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Handbook on Mainstreaming Gender Equality in Voluntary National Reviews

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Handbook on Mainstreaming Gender Equality in Voluntary National Reviews

2019



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Introduction

The purpose of this handbook

This handbook aims to support issues of gender equality and empowerment of women during the follow-up and review stage of the 2030 Agenda, namely in the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) and their preparation phases. Mainstreaming the gender perspective in the preparation of the VNRs will help integrate women's issues as an effective component in policymaking and institutional coordinating mechanisms. It will also help the acceptance to mainstream gender equality in different public administrations, thus promoting a “whole-of-government” approach. The handbook can also be used as a tool to raise awareness on gender equality.

This handbook is based on the United Nations Secretary-General's proposal for voluntary common reporting guidelines and complements the Handbook for the Preparation of Voluntary National Reviews, which was prepared by the Division for Sustainable Development Goals (DSDG) in the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) within the framework of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF). The VNR preparation handbook provides practical information on the steps that countries may take when preparing a VNR and explains in a practical way all stages needed for the preparation of VNRs from communicating the intention, to organizing and preparing the review, including its key building blocks and related preparatory workshops. This handbook provides proposals for the mainstreaming gender equality in the preparation process and also addresses the mainstreaming of gender equality in the VNR content, including all the goals and means of implementation.

Who is the handbook addressed to?

The handbook is designed to support members of the Economic and Social Council of Western Asia (ESCWA) Subcommittee on Gender Equality and the Sustainable Development Goals, in partnership with the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) and the League of Arab States (LAS). Members include representatives from National Women Machineries (NWMs) and focal points of statistical bodies to support mainstreaming the gender perspective in VNRs. The handbook also provides a comprehensive model to facilitate meaningful participation in the reporting processes.

In addition to providing support to NWMs, the handbook helps other policymakers improve their working mechanisms and outputs by mainstreaming gender equality in institutions, policies, legislations and services. These institutions include policymakers, senior civil servants, line ministries, national statistical offices, parliaments, parliamentary committees, civil society organizations and other relevant stakeholders.

Structure of the handbook

The handbook is made up of four chapters and an introduction. Chapter 1 introduces and defines the 2030 Agenda. Chapter 2 presents a reading of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) from a gender equality perspective revisiting most of the SDGs, identifying the targets that present gender disparities and highlighting the strong linkages between gender equality and other SDGs with special emphasis on SDG 5.


Chapter 3 covers the availability of quantitative and qualitative information and the role of data and indicators in achieving SDGs from the perspective of gender equality and women's rights. It also presents the results of the survey conducted by the LAS secretariat on available statistics in a number of Arab States in order to identify some data sources that can be used in the preparation of the VNRs.

Finally, Chapter 4 presents the proposed steps to integrate the perspective of gender equality and women's rights in the VNRs in two ways:

1. Adopted mechanisms and procedures for the coordination and preparation of VNRs;
2. The content of Arab States' VNRs through a framework that analyses gender disparities.

1. Introducing the 2030 Agenda





The 2030 Agenda is characterized by its inclusiveness and universality. Its SDGs are interconnected and indivisible and, as such, should be implemented as a whole since their linkages mean that each one impacts all the others. This means that no goal should be excluded during implementation, monitoring and supervision.

1. Introducing the 2030 agenda

A. 2030 Agenda and the SDGs

In 2015, Member States at the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”.¹ The 2030 Agenda was officially launched in 2016, marking a new phase in addressing global development challenges (figure 1). The 2030 Agenda replaced the United Nations Millennium Declaration, signed in September 2000, from which the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were derived and were to be achieved over the period 2000-2015 targeting developing countries. A global review of the MDGs informed the development of the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs.²

The 2030 Agenda works on transformative change in five key dimensions: people, the planet, prosperity, peace and partnerships. It targets critical and structural challenges

and issues such as inequality, poverty, peace and security and combating inequality and injustice. It is also based on the fundamental principle of “leaving no one behind” while calling for transformative policies and actions to achieve the needed change.

