

GENDER AND SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH IN POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK





CIP



WHAT IS THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK?

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) will end in 2015. In September 2015, the United Nations will agree on and adopt the framework that will replace the MDGs: known as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The international community and stakeholders – such as country governments (known as ‘UN Member States’), UN agencies and civil society organizations are currently working to influence what issues will be prioritized in the next framework.

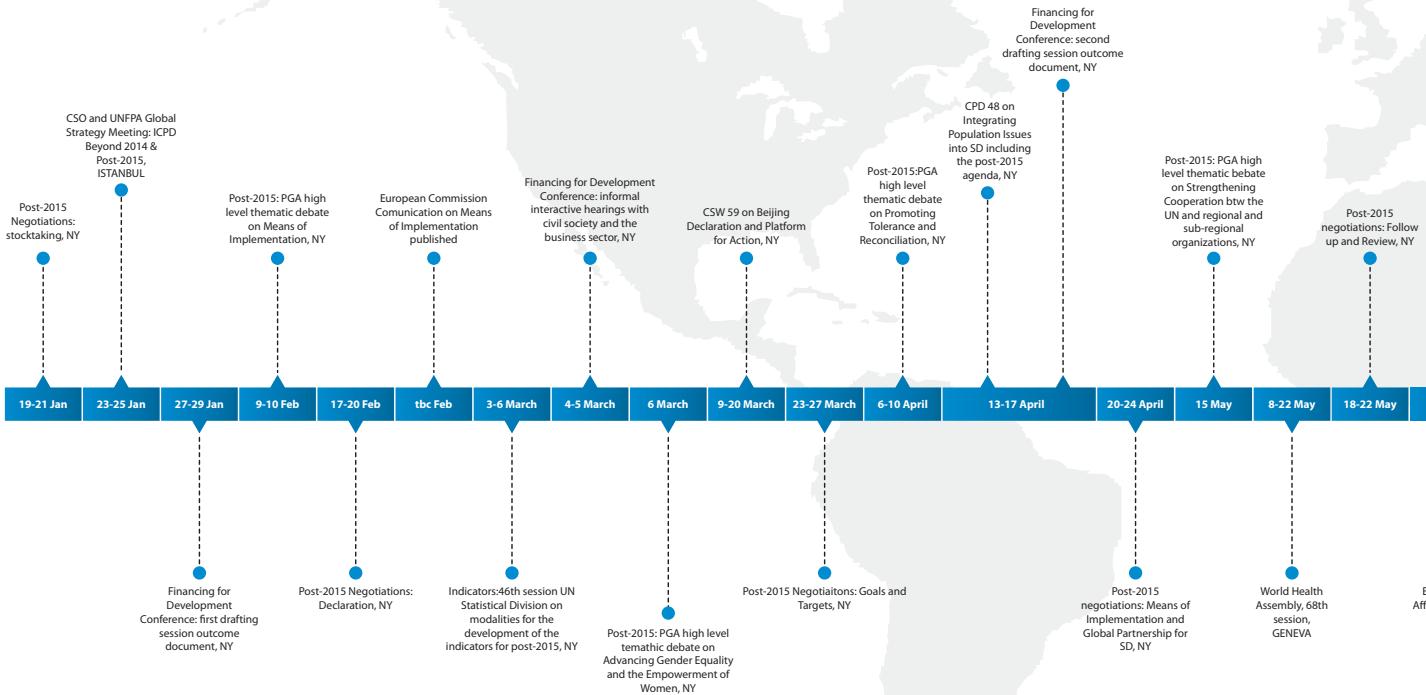
The Millennium Development Goals spelled out to the global community clear priorities for action to significantly reduce poverty, and both developed and developing countries used this tool to establish their national priorities. The developed countries adapted their official development assistance and the developing countries adapted their national development plans. In both cases, the Millennium Development Goals shaped or influenced the political priorities of most governments worldwide.

Post-2015 will be more holistic than the Millennium Development Goals, and will take into consideration 4 pillars of sustainable development – economic, environmental, social, peace and security. Unlike the MDGs, the development and inputs to the post- 2015 framework are consulted on extensively with Member States and civil society.



