Achieving Sustainable Development,* (United Nations, New York, 2019). Page 118.
[3] Ibid., p. 103.

degradation, and the perversion of democratic norms and policymaking, and weakens calls for accountability.

The report misses a crucial opportunity to bolster support for trade unions. Globally, trade unions serve as a powerful counterweight to corporate power and monopolies and play an important role in bringing about a more just and equitable economic order. The GSDR recognizes their past role in improving working conditions, but then notes that a new coalition including employers and governments may be necessary because of the decline of participation in trade unions.[4] The report fails to understand and address the reasons for this decline, including concerted actions by governments and the private sector - the new actors the report claims we need - to undermine and weaken trade unions.

In line with the report's ambivalent approach to the private sector, it fails to adequately criticize the privatization of public goods and services, such as health and education. The report fails to acknowledge that PPPs, as a partnership model applied to the delivery of public goods and services, have actually been exploitative, profiteering, and denied people universal, safe, affordable, and accessible public services. From the very beginning of the post-2015 negotiations, the Women's Major Group (WMG) has continuously raised the alarm when it comes to PPPs, but our warnings go unheeded, damaging households, communities, and countries globally.

The economic crisis caused by COVID-19 has the potential to further intensify corporate power. This may happen because smaller companies do not have the capital reserves to survive the crisis or because government bailouts benefit large corporations disproportionately. Some companies, such as Amazon, will benefit from altered consumption patterns and emerge stronger from the crisis without concerted government regulation and action.

Dismantling Patriarchy

A glaring oversight within the report is the failure to integrate gender meaningfully in its analyses and recommendations. The report's four levers of change should have included a fifth element: gender equality. The report acknowledges some forms of gender inequality and also recognizes that gender inequality "limits the opportunities and capabilities of half the world's population" but offers no transformational insight, analysis, or action for eliminating gender inequality.[5]

By failing to understand the ways in which gender operates, the analysis neglects crucial areas and is blind to the ways in which the oppression of women and girls in all their diversity perpetuates our unequal systems. For example, the GSDR's critique of current economic systems ignores the ways in which these systems rely upon the unpaid care labor of women and girls. The GSDR fails to appreciate that when public services are inadequate, women and girls in all our diversity use our bodies, labor, energy, and time to fill the gaps.

The report's focus on women and girls as a mostly vulnerable, homogenous population and the reduction of gender-specific concerns to STEM and cookstoves reproduces the same failed development thinking that ignores patriarchy as a system entrenched in all aspects of our lives in the hope that simple, technical fixes will erase centuries of subjugation.

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[4] Ibid., p. 60.
[5] Ibid., p. xxii.

Then there are the issues that technology will not fix. Without dismantling patriarchy, we will never achieve gender equality and thus sustainable development - no matter how many technical advances are made. For example, restricting access to abortion is a fundamental restriction on the autonomy of women and girls and will not be solved by more scientific research. Violence against LBTI+ women and gender non-conforming people will not be eliminated through a technological innovation. Failing to understand the specific barriers that keep girls out of school - including barriers related to caste, ethnicity, race, and armed conflict - make the recommendations on universal access to education inadequate.

Similarly, framing the reduction of "group inequalities including between women and men" within a recommendation focused on the rule of law and anti-discrimination implies that achieving equal opportunities is simply a matter of enforcement, not concerted and systematic efforts to reshape economic and social institutions, patterns, and mores to dismantle patriarchy.[6]

Gender equality should have been recognized as one of the levers that will spell the difference between sustainable development and a world where inequalities and injustices persist. It will only be through the dedicated organizing of women and girls in all our diversity that we will end patriarchy and achieve gender equality. The report's failure to understand and acknowledge this is one of its greatest weaknesses.

Human Rights
From the beginning of the report, the GSDR presents the non-binding nature of the 2030 Agenda as a positive asset: "Governance by goals holds great potential, but success will depend on a number of institutional factors, including how States act on their commitments to the 2030 Agenda and how they strengthen related global governance arrangements and translate global ambitions into their national, subnational and local contexts."[7] This approach fails to recognize that embedding the 2030 Agenda within the international human rights system would do these very things: require governments to take action, participate in mandatory, regular global reporting, and domesticate their commitments.

This central oversight and political miscalculation extends to the entirety of the report. Overall, the GSDR engages with human rights only in passing with a few references to human rights throughout the report, including notable absences in critical sections discussing the governance and individual and collective action levers. For example, throughout the report, the GSDR recommends engaging directly affected communities in policy planning processes, pointing out that engaging affected communities increases the sustainability of policies.[8] The GSDR presents participation as a positive, voluntary benefit rather than a human rights obligation.

The report uses this same approach when it discusses civic space. For example: "A safe civic space is critical, if governments are to benefit from the full and active participation of its citizens – a key source of creativity and innovation that achieving the Sustainable Development Goals will require."[9] While it is true that robust civil society enhances the credibility and effectiveness of government, framing civic space as a positive boon to governments rather than a legally-binding obligation contributes to the undermining of a human rights system already under attack.

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[6] Ibid., p. 128.
[7] Ibid., p. 29.
[8] Ibid., p. 34.
[9] Ibid., p. 30.

Violations of human rights - whether it is the murder of environmental defenders like Berta Caceres, the displacement of communities in Myanmar for building a 'Special Economic Zone', or judicial harassment of indigenous activists in Thailand - are all canaries in the coal mine that indicate the alarming negative trends that inhibit the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

Since the negotiations to create the 2030 Agenda, the WMG has consistently demanded that respect for human rights be at its center. In the years since the adoption of the Agenda, the WMG has advocated for stronger institutional connections between the 2030 Agenda and the international human rights architecture in order to enhance the effectiveness of the 2030 Agenda and to bring accountability to the follow-up and review of the SDGs. The GSDR's erasure of human rights and preference for voluntary action is a significant weakness that undermines its overall impact and effectiveness as a tool for policy planning and implementation.

Authoritarianism and Nationalism

The state of human rights and democracy is central to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. Indeed, the GSDR understands this implicitly, given that one of its levers is governance. However, the report fails to address directly the issues of human rights, as discussed above, and the twin forces of authoritarianism and nationalism.

Authoritarian governments threaten their citizens and civil society, and also directly threaten the achievement of the 2030 Agenda both domestically and internationally. These governments allow or even work hand-in-hand with commercial interests to exploit natural resources; dismantle critical regulations that protect workers, consumers, and the environment; and intimidate, harass, and kill environmental and women human rights defenders. Moreover, these regimes undermine multilateralism and the global solidarity and cooperation that is needed to tackle the cross-border crises facing the world.

To distract from their own policies, minimize opposition, and unite populations through fear, these governments demonize civil society groups, activists, and environmental and human rights defenders. In addition, these governments frequently attack first women and girls in all their diversity, LGBTI+ people, and other marginalized groups. Besides being in direct contradiction to several of the SDGs, as well as their general spirit, development without the participation and leadership of the most affected will always be inadequate, unresponsive, and, ultimately, a failure.

If the quality of democracy is poor and there is impunity for human rights violations, there will not be a real commitment to realizing the 2030 Agenda, as undemocratic and authoritarian institutions and leaders have no obligation for accountability or respect for service to the public.

Land and Resource Grabbing

The report presents the alarming statistic that, since 2000, land totaling an area the size of Spain has been purchased within Africa by outside interests in order to ensure the food security of non-Africans. The report further notes that this creates "power imbalances between those who can afford to buy land and those who cannot and reduces access to land for local people, who face the risk of evictions."[10]

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[10] Ibid., p. 97.

The report is wrong though. These large-scale land acquisitions do not create the power imbalances. Instead the acquisitions proceed because of long-standing historical power imbalances that enable neocolonial practices such as this.

The report does not acknowledge other ways in which land and resources have been captured and stolen, such as through large-scale development projects that displace populations or forcibly evict them from land they have managed, cultivated, or lived on for generations.

The GSDR, while providing us with some crucial tools towards the accelerated achievement of the 2030 Agenda, also overlooks many other systemic issues that hinder sustainable development and deepen existing inequalities. Going forward, we should utilize the GSDR as an entry point into the discussions of these systemic issues, but take it further by integrating the above mentioned perspectives and analyses. A cross-cutting gender equality perspective has to inform all the actions for the 2030 Agenda going forward.

4. Updating on Implementation of the SDGs

From the first HLPF paper the Women's Major Group (WMG) submitted, we have effectively illustrated and made clear the gendered elements of the individual Goals. Even during the years of the negotiations leading to the 2030 Agenda, the WMG elucidated the ways in which gendered norms differentially, disproportionately, and negatively impact women and girls in all their diversity across the economic, environmental, and social pillars of sustainable development.

Though we have been illustrating these gendered impacts for decades, we must repeat them continuously because the lessons have yet to be integrated consistently and substantively into policy frameworks, planning, and programs of work.

Below are general overviews of the gender dimensions of the SDGs, as well as our recommendations to ensure that the systems based on inequalities are transformed into just and equitable ones, ensuring access and enjoyment of human rights for all. To understand the local particularities, women, girls, and gender non-conforming people should always be engaged and consulted directly. We are the experts of our own lives.

SDG 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere
The positive story told about the era of the Millennium Development Goals is the global decline in extreme poverty. Progress for women and girls, however, lagged behind that for men and boys. Given the current crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, we are in danger of reversing gains in this area. Some forecasts suggest that the current COVID-19 crisis may result in the first increase in global poverty levels in more than 20 years, pushing 49 million people into extreme poverty in 2020 alone.[11] From prior epidemics, we know that existing inequalities tend

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[11] Mahler, Daniel, et al. "The impact of COVID-19 (Coronavirus) on global poverty: Why Sub-Saharan Africa might be the region hardest hit."
https://blogs.worldbank.org/opendata/impact-covid-19-coronavirus-global-poverty-why-sub-saharan-africa-might-be-region-hardest. Accessed 4 May 2020.

to be exacerbated, which suggests that we will see girls and women even more at risk than before.[12]

More women than men live in poverty, especially during their peak childbearing years. Women and girls around the world are 4% more likely than men and boys to live in extreme poverty and the risk rises for women aged 25-34 as 25% of women in this age range are more likely to be living in extreme poverty.[13] Poverty also affects children disproportionately. One out of five children live in extreme poverty.[14]

Measures of Poverty

Many of the current measures of poverty available for analysis obscure the reality of women's and girls' lives. For example, the use of household data surveys to measure poverty hides the reality of inequalities within the family. Moreover, aggregate measures of poverty conceal the differentials within countries and communities. With sufficient investment and political will, new measures, such as the individual deprivation measure, can show these important differences to enable targeted actions and policies.

There is a need to look at poverty beyond income deprivation since income deprivation alone is not poverty. In fact, poverty is multidimensional and can be measured from health, education, and standard of living aspects in addition to monetary aspects.[15] Through the Multidimensional Poverty Index Measure, it can be inferred that the poor are largely represented by women and girls and marginalized populations, as these two populations are often disproportionately deprived of education, assets, capital, gainful employment, decision making, and holding positions of power.[16]

Social protection

Developing and resourcing gender-responsive social protection systems is central to combating poverty for women and girls in all their diversity across the life course. Countries have a variety of obligations for creating and resourcing adequate social protection programs, including and beyond the 2030 Agenda. Multiple legally binding human rights treaties require States to take action to progressively realize the right to social protection without discrimination or retrogression.

We have seen progress in this area with 70% of Member States introducing or strengthening social protection programs in the past five years.[17] These efforts have not been sufficient, however. According to the International Labor Organization (ILO), 55% of the world's population

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[12] UNFPA. COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions. https://www.unfpa.org/covid-19-FAQs. Accessed 4 May 2020.

[13] UN Women. Gender Equality After Beijing (2020). Page 4, 8, and 9. See also Progress on Sustainable Development Goals: The Gender Snapshot 2019 UN Women page 2 and page 6.

[14] World Economic Forum and UN SDG Charts 2019-2020.

[15] Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI). http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/multidimensional-poverty-index-mpi.

[16] ARROW. (2014). "Linking Poverty, Food Sovereignty and Security, and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights."