The Agenda is composed of the preamble, the Declaration, the vision and the fundamental principles that comprise the Agenda’s adopted themes. In order to simplify communication and planning, 17 goals, known as “the SDGs”, were announced as part the Agenda, which are composed of 169 targets and 232 national and international indicators.³ The SDGs apply universally to all countries, developed and developing, and are considered a part of the Agenda. Therefore, commitment to the implementation of the SDGs needs to be understood within the framework of the 2030 Agenda in its entirety.

Figure 1 Components of the 2030 Agenda



The 2030 Agenda includes indicators on the means of implementation, specifically global partnerships, as well as national and local partnerships, that are translated through the integration of these goals into national policies and through the participation of all relevant national stakeholders, such as governments, private sector, civil society and others, in planning and implementation. The 2030 Agenda suggests the follow-up and adoption of national mechanisms that suit the contexts and adapted to the frameworks in each country. Moreover, it encourages the preparation of review reports at the national, regional and international levels. These reports are called Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) – the topic of this handbook.

The 2030 Agenda is characterized by its inclusiveness and universality. Its SDGs are interconnected and indivisible and, as such, should be implemented as a whole since their linkages mean that each one impacts all the others. This means that no goal should be excluded during implementation, monitoring and supervision. It is also necessary to adapt the implementation process to the local situation and appropriate priorities.

B. follow-up and review of SDGs

The 2030 Agenda is considered a road map, and achieving its SDGs necessitates the following :

- > Planning and policymaking;
- > Result-oriented implementation (through political mobilization);
- > Allocating different resources and capacity-building;
- > Regular monitoring, review and reporting.

The “planning-action-review” cycle is expected to take place in an institutional framework that follows open, inclusive, participatory and transparent processes to guarantee that no one is left behind in the

implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The Agenda clearly stresses the government responsibility to “follow-up and review” the progress towards the achievement of the SDGs and their targets at the national, regional and international levels.

There are many SDG follow-up and review mechanisms, namely:

- > VNRs that follow up progress at the national and subnational levels;
- > Thematic reports: periodic reviews prepared by international agencies, United Nations committees and expert groups focusing on specific and interlinked topics related to the 2030 Agenda;
- > Regional reports: periodic reviews prepared by governmental, international and regional bodies to promote cooperation peer reviews and exchange of experiences and lessons learned on the implementation of the SDGs;
- > Global reports: review processes prepared by the United Nations including the following reports:
 - An annual report presented by the Secretary-General on Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals;⁴
 - The Global Sustainable Development Report, published every four years to strengthen the science-policy interface, which includes many inputs from the United Nations system. The report is prepared by experts from all organizations, including regional commissions, and by governmental experts, scientists and officials and multilevel stakeholders;⁵
 - An annual report of the Secretary-General within the framework of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. The report is prepared by joint working groups of the agencies working on financing sustainable development and mandated with monitoring the outcomes of financing sustainable development as well as the means of the implementation of SDGs.

1. The follow-up mechanism at the international level

The High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) is the main stakeholder that monitors follow-up and review activities at the global level. It works under the auspices of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), and is the main platform to monitor the progress achieved in the implementation of the SDGs and their targets. The establishment of the HLPF was mandated in 2012 by the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), “The Future We Want”. The format and organizational aspects of the Forum are outlined in General Assembly resolution 67/290. The HLPF is the main United Nations platform on sustainable development and has a central role in the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs at the global level. Moreover, the HLPF adopts negotiated intergovernmental political agreements.

The HLPF convenes annually in July in New York for a three-day ministerial segment under the auspices of the ECOSOC, and every four years at the level of Heads of States and Governments under the auspices of the General Assembly.