POST-2015 ADVOCACY EVENTS

International Advocacy Timeline 2015
(adapted from EuroNGOs timeline © Patrizia Pompili)







POST-2015 PROCESSES

The United Nations is in the process of defining a post-2015 development agenda. This agenda will be launched at a Summit in September 2015, which is the target date for realizing the MDGs. It is currently being elaborated through informal consultations of the UN General Assembly. The President of the General Assembly has appointed two Co-facilitators to lead those informal consultations.

The process of arriving at the post 2015 development agenda is Member State-led with broad participation from Major Groups and other civil society stakeholders. There have been numerous inputs to the agenda, notably a set of Sustainable Development Goals proposed by an open working group of the General Assembly, the report of an intergovernmental committee of experts on sustainable development financing, GA dialogues on technology facilitation and many others.

The General Assembly called upon the Secretary-General to synthesize the full range of inputs and to present a synthesis report before the end of 2014 as a contribution to the inter governmental negotiations in the lead up to the Summit. The United Nations has played a facilitating role in the global conversation on the post 2015 development agenda and supported broad consultations. It also has the responsibility of supporting Member States by providing evidence-based inputs, analytical thinking and field experience.

OPEN WORKING GROUP PROPOSAL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

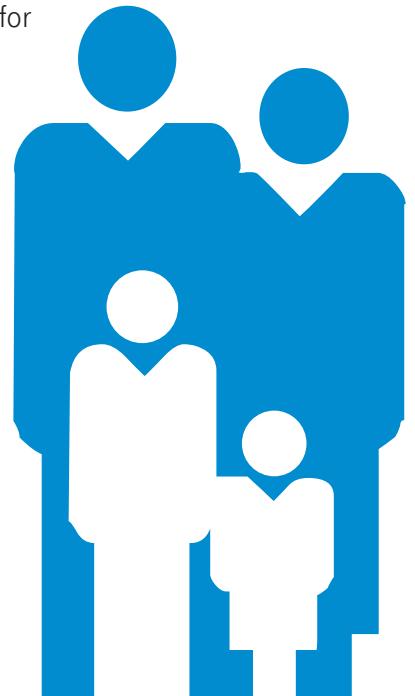
Introduction

The Rio+20 outcome document, The future we want, inter alia, set out a mandate to establish an Open Working Group (OWG) to develop a set of sustainable development goals for consideration and appropriate action by the General Assembly at its 68th session. It also provided the basis for their conceptualization. The Rio outcome gave the mandate that the SDGs should be coherent with and integrated into the UN development agenda beyond 2015.

Poverty eradication, changing unsustainable and promoting sustainable patterns of consumption and production and protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development are the overarching objectives of and essential requirements for sustainable development.

People are at the centre of sustainable development and, in this regard, Rio+20 promised to strive for a world that is just, equitable and inclusive, and committed to work together to promote sustained and inclusive economic growth, social development and environmental protection and thereby to benefit all, in particular the children of the world, youth and future generations of the world without distinction of any kind such as age, sex, disability, culture, race, ethnicity, origin, migratory status, religion, economic or other status.

Rio+20 also reaffirmed all the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, including, inter alia, the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, as set out in principle 7 thereof.





It also reaffirmed the commitment to fully implement the Rio Declaration, Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation) and the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development, the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (Barbados Programme of Action) and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. It also reaffirmed the commitment to the full implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 (Istanbul Programme of Action), the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries, the political declaration on Africa's development needs and the New Partnership for Africa's Development. It reaffirmed the commitments in the outcomes of all the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and environmental fields, including the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the 2005 World Summit Outcome, the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development, the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development, the outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and the outcome documents of their review conferences. The Outcome document of the September 2013 special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals reaffirmed, inter alia, the determination to craft a strong post-2015 development agenda. The commitment to migration and development was reaffirmed in the Declaration of the High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development.

Rio+20 outcomes reaffirmed the need to be guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, with full respect for international law and its principles. It reaffirmed the importance of freedom, peace and security, respect for all human rights, including the right to development and the right to an adequate standard of living, including the right to food and water, the rule of law, good governance, gender equality, women's empowerment and the overall commitment to just and democratic societies for development. It also reaffirmed



the importance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as well as other international instruments relating to human rights and international law.