[17] Secretary-General (2020). Paragraph 5.

are not protected by social protection while the remaining 45% are covered by at least one social benefit.[18]

Comprehensive social protection systems must also include those who are in informal sectors of the economy, including those in unpaid care work, which are disproportionately women, and help populations adapt to the negative impact of economic crises, humanitarian emergencies, and the climate crisis. Moreover, it is imperative that health schemes under social protection systems take into account the comprehensive needs of women and girls in all their diversity, including sexual and reproductive health services.

Austerity

Austerity measures continue to threaten the gains that have been made in reducing poverty among women and girls, and present a direct violation of the principle of non-retrogression. Yet, few governments seek to understand the gendered impacts of austerity. With the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic slowing economic growth globally, we may be entering another period of increased austerity. This would be catastrophic for women and girls in all their diversity.

In the Secretary-General's report for the 2020 Commission on the Status of Women, he clearly stated: "Fiscal austerity has consistently produced regressive outcomes, especially for low-income women, given their greater reliance on public services and transfers, their role as default care providers when services are eroded, and their strong presence as front-line public sector workers that have been subjected to cuts."[19]

As women make up a large share of workers in the industries hit hardest by the COVID-19 crisis,[20] hold less wealth than men,[21] and often have more difficulty finding re-employment after layoffs, they are particularly vulnerable to austerity measures. Governments should learn the lesson of previous waves of austerity measures and pursue alternative processes that will not place the burden directly on the shoulders of women and girls.

Conflict and militarization

Armed conflict and militarized political economies contribute to poverty by shifting money towards weapons and military expenditure, forcibly displacing communities, creating structural damage to vital infrastructure and social protection systems, and harming people's health and wellbeing.

Post-conflict economic reconstruction programs often exacerbate these problems by promoting growth-centric economic recovery models, imposing austerity measures, and prioritizing recouping investor confidence over strengthening social safety nets. As a result, these programs widen endemic structural inequalities, including gendered inequalities.

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[18] International Labor Organization.
https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/news/WCMS_601903/lang--en/index.htm. Accessed 10 May 2020.
[19] Secretary-General (2020). Paragraph 18.
[20] OECD calculations based on data from ILO ILOSTAT.
https://voxeu.org/article/covid-19-employment-and-women-oecd-countries. Accessed 4 May 2020.
[21] OECD. "Women at the core of the fight against COVID-19 crisis."
https://read.oecd-ilibrary.org/view/?ref=127_127000-awfnqj80me&title=Women-at-the-core-of-the-fight-against-COVID-19-crisis. Accessed 4 May 2020.

Recommendations

We recommend that governments at the national and sub-national levels:

COVID-19
- ● Respond swiftly to the COVID-19 crisis with gender responsive stimulus plans that target the most vulnerable first and that address under-employment and unemployment and provide income support and emergency cash payment programs.

Economic Empowerment
- ● Create an enabling environment for women's economic empowerment, including through removal of laws and policies inhibiting women's land ownership, inheritance, and access to financial institutions.

Social Protection
- ● Adequately finance and, where necessary, create gender transformative social protection systems that include protections for those working in the informal sector and landless farmers, and are targeted to the most vulnerable.
- ● Avoid reductions in spending on non-contributory social protection mechanisms.
- ● Remove discrimination against gender non-binary people in accessing social protection programs.

Austerity Measures
- ● Do not enact austerity measures, including in the context of recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, including cuts to social protection programs and public services, especially education, health, and care services, which disproportionately impact women and girls.

Data and Measures of Poverty
- ● Invest in and use livelihood indices, such as the Multidimensional Poverty Index, that capture poverty beyond income deprivation.
- ● Encourage sex- and age-disaggregated data collection to inform the design of gender-responsive policies and programs and the monitoring and evaluation of their impact on women and girls in all their diversity.

Participation and leadership
- ● Involve feminist, women's, and girl-led organizations, workers' associations, and other civil society groups that represent girls and women in the design and assessment of macroeconomic policies and social protection mechanisms.
- ● Recognize the expertise of women in their communities and resource the community-based programs they create. Provide opportunities for local-to-local dialogues to scale up these successful programs.

SDG 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

Gendered dimensions
Hunger and malnutrition in all its forms have gender and age dimensions, and are closely linked to health outcomes, including sexual and reproductive health. Globally, 60% of the chronically

hungry are women and girls, and it is likely that the proportion is even higher in some regions, such as Asia and the Pacific.[22] In many cases, girls and women living in poverty and food-insecure households eat after male family members do and eat less nutritious food.

The current COVID-19 crisis has already had major effects on food insecurity, with supply chains disrupted and agricultural labor forces at risk. These factors that reduce the availability of food are coupled with economic factors that limit buying power, creating a major threat to food security.[23] According to the World Food Programme, the COVID-19 crisis could nearly double the number of people globally suffering from acute hunger.[24]

The 2030 Agenda specifically highlights adolescent girls, as well as pregnant and lactating women as target groups whose nutritional needs must be addressed. Studies in countries across Asia and Africa have revealed the extent to which many adolescent girls are underweight, and the links between malnutrition and anemia (iron deficiency) once girls have begun menstruating.

Human rights, including right to land
The right to food and nutrition are basic human rights. Corporate capture of the food system and global trade agreements undermine these human rights and food sovereignty. Moreover, leaders have deprioritized agricultural labor as corporate capture of the food system rises and leaders become beholden to corporate interests. People's control over land, seeds, and water are threatened, as women and girls do not have a right to own or control these resources in many contexts.

Women hold disproportionately fewer land rights than men compared to the amount of land on which they labor. Moreover, women's land rights are associated with better nutritional and health outcomes.[25] Women's equal access to agricultural resources could decrease the percentage of undernourished people by 12 to 17 percent.
Though some gains have been made to formalize women's land rights, enforcement is still lacking. Women must have access to affordable legal services, fair and honest land administration, and gender-neutral enforcement and judicial systems to uphold their land rights. Lacking these rights often excludes women from active participation in planning and decision-making because women lack legitimacy.

Many governments have left women in agriculture at the mercy of corrupt brokers who exploit their produce. There is a lack of price standardization as small farmers, most of whom are

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[22] Food and Agriculture Organization.
http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/rap/files/Newsletter/150625_gender-fact-sheet.pdf. Accessed 12 May 2020.
[23] Food and Agriculture Organization, International Fund for Agriculture Development, the World Bank, and World Food Program. Joint Statement on COVID-19 Impact on Food Security and Nutrition. http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/1272058/icode/. Accessed 4 May 2020.
[24] World Food Program. COVID-19 will double the number of people facing food crises unless swift action is taken.
https://www.wfp.org/news/covid-19-will-double-number-people-facing-food-crises-unless-swift-action-taken. Accessed 8 May 2020.
[25] USAID. Fact Sheet: Fact Sheet: Land Tenure and Women's Empowerment.
https://www.land-links.org/issue-brief/fact-sheet-land-tenure-womens-empowerment/. Accessed 8 May 2020.

women, cannot access markets. As a result their produce is sold below the market price. Prices for all farm produce need to be standardized. There is also a need to put in place national policies and guidelines to regulate sustainable consumption and production, including of governments and private sector, with appropriate incentives and sanctions.

Climate and conflict
Food and water insecurity, worsened by the climate crisis, are also contributing factors to armed conflict, including by making conflicts more protracted. These exacerbate root causes of armed conflict, such as systems that prioritize military over human security and underlying, structural inequalities that impede equal realization of the human rights to food and water.

Food Systems
We need urgent action and transformative pathways to address our broken food and agriculture systems, which have been captured by big businesses, at the expense of natural resources, biodiversity, livelihoods, health, and local food security.

Policies, incentives, and support should move away from industrial agricultural models, towards regenerative agriculture, which is humane and sustainable. Export models should be replaced by local production and consumption, including community and school vegetable gardens. Diets need to move towards healthier, and more productive and environmentally friendly predominantly plant-based foods.

In addition, food wastage is a huge problem, with food worth US$8.3 billion - 40% of the total value of annual production in the world - wasted, with little or no action taken by the governments. This further overburdens existing landfills and increases the carbon footprint of agriculture.

Recommendations

We recommend that Governments at the national, subnational levels:

Nutrition
- Respect, protect, and fulfill the right to adequate, culturally appropriate, and safe food and nutrition for all, including through addressing the specific needs of women, young people, and children.
- Provide nutrition education at all levels, and promote nutritionally balanced and diverse diets, particularly utilizing traditional and local knowledge, practices, and food, along with appropriate supplementation, especially for adolescent girls, pregnant, and breastfeeding women.
- Work with communities to monitor child nutrition and support families in learning how to provide children with a nutritious diet.
- Work with parents and caregivers, as well as communities and primary healthcare providers, to promote adequate infant and young child feeding at the household level and to reduce son bias in feeding practices.
- Promote good practice in breastfeeding and implement the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes.
- Increase national budgets for maternal and newborn health and nutrition.
- Set a minimum service response package in times of crises and emergencies and ensure that it is adequately funded.

Agricultural and food systems
- Prioritize the transformation of food and agriculture systems by moving political support and all subsidies and incentives away from industrial agriculture models and monoculture production, which degrade the environment and destroy local livelihoods and food security, towards regenerative systems of local production and consumption.
- Raise awareness against and regulate genetically modified food, as well as low-quality, ultra-processed, and high-fat / high-sugar food, that perpetuate malnutrition in all its forms.
- Provide secure, safe, regular, and cost-effective transportation for women's agro-businesses and improve urban and rural linkages for farm to market delivery.

Land rights
- Ensure regulation, accountability, and justice in cases of violations of the right to land, including land and resource grabbing done by State and corporations.
- Establish and uphold grievance mechanisms for small scale farmers, indigenous communities, and other marginalized groups whose rights to land have been violated.
- Establish and fund gender-, culture-, and age-responsive policies for agro-ecology, as well as fishery in the coastal regions, including ensuring biodiversity of seeds and plants, and control and ownership of land, water, and other resources.

SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Significant gains for women and girls' health have been made in the years since the adoption of the Beijing Platform for Action and the International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action but there are still glaring inequalities and much work to be done.

In the face of the current COVID-19 pandemic, the need to safeguard the health of all is especially pressing. The pandemic has made evident the need for greater investment in health system strengthening – including health information systems and data collection, health worker governance, robust primary health care, and financial protection through universal health coverage (UHC) – even more important.

The COVID-19 pandemic has also shown how human health is interdependent with the well-being and flourishing of the environment and animals. Collaborative, multisectoral, transdisciplinary, and international efforts, as encapsulated by the WHO's One Health / One Welfare approaches are vital to this effort. This is an approach to designing and implementing programs, policies, legislation, and research in which multiple sectors – including public health, animal health, plant health, and the environment – work together to achieve better public health outcomes.

Maternal mortality and morbidity
Maternal mortality rates have fallen globally, though we are not on track to achieve this SDG target. Ongoing conflicts and security crises thwart additional progress in improving maternal mortality and morbidity rates. At least 810 women and adolescent girls died every day from preventable causes related to pregnancy and childbirth in 2017.[26] Although there has been a

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[26] World Health Organization, UNICEF, UNFPA, World Bank and the United Nations Population Division. Maternal mortality: Levels and trends 2000 to 2017.

38% reduction in the global maternal mortality ratio, since 2000, the current rate of progress is insufficient to meet the targets in the International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action and the SDGs.[27]

Women and girls in developing states continue to suffer obstetric fistula as a result of harmful practices, such as female genital mutilation / cutting, as well as inadequate access to emergency obstetric services. Without access to treatment, obstetric fistula can have lifelong negative consequences, including social ostracization and (worsened) economic dependency.

Abortion
Safe and legal abortion is a necessary element of comprehensive reproductive health services that must be included within all UHC packages. However, the exclusion of abortion from UHC packages and lack of safe abortion services, in general; the shortage of trained healthcare providers; the unwillingness or bias of service providers, including the exercise of so-called "conscience clauses"; and abortion stigma prevent women and girls from accessing safe abortion care services. Moreover, sexual and reproductive health services, especially abortion and post-abortion care, are among the most privatized services for women and adolescent girls. Factors such as these force women and adolescent girls to resort to unsafe abortion, further explaining why unsafe abortion is a major contributor to maternal mortality.[28]

Adolescent Pregnancy
According to UNFPA, 20,000 girls under the age of 18 give birth every day in developing countries.[29] Globally, adolescent pregnancy is a significant problem with long-term impacts on girls, their families, and communities. In developing regions, nearly half of pregnancies among adolescent girls and women aged 15-19 are unintended.[30] Adolescent pregnancy poses grave risks including the risk of dying in childbirth, premature labor, complications during delivery, low birthweight, and infant mortality, as well as morbidities, especially vesico-vaginal fistula.