The HLPF looks into the interventions presented by other international governmental bodies and forums, relevant United Nations agencies, regional commissions, main organizations and other relevant stakeholders. It is considered the main forum that guides the political leadership regarding the achievement of the SDGs by the year 2030 through exchange of experiences, including success stories. The HLPF also submits recommendations to promote the implementation, follow-up and review of the SDGs, while underscoring the importance of accountability and the exchange of best practices and while also supporting international cooperation. A number of aforementioned reports are submitted during the HLPF annual session to follow up on the global implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Figure 2 HLPF 2018 - activities in numbers



2. Follow-up mechanisms at the regional level

Regional monitoring, as undertaken by regional economic commissions and other specialized bodies in the region, plays an important role in promoting the exchange of knowledge, mutual learning and peer reviews among countries in the same region. These bodies play an important complementary role in promoting best practices, providing technical cooperation and capacity-building and formulating and publishing methodologies to adapt and coordinate the indicators according to different circumstances. The United Nations regional commissions have the full mandate to organize annual regional forums for sustainable development that bring together different stakeholders. These meetings are considered the main regional follow-up and review mechanisms and reports are submitted to the HLPF.

In the Arab region, ESCWA, in cooperation with the LAS and other United Nations agencies working in the region, annually organizes the Arab Forum for Sustainable Development. The Forum is considered the main regional mechanism for the promotion, implementation, follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda in the Arab Region. It provides a platform of dialogue among governments and other stakeholders in Arab States to exchange experiences and expertise and to report on progress in the implementation of the SDGs. The outputs of the Arab Forum are presented at the HLPF, giving a voice to the region. The Arab Forum is preceded by a series of thematic or specialized preparatory meetings that engage main stakeholders, such as civil society organizations and parliamentarians. The final report of the Forum, which includes the key messages adopted after the regional discussion and the preparatory meetings, is submitted at the HLPF. Every four years, ESCWA, in cooperation with other United Nations organizations working in the Arab region, publishes the Arab Sustainable

Development Report to be submitted at the HLPF meeting at the level of Heads of States and Governments. The drafting of the report facilitates the consultation process and guarantees the participation of the Working Group on the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs in the planning and drafting of a high-level regional report that reflects the priorities and challenges of the Arab region.

ESCWA hosted the Arab Forum for Sustainable Development in April 2018. The Forum provided a regional platform for the review and assessment of progress in the Arab States' progress regarding the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, thus conveying key messages from the region to be presented at the HLPF. Four regional workshops on VNRs immediately preceded the Regional Forums on Sustainable Development. Moreover, regional United Nations agencies submit regional reports on the SDGs. In the framework of the Arab Forum on Sustainable Development 2018, a special session on VNRs was held to promote the capacity of country representatives to conduct the VNRs and to follow up the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs through enhancing the understanding of the VNRs. In a context of mutual learning, the session aimed to facilitate the exchange of VNR experiences and good practices and to present updated information on the progress achieved. The session covered a number of topics: the role of the VNR as an accelerator of implementation and institutional empowerment, VNR as a mechanism for setting national goals for all government institutions and civil society organizations to review progress and mobilize means of implementation and VNR as a tool to involve all relevant stakeholders to enter into strategic partnerships, not to leave anyone behind and to promote national ownership of the 2030 Agenda.

Recommendations relevant to gender equality and the empowerment of women in the 2018 Arab Forum included the following:⁶

- > Underscore the need to take into account gender issues in all legislative frameworks

and laws, and to strengthen accountability to achieve gender equality at all government levels to implement the 2030 Agenda;

- > Focus on the importance of disseminating the concept of gender equality in national development plans and the SDGs and involve women in decision-making and policy formulation regarding water, energy, cities, production, consumption, regional ecosystems and means of implementation;
- > Stress the need to effectively involve women in urban planning to enable them to express their concerns and needs, and to take women into consideration when formulating plans so as to strengthen their social and economic participation;
- > Improve the availability and quality of gender-disaggregated data given the region's need for better analytical approaches that contribute to developing gender-sensitive policies and mainstreaming them into efforts to empower women and achieve gender equality.