Rio+20 recognized that each country faces specific challenges to achieve sustainable development. It underscored the special challenges facing the most vulnerable countries and, in particular, African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, as well as the specific challenges facing the middle-income countries. Countries in situations of conflict also need special attention.

Rio+20 reaffirmed the commitment to strengthen international cooperation to address the persistent challenges related to sustainable development for all, in particular in developing countries. In this regard, it reaffirmed the need to achieve economic stability, sustained economic growth, the promotion of social equity and the protection of the environment, while enhancing gender equality, women's empowerment and equal employment for all, and the protection, survival and development of children to their full potential, including through education.

Each country has primary responsibility for its own economic and social development and the role of national policies, domestic resources and development strategies cannot be overemphasized. Developing countries need additional resources for sustainable development. There is a need for significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources and the effective use of financing, in order to promote sustainable development. Rio+20 affirms the commitment to reinvigorating the global partnership for sustainable development and to mobilizing the necessary resources for its implementation.

Rio+20 reaffirmed that there are different approaches, visions, models and tools available to each country, in accordance with its national circumstances and priorities, to achieve sustainable development in its three dimensions which is our overarching goal.

The implementation of sustainable development goals will depend on a global partnership for sustainable development with the active engagement of governments, as well as civil society, the private sector, and the United Nations system.



Sustainable Development Goals are accompanied by targets and will be further elaborated through indicators focused on measurable outcomes. They are action oriented, global in nature and universally applicable. They take into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respect national policies and priorities. They build on the foundation laid by the MDGs, seek to complete the unfinished business of the MDGs, and respond to new challenges. These goals constitute an integrated, indivisible set of global priorities for sustainable development. Targets are defined as aspirational global targets, with each government setting its own national targets guided by the global level of ambition but taking into account national circumstances. The goals and targets integrate economic, social and environmental aspects and recognize their interlinkages in achieving sustainable development in all its dimensions

“We recognize that people are at the center of sustainable development and, in this regard, we strive for a world that is just, equitable and inclusive, and we commit to work together to promote sustained and inclusive economic growth, social development and environmental protection and thereby to benefit all.”

OUTCOME DOCUMENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (RIO+20), “THE FUTURE WE WANT”

Sustainable Development Goals

Goal 1	End poverty in all its forms everywhere
Goal 2	End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
Goal 3	Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
Goal 4	Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
Goal 5	Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
Goal 6	Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
Goal 7	Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
Goal 8	Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
Goal 9	Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
Goal 10	Reduce inequality within and among countries
Goal 11	Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
Goal 12	Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
Goal 13	Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts*



Goal 14	Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
Goal 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
Goal 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
Goal 17	Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

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

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

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

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

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

5.6 Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the ICPD and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences

5.a Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to



ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance, and natural resources in accordance with national laws

5.b Enhance the use of enabling technologies, in particular ICT, to promote women’s empowerment

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

Open Working Group proposed provisional indicators under Goal 5 Gender

Label	Description
Target 5.1	End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere
Indicator 5.1.1	Whether or not legal frameworks discriminate against women and girls, as identified by the CEDAW committee
Indicator 5.1.2	Whether or not inheritance rights discriminate against women and girls
Target 5.2	Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.
Indicator 5.2.1	Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls (aged 15-49) subjected to physical and/or sexual violence by a current or former intimate partner, in the last 12 months
Indicator 5.2.2	Proportion of women and girls (aged 15-49) subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner, since age 15.
Target 5.3	Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation.



Indicator 5.3.1	Процентот на жени на возраст од 20 до 24 кои стапиле во брак или заедница (т.е. детски брак) пред својата 18-годишна возраст
Indicator 5.3.2	Percentage of girls and women aged 15-49 years who have undergone FGM/C, by age group (for relevant countries only)
Target 5.4	Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the house hold and the family as nationally appropriate
Indicator 5.4.1	Average weekly hours spent on unpaid domestic and care work, by sex, age and location (for individuals five years and above)
Indicator 5.4.2	Proportion of households within 15 minutes of nearest water source
Target 5.5	Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life.
Indicator 5.5.1	Proportion of seats held by women in local governments
Indicator 5.5.2	Proportion of women who have a say in household decisions (for large purchases, their own health and visiting relatives)
Target 5.6	Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform of Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences
Indicator 5.6.1	Percent age of women and girls who make decisions about their own sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights by age, location, income, disability and other characteristics relevant to each country
Indicator 5.6.2	Existence of laws and regulations that guarantee all women and adolescents informed choices regarding their sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights regardless of marital status.