Early childbearing negatively influences the likelihood of a girl continuing her education, further limiting her opportunities for training and employment, and often confining her to the domestic sphere for a number of years.[31] Early motherhood often forces girls and adolescents to leave school early meaning that if they are able to join the paid labor force, they often do so in precarious and / or low-paid work, contributing to intergenerational poverty. In order to prevent

https://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/publications/maternal-mortality-2000-2017/en/. Accessed 21 April 2020,

[27] ARROW. (2019). Pregnancy and Childbirth-Related Mortality and Morbidity in Asia and the Pacific Region
https://arrow.org.my/publication/pregnancy-and-childbirth-related-mortality-and-morbidity-in-asia-and-the-pacific-region/. Accessed 18 May 2020.

[28] ARROW. (2019). Access to Safe Abortion in Asia and the Pacific Region.
https://arrow.org.my/publication/access-to-safe-abortion-in-asia-and-the-pacific-region/. Accessed 18 May 2020.

[29] UNFPA. https://www.unfpa.org/adolescent-pregnancy. Accessed 15 May 2020.

[30] Deliver for Good Policy Brief. "Meet the Demand for Modern Contraception and Reproductive Health." (2019).
https://deliverforgood.org/investment/meet-the-demand-for-modern-contraception-and-reproductive-health/. Accessed 5 May 2020.

[31] ARROW. (2019). The Status of Adolescents' SRHR in Asia and the Pacific Region
https://arrow.org.my/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/ARROW_5_Adolescents-Brief.pdf. Accessed 5 May 2020.

this, governments must invest both in prevention of adolescent pregnancies, as well as in adequate support for young parents to continue their education.

Adolescent pregnancies and parenthood are a direct result of several factors, including lack of comprehensive sexuality education, the inability to exercise the right to bodily autonomy, inadequate access to sexual and reproductive health care services, stigma, and discriminatory laws related to adolescent sexuality.

HIV and AIDS
Similarly, significant progress has been made in increasing access to HIV testing, treatment, care, and support with more women receiving treatment than men as a result of health interventions among pregnant women. However, when it comes to new HIV infections, adolescent girls and young women continue to make up a disproportionate number of new cases, as a result of the denial of the right to bodily autonomy.[32] Moreover, in many settings, access to HIV prevention information and services are limited to married women, further increasing the risk of HIV among women and girls.[33]

Gender-based violence and intimate partner violence also heighten the risk of contracting HIV, as both reduce the ability of women and girls in all their diversity to access sexual health and HIV services and negotiate safer sex.

Menstrual Health
Menstrual health management remains a taboo issue that must be tackled through education, including comprehensive sexuality education, that treats menstruation as a normal and healthy part of life.

In addition, period poverty needs to be accounted for. Hygiene management tools need to be included in basic health packages for young people and must be given due consideration during the development of health policies, including in conflict and disaster settings.

Older Women
Health systems and policymakers frequently overlook and misunderstand the health and well-being of older women. There are a number of specific health conditions impacting older women that need to be addressed in health systems and programs, including urinary incontinence, pelvic infections due to post-menopausal changes, mental health issues including depression, dementia, cancers of the reproductive system, cardio-vascular diseases and immune functions impacting on the dignity and well-being of older women.

Current global approaches to improve women's health and the global ageing discourse do not reflect these priorities resulting in a dual invisibility and a lack of gender perspective.[34]

Reproductive Cancers

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[32] Secretary-General. Paragraph 97.
[33] ARROW. (2019). The Status of HIV and STI in Asia and the Pacific Region. https://arrow.org.my/publication/icpd25-the-status-of-hiv-and-sti-in-asia-and-the-pacific-region/. Accessed 5 May 2020.
[34] ARROW. (2020). Older Women's Health and Well-Being in Asia and the Pacific Region https://arrow.org.my/publication/older-womens-health-and-well-being-in-asia-and-the-pacific-region/. Accessed 5 May 2020.

Reproductive cancers and the morbidity and mortality associated with they need to be framed as a problem stemming from social inequity and the unfulfilled rights of women and girls.[35] In developing countries, breast and cervical cancer are projected to parallel maternal factors as main causes of mortality in women, especially if current cancer incidence and mortality trends continue. Investing in prevention and screening helps reduce health risks and costs. For example, evidence shows that vaccinating girls against the human papillomavirus (HPV) over 10 years — at a cost of only $10 to $25 per person — would avert more than 3 million deaths from cervical cancer across 72 low- and middle- income countries.[36]

Due to supply chain disruptions, resource diversion, and other strains on health systems, the sexual and reproductive health of women, girls, and gender non-conforming people is particularly at risk during the current COVID-19 pandemic.[37] Recent UNFPA estimates show a substantial potential impact of COVID-19 on sexual and reproductive health, including a projected increase of 47 million women in low- and middle- income countries who will be unable to access modern contraception under lockdown circumstances.[38]

Recommendations
We recommend that governments at the national and sub-national levels:

Universal Health Coverage and Health Systems
- Provide adequate financial, human, and infrastructure resources towards achieving UHC and integrate sexual and reproductive health care services into the provision of primary healthcare and UHC packages.
- Commit to coordinated, sustainable, long-term funding for health systems strengthening that applies a gender lens to disease detection, prevention, and treatment.
- Address the significant barriers that prevent women, girls, and non-binary people from accessing health care, including user fees, out-of-pocket payments, physical distance, stigma, and legal restrictions.

Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
- Safeguard essential sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), including access to services, supplies, including contraceptives, and information. Do not let emergency responses be used to divert resources or justify targeted restrictions or regulations that limit access to SRHR.

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[35] ARROW. (2019). Reproductive Cancers in Asia and the Pacific Region
https://arrow.org.my/publication/reproductive-cancers-in-asia-and-the-pacific-region/. Accessed 5 May 2020.
[36] Goldie, Sue J. and Steven Sweet. "Global Cervical Cancer Prevention: Health and Economic Benefits of HPV Vaccination and Screening." Summary of Prior Work. Boston: Harvard School of Public Health, 2013.
http://globalhealth2035.org/sites/default/files/working-papers/summary1-cervical-cancer-prevention-cih.pdf. Accessed 10 May 2020.
[37] UNFPA Technical Brief. "COVID-19: A Gender Lens."
https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/resource-pdf/COVID-19_A_Gender_Lens_Guidance_Note.pdf. Accessed 4 May 2020.
[38] UNFPA Interim Technical Note. "Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Family Planning and Ending Gender-based Violence, Female Genital Mutilation and Child Marriage."
https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/resource-pdf/COVID-19_impact_brief_for_UNFPA_24_April_2020_1.pdf. Accessed 4 May 2020.

- Challenge harmful norms and gender inequality which hinder fulfilment of the sexual and reproductive health and rights of adolescents, young people, women, LBTI+ women, and gender non-conforming people.
- Ensure that all survivors of sexual and gender-based violence have access to a comprehensive package of sexual and reproductive health care services, including post-exposure prophylaxis, emergency contraception, abortion, and mental health services.
- Recognize abortion as a human right and remove all punitive laws and measures, including those for healthcare providers. Ensure the accessibility of abortion services, including through the provision of services, facilities and personnel trained on safe abortion and post-abortion care. In times of crisis, declare abortion as an essential service and implement telemedicine and other online tools to fulfill the human right to abortion.
- Guarantee access to comprehensive sexuality education and youth-responsive sexual and reproductive health services to ensure that adolescents and young people can make informed choices free from discrimination, coercion or violence.
- Recognize and work to eliminate period poverty, through removal of taxes from menstrual products, as well as providing these products free of charge to women and adolescent girls who do not have access, such as those living in poverty or detention.
- Provide emergency obstetric services, especially in rural and peri-urban areas, as a human right and in order to prevent obstetric fistula. Guarantee free healthcare services for all women and girls living with obstetric fistula.
- Conduct outreach campaigns to reach women and girls living with obstetric fistula in order to reduce stigma and cnnect them with healthcare services.
- Ensure the implementation of the Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) at the onset of every humanitarian crisis.
- Integrate and train young people in the implementation of MISP in crisis situations.

SDG 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable education, quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Since the adoption of the Beijing Platform for Action, girls' education is the focus area that has seen the largest gains and improvements, though some regions have not reached gender parity yet. Even with the gains of the past twenty-five years, girls continue to face multiple barriers in accessing education based on gender and intersecting oppressions, such as ethnicity, poverty, geographical areas, and disability, among others.

Public education is part of broader public service systems that have been increasingly under attack as part of a hollowing out of state services. The right to education is vitally linked to SDGs 10 and 16 that refer to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies, including their full and meaningful participation.

COVID-19 Crisis
The COVID-19 crisis threatens both to roll back gains made on girls' education and to create new barriers, particularly for girls. For example, 91% of the world's students are now affected by

school closures,[39] and girls are less likely than boys to return to school after a prolonged absence.[40]

Infrastructure
School infrastructures play an important role in learning and encouraging retention and enrollment. In developing countries, young girls often leave school at the start of menarche due to poor sanitation facilities, including the unavailability of private bathrooms, compounded with fear and stigma.

The dangers faced by girls and adolescents due to unsafe roads, lack of infrastructure, and inadequate services especially at the secondary school level, often prevent girls and adolescents from attending school. Moreover, even where adequate infrastructure and services exist, harmful gender stereotypes, child, early, and forced marriages, sexual harassment, and the lack of inclusive and quality learning environments, keep girls and young women out of school.

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)
Girls often have less access to STEM training than the boys from an early age through tertiary education. According to the GSDR, women make up only 35% of students in STEM programs in tertiary education, for example, even though women make up a slightly larger percentage of students in tertiary education overall.[41] This impacts women's future earnings and career opportunities as they enter the labor market with fewer skills and abilities than their male counterparts.

Though increasing women and girls' STEM education is important, humanities and liberal arts education must continue to be valued.

Marginalized Women and Girls
Marginalized women and girls face distinct obstacles to exercising their right to education. For example, discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and sex characteristics (SOGIESC) results in numerous problems that prevent people from accessing quality education in schools, such as bullying.

Ideological-political approaches that are spreading worldwide limit equitable education through their impact on school curricula. This includes by impeding comprehensive sexuality education in schools and portraying stereotypical roles in curricula and class settings, which particularly impact the independent development of women, girls, and LGBTI+ people. This situation and its challenges also negatively impact minorities, ethnic-cultural population diversity, sexual diversity, vulnerable populations, the disabled and LGBTI+ people.

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[39] United Nations Department of Global Communications. "United Nations working to mitigate COVID-19 impact on children."
https://www.un.org/en/un-coronavirus-communications-team/united-nations-working-mitigate-covid-19-impact-children. Accessed 4 May 2020.
[40] UNESCO International Institute for Education Planning. "COVID-19 school closures: Why girls are more at risk." 29 April 2020.
http://www.iiep.unesco.org/en/covid-19-school-closures-why-girls-are-more-risk-13406. Accessed 4 May 2020.
[41] GSDR. Page 48.

For older women that had not previously learned, there are very few opportunities to learn how to read and write, which is necessary for their involvement in daily life and for the enjoyment of their human rights.

Women and girls in conflict-affected communities, as well as refugees and migrants, often face challenges in accessing quality education, including due to gaps in documentation.

Ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education requires governments to create and support gender-responsive education systems, through: redistributing unpaid and devalued domestic and care work; addressing the feminization of the education workforce, including by protecting the labor rights of teachers; and rethinking how institutions such as school, work, and the environment, support or undermine the lives and rights of women and girls.