3. Follow-up mechanism at the national level

As previously mentioned, as part of its follow-up and review mechanisms, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development encourages Member States to “conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national and subnational levels, which are country-led and country-driven” – that is, the VNRs. These national reviews are expected to serve as a basis for the regular reviews by the HLPF.

Member States have committed themselves to guaranteeing the inclusiveness of their VNRs so as to involve all relevant stakeholders, such as civil society, academia and parliamentarians. The process of preparing the VNRs includes the provision of quality, credible and disaggregated data that can be taken from available reporting mechanisms. The United Nations has provided and continues to provide some guidance on the preparation of VNRs, and

organizes workshops in every session organized by countries that committed to presenting their reports.⁷

The VNRs play a central role in the work of the HLPF, but they are not the only tool for review. Other main elements also include: round tables on the sidelines of the forum, presentations to assess global progress, identification of interlinkages with other United Nations forums and conventions, dealing with countries with special cases and maintaining dialogue with main groups, relevant stakeholders and non-state actors.

4. The Voluntary National Review

VNRs are intended to track progress in implementing the 2030 Agenda, including the SDGs and their targets, in all countries. This should be done in a manner that considers the universal and integrated nature of the 2030 Agenda which encompasses all the dimensions of sustainable development. Follow-up and review processes at all levels should be guided by principles:

- > VNRs should be voluntary and country-led;
- > VNRs should track progress in the implementation of SDGs and their targets, including the means of implementation, taking into consideration the three dimensions of sustainable development;
- > VNRs should use a longer-term perspective to support countries in making informed policy choices to mobilize the necessary means of implementation and partnerships;
- > VNRs should be open, inclusive, participatory and transparent;
- > VNRs should be people-centred, gender-sensitive, taking human rights into account with focus on the poorest, most vulnerable and the furthest behind;
- > VNRs should build on existing platforms and processes to avoid duplication;
- > VNRs should be rigorous and based on evidence, informed by accurate, quality national data and evidence disaggregated by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migration

status, disability status, geographic location and other relevant characteristics;

- > VNRs should support capacity-building in developing countries;
- > VNRs should benefit from the active support from the United Nations system and other multilateral institutions.