Target 5.a	Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws
Indicator 5.a.1	Proportion of adult population owning land, by sex, age and location
Indicator 5.a.2	Proportion of population with an account at a formal financial institution, by sex and age
Target 5.b	Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women.
Indicator 5.b.1	Individuals who own a mobile phone, by sex
Indicator 5.b.2	Individuals with ICT skills, by type of skill, by sex
Target 5.c	Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels
Indicator 5.c.1	Indicator to be finalized which will monitor the existence and quality of policies to achieve gender equality
Indicator 5.c.2	Percentage of countries with systems to track and make public locations for gender equality and women's empowerment



GENDER AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN THE SYNTHESIS REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE POST-2015 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

The experience of implementing the Millennium Development Goals provides compelling evidence that the international community can be mobilized to confront such complex challenges. Governments, civil society and a wide range of international actors coalesced behind the Goals in a multi-front battle against poverty and disease. They generated innovative approaches, vital new data, new resources and new tools and technology for this struggle. Transparency was enhanced, multilateral approaches were strengthened and a results-based approach to public policy was fostered. Sound public policies inspired by the Goals, enhanced by collective action and international cooperation, led to remarkable successes. In the two decades since 1990, the world has halved extreme poverty, lifting 700 million out of extreme poverty. In the decade between 2000 and 2010, an estimated 3.3 million deaths from malaria were averted and 22 million lives were saved in the fight against tuberculosis. Access to antiretroviral therapy for HIV-infected people has saved 6.6 million lives since 1995. At the same time, gender parity in primary school enrolment, access to child and maternal health care and in women's political participation has improved steadily

All voices have demanded that we leave no one behind, ensuring equality, non-discrimination, equity and inclusion at all levels. We must pay special attention to the people, groups and countries most in need. This is the century of women: we will not realize our full potential if half of humanity continues to be held back. We need to include the poor, children, adolescents, youth and the aged, as well as the unemployed, rural populations, slum dwellers, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, migrants, refugees and displaced persons, vulnerable groups and minorities. These also include those affected by climate change, those living in the least developed countries, landlocked countries, small island developing States, middle-income countries, conflict countries or in areas under occupation, in places struck by complex medical and humanitarian emergencies or in situations affected by terrorism. People have called for an end to all forms of gender inequality, gender-based discrimination and violence against women and against children and young boys and girls.



While we have made important progress in recent years, addressing gender inequality and realizing women's empowerment and rights remain a key challenge in all regions of the world. It should by now be recognized that no society can reach its full potential if whole segments of that society, especially young people, are excluded from participating in, contributing to and benefiting from development. Other dimensions of inequality persist, and in some cases have worsened. Income inequality specifically is one of the most visible aspects of a broader and more complex issue, one that entails inequality of opportunity. This is a universal challenge that the whole world must address. The agenda must accommodate the voices of women and the views of youth and minorities, seek the free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples, remove obstacles to full participation by persons with disabilities, older persons, adolescents and youth and empower the poor. It must not exclude migrants, refugees, displaced persons or persons affected by conflict and occupation.

Millions of people, especially women and children, have been left behind in the wake of unfinished work of the Millennium Development Goals. We must ensure that women and also youth and children have access to the full range of health services. We must ensure zero tolerance of violence against or exploitation of women and girls. Women and girls must have equal access to financial services and the right to own land and other assets. All children and adolescents have a right to education and must have a safe environment in which to learn. Human development also means respect for human rights.

The agenda must address universal health-care coverage, access and affordability; end preventable maternal, newborn and child deaths and malnutrition; ensure the availability of essential medicines; realize women's sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights; ensure immunization coverage; eradicate malaria and realize the vision of a future free of AIDS and tuberculosis; reduce the burden of non-communicable diseases, including mental illness, and of nervous system injuries and road accidents; and promote healthy behaviours, including those related to water, sanitation and hygiene.