Recommendations

We recommend that governments at the national and sub-national levels:

Curriculum
- Target and sustain efforts to remove gender bias, stereotypes, and discrimination within and across education systems, from teacher recruitment and training to curriculum and materials development, as well as integrate gender equality and human rights explicitly into all areas of curriculum, including comprehensive sexuality education.
- Align comprehensive sexuality education within formal and informal settings with best practices and guidance worldwide.
- Combat gendered norms with regard to areas of study and vocation, including by encouraging women and girls to undertake "non-traditional" fields of study and vocations in order to combat gender segregation within the workforce and by increasing remuneration and respect for traditionally feminine areas of work.
- Support and invest in girls and young women's STEM education programs.

Teachers
- Improve and increase pay and benefits for teachers.
- Integrate gender equality training into teacher education and gender-responsive pedagogy into curricula.
- Ensure that male teachers are sensitive to the specific challenges and barriers that female students and teachers face.
- Provide additional support and incentives to female teachers who can be powerful role models within their schools and communities.

Infrastructure
- Invest in school infrastructures and ensure school environments are safe, secure, and free from violence, including violence that occurs in, on the way to, or around schools.
- Address structural factors that create barriers to education, such as poverty, ethnicity, disability, and conflict. This includes the need for adequate and safe water, sanitation, and hygiene facilities in schools.

Participation and Leadership
- Recognize girls and young women as critical stakeholders and include them in all decision-making processes about their education and futures.

COVID-19 Pandemic
- Create response plans that address the gendered dimensions of the COVID-19 crisis related school closures, including: girls' increased domestic burden, the gender digital divide, increased risk of violence in the home, and unintended pregnancy due to interrupted contraceptive services and supplies. In these plans, identify alternatives for other social services that children would normally receive in a school setting, including school feeding programs and mental health services.

SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Gender-based violence
One of the great successes of feminist and women's rights movements, is placing gender-based violence (GBV) on the global agenda and demanding that societies no longer treat GBV as a private, normal - even necessary - part of family life. Feminist and women's rights movements continue to challenge the social norms permitting and encouraging gender-based violence, while also adapting to new forms and manifestations of violence, such as online harassment, stalking, intimidation, and violence.

Despite this great achievement, violence against women and girls in all their diversity is still endemic, affecting all populations. Globally, within their lifetime nearly one third of women will experience physical or sexual violence at the hand of a partner. Every day, 137 women are killed by a family member, 68 of whom are killed by their current or former partner.[42]

Societies, including governments, invoke the specter of violence and harassment to keep women and girls in line, especially those of us that challenge oppressive power systems, such as women human rights defenders, as well as lesbian, bisexual, and transgender women. In addition, the sexual abuse of girls, particularly by fathers or other relatives, constitutes another form of violence endemic the world over.

The current COVID-19 crisis threatens to roll back achievements made in the fight against GBV, both due to reductions in prevention, protection, and social services, and due to increasing rates of violence. The heightened risk of GBV is experienced not only by women forced to "shelter in place" with abusive intimate partners, but also by frontline health workers and community volunteers who are activating in response to the pandemic.[43] Estimates suggest that the pandemic may slow progress in this realm by up to one third.[44] Acknowledging the grim reality of surging GBV during pandemics, the UN Secretary General in April made an appeal for a ceasefire recognizing that "violence is not confined to the battlefield."[45]

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[42] Secretary-General. Paragraph 45.
[43] United Nations. "Policy Brief: The Impact of COVID-19 on Women." 9 April 2020. https://www.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/library/publications/2020/policy-brief-the-impact-of-covid-19-on-women-en.pdf. Accessed 4 May 2020.
[44] UNFPA Interim Technical Note.
[45] United Nations Secretary General. Secretary-General's video message on gender-based violence and COVID-19. 5 April 2020. https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statement/2020-04-05/secretary-generals-video-message-gender-based-violence-and-covid-19-scroll-down-for-french. Accessed 4 May 2020

GBV occurs in all aspects of women and girls' lives, including within the workplace. Following years of advocacy by feminist and labor movements, last year the International Labor Organization adopted Convention 190 concerning violence and harassment in the world of work. When implemented, this will be a powerful tool for movements all over the world to end GBV and harassment in the world of work.

Harmful Practices
Child, early, and forced marriage is a harmful practice, a violation of children's human rights and an extreme form of gender inequality that continues to rob millions of girls around the world of their childhood. In some instances, child, early, and forced marriage or unions may amount to slavery, torture, or trafficking. While boys are also married as children, child, early, and forced marriage disproportionately affects girls. No region is on track to end child, early, and forced marriage by 2030.

Child, early, and forced marriage or unions result from complex social, cultural, political, and economic drivers. Fundamentally, it is a result of patriarchy and social norms that see the proper place of women and girls within the domestic sphere, as well as the desire to control female sexuality.

Factors that increase vulnerability to child, early, and forced marriage or unions include poverty and insecurity stemming from climate change, natural disasters, armed conflict, or forced displacement. For example, families living in poverty may view marriage as the best way to secure their daughters' futures and reduce economic pressures on the family.

The economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, combined with disruptions in prevention programs, could result in up to 13 million more child, early, and forced marriages by 2030.[46]

Given the complex and interlinked causes and consequences of child, early, and forced marriage, the most effective policy and program interventions take a holistic approach, placing girls and their empowerment and transformational societal change at the center.

Female genital mutilation (FGM) - or the excision or cutting of part or all external female genitalia for nonmedical reasons - is a gross violation of a women and girls' human rights. This harmful practice is often performed without the consent of the girl, violating her right to bodily autonomy and sexual health.

Today, there are about 200 million women and girls living in about 30 countries who have experienced FGM.[47] A further 68 million girls are at risk of the practice by 2030 unless efforts to accelerate ending the practice are scaled up thirteen-fold.[48] COVID-19 related disruptions in prevention programs are likely to increase the number of girls at risk by up to 2 million.[49]

As the practice has gained more awareness, many countries have opted to medicalize the procedure. This has been thought to address the medical risks associated with FGM, but it does

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[46] UNFPA Interim Technical Note.
[47] World Health Organization. https://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/topics/fgm/prevalence/en/. Accessed 10 May 2020.
[48] UNFPA. https://www.unfpa.org/annual-report#!/indicators-2. Accessed 4 May 2020.
[49] UNFPA Interim Technical Note.

not address the fundamental human rights violation. The process may be "safer" under trained medical care, but it is still a violation of girls' right to bodily autonomy.

At the heart of FGM are patriarchal social norms and gender stereotypes regarding women and girls' sexuality, including, for example, a demand for girls' virginity prior to marriage or "protection" of women and girls' chastity. In order to avoid stigmatization and rejection from their communities, girls may even desire to undergo the procedure.

Sexual and Reproductive Rights
Since the Beijing Platform for Action and the International Conference on Population and Development one year before, the international community has seen significant progress with regards to women and girls' reproductive rights, such as the groundbreaking referendum on abortion in May 2018 in Ireland.

However, we continue to see new threats, including to the gains once considered solid. For example, mandatory waiting periods or so-called "conscientious objection" laws make access to abortion care a right on paper only and not in reality, especially for the most marginalized women and girls. These laws reveal the patronizing and misogynistic thinking of the state that tells women they cannot be trusted to make their own decisions or that their right to bodily autonomy can only be respected only so long as it does not bother anyone else.

Despite the inclusion of reproductive rights in the 2030 Agenda, governments refused to commit to sexual rights. Such an omission not only violates human rights, but also impedes discussions on altering regressive practices and social norms that prevent the full realization of gender equality. There is a need to move beyond the binary understanding of gender and acknowledge the freedom of self-identification of gender for all.

Access to resources
Women and girl's access to financial services, including credit, is limited by a number of factors, including discrimination, lack of formal credit history, inability to offer collateral, high interest rates (including by microcredit organizations), and policies requiring spousal consent.

Girls and women are also less likely to be connected to the internet and own a phone compared to men and boys.[50] With the sudden need to increase the digital aspects of everyday work, due to COVID-19 pandemic, lack of access to new technologies and digital services are affecting women and girls disproportionately.

Investments in research and development are key to innovation and sustainable industries yet women are hugely underrepresented within research.

Recommendations

We recommend that governments at the national and sub-national level:

Gender-based Violence and Harmful Practices

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[50] UN Women. Turning promises into action: Gender equality in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. (2018). Page 101.

- Ratify and domesticate ILO Convention 190 on violence and harassment in the world of work.
- Enact and / or strengthen national laws and policies that reach beyond criminalization to comprehensively address sexual violence, including domestic and intimate partner violence, as well as violence and abuse committed online.
- Train all health providers to address GBV and harmful practices to ensure that needed services are available, accessible, acceptable, and of quality for all without stigma or discrimination.
- Take urgent action to end harmful FGM especially in high-prevalance countries, such as Egypt and Sudan, where the practice is conducted on nearly 9 out of 10 women.[51]
- Take a clear and explicit stance against FGM and its medicalization, in line with the UN's "zero tolerance" position.
- Recognize, plan for, and protect against the increased risk of GBV and the breakdown of social and governmental frameworks during humanitarian and other global crises.
- Ensure that women enter into marriage with their full and free consent and that they have the ability to leave marriages safely and legally with special consideration paid to custody, property, and distribution of financial resources.
- In response to the current COVID-19 crisis, designate GBV prevention and response services as essential and ensure that women's centers, shelters, domestic violence helplines, legal aid, and other critical services, continue to operate and expand where needed.

Sexual and Reproductive Rights
- Adopt a systemic and sustained human rights and justice approach that addresses the root causes of sexual and reproductive right violations and challenges the efficacy of punitive policies that further disenfranchise and criminalize marginalized peoples.
- Provide comprehensive sexuality education within and beyond school as a necessary tool for tackling gender inequality, gender stereotypes, empowering women and girls, ending child, early, and forced marriage and FGM, as well as eradicating all forms of GBV.

Access to Services and Resources
- Ensure women's economic empowerment, including their right to control, own, pass on, and inherit property.
- Uphold women and girls' unrestricted access to information and communications technologies which are crucial for access to sexual and reproductive health information and for the sexual expression and pleasure of women, adolescents, girls and trans and non-binary people in all our diversity.

Participation and Leadership
- Promote and ensure more representation of people of diverse sexual orientation and gender identities and expressions in social, political, and economic spheres.

COVID-19 Pandemic

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[51] World Health Organization. https://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/topics/fgm/prevalence/en/. Accessed 21 May 2020.

- Adopt a gender responsive approach to COVID-19 guidance, programming, and investments to ensure that government responses recognize and address the intersecting needs of girls and women in all their diversity during this time.

SDG 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

COVID-19 Pandemic
With the COVID-19 crisis, the lack of water puts many populations at greater risk for infection. Public health experts across the world advise people to significantly increase the amount of times people wash their hands every day. However, 3 billion people lack access to basic hand-washing facilities in their homes and nearly 1 billion more people have limited access to water due to irregular public water supplies and frequent interruptions of service.[52] This disparity is one of the reasons that poor and marginalized communities are at even greater risk from COVID-19.

Gender and Water and Sanitation
Inadequate access to safe, reliable water and improved sanitation, including for menstrual hygiene management, disproportionately impacts women and girls. According to UN Women, 785 million people did not have access to basic drinking water services in 2017.[53] In 80% of households that did not have a source of safe drinking water on site, women and girls bore sole responsibility for water collection.[54]

In addition to burdens on women and girls' time and labor, the gendered impacts of inadequate access to water and sanitation include decreased school attendance, productivity, earnings, employment opportunities, violations of the privacy of women and girls, diminished safety and health, and heightened risk of violence, including for women with disabilities.

Conflict
Conflict impedes the ability of women and girls who live in conflict zones to exercise their human rights to adequate water and sanitation. Warring parties, including in Syria and Yemen, have targeted water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) systems, impacting millions of people. Water and sanitation infrastructure is frequently left unmaintained during conflicts, particularly in areas with high levels of violence.

This lack of access to WASH further exposes conflict-affected communities, particularly women and girls, to preventable diseases, including cholera and diarrheal disease. Since women and girls carry primary responsibility for water collection, this further exposes them to increased risk of violence.

Participation and Leadership
Water management decisions are not gender neutral. Differences and inequalities between women and men influence how individuals and communities use and make decisions about water use and access and respond to changes in regulation of water use and access.

