Post-2015 Development Agenda and SDG 5: “Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls”

Moez Doraid
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Post-2015 Development Agenda

Post-2015 Development Agenda

• Expiration of the Millennium Development Goals in 2015
• 17 new Sustainable Development Goals
• Interconnected
• Universal

Stand-alone goal on achieving gender equality

• SDG 5: Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls
• Successor of MDG 3 on gender equality
  ➢ Key role in addressing discrimination & inequalities
• Gender equality is central for sustainable development

Interlinkages with other SDGs

• Gender component in all challenges of the 21st century
  ➢ Poverty
  ➢ Inequality
  ➢ Climate change
  ➢ Discriminatory social norms, practices & policies
Why Do We Need SDG 5?

**Progress**

- Increased enrolment of girls in primary & secondary school
- Increased participation in the labour force (especially in Latin American & Caribbean region)
- Increased access to contraception (most regions, including Sub-Saharan Africa & South Asia)

**Gaps**

- Challenges to fulfil sexual & reproductive health rights remain
- Violence against women: a universal phenomenon
- No parity between men and women in political participation & decision-making (Female representation in national parliaments: 22%)
- Overrepresentation in the informal economy
- Lack of access to decent work
- Universal gender pay gap
- Disproportionate share of unpaid care & domestic work
Sustainable Development Goal 5

- SDG 5 takes a transformative approach that:
  - addresses the structural barriers to gender equality
  - transforms unequal power relations between women and men

- Gender equality and women empowerment are:
  - an objective in themselves & have intrinsic value
  - instrumental in achieving all the other goals in the post-2015 development agenda.
Sustainable Development Goal 5

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 the public and private spheres, including trafficking, sexual and other types of exploitation.

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

*Beyond recognition, UNCTs should work to redistribute and reduce the uneven share of unpaid care work.

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

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*, the *Beijing Platform for Action* and the outcome documents of their review conferences.
3 Targets on Means of Implementation

- Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources.
- Enhance the use of enabling technologies.
- Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation.
Gender equality must be addressed as a cross-cutting issue across all SDGs:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>SDG 1</th>
<th>SDG 3</th>
<th>SDG 6</th>
<th>SDG 8</th>
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<tr>
<td>Pro-poor and gender-sensitive national development strategies</td>
<td>Reduction of maternal mortality</td>
<td>Adequate and equitable access to sanitation &amp; hygiene with special attention to the needs of women &amp; girls</td>
<td>Full &amp; productive employment &amp; decent work</td>
<td>Assurance of equal opportunity &amp; reduction of inequalities of outcome</td>
<td>Reduction of all forms of violence, Inclusive, participatory decision-making, Provision of legal identity &amp; birth registration</td>
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Examples of Interlinkages among SDGs

- Poverty reduction (**SDG 1**) & tackling climate change (**SDG 13**) requires:
  - strengthening the resilience of communities where women play a central role (**SDGs 5 & 11**)

- Poverty reduction (**SDG 1**) requires:
  - social protection & quality essential services for women (**SDG 5 & 10**)

- Gender equality (**SDG 5**) requires:
  - economic empowerment of women, which in turn depends upon:
    - equal right to inherit; to access, have control over and/or own land (**SDG 5**) & to decent work (**SDG 8**)
    - access to quality infrastructure, technology, incl. ICT (**SDG 9**), which allows access to formal employment (**SDG 8**) & reduction of unpaid care work
  - girls’ completion of school (**SDG 4**), which will be more likely if:
    - separate sanitation facilities (**SDG 6**) in schools exists
Translating SDG 5 into Reality

**EFFECTIVE MONITORING OF:**
- Implementation of the SDGs
- Benchmarks towards achieving the targets

**HOW?**
- Systematic disaggregation of data statistics by sex, age & other factors of indicators across all goals
- Minimum set of 55 gender indicators adopted by *the UN Statistical Commission* (2013), which cover a broad range of areas & provide a strong basis for monitoring gender equality in the post-2015 development agenda
- Localization of global indicators
- Assurance of funding/investment that is commensurate with the ambition of the new agenda
ENSURING ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISMS:

- On all levels: global, regional and national

**Formal:**

- Integrate accountability mechanisms for the post-2015 development agenda within national accountability systems (i.e. between executive & legislative branches, parliamentary scrutiny)
- Report to CEDAW & other relevant treaty bodies

**Informal:**

- Need for inclusive & participatory democratic deliberations
Operational work of the UN System & SDG 5

Key Programming Principles at the Country Level

- Human Rights-based Approach
- UNDAF
- Gender Equality Principles

Guiding the work of UN Country Teams

Holistic Localization of SDGs

Implementation efforts should focus on:
1) gender equality as stand-alone goal
2) mainstreaming gender across all goals

Governments & UN work together to:
1) align all national gender equality strategies, plans, policies & programmes to the proposed SDGs
2) integrate a gender equality perspective in all other sustainable development and sectoral strategies, plans, policies & programmes
SDG 5 poses a special challenge:

- Implementation needs to be conditional on national legislation & policies
  - Governments & UN System need to:
    - ensure that national legislation are aligned with international normative frameworks (e.g. CEDAW, Beijing Declaration & Platform of Action)
    - cooperate in the localisation of international normative frameworks

Gender equality is:

- the shared key responsibility for governments, civil society organisations, private sector & UN system
- the mandate for the entire UN system
  - *UN Women* leads, coordinates & supports gender equality efforts
The **Post-2015 Development Agenda** promises:

- full eradication of extreme poverty
- full termination of the most pervasive form of discrimination, the discrimination against women & girls

*This is crucial for the success of sustainable development!*
Thank You!