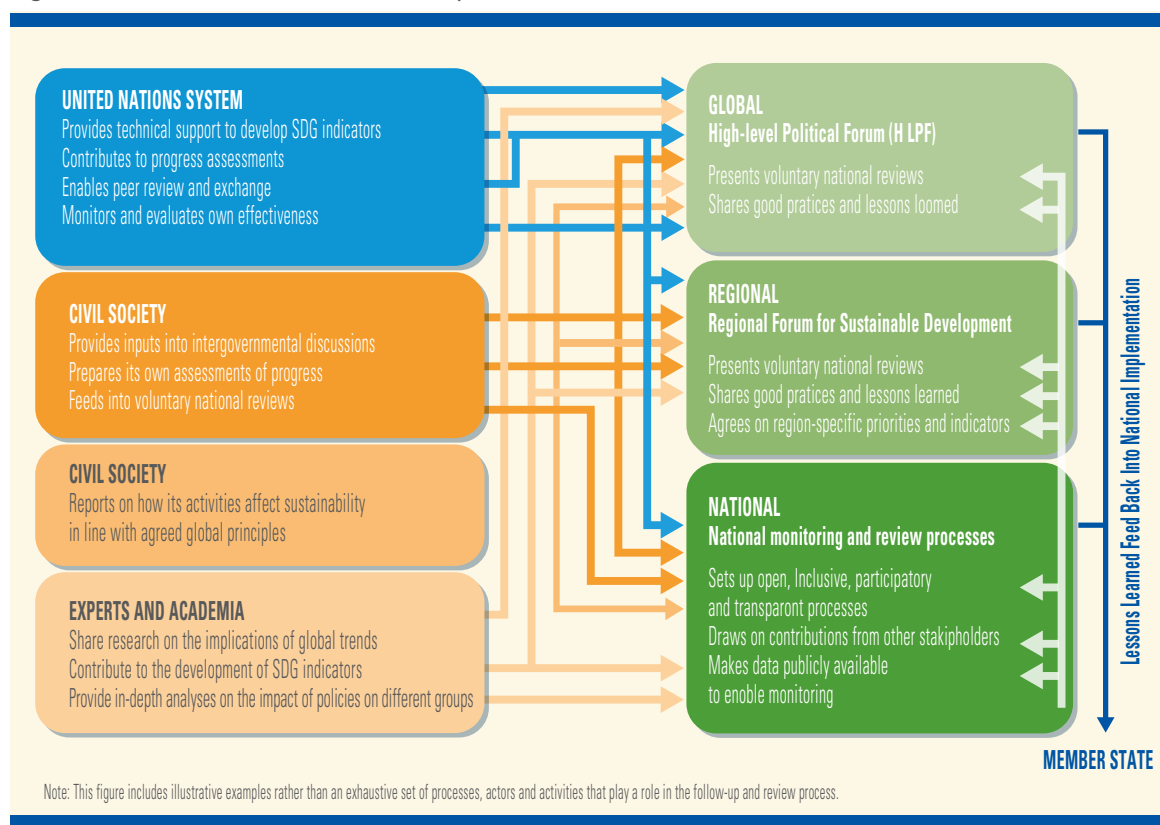
It is up to every country to decide on its own what to include in their VNRs.⁸ When the President of ECOSOC calls for the convening of the HLPF, countries that wish to conduct their VNRs announce their intention to do so. They notify the Office of the ECOSOC President of their intention through a letter from their respective permanent representatives. The President, in turn, notifies the countries on matters relating to the VNRs through letters addressed to their permanent missions in New York. The list of countries that intend to

conduct their VNRs is drawn up according to the chronological order of their notifications until the list reaches the maximum capacity before the convention of the HLPF. For example, the list of VNRs for 2018 was completed by September 2017 and then closed.

VNRs are based on the the initial development, organization and preparation of the review, the engagement of all stakeholders in preparing and presenting the VNR to the international community through the HLPF.

Over the 2016-2018 period, 111 VNRs have been presented at the HLPF. Ten Arab countries have submitted 12 VNRs: Egypt and Morocco in 2016; Jordan and Qatar in 2017; Bahrain, Egypt, Lebanon, the State of Palestine, Qatar, the Sudan, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates in 2018.⁹