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[52] World Resources Institute. "Combating the Coronavirus Without Clean Water." https://www.wri.org/blog/2020/04/coronavirus-water-scarcity-hand-washing. Accessed 10 May 2020.
[53] UN Women. Progress on the Sustainable Goals: The Gender Snapshot. (2019). Page 12.
[54] UN Women, Turning Promises into Action, p. 104.

Empowering women and adolescent girls, including from leadership positions to access, protect, and prescribe sustainable consumptive uses for clean and safe water and effective recycling of wastewater, can enable women and adolescent girls to claim their power while also improving community health.

Recommendations

We recommend that governments at the national and sub-national levels:

Human Rights
- Recognize water as a human right and implement international human rights instruments.

Public Spaces
- Ensure safe, reliable, accessible sanitation facilities at school, workplaces, public spaces and other institutions taking into account the specific needs of women and girls.
- Increase safe sanitation services in rural areas as a priority, bearing in mind that access to safe sanitation services is much lower in rural areas than in urban areas.

Policy Coherence
- Incorporate a WASH, gender, and age-dimension into cross-cutting sector policies and strategies, including for food security, nutrition and health, as well as during emergencies.

Menstrual Hygiene Management
- Incorporate menstrual health education into school curricula and ensure the availability of infrastructure, such as private washrooms. Sensitize and increase knowledge about menstruation as a normal part of development.
- The specific needs of women and girls regarding sanitation services, in particular for menstrual hygiene, should be taken into account all along the decision chain, and in the conception of installations.

Participation and Leadership
- Encourage the leadership of girls and women and gender mainstreaming in collaboration and coordination between national level agencies involved with the integrated water resources mechanism, with particular focus on transboundary water resources.
- Raise the participation of girls and young women in all aspects of decision-making concerning planning and installations of water and sanitation projects, including strengthening local decision-making participation of women in WASH committees. It is important to foster institutional changes that will decentralize regulation of water use and access and enhance the role of women in community management, building on their expertise.

SDG 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

Nearly 1 billion people globally still lack access to electricity and over 3 billion people lack access to clean cooking, relying on solid biomass, coal, or kerosene instead.[55] Indoor air pollution (IAP) causes an estimated 3.8 million premature deaths per year,[56] with women and children accounting for 60% of these deaths.[57] IAP has long lasting effects on general health and well-being. For example, early exposure to IAP during childhood may stifle lung development, suggesting that the cost of this pollution may continue later in life.

Gender and Energy
Where there are gaps in energy justice, it is women and girls' unpaid time and labor that is typically expended to gather biomass fuels for cooking, to collect water, or to process grains and other foods manually. In households that use solid fuels for cooking, girls spend approximately 18 hours a week gathering fuel limiting time available to pursue other economic, academic, and personal, family, and leisure activities.[58]

Also, inadequate and unreliable access to affordable, efficient, and sustainable energy services hinders the social and economic resilience of women. For example, women forced to procure energy individually because they cannot access the national grid often incur high costs of running small-scale businesses, which points to a role for small-scale, locally controlled renewable energy systems.

Participation and Leadership
Women's leadership in sustainable energy production can help influence policy and regulation to protect people, communities, and the earth from contamination from open pit mining, strip mining, mountaintop removal, in situ leaching, hydraulic fracturing, steam extraction, drilling, milling, processing, refinement techniques, transport, and camps, that oppress women to serve the operations and result in increased violence against women. When safe from violence, women can plan and execute sustainable energy projects that generate healthy economic and societal benefits at multiple scales.

Recommendations

We recommend that governments at the national and sub-national Levels:

- Prioritize investment in low-carbon, renewable, and clean energy infrastructure and technology over fossil fuels, while ensuring compliance with ethical and human rights standards.
- Increase access to accessible, affordable, reliable, safe, and modern energy services in rural areas and increase access to electricity, using renewable energy sources.
- Uphold energy democracy. Reverse top-down energy production, distribution, and control so that women, households, and communities can drive energy interventions and make decisions that work for them.

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[55] GSDR, p. xxvi.
[56] GSDR, p. xxvi.
[57] World Health Organization. (2016). "Burning opportunity: clean household energy for health, sustainable development, and wellbeing of women and children. World Health Organization." https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/204717. Accessed 15 May 2020.
[58] UN Women. Turning Promises into Actions, p. 107.

- Take a gender-responsive, human rights-based approach to all aspects of energy planning and policymaking, including cooking solutions, in order to actively support and advance the human rights of women and girls in all their diversity.
- Invest in research and program evaluations to better understand the links between clean energy interventions and gender-based violence prevention, particularly in humanitarian settings.

SDG 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

The COVID-19 pandemic has taught us that we need a systemic shift to a more sustainable economy that works for both people and the planet. It has become increasingly clear that endless economic growth is neither feasible nor desirable in a world with limited resources, and a severely degraded environment. In practice, when left to a free market economy, economic growth will never be sustainable, inclusive, or provide work and livelihoods for all. Instead, big business will become increasingly wealthy and local livelihoods and jobs lost as they fail to compete.

Recently, the Financing for Development Report 2020 has stated that the economic and financial shocks associated with the COVID-19 pandemic - including disruptions to industrial production, rising insecurity, job losses, and financial market volatility - are compounding existing risks and derailing implementation of the SDGs.[59] The UN Secretary-General has called for a recovery, guided by the 2030 Agenda, that builds a more inclusive economy and addresses the inequalities that leave so many people vulnerable to social and economic shocks.

Economic growth / models
Women subsidize economies and bear the brunt of austerity through their unpaid care and domestic work, which limits their time to pursue education, economic, or leisure opportunities, and may be physically arduous. The neoliberal capitalist system treats women and girls in all their diversity as an endless and free resource.

Feminist critiques of current economic models have made visible the accepted, invisible spheres that capitalism depends upon for its continuation, namely the unpaid care and domestic work performed by women and girls. For example, feminists have criticized the blindness and inadequacy of GDP because it ignores unpaid care and domestic work and measures only the value of goods and services produced in a country in a single year.

In addition, feminists have shown that the current macroeconomic situation undermines women and girls' rights due to: narrow and human rights-blind macroeconomic goals; gender biases in macroeconomic data collection, analysis, and policy making; insufficient focus on decent work; failure to maximize fiscal space for women's rights and gender equality; and absence of women's voices in political and economic decision making, such as the right to unionize and undertake collective bargaining.

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[59] United Nations, Inter-agency Task Force on Financing for Development, *Financing for Sustainable Development Report 2020*. (New York: United Nations, 2020), available from: https://developmentfinance.un.org/fsdr2020 .

Emerging data suggest that the economic shockwaves caused by the global COVID-19 pandemic disproportionately affect women, putting them at further disadvantage. According to the ILO, 81% of the world's workforce – an estimated 2.7 billion workers – are now affected by pandemic-related lockdowns. Women's precarious position in the economic sector, both in informal and formal employment, is especially vulnerable.[60]

Economic systems require radical structural changes that rethink goals of growth and stability and assumptions of gender and political neutrality in order to support, rather than undermine, a world of equality and justice. This requires systematic changes, including in fiscal policy, expenditure policy, and labor market policies, and addressing informal economies and care work.[61]

Decent Work
According to the International Labor Organization (ILO), "decent work" refers to working "in conditions of freedom, equity, security, and human dignity" for both women and men. This includes, but is not limited to, ensuring a workplace that: offers the space for personal development and encourages social integration; gives workers the freedom to express their concerns and participate in decision making that affect their lives; and guarantees equal opportunities and treatment for all. This applies to all workers - not only white-collar workers.

While many of these elements of the decent work agenda are vital to achieving gender equality, it is impaired when linked with economic growth agenda, which drives economies to be more competitive and attractive to foreign investors at the cost of people's lives and the environment.

Young People
Globally, young people, especially young women, struggle to find decent work. Young women are twice as likely as young men not to be in employment, education, or training, for a total of 181 million young women in this category.[62] This may increase as a result of the COVID-19 crisis given interruptions in education and the shrinking of the labor market.

Entrepreneurs
Female entrepreneurs account for up to a third of all businesspeople operating in the formal economy worldwide, however they are also more likely to be in the unprotected informal sector. Women often face barriers to starting a business because of social attitudes and norms, and those who do try are often confined to the informal economy due to the existence of systemic barriers. According to the most recent Women, Business and the Law report, women have 75% of the legal rights governments provide to men.[63]

Domestic Workers

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[60] United Nations. "Policy Brief: The Impact of COVID-19 on Women."

[61] Bretton Woods Project (2017). "The IMF and Gender Equality: A Compendium of Feminist Macroeconomic Critiques." https://www.brettonwoodsproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/The-IMF-and-Gender-Equality-A-Compendium-of-Feminist-Macroeconomic-Critiques.pdf. Accessed 5 May 2020.

[62] International Labor Organization. https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/news/WCMS_737053/lang--en/index.htm. Accessed 21 May 2020.

[63] World Bank. 2020. Women, Business and the Law 2020. Washington, DC: World Bank. © World Bank. https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/32639 License: CC BY 3.0 IGO.

Even before the COVID-19 crisis, feminists knew that care and domestic workers were essential. From caring for children and the elderly to cooking and cleaning, domestic workers provide the reproductive care that enables economies to function. However, they frequently work without benefits or access to social protection programs. ILO Convention 189 guarantees domestic workers' rights to minimum wage, rest, and to choose their own residence. However, the Convention is insufficiently ratified and incorporated into domestic law to protect domestic workers.

Extractive Industries

Extractive industries operate at significant human and environmental costs and must be tightly regulated in order to ensure that they respect human rights and to prevent environmental degradation and destruction. For example, forced evictions by mining companies in Guatemala involved gang rape,[64] while women in the mining sector in the Democratic Republic of Congo have no safe access to water, food, education, or health, while generally engaging in the most toxic work at mining sites.[65]

Recommendations

We recommend that governments at the national and sub-national levels:

Legal and Policy Frameworks
- Ratify and domesticate ILO Conventions, including ILO Convention 189 on domestic workers and ILO Convention 190 on violence and harassment in the world of work.
- Strengthen national implementation and enforcement of legal policy frameworks on child labor covering rescue / withdrawal, rehabilitation, monitoring and prevention via increased resource and budgetary allocation, and capacity building.
- Empower workers with protected whistleblowing mechanisms to raise issues, including minimum wage standards.
- Promote supportive environments for all parents and caregivers through remote working possibilities, flexible hours, provision of day care, as well increased flexibility in leave and efforts to ensure supportive transition to the workplace.
- Incorporate care work as formal work, including by expanding social protection coverage to care workers.
- Ensure women and girls' human rights in relation to mining and other extractive industries, such as protecting their right to land and ending trafficking.

Participation and Leadership
- Address decent work in a holistic way that includes transforming socio-economic constraints, as well as challenging existing gender roles, including by ensuring the participation of women and girls in all their diversity in decision-making at all levels.

Children and Young People

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[64] WILPF. (2016). "Indigenous Women's Struggle Against Corporate Abuse in Guatemala." Available: https://wilpf.org/indigenous-womens-struggle-against-corporate-abuse-in-guatemala/. Accessed 5 May 2020.
[65] WILPF. (2016). "Case Study: Corporations, Peace, and Gender Equality in the DRC". Available: www.peacewomen.org/resource/case-study-corporations-peace-and-gender-equality-drc. Accessed 5 May 2020.

- Create decent jobs for young people and livelihood opportunities in rural areas, including by enhancing skills / vocational training programs and connecting young people to employment upon completing the program.
- Remove barriers to transition from school and training into decent work and increase access to financial services, as well as financial literacy training for youth, particularly adolescent girls and young women.
- Adopt gender-sensitive measures to address specific forms of child labor, including developing a gender sensitive list of hazardous work, that includes not only the work of boys, but the work of girls as well.

COVID-19 Pandemic
- Create gender-responsive COVID-19 recovery policies and packages, including financial support for all workers in the formal and informal economy; moratoriums on rent, utilities, mortgage, and loan payments; access to paid sick leave, paid child and family care, and parental leave; unemployment payments; and food vouchers and distribution programs.
- Engage and actively seek out feminist, women's, and girl-led organizations in the design of recovery packages, and incorporate disaggregated data in their monitoring and evaluation.