Economic growth should lead to shared prosperity. The strength of an economy must be measured by the degree to which it meets the needs of people, and by how sustainably and equitably it does so. We need inclusive growth, built on decent jobs, sustainable livelihoods and rising real incomes for all, measured in ways that go beyond GDP and account for human well-being, sustainability and equity. Ensuring that all people, including women, persons with disabilities, youth, the aged and migrants have decent employment, social protection and access to financial services, will be a hallmark of our economic success.



Access to fair justice systems, accountable institutions of democratic governance, measures to combat corruption and curb illicit financial flows and safeguards to protect personal security are integral to sustainable development. An enabling environment under the rule of law must be secured for the free, active and meaningful engagement of civil society and of advocates, reflecting the voices of women, minorities, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender groups, indigenous peoples, youth, adolescents and older persons. Press freedom and access to information, freedom of expression, assembly and association are enablers of sustainable development. The practice of child, early and forced marriage must be ended everywhere. The rule of law must be strengthened at the national and international level to secure justice for all.

Countries should strive to provide universal access to financial services, emphasizing inclusive access across income, gender, geography, age and other groupings. Specific barriers to women's access to finance should be eliminated. Countries should expand financial literacy and establish strong consumer protection agencies.

Countries should strive to provide universal access to financial services, emphasizing inclusive access across income, gender, geography, age and other groupings. Specific barriers to women's access to finance should be eliminated. Countries should expand financial literacy and establish strong consumer protection agencies.

However, access to vital and environmentally sound technologies is today unevenly spread, both within and between countries, with the poor and many developing countries essentially locked out. Large amounts of public resources are allocated to military budgets, while comparatively less is spent on research and development for public goods. Public funding often subsidizes private sector research, at times leading to the public being priced out of the benefits through disadvantageous licensing and patents. This also leads to frequent subsidies for innovations that are not aligned with promoting

sustainable consumption and production patterns. Furthermore, we have a long way to go to reach the necessary level of participation of women and girls in science, technology (including information and communications technology), engineering and mathematics for the world of the twenty-first century.

ENABLING NATIONAL POLICIES, PLANNING & IMPLEMENTATION PROCESSES FOR THE POST-2015 AGENDA AND GENDER ISSUES

National implementation plans will be key instruments to establish a coordinated, effective, efficient and synergistic implementation framework, through the creation, alignment and/or strengthening of national strategies, policies, laws, budgets and resource mobilization strategies in line with the levels of ambition of the Post-2015 Development Agenda. Such plans should include time-bound benchmarks for progress assessments and reporting, and establish participatory monitoring, reporting and accountability processes and systems. The plans should include disaggregated data collection to ensure that “no one is left behind.” The national planning processes should employ a participatory multi-stakeholder, multi-disciplinary and multi-sectoral approach; Ministries, parliamentarians, local authorities, civil society, including women’s and youth groups, academia, private sector entities committed to inclusive sustainable development, as well as the media, all have roles to play, including in informing and shaping national plans and funding streams, disseminating ‘best practice’ implementation approaches and methodologies, and helping to keep progress on track, by redirecting implementation efforts and investments as needed.

Legislative reforms focused on eliminating discriminatory laws and practices are a central to effective implementation of the post-2015 framework, especially with respect to discriminatory practices. The MOI must call for the full protection of all equal rights, and the prohibition of discrimination on any grounds, including multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion, economic or other status, such as due to HIV, marital or migrant status, sexual orientation and gender identity, among other factors.

Particular emphasis must be placed on revoking **gender-discriminatory legislation and ensuring the respect, promotion and protection of all the human rights of women and girls**, across social, cultural, civil, economic and political rights. As is widely recognized, poverty eradication and sustainable development will not be achieved without accelerated action for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and the removal of barriers to their full participation and contributions—including their participation in the labour force, equal rights to land, inheritance and property, and equal access to financial and banking services, technology and agricultural supports.