Figure 3 Stakeholder roles in the follow-up and review of SDGs

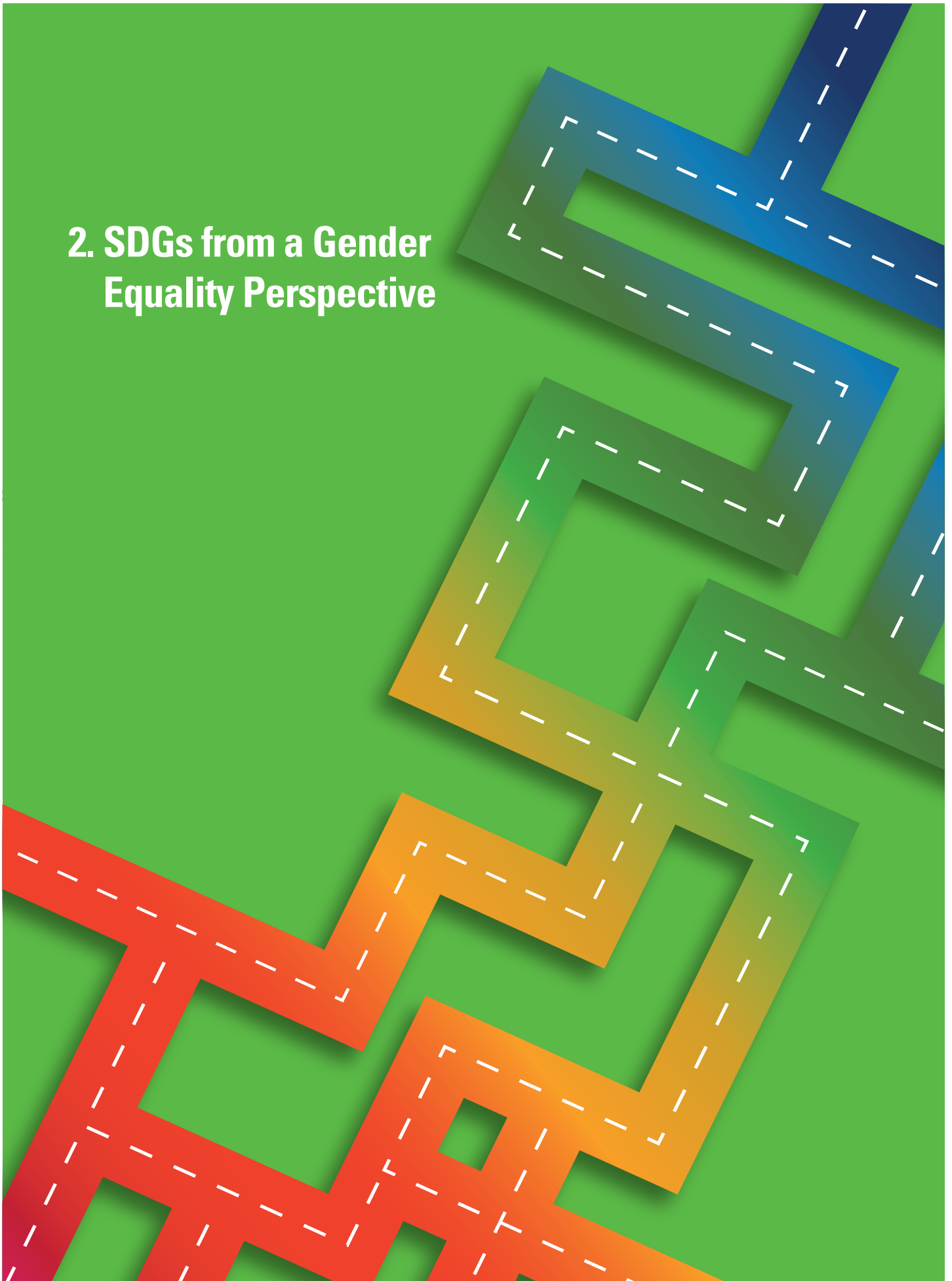



VNR a means of review, not an objective in itself

It is important to reiterate that the preparation of VNRs is not an objective in itself. It is, rather, a means of accelerating implementation. As DESA's Handbook for the Preparation of VNRs indicates, the process of carrying out a VNR should not be seen as separate from the implementation of the SDGs. These reports aim to assess the shortcomings in

the implementation of goals and targets and present an opportunity to learn from peers through exchange of experiences, success stories, challenges and lessons learned. The final objective is to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, which should include the perspective of the State and other actors, such as civil society organizations and the private sector. This way, the VNRs guarantee taking all voices into account and not leaving anyone behind.¹⁰

2. SDGs from a Gender Equality Perspective





Sustainable development cannot be achieved without achieving gender equality within an integrated framework where the different sustainable development dimensions are interlinked with women's rights.

2. SDGs from a Gender Equality Perspective

Principle 20 of the 1992 Rio Declaration stresses that gender inequality is an obstacle to sustainable development and asserts that “women have a vital role in environmental management and development. Their full participation is therefore essential to achieve sustainable development.” The final declaration of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), in its sixtieth session, reiterated its commitment to the principle of gender equality and women’s rights in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda as a crucial requirement for achieving progress across all SDGs.