SDG 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

Infrastructure reflects patriarchal norms. Governments and societies have designed spaces and infrastructure to meet the needs of men's lives while ignoring the realities of the lives of women and girls in all their diversity. The design of cities is determined by and reproduces the hierarchical relationships found in patriarchal societies where some activities are given greater value than others.

For example, in many cities, the movement of private vehicles has been prioritized over public transport and are designed to give priority to routes dominated by men who tend to have a linear commute during traditional work "rush hours." Conversely, women incorporate more care work in their journeys, which are shorter, more frequent and diverse, and often made on public transport outside of commuting hours, making travel more costly and time consuming.[66] In addition, specific attention must be given to the design of housing schemes that respond to various living arrangements and needs such as those of single mothers, survivors of violence and abuse, and the elderly.

Small scale farmers, most of whom are women in rural areas, are not able to access markets due to poor roads and limited access to technology as basic as weather forecasts. As a result, their produce often goes bad and they are unable to sell it. Improved roads connecting rural areas to market centers would increase their income and productivity.

Recommendations
 We recommend that governments at the national and sub-national levels:

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[66] Cogley, Bridget. "Urban planning is 'really very biased against women' says Caroline Criado Perez." https://www.dezeen.com/2020/03/10/caroline-criado-perez-urban-planning-is-really-very-biased-against-women/. Accessed 21 May 2020.

- Actively involve feminist, women's, and girl-led organizations in the design and implementation of all infrastructure projects in order to guarantee that their needs and rights guide the projects.
- Ensure that all new infrastructure projects are carbon-neutral and gender-responsive.
- Reduce the digital gap in rural, isolated areas by using information and communication technologies (ICT) powered by solar energy systems.

SDG 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries

SDG 10 gets to the heart of the systemic barriers preventing us from achieving the 2030 Agenda since the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination they perpetuate create inequalities between and within countries down to the household level. In order to realise sustainable and inclusive growth and reduce inequalities of outcomes, it is necessary to ensure equal opportunities of education, healthcare, and employment, and to revise discriminatory laws, policies, and practices.

Over the past few decades, income inequality within and between countries has increased significantly. In 2017, the richest 1% of the world had 33% of the total wealth, while the poorest 75% had approximately 10% of the total wealth.[67] This wealth disparity perpetuates and causes other types of inequalities, including disparities in access to health, education, or nutrition, as well as decreasing people's resilience to economic and climate crises.

Without dismantling the increasing concentration of wealth and power at the top that accrues as a result of systemic inequalities, no country will achieve the 2030 Agenda.

To achieve SDG 10 and eventually inclusive societies, it is also necessary to address other SDG targets, such as strengthening the means of implementation, equal opportunities to education, healthcare and economy, as well as creating synergies among these Goals.

If we want to reduce poverty in an inclusive way, it is essential to create a different kind of economic prosperity that rectifies economic inequality. This involves improving the regulation and monitoring of financial markets and institutions and encouraging development assistance and foreign direct investment to regions where the need is urgent.

Regarding inequalities between countries, it is necessary to guarantee equal economic opportunities through migration and mobility of people, and adjustment of international financial services, and to redistribute financial resources through official development assistance and foreign direct investment. As for inequalities within a country, progressive taxation and transparent fiscal expenditure can help redistribute income.

Intersectionality
Intersectional feminist analysis requires that we look beyond averages to understand the specificities of women and girls' lived realities. Not all women and girls in a given country or location experience the same outcomes. For example, the Secretary-General's recent report for the Commission on the Status of Women noted that: "Globally, women aged between 20-24

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[67] GSDR, p.16.

years in the lowest wealth quintile are 3.7 times more likely to give birth before the age of 18 years that those in the highest wealth quintile."[68]

To remedy inequalities, especially those within countries, policy makers and programmers must conduct intersectional analyses in order to create structural change for the furthest behind.

Poverty
Data from developing countries show that women and girls are more likely to live in poverty than men and boys with the greatest gap in ages 25-34 when the demands and responsibilities of raising children are highest.[69] Recognizing the inherent weaknesses in current measures of poverty that rely on household survey data, the impact could be even greater. In European and North American countries, households headed by single women are three times more likely to live below the poverty line, highlighting the impact of multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination.[70]

Adolescent girls
Adolescent girls face double discrimination because of their age and gender. Without educated and empowered girls, we will never tackle inequality. Efforts to empower girls must start early to focus on the most excluded and leave no one behind. With the right opportunities adolescent girls have the agency to transform their lives and their communities and bring about global progress.

Institutional inequalities of social, political, and legal systems generate income discrepancies and further lead to gender and social inequalities in various aspects of societies. In order to achieve the 2030 Agenda, it is necessary to ensure equal opportunities of education, healthcare, and employment, and to revise discriminatory laws, policies, and practices.

Recommendations

We recommend that governments at the national and sub-national levels:

Inequalities within countries
- Incorporate the tools of feminist analysis, especially intersectionality, into the creation and evaluation of policies and programs in order to target those furthest behind.
- Guarantee and allocate public financing and resources for social protection systems and public social infrastructure aimed at eliminating inequalities of outcomes, such as through gender responsive and progressive budgets for gender equality, health, and education programs.
- Regulate and / or reverse privatization of public services and social protection systems to guarantee they remain a public good.
- Refuse trade and investment agreements that restrict countries from delivering social protection for all.
- Take action against inequalities of opportunities caused by income disparity and structural discrimination based on age, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, race, ethnicity, religion, or region, by raising the income of the poor, especially women

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[68] Secretary-General. Paragraph 98.
[69] Secretary-General. Paragraph 88.
[70] Secretary-General. Paragraph 89.

from disadvantaged social groups, including: young girls and older women, single mothers, women with disabilities, LGBTI+ communities, indigenous peoples, refugees, and others.
- Overturn discriminatory laws and policies to ensure substantive equality.
- Ensure equitable and just redistribution of resources through taxation, wage, and social protection policies.

Inequalities between countries
- Strengthen regulations and monitoring of global financial markets and institutions, ensure effective financing mechanisms to develop strategies, and accelerate implementation of poverty reduction policies.
- Enhance the representation of and give domestic policy space for developing countries in decision-making processes in international economic and financial institutions.
- Implement preferential treatment for developing countries in trade and economic prosperity policies to ensure the development of their employment frameworks and reducing poverty levels.

Data
- Provide disaggregated, timely data at the national, regional, and global levels, to identify gaps and set plans to narrow inequalities.
- Invest in strengthening a pluralistic ecosystem of data, which collects, systematizes, analyzes, and disseminates quantitative and qualitative data in order to effectively monitor and evaluate potential disparities in access to social services, with full respect for confidentiality and privacy.

SDG 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

In the past decades, our world has become an increasingly urban one with massive, gendered migratory flows from rural to urban areas resulting in significant impacts on our cultures, health, and environments. According to the GSDR, if trends continue, cities will contain nearly 70% of the world's population by 2050.[71] We do not know yet what the impact of the COVID-19 crisis will be on urban areas, but we must ensure that urban policymaking transforms our current cities into more just and equitable places, as well as plan for the cities of the future.

Within this context, programs and policies must promote human settlements in which the modes of production and reproduction are not based on the exploitation of natural resources or of marginalized groups, such as migrant workers.

Gender and Cities
Across some issues, such as skilled birth attendance, women and girls in urban areas fare better than their counterparts in rural areas. However, urbanization also poses challenges to gender equality, because it affects women and girls in fundamentally different ways than men and boys, due to persistent gender inequalities, poverty, social norms, and stereotypes.

While cities offer opportunities to women and girls, in terms of education and employment opportunities, often their urban experience is also one of insecurity, sexual harassment, and exclusion. Women in many cities face challenges accessing safe and secure housing, land

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[71] GSDR, p. xxvii.

rights, and land tenure, as well as services to meet their basic needs, including water, sanitation, and health care.

Women and girls in all their diversity have a right to access public spaces safely and without fear, but the barriers to exercising this right are myriad. For example, fear of violence and sexual assault or harassment, including femicide, limits the mobility of women and girls in all their diversity, which is not just physical, but also symbolic. When added to other factors of oppression such as an irregular administrative status, age, gender identity, sexual orientation, ethnicity, or disability status, exercising this right to full urban citizenship becomes even more restricted.

Ensuring women and girls' participation and safety in cities requires a gender transformative approach. This includes empowering girls and women to claim their rights and, together with the relevant stakeholders, actively transform their communities into safer, more inclusive places. A gender transformative approach includes designing future cities that are well-lit, well-planned, well-maintained, using universal design principles where women can claim space to participate as active citizens. It requires the active participation of women and girls in the governance of cities and in the design of urban policies and legislation.

It is necessary to address explicitly the underlying structural and political issues that jeopardize the safety of women and girls within cities and other settlements, as well as to aim to transform the pervasive social and cultural norms that allow for unequal power dynamics and gender-based violence.

Feminist development of space demands that persons must be at the center of the design and planning of human settlements giving greater prominence to and revaluing care and reproductive work, acknowledging that we are all interdependent: we are persons who are cared for and the persons who care.

Recommendations

We recommend that governments at the national and sub-national levels:

Public Spaces and Urban Planning
- Make women and girls safe, including by recovering public spaces, ensuring better inter-connection between productive and reproductive activities, and fighting all types of gender-based violence in public spaces, including sexual assault and harassment.
- Rethink and redevelop human settlements, including cities, from a feminist perspective. Stop producing spaces from a productivist and mercantilist logic and start thinking about environments that prioritize the persons that use them in all their diversity.
- Integrate obligatory sustainable energy and energy efficiency into public, new and renovated buildings and streamline requirements for community power projects, ensuring gender parity in decision-making.

Transportation
- Provide services that recognize different mobility patterns, such as reducing overcrowded and unsafe routes and accommodating the movement of everyone, including women and girls with disabilities.

- Acknowledge the key role of safe, accessible, and affordable transportation in women's access to increased opportunities in education, economic development, and participation in political and governance policy-setting and decision-making, and resource such transportation.

Participation and Leadership
- Commit to forms of governance where cities and their citizens, including youth- and girl-led organizations and feminist and women's organizations, participate in decision-making on the planning of spaces and their management.

SDG 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Current patterns and levels of consumption and production are clearly unsustainable, even without the projected growth in the world's human population to 9.7 billion in 2050. Four out of nine of our planetary limits were known to have been crossed three years ago.[72] Yet international organizations and governments have still not shown the political will and leadership to tackle this issue. Whilst lip service is paid to the problem, there is a decided lack of appetite for positive change - even for the removal of the perverse subsidies supporting unsustainable patterns of consumption and production.

The current dominant framework used to understand sustainable consumption and production gives primacy to efficiency and technological innovations, while the social aspects of development such as promoting people's rights and leaving no one behind have fallen off the table. Moreover, the prevailing bias towards the market under globalization and the even greater power being accumulated by corporations pose formidable challenges to sustainable consumption and production and sustainable development, in general.

Corporate Capture
While practicing sustainable consumption at the individual level is being promoted, corporations are not held accountable for their unsustainable consumption of resources or the violation of human rights in their production processes. The corporate capture of this agenda has resulted in policies that push the onus of sustainability on individuals while transferring the control of wealth and resources into the hands of corporations and absolving them of responsibility for their actions.

The use of economic growth, as measured by GDP, and neoliberal policies have fueled unsustainable production and trade, with corporations plundering the planet and using valuable natural resources, including water, free of charge and with impunity. To change this unsustainable production, we must replace this paradigm with one which prioritizes the wellbeing of humans, nature, and animals, and builds systems that hold corporations responsible for their social and environmental records.

Scientists are increasingly expressing concern about the way in which our planet is being decimated due to the existential threat of runaway consumption of limited resources. This is a man-made disaster, and a consequence of the current materialistic, consumerist lifestyle. We

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[72] Scripps Institution of Oceanography. Jan 15, 2015. https://scripps.ucsd.edu/news/earth-has-crossed-several-planetary-boundaries-thresholds-human-induced-environmental-changes. Accessed 5 May 2020.

need action to move us from a throwaway society to one that systematically rethinks, reuses, recycles, recovers, and remakes products, materials, and services, returning to products that are made and bought to last, and replacing or banning polluting and non-biodegradable products, including plastics. We need to develop a culture of sufficiency, ensuring that we consume no more than is sustainable and equitable.