INTERNATIONAL EVENTS AND DOCUMENTS SUPPORTING SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

The International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) was held in Cairo, 1994. It was a milestone in the history of population and development. The result was an impressive and ambitious set of goals for improving sexual health and reproductive rights all over the world. These goals are known as the ICPD Programme of Action. Its focus is wider than sexual and reproductive health. It links the interrelationships between population, sustained economic growth, health, education, economic status and empowerment of women. Remarkably, it was the first time world leaders agreed to invest in people, not demographic targets

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women is an international human rights treaty that enshrines women's human rights and obliges State parties to meet their obligations to fulfil and respect these rights. The Convention devotes major attention to women's reproductive rights; notably, it is the only human rights treaty to mention family planning and guarantee women's reproductive choice.

The Fourth World Conference on Women in September 1995 produced the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the most progressive blueprint ever for advancing women's rights. As a defining framework for change, the governments that supported the Platform made comprehensive commitments under 12 critical areas of concern. Sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights are enshrined in the Platform for Action and the 20th anniversary of Beijing opens up opportunities to regenerate commitment, and recharge political will and support for sexual and reproductive health and rights.

SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH IN POST-2015

As regards to sexual and reproductive health in post-2015 framework, the goal on health includes a target on “universal access to sexual and reproductive healthcare services, including for family planning, information and education [...]”; the goal on gender includes a target on “universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the ICPD and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcomes of the its review conference

Sexual and reproductive health and rights – the key to gender equality and empowerment

No equality without sexual and reproductive health and rights

Gender equality and the empowerment of girls and women will not be possible without the realization of sexual and reproductive health and rights. For women and girls to lead healthy lives, and to be free to participate in social, economic and political life, they need universal access to quality services, information and education, and conditions that allow them to realize their sexual and reproductive rights.

Sexual and reproductive health and rights services are critical for women and girls to have healthy lives, address violence and power relations in their lives, and open doors to opportunities. On these grounds alone, they must be considered priority interventions. Sexual and reproductive health and rights are important rights in themselves, but can also magnify possibilities for empowering girls and women and for achieving gender equality.

Ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights brings positive gains to the health and well-being of women and girls.

Poor sexual and reproductive health outcomes represent one-third of the total global burden of disease for women between the ages of 15 and 44 years, with unsafe sex a major risk factor for death and disability among women and girls in low- and middle-income countries. Reproductive disabilities and ill health are experienced more by women and



girls and negatively affect their survival, health and well-being. The sexual and reproductive health of women and girls is important but also affects other aspects of their lives, such as their ability to stay in school and to live free from violence. Realizing sexual and reproductive health and rights is necessary for women and girls to stay healthy, to participate in education and to participate in all facets of life, free from violence.

Women’s economic rights, especially in relation to work and income, advance economies, sustainable development and improve livelihoods.

However, women still remain more affected by poverty, unpaid care burdens and insecure work than men. The realization of sexual and reproductive health and rights plays a crucial role in empowering women economically. The care economy, which includes paid and unpaid care work, is primarily undertaken by women and impacts on their work opportunities and conditions. Women’s care burden can limit their access to sexual and reproductive health services.

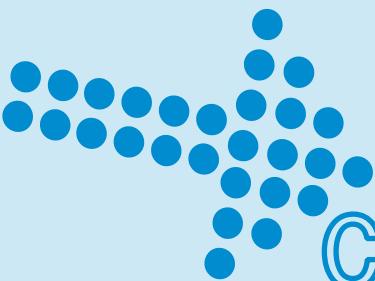
In turn, lack of sexual and reproductive health services can increase women’s care work burden by impeding their decisions on if, when and how many children to have. Given the benefits of child care and other support programmes, and the fact that women will continue to work in both the formal and informal economy, support for care work remains extremely important to women’s economic empowerment, and to the health and well-being of women and their families. In addition to support for care work, regulatory frameworks, including policies and practices that support and promote universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights, should be expanded across both the informal and formal economy to help women access decent work, to become healthier and to gain more economic stability.



Women's participation and leadership in public and political life is essential for tackling poverty and gender inequality.

