Draft 14 November 2023

How Close Are We to Gender Equality? A Snapshot Across the SDGs

Tuesday 21 November 2024
10:00-11:00 a.m. EDT

Concept note

Introduction

The SDG Summit in September 2023 marked the beginning of a new phase of accelerated progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with high-level political guidance on transformative and accelerated actions leading up to 2030. United Nations Member States agreed to act with urgency to realize the vision of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and leave no one behind.

Also in September, the "Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals: The Gender Snapshot 2023" published by UN DESA and UN Women was released, providing a comprehensive analysis of the current state of gender equality across all 17 SDGs. It highlights prevailing trends, gaps, and recent setbacks on the journey towards achieving gender equality by 2030. However, the report paints a worrisome picture. Halfway to 2030, progress on SDG 5 – Gender Equality – is clearly way off track, with only two Goal 5 indicators being "close to target" and no SDG 5 indicator at the "target met or almost met" level.

To support the UN system in its revitalized approach to the SDGs at their halftime point, underscoring the need for cross-cutting attention to gender equality, UN DESA will host a Global Policy Dialogue in November to present the information in the "Gender Snapshot" in an interactive format for a wide audience. The event will feature speakers from UN DESA, UN Women, and other stakeholder groups. Each discussion will include ways to build and scale partnerships to reach our gender targets.

With this dialogue, UN DESA hopes to enhance the preparedness of Member States and the UN system to respond to multi-dimensional, systemic risks in today's interconnected world. These dialogues are made possible by the UN Peace and Development Trust Fund.

Format

The event will run for 60 minutes and will be hybrid in format, with an in-person moderator and speakers joining in person and virtually.

The discussions will be interactive and led by the moderator. Time will be reserved during the event for audience questions and polls. The audience will also be invited to submit questions in advance when completing the Zoom registration. A short highlights video will be produced after the event.

Platform

The event will be held in a hybrid format in the SDG Studio managed by the Department of Global Communications. The audience can watch via Zoom or Facebook Live. They can also access the Slido

platform (via QR code or provided link) to enhance engagement by audience members who wish to participate in the polls, submit their own questions or upvote questions posed by others.

Language

The event will be held in English with multilingual captioning available.

Host/moderator

A professional moderator will guide the discussions.

Draft programme

Introduction (5 minutes)

- Moderator welcome remarks/logistical information
- Moderator to launch interactive poll 1

Opening video (2 minutes)

- UN DESA SDG Report 2023 teaser (1:21)

Discussion 1: Understanding the current state of SDG progress for women (25 minutes)

Speakers (tbc):

- **Ms. Yongyi Min,** Chief, SDG Monitoring Section, Statistics Division, UN DESA (in person)
- **Ms. Ginette Azcona,** Research and Data Policy Specialist, UN Women (in person)

- Moderator to launch interactive poll 2
- Moderator to ask 2-3 guiding questions
  - Can you tell us what the latest data is showing about the current state of gender equality across all 17 SDGs?
  - This year's "Gender Snapshot" includes a section on special section on gender and climate change – can you tell us about that?
  - What are some recent bright spots for improving equality for women and girls?
  - What are some ways countries can implement now to better support women and girls?
- Moderator to ask 2-3 questions from the audience

Video: (3 minutes)

- "More and better gender data for a more equal future," UN Women video (2:40)

Discussion 2: Leaving no older woman behind (23 minutes)

Speakers (tbc):

- **Ms. Yumiko Kamiya,** Population Affairs Officer, Population Division, UN DESA (in person)

- **Ms. Carole Ageng'o,** Global Initiatives lead and Regional Representative for Africa, HelpAge International (virtual)

- Moderator to launch interactive poll 3
- Moderator to ask 2-3 guiding questions:
  - How does inequality affect women at older ages?
  - What are some policy solutions that would help older women thrive?
  - What are the effects of abuse towards older women and what can be done about this?
- Moderator to take 2-3 questions from the audience

Wrap-up and closing (2 minutes)

- Moderator final remarks
- Exit survey will launch upon end of Zoom