Our broken food systems are a prime example of unsustainable consumption and production, with monocultures destroying biodiversity and causing deforestation and industrial agriculture acting as a major source of climate change, pollution, and environmental degradation. The industrial food model needs to be replaced by local production, using regenerative methods, such as small-scale vegetable gardens for local communities and schools.

Participation and Leadership
The shift towards green economies is an important part of increasing the sustainability of production. Evidence suggests that women and girls are being excluded from this shift due to gender-segregated education, training, and employment patterns and discrimination.

In some countries, "sustainable" initiatives such as smart cities and "green" energy projects are being led jointly by governments and corporations through public-private partnerships to promote sustainable consumption and production. In reality, however, these initiatives are grabbing lands and other resources from women farmers and indigenous peoples, further worsening their poverty and exposing them to other vulnerabilities.

Girls and women, particularly in developing countries, are often the most affected by land degradation, declining soil fertility, unsustainable water use and overfishing, which result from unsustainable production and consumption. They also are an important part of efforts to improve the sustainability of production and consumption in both developed and developing countries. Rural girls and women across the developing world play important roles in the agricultural sector and have critical knowledge of natural resource management, though their roles, rights, and knowledge differ to those of men.

Despite being excluded from many "green" initiatives, women are at the forefront of community-based, people-powered initiatives on sustainable consumption and production. In some countries, rural women have led campaigns to assert their land rights against landlords and land grabbers and started organic farming to feed their families and their communities. They are leading examples of how people's rights should be at the center of sustainable consumption and production policies and initiatives.

Globally, women drive 70-80% of all consumer purchases through a combination of buying power and influence.[73] Studies have found that women are generally 'greener' and more sustainable than men in their buying patterns.[74] As we push for progress on sustainable consumption at the household level, women and girls will be key actors and their needs and preferences must be respected.

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[73] Bloomberg. (2018). "Top 10 things everyone should know about women consumers." https://www.bloomberg.com/diversity-inclusion/blog/top-10-things-everyone-know-women-consumers/. Accessed 5 May 2020.
[74] Brough, Aaron R., et al. "Is Eco-Friendly Unmanly? Green-Feminine Stereotype and its Effect on Sustainable Consumption." *Journal of Consumer Research* 43.4 (2016): 567-582.

Recommendations

We recommend that governments at the national and sub-national levels:

Financing
- Enact progressive taxes, fees, fines, penalties, incentives, tariffs, and other regulation to promote sustainable consumption and production and emissions reductions.

Human Rights
- Ensure a human rights-based approach to sustainable consumption and production paying particular attention to the human rights of women and girls in all their diversity. This includes conducting gender and human rights assessments of trade and investment agreements.
- Enforce measures at every segment of production, distribution, and consumption chains, with special attention to trafficking of persons and the sexual exploitation of women and girls in all their diversity.
- Hold to account corporations with unsustainable consumption and production practices and who violate human rights. Promote binding treaties on corporate accountability.
- Ensure the right to a healthy workplace and environment free of hazardous chemicals and waste.

Participation and Leadership
- Promote and protect people-led solutions, especially those led by women, such as agroecology, indigenous knowledge on resource management, community supported agriculture, farmers' markets, and farmers' / workers' cooperatives.
- Ensure mechanisms that support meaningful public participation, especially from women, farmers, and indigenous peoples in the creation and implementation of sustainable consumption and production policies and initiatives.
- Stop the attacks against communities and their leaders who promote people-led sustainable consumption and production initiatives.

Education
- Improve access to transformative green skills for young people, with education on consumption and production patterns in schools.

SDG 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Gender and the Climate Crisis
Five years into the implementation of the SDGs, countries and institutions continue to treat gender considerations as a programmatic "add-on" rather than fundamental to the achievement of SDG 13. The Green Climate Fund's updated Gender Policy, adopted in November 2019, marked a step backward in comparison to previous drafts as well as the gender policies of the Adaptation Fund and the Global Environment Facility. Without embedding an intersectional understanding of gender into a human rights framework, climate action will be less effective and less sustainable than it should be and may exacerbate gender inequality.

Women's work, leadership, and contributions are integral to achieving SDG 13, from creating resilient agricultural systems to supporting sustainable production and consumption to rethinking the ways in which our cities and world are connected via transportation.

Not only are women and girls critical, equal actors in achieving SDG 13, but the design and implementation of gender-responsive policies and programs that support gender equality is essential for enacting and sustaining effective climate action. Solutions that do not consider human rights, responsibilities, resources, and opportunities with a comprehensive gender-lens, informed by sex and age-disaggregated data and gender analyses, are destined to replicate and even exacerbate existing inequalities and perpetuate the unjust social and environmental regimes that have catalyzed climate change.

Research has highlighted that greater equality is central for effective environmental policymaking: countries with higher proportions of women in their legislative bodies are more likely to approve environmental agreements while countries with greater women's participation have lower carbon emissions, and women's participation is associated with stronger climate policies and environmental outcomes.[75][76][77][78][79]

The transition to a greener economy must ensure its process and outcomes are just and promote gender equality. We need to support and equip girls with the skills needed to ensure they are not left behind during the transition. A gender just transition must take into account the role of girls and women's unpaid care work and realize that this unpaid work currently supports our economic systems.

Without the comprehensive inclusion, participation, and leadership of women and gender-responsive policy frameworks, climate change will continue to be inadequately and inefficiently addressed, with disjointed and under-committed efforts that fail to recognize the interconnectedness of gender, environmental, and climate justice.

Recommendations

We recommend that governments at the national and sub-national levels:

Adaptation, Mitigation, and Disaster Risk Reduction
- Embed gender into national policies, strategies, and planning for climate change and disaster risk reduction.
- Strengthen disaster risk reduction systems and adopt rights-based approaches to disaster risk reduction, especially for women and girls displaced by disasters.
- Strengthen climate change adaptation and mitigation measures to prepare communities, especially women and girls, for enhanced and efficient natural resources management, particularly food security, clean water source, and access to health care services, including sexual and reproductive health.

[75] Norgaard, Kari, and Richard York. "Gender equality and state environmentalism." *Gender & Society* 19.4 (2005): 506-522.

[76] Ergas, Christina, and Richard York. "Women's status and carbon dioxide emissions: A quantitative cross-national analysis." *Social Science Research* 41.4 (2012): 965-976.

[77] McKinney, Laura A., and Gregory M. Fulkerson. "Gender equality and climate justice: a cross-national analysis." *Social Justice Research* 28.3 (2015): 293-317.

[78] Mavisakalyan, Astghik, and Yashar Tarverdi. "Gender and climate change: Do female parliamentarians make a difference?." *European Journal of Political Economy* 56 (2019): 151-164.

[79] Cook, Nathan J., Tara Grillos, and Krister P. Andersson. "Gender quotas increase the equality and effectiveness of climate policy interventions." *Nature Climate Change* 9.4 (2019): 330-334.

● Organize and equip women and girls with knowledge, skills, and technologies for addressing the impact of climate change on women's health during disasters and diversifying options for better adaptation to prevent women's and girls' morbidity and mortality. Use terms that can be understood by grassroots women when implementing climate change programs.

Indigenous Peoples
● Respect indigenous and community land rights. Maintaining and restoring indigenous and community land rights is the first step in supporting rights-based land management that promotes biodiversity, including through forest ecosystem restoration, and safeguards food security and livelihoods all while sequestering carbon, resulting in up to 14.77 gigatons of carbon sequestered or avoided by 2050.

Participation and Leadership
● Recognize climate change as the most significant intergenerational injustice issue of our time. Listen to and elevate youth and children's concerns around climate change and recognize that unless urgent action is taken, their future rights, which previous generations have enjoyed, are jeopardized.
● Prioritize the voices of women and girls and ensure that community stakeholders have the ability to both speak and vote/input in all aspects of decision-making and policy processes around climate change.

Policy Coherence
● Integrate all climate change and health policies, strategies, and plans with, but not limited to, the SDGs. These must include responses to safeguard and provide for the health of women and girls, including sexual and reproductive health, as well as strategies to end child, early, and forced marriage and gender-based violence.
● Include climate change education in all aspects of formal and non-formal curriculum and extracurricular activities and promote school safety to climate-related hazards.

Fossil Fuels
● Demilitarize and end fossil fuel subsidies. Utilizing the funds no longer subsidizing fossil fuel companies, support holistic, gender-responsive, transformative solutions that are rooted in human rights and systems to address climate change.

SDG 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

The predominant industrial agricultural and fisheries models are not sustainable and favor large agribusinesses and distant water fisheries, while pushing out small farmers and artisanal fisherpeople, a majority of whom are women who typically employ more sustainable practices.

Women in fisheries organize in the Pacific to seek recognition for paid and unpaid labor of women that goes towards sustaining the fisheries and fishing communities, highlighting the right of women to participate in decision making. They call for increased access to financing, capacity building, and technical assistance for women in small-scale fishing communities to participate in, and take responsibility for, integrated management of small scale and artisanal fisheries based on recognition and protection of access rights to marine resources. This includes

increased access to sustainable and fair-trade markets to improve the socio-economic situation of fishers and fish workers within the context of sustainable fisheries management.

In addition, women are specifically affected by waterway and marine litter due to nanoparticles in water and seafood, affecting their overall health and reproductive systems.

Recommendations

We recommend that governments at the national and sub-national levels:

Climate Change Adaptation
- Urgently develop and support actions oriented toward adaptation actions and strategies specifically directed to fisher women and the girls and women whose livelihoods are impacted by climate change and the health of the oceans.
- Highlight the importance of ecosystem adaptation especially focusing on marine and coastal ecosystems and their importance for livelihoods.

Participation and Leadership
- Promote sustainable management of coastal and marine resources and women and girls' participation in the blue economy, climate adaptation, and mitigation strategies.
- Promote the recognition of local community inputs in all ocean conservation actions and ensure the full and meaningful participation of women and girls in all their diversity.

Data
- Request the disaggregation of data by gender and age in the fishing and marine conservation sectors and incorporate fisher women, indigenous people, and young people, in particular, young women, in discussions around conservation.

SDG 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

Despite playing a major role in biodiversity conservation and forest management and restoration - such as through intergenerational transmission of traditional knowledge, keeping seeds, energy generation, collection of traditional food and medicine, and sustainable livelihoods - women and indigenous peoples are often excluded from participation in local, national, and global natural resources governance, especially managerial positions and decision making bodies, as well as from accessing, owning, and controlling land and resources.

Women and girls are also disproportionately affected by deforestation and degradation of ecosystems. Gender roles in many contexts dictate that women interact with and depend on these ecosystems on a daily basis, thus ecological degradation poses significant challenges for them to fulfil their differentiated role in agricultural and food production, land use, conservation, land rehabilitation and restoration, water and energy access, household and care responsibilities, and livestock-based livelihoods.

Depleted ecosystems also increase women and girls' workload and burden and exacerbate existing inequalities: walking longer distances to collect food and water restrains opportunities to take up education and makes them more susceptible to sexual violence; taking care of sick

family members due to lack of access to food and medicine reduces time and energy for other activities. This results in harmful consequences for women and girls' health, income, subsistence needs, and time.

Recommendations

We recommend that Governments at the national and sub-national levels:

Leadership
- Implement gender-responsive resource management and governance processes with the leadership of women and girls.
- Enact programs and policies that promote women's equal rights and access to land, water, and natural resources, and that ensure engagement and leadership of women and women's organizations in related decision making and governance processes.

Human Rights, including Free, Prior, and Informed Consent
- Respect the human rights, including free, prior, and informed consent, of indigenous peoples.
- Promote women and girls' leadership in negotiations, policies, and programs, including the land tenure, territorial, and governance rights of indigenous peoples.
- Respect indigenous women's rights to their community forests, as well as their rights to lead in protecting their people's traditional knowledge and livelihoods.