If women's participation is to be transformative, their voices need to be heard across public life, from households and community meetings to national parliaments. More evidence is needed to establish clear linkages between sexual and reproductive health and rights and women's representation in political and public life. However, we know that attitudes to women's sexuality affect their participation in political and public life, including their political aspirations and electability. Social norms that dictate women's domestic roles and responsibilities can limit women to the reproductive sphere, and restrict their time to engage outside the household. In addition, women in public positions are often subject to violence and sexual harassment. It is particularly important to address sexual violence as a fundamental part of promoting women's political participation and engagement in peace building and reconstruction processes in post-conflict situations. Greater attention is needed to promote feminist constituency building and organizing at the grassroots to build networks to strengthen women's individual and collective capacity to participate in political and public life.





COMMUNIQUÉ

by the Interdepartmental Advisory and Consulting Group
on Equal Opportunities between Women and Men

The Interdepartmental Advisory and Consulting Group on Equal Opportunities between Women and Men of the Republic of Macedonia and the Platform on Gender Equality hails the commitment of the United Nations to developing the Post-2015 Agenda and defining the development framework which is to replace the Millennium Development Goals, otherwise known as Sustainable Development Goals, and is to set and define the priorities on economic and social development, as well as on improving the environment and the peace and security of future generations.

We welcome the draft of the Sustainable Development Goals that the Open Working Group of the UN General Assembly has produced which recognizes and reaffirms the commitments to advancing gender equality and empowering women and girls in all walks of life, thus ensuring the future dedication of the UN Member States to a comprehensive and effective implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action. Furthermore, we pledge our utmost support for reaffirming the principles of equality, combating discrimination, reducing all forms of inequality, as well as respecting and protecting human rights in the Post-2015 Development Framework.

At the same time, we would like to both hail and voice our support for the commitment that the UN General Assembly has assumed towards the particular sustainable development goal (Goal No. 5 - Gender) which is aimed at achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls. We find the proposals that the Open Working Group of the UN General Assembly has put forward on incorporating gender indicators within all other 16 particular sustainable development goals as being of exceptional importance for achieving equality and well-being in all facets of human life. Gathering quality and relevant data as reviewed per sex and age, geographic location and income level will provide the necessary prerequisites for effectively monitoring gender issues and equality among men and women both under the Post-2015 Agenda and as part of all future efforts ensuring further progress in that respect. We are convinced that such an approach will ensure adequate data comparison, an effective monitoring of gender issues and an increase in transparency and accountability in and among all countries across the world.

We highlight all commitments that the UN Member States have heretofore assumed and find, at the same time, that efforts aimed at advancing gender equality and empowering all women and girls, as well as prioritizing gender issues in all walks and facets of human life, should all be continued.

We emphasize the importance of the UN Member States and all relevant stakeholders intensifying their efforts aimed at further supporting and promoting gender issues by increasing and allocating funds for achieving the desired objectives. We propose that the Member States shift their focus towards regional priorities by supporting multi-sector initiatives and increasing their support for local groupings.

We particularly welcome and pledge our full support to incorporating into the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Framework and Agenda the particular goals of eliminating all forms of discrimination and violence against all women and girls in both the public and private spheres, including human trafficking, sexual and other types of exploitation; promoting shared responsibility within the household and the family between women and men as nationally appropriate; ensuring women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic, and public life; and ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, as agreed in accordance with the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the outcome documents of their review conferences.

Taking into consideration its national policies and strategies aimed at advancing gender equality, the Republic of Macedonia has been making marked progress in the development of its national legislation on eliminating discrimination against women and girls and ensuring their participation in decision-making on all levels of public and political life.

Moreover, the Republic of Macedonia reaffirms its further commitment to implementing the separate goal on gender and, in particular, its specific targets of eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls, advancing the economic status of women and improving their sexual and reproductive health, by continuing in the future the process of creating national legislation, policies, budgets and taking adequate action and measures aimed at tackling all matters as referred to above.



ИНТЕРРЕСОРСКА СОВЕТОДАВНА И
КОНСУЛТАТИВНА ГРУПА ЗА ЕДНАКВИ
МОЖНОСТИ НА ЖЕНИТЕ И МАЖИТЕ



ПЛАТФОРМА
ЗА РОДОВА
ЕДНАКВОСТ



X. E. P. A.

A Member Association of



International
Planned Parenthood
Federation
European Network