

## Women and sustainable Development

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The United Nations (UN) Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were established in 2000/1 and consist of eight development objectives to be achieved by 2015. There is need, however, for a successor framework once the MDGs expire in 2015. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) played a pivotal role in defining the MDGs. The OECD has a number of areas of expertise which could play an important role in shaping this post-2015 agenda and framework. The OECD proposes eleven areas which would be of particular relevance (Beyond the MDGs: Towards an OECD contribution to the post-2015 agenda). This brochure focuses on policy coherence for inclusive and sustainable development. Measuring what you treasure and keeping poverty at the heart of development. Developing a universal measure of educational success. Achieving gender equality and women's rights. Integrating sustainability into development. Strengthening national statistical systems. Building effective institutions and accountability mechanisms. Developing and promoting peace building and state building goals. Policy coherence for inclusive and sustainable development. Sharing knowledge and engaging in policy dialogue and mutual learning. Promoting the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation. Measuring and monitoring development finance

The United Nations has received 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) with specific targets to achieve within specific time. The common goal of SDGs that no one will be left behind is a move towards equitable, unrestricted and inclusive society for all. It is a global call to end poverty, protect the planet, and make sure that people enjoy peace, get justice and prosper. It is not only the responsibility of scientists, policy makers, governing institutions to give us safe surroundings but we social scientists, scientists, NGOs have to join hands to discover opportunities and find strategies to protect our social, economic and environmental health. This programme is a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity. For sustainable development, suppression of poverty in all its forms and proportions is accepted as the greatest global challenge and an essential requirement till 2030.

Women's empowerment means women getting more power and control over their own lives. It can also be seen as a significant process in reaching gender impartiality, which means "rights, responsibilities and opportunities of individuals will not depend on whether they are born male or female". According to the UN Population Fund, an empowered woman has manage over her own life, both within and outside the home, and she has the capacity to manipulate the direction of social change. Women need to be "empowered" in order to contracted the "gender gap" and to create an equal playing field between women and men before gender equality can be reached and maintained.

According to UN World Survey (2014) on the "Role of Women in Development 2014", there are proven synergies between women's empowerment and economic, social and environmental sustainability. Women's active participation in decision-making facilitates the distribution of public resources to investments in human development priorities, including education, health, nutrition, employment and social defence. Empowerment should not be seen as a zero-sum game where gains for women automatically entail losses for men For example, as female education levels rise, infant and child mortality rates drop and family health improves. Education also increases women's participation in the labour force and their assistance to household and national income. Women's increased earning capacity, in turn, has a positive effect on children's nutrition, health and educational forecast.

The "rights, responsibilities and opportunities of individuals will not depend on whether they are born male or female". The Gender Action Plan 2016–2020 recognizes that gender impartiality is a matter of human rights, the foundation of democratic system and good governance, and the foundation of inclusive, sustainable development. It acknowledges the underpinnings of gender inequality, namely the uneven gender power relations and gender-biased social norms that discriminate against women and girls, marginalizing them from the profit of social, economic and political change. Gender refers to the social differences and relations between men and women. This refers to socially and culturally certified roles to men and women. Gender roles are learned behaviours .The term gender does not replace the term sex, which refers to genetic differences between men and women. Gender roles are affected by age, class, race, traditions and religion, and by the geographical, economic and political environment.

Gender equity means fairness of treatment for women and men, according to their respective needs. This may include equivalent treatment or treatment that is different but which is considered equivalent in terms of rights, benefits, obligations and opportunities. Gender equity is the process of allocating resources, programs and decision-making comparatively to both males and females. It does not unavoidably mean making the same programs and facilities accessible to both males and females. Gender equality means that the different behaviour and needs of women and men are considered, valued and preferred equally. It does not mean that women and men have to become the same, but that their rights, responsibilities and opportunities will not depend on whether they are born male or female. Gender impartiality requires equal pleasure of valued goods, opportunities, resources and rewards by women and men. It is generally women who are excluded or disadvantaged in relation to decision-making and access to economic and social resources in case of gender inequalities.

The Commission on Environment and Development defined sustainable development as development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of upcoming generations to meet their own needs. In order to get sustainable development, the three core elements that need to be synchronized are-economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection. Sustainable development aims at eradicating poverty through, in particular, creating greater opportunities for all, reducing inequalities, raising basic standards of living and nurturing equitable social development and inclusion.

Sustainable development cannot be achieved without gender equality. It also depends on an unbiased allocation of resources. Women's empowerment is a key factor for achieving sustainable economic growth, social development and environmental sustainability. It is based on the morality and brings about solidarity within and between generations. In almost all countries, women are partaking the primary responsibility for nutrition, child care and household management. In most developing countries, women play a key role as animal tenders, farmers, and water and fuel collectors. Women took active part in the Rio Earth Summit process and succeeded in obtaining a chapter on women and sustainable development and over one hundred references and recommendations pertaining to women in the final agreement, Agenda 21. The 1992 Rio Summit, together with the 1993 Human Rights Conference, the 1994 International

Conference on Population and Development, the 1995 Social Summit and the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women, have focused the work of the United Nations on the environment, population, human rights, poverty and gender, and the affairs between these issues. In Rio, women were considered a "major group" whose involvement was necessary to realize sustainable development. The United Nations system is in the process of mainstreaming a gender-perspective in its work. The Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing in September 1995, emphasized that empowerment, full participation and equality for women are the foundations for peace and sustainable development.

Women need to be "empowered" in order to narrow the "gender gap" and to build an equal playing field between women and men before gender equality can be reached and maintained. All SDG's are talking about gender sensitizations in one or the other way. The contribution of women in all fields needs to be enhanced by ensuring their full economic growth. Gender bias is still intensely rooted in cultures, economies, political and social institutions around the world. Women and girls face intolerable levels of discrimination and abuse, which is not only wrong, but also, prevents them from playing a full part in society and decision-making. Yet women's empowerment must not mean just adding to their burdens of responsibilities or building prospect of women as 'sustainability saviours'. To mainstream the involvement of women and girls in sustainable development, it demands a modify in attitudes and manners towards women and girls across all levels. All 17 SDG's will jointly help to achieve gender equality through women empowerment and only the achievement of SDG-5 alone will not create a gender-equal world. All countries should accept the responsibility and support each other countries side wise side to make sure the full functioning and achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

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