Trade and Subsidies
- Eliminate or redirect perverse incentives for unsustainable agriculture, livestock production, and monoculture tree plantations, and revise trade policies of the corporate free trade model that benefit the few and are skewed in favor of large agribusinesses and export-oriented food production, as opposed to women's small-scale farming practices, which benefit the many.

Policy Coherence
- Implement existing international environmental agreements and ensure policy coherence between the three Rio Conventions (Convention to Combat Desertification, Convention on Biodiversity, and UN Framework Convention on Climate Change).

Data
- Close the gender and age gap in evidence-based responses by collecting sex- and age-disaggregated evidence of actual and perceived tenure security in conjunction with gender-sensitive disaggregation gathering on proportion of land that is degraded as per definition of indicators 1.4.2 and 15.3.1 to better inform policies and programs.

SDG 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

Today, the world is spending money on violence and war rather than gender justice and peace. In 2019, total military expenditure reached $1.917 trillion.[80] In 2014-2015, only 5% of aid on peace and security targeted gender equality as a primary objective. Meanwhile, the number of forcibly displaced people reached a new high in 2018 at 70.8 million people; meaning that in 2018 every day an average of 37,000 people were forced to flee.[81]

Realizing SDG16 on peaceful, just, and inclusive societies requires a power shift that re-centers work on equality, development, and peace, and the human rights of women and girls in all their diversity, as well as the human rights of the most marginalized. This requires not just technical fixes, but structural transformation that moves from institutionalizing war governance to institutionalizing peace governance for people and the planet.

Peace
Current militarized approaches to peace and security consistently exclude and undermine women's participation, protection, and human rights, and systematically undermine opportunities for long term and sustainable peace. Between 1992 and 2018, women made up 13% of negotiators and 3% of mediators.[82]

This lack of inclusion in the process is reflected in the outcome. Most peace agreements do not take on women's rights or gender equality. According to the Secretary-General's report on women, peace and security from 2019: Between 1990 and the end of 2018, only 353 of 1,789 agreements related to more than 150 peace processes included provisions addressing women, girls or gender. In 2018, out of 52 agreements across a range of issues only 4 (7.7%) contained gender-related provisions, down from 39 per cent in 2015."[83]

Women are not necessarily safe even when the guns are silent as they often experience various forms of insecurities, such as domestic violence and sexual assault in their own homes and neighborhoods even during post-conflict periods.

During conflict, women and girls experience the violence, deprivation, and insecurity hallmark to any armed conflict in multiple ways. They experience gender-based violence, greater inequalities, child, early, and forced marriages, and are most vulnerable to additional violence on their bodies and on their families through the use of sexual violence, sexual slavery, and kidnapping, among other things. Women often take on roles traditionally preserved for men, such as head of household and breadwinner, taking care of the financial needs of the family, or as soldiers or militia members.

However, these myriad experiences are often not enough to bring women's participation to the peace table in a substantive and meaningful way. The common refrain is that women require

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[80] Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. https://www.sipri.org/media/press-release/2020/global-military-expenditure-sees-largest-annual-increase-decade-says-sipri-reaching-1917-billion. Accessed 21 May 2020.
[81] UNHCR. (2019). Global Trends: Forced Displacement in 2018. https://www.unhcr.org/5d08d7ee7.pdf. Accessed 5 May 2020.
[82] UN-Women. Facts and Figures: Women, peace and security. https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/peace-and-security/facts-and-figures#_Notes. Accessed 5 May 2020.
[83] Secretary-General. "Women, peace and security." 9 October 2019. Paragraph 15.

capacity building to negotiate in peace processes, while men who represent the armed parties only need to have held a gun.

Human Rights Defenders
There has been a rapid increase in violence against environmental and women human rights defenders and peacebuilders, with a disproportionate targeting of women activists. More than 300 human rights and environmental defenders were killed worldwide in 2019.[84] This increased climate of repression has contributed to shrinking space for civil society to operate and freely advocate for human rights.

Government and non-state actors have acted against activists for their work, including against women peacebuilders who have engaged with the UN system. The most recent documentation on reprisals from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights reports a rise in cases of intimidation and reprisals for activists engaging with the UN system and members of their family.[85]

There are worrying signs that some governments will use the COVID-19 emergency to crack down on human rights defenders. When governments gain powers during emergencies, they rarely give up those powers, even upon the end of emergencies.

Sexual Abuse and Violence against Children
Sexual abuse and violence against children are gross violations of children's human rights and occur in every region of the world. Although boys experience sexual abuse and violence, girls comprise the majority of known victims of sexual violence. UNICEF estimates that approximately 120 million girls under the age of 20 - about 1 in 10 girls - have been subjected to forced sexual intercourse or other forced sexual acts at some point during their lives.[86]

Sexual violence and abuse are most frequently committed as expressions of power and dominance over a victim. Social norms around the use of violence to achieve objectives have been strongly associated with the prevalence of rape.

Recommendations

We recommend that Governments at the national and sub-national levels:

Peace and Conflict
- Shift from funding the military to funding human security. Invest in social protection over crisis response for just, equitable, and nonviolent governance.
- Take immediate action to end existing conflicts through peace processes with the full and meaningful participation of civil society and women in all their diversity.
- Take immediate steps towards disarmament in order to prevent future violence, including by signing or ratifying the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.
- Institutionalize leadership for peace (i.e., ministries of reincorporation, decolonization, peace, women) and support feminist peace movement building and leadership.

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[84] Frontline Defenders. (2019). "Frontline Defenders Global Analysis 2019."
[85] OHCHR. "Human rights: Reported reprisals on the rise, says UN." 19 September 2019.
[86] UNICEF. https://www.unicef.org/protection/57929_58006.html. Accessed 10 May 2020.

- Accelerate commitments, including national and regional action plans on Women, Peace and Security, as a key priority for achieving SDG16.
- Stop the arms trade, particularly in situations which directly contribute to armed conflict, violations of human rights, and gender-based violence.
- Ensure extraterritorial accountability, including on flows of small arms and light weapons, to strengthen prevention of gender-based as well as all forms of violence, including by strengthening implementation of national action plans on small arms and light weapons in line with the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat, and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects.

Environmental and Women Human Rights Defenders
- Take immediate steps to protect environmental and women human rights defenders and peacebuilders against all violence and reprisals, including by non-state actors.
- Stop the criminalization of the work of environmental and women human rights defenders.
- Any emergency measures enacted during the COVID-19 crisis that restrict the activities of human rights defenders must be rescinded as quickly as possible.

Sexual Exploitation and Abuse of Children
- Address and strongly denounce the sexual exploitation of children.
- Within programs and policies addressing child, early and forced marriage, acknowledge that child, early, and forced marriage can amount to sexual exploitation and heighten women and girls' overall vulnerability to violence.
- Enact or strengthen national laws to criminalize sexual violence, including in marriage, as well as violence and abuse committed online.

Civil Registration
- Ensure that all children, including and especially girls, are registered at birth, and that women and girls are allowed to register their own children without the need for permission from male partners or legal guardians

SDG 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

Financing for the 2030 Agenda
If we look deeply into the key financing strategies to achieve the 2030 Agenda that have been prioritized and promoted, we only realize that not only are they fundamentally in contradiction with the commitment to achieve all the SDGs by the agreed deadline, but that they risk jeopardizing any progress feminist and women's rights movements have been able to achieve to date.

The key financing strategies prioritized for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda include trade and investment liberalization, a significant influential role for the private sector through public-private partnerships (PPPs), and international private finance. These strategies all undermine mobilization of domestic resources, particularly in developing countries, despite the considerable emphasis put on the role of domestic resource mobilization as a source of financing for development.

Governments, and international actors, have increasingly given the private sector a significant role in policymaking and programming, abdicating their central responsibility to provide services to their populations. This outsourcing of government responsibility to fulfill human rights and the SDGs, also undermines civil society organizations, including women and girls' rights organizations, and other development actors. This trend goes against the SDGs' objectives of reducing inequality, poverty, leaving no one behind, and promoting peace and justice.

Public-Private Partnerships
Rather than plugging corporate loopholes and ensuring tax justice, private-public partnerships are being touted as a key solution for means of implementation. By its nature, privatization puts profits over social goals, and that very fact is fundamentally in contradiction with government's human rights obligations.

When they come into developing countries, PPPs offer deals which are abusive: they are profiting even higher from deals with the public sector than they would in the regular market. In these partnerships, governments bear the risk, while companies make profits even in the case of a failure.

Combined with a sovereign debt crisis and austerity / structural adjustment programs enforced by international financial institutions, privatization or cuts in public spending as a means of SDGs implementation put the rights of women and girls and the achievement of gender equality at greater risk.

When public services are cut or privatized, women and girls are forced to fill in those gaps providing unpaid care and household work. According to Oxfam, women and girls globally do more than 75% of unpaid care work and are two-thirds of the paid care workforce.[87] Funding toward the public good and services would have a greater impact on achieving Goals 5, 8, and 10 in particular, and would prevent adverse impacts on women due to privatization.

Trade
While trade agreements under the World Trade Organization are being considered tools to achieve the SDGs, none of these, including bilateral and multilateral trade and investment agreements, have been assessed for compatibility with human rights obligations and the SDGs. Moreover, the private sector uses investor state dispute settlement mechanisms (ISDS) present in these treaties to challenge legislation related to investments and environmental protection, workers' rights, and human rights. ISDS can pose threats to women and girls' human rights where investors have taken control over public services, such as health, water, education, or transportation, and have grabbed resources such as land, forests, and marine resources.

Official Development Assistance
Official development assistance (ODA) is a key financing strategy to achieve the 2030 Agenda and yet countries still have not met the 0.7 percent commitment in the Addis Ababa Action

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[87] Oxfam. "Not all gaps are created equal: the true value of care work." 20 January 2020. https://www.oxfam.org/en/not-all-gaps-are-created-equal-true-value-care-work. Accessed 5 May 2020.

Agenda.[88] Not only are countries not meeting their obligation - they are actually falling farther behind. In 2018, ODA declined by 4.3% and ODA to least-developed countries fell by 2.1%.[89]

While developed countries have not yet met their ODA commitments, current trends in the allocation of ODA are seen to deepen the "militarization of aid" and its diversion to countries and purposes linked to the strategic security interests of major provider countries. These resources can be used to suppress movements calling for protection of human rights.

Policy Coherence

Although the 2030 Agenda is universal and requires policy coherence across the goals, action on the SDGs is "aligning" but not "integrating." Rather than creating holistic cross-sectoral priorities and strategies that evaluate impacts on people and planet, traditional siloed approaches that promote profit over people and violence over justice are continuing.

The 2030 Agenda was not crafted in a policy vacuum. The implementation of the 2030 Agenda will be stronger when governments design policies to fulfill other existing obligations, including for women and girls' human rights.

Recommendations:

We recommend that Governments at the national and sub-national levels:

Official Development Assistance
- Fulfill all ODA commitments. Redouble efforts and establish time-bound targets to deliver on long-standing ODA commitments..
- Reverse the trend of militarization of aid. Use ODA to address the root causes of conflict and end its misuse for security, military, and corporate interests, and focus on addressing the root causes of conflict to push for conflict resolution and prevention.
- Stop diverting ODA to promote private finance, blended finance, which includes public-private partnerships, or private sector investments, especially those directed through international financial institutions with the aim to leverage private sector funding.

Trade
- Ensure the compatibility of trade and investment agreements against human rights and SDGs. The provisions of trade and investment agreements that are found to be inconsistent with the human rights obligations of governments should be revised or terminated.
- Remove ISDS provisions in trade and investment agreements. Unequal trade and investment deals must be rescinded.
- Conduct ex-ante, periodic, and ex-post human rights and environmental impact assessments for all trade and investment agreements.

Tax Justice
- Establish transparent, accountable, and progressive tax systems.
- Support the creation of a global tax body within the UN to facilitate the creation and coordination of a just global tax system.

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[88] Inter-agency Task Force on Financing for Development, p. 81.
[89] Ibid., p. xvii.

Budgeting
- Ensure gender-responsive budgeting systems in public, private and donor agencies.

Data
- Invest, as a priority, in the formulation, generation and analysis of disaggregated data.
- Countries providing funds and technical support to enhance the capacity for the collection of statistical data for developing countries should ensure that this support builds capacity for the collection of sex-disaggregated data.