The 2030 Agenda clearly states that sustainable development cannot be achieved without achieving gender equality within an integrated framework where the different sustainable development dimensions are interlinked with women’s rights. SDG 5 includes a set of human rights standards that guarantee the validity of the gender equality principle. However, SDG 5 cannot be achieved in isolation from progress in the implementation of the other goals.

Therefore, the 2030 Agenda is linked to many international conventions, commitments and principles, some of which are relevant to women’s rights, such as the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Beijing Platform for Action and other human rights treaties. Consequently, these documents are of particular significance to the work of treaty bodies.

The following will focus on the interlinkages between the 2030 Agenda and these main international legal frameworks.

A. The international human rights system

The 2030 Agenda is closely linked to the international human rights system, especially at the level of issues related to openness, diversity, justice and equality. These fundamental principles are clearly stated in the Agenda and directly reflect the international standards for human rights. Moreover, the Agenda takes into account the right to development that was adopted in 1986 and poses a strict legal obligation vis-a-vis the development process on the international community.

Consequently, the human rights records review mechanism, in countries conducting the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), is considered a main cornerstone in the follow-up and monitoring system of the international human rights system. This also establishes the foundations for the proposed VNRs for the 2030 Agenda.

Every five years the UPR examines the human rights performance of all United Nations Member States. Each year, 42 States are reviewed by the specialized working group on the UPR during three sessions, with 14 States reviewed at each session. The three sessions are usually convened in January–February, May–June and October–November. After each review, the working group drafts an outcome report comprising the recommendations that the State under review needs to implement before the next review.

The UPR is a full-circle process consisting of three key stages:

- > Preparation for the Review and reporting on implementation;
- > Review of the human rights situation of the State under review and adoption of the Report;
- > Implementation of the recommendations and reporting at mid-term.

There are similarities between the goals of the VNRs and those of the UPR. The UPR aims to:

- > Improve the human rights situation on the ground;
- > Help States fulfil their human rights commitments, and assess progress and positive challenges facing the State;
- > Enhance the capacity of the State and provide technical assistance, through an interactive consultation with the State and with its approval;

- > Share best practices in the field of human rights among States and other stakeholders;
- > Support cooperation to promote and protect human rights;
- > Encourage cooperation and participation with the Human Rights Committee (HRC), other human rights bodies and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

It is worth noting that gender equality and women's issues account for an important part of the UPR, since its mandate covers the overall human rights situation in the State under review.

While the language used in the drafting of the SDGs is not the same as that of human

Table 1 Examples on linkages between the 2030 Agenda and human rights instruments

Goal in the 2030 Agenda	Target	International Human Rights Instruments
SDG 1 End poverty in all its forms everywhere	Target 1.1: By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$ 1.25 a day.	Article 11 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)
SDG 5 Achieve gender equality and empower women and girls	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.	Article 7 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)
SDG 8 promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	Target 8.5: By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value.	Articles 2, 3, 6 and 7 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)
SDG 16 Peace, justice and institutions	Target 16.10: Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements.	Articles 19, 21 and 22 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)

rights, they reflect the human rights standards linked to the theme of each goal. For example, the SDGs cover the availability, accessibility, affordability and quality of education, health, water and other services, thus ultimately supporting the human rights approach although not explicitly stating it.

Adopting a human rights approach in the implementation of the SDGs enhances accountability since human rights are legally binding by virtue of international conventions and charters, while the Agenda for Sustainable Development is based on a declaration. A human rights approach and mechanisms guarantee an integrated implementation of the SDGs, thus promoting the effectiveness and coherence of policies, facilitating the assessment, implementation and progress of achievements and leaving no one behind.

The human rights approach promotes the importance of working on gender equality and women's rights within the whole framework of the 2030 Agenda, not only focusing on the Goal of gender equality (SDG 5). This approach underlines the importance of multilevel assessment as well as the identification of SDG interlinkages to achieve this equality (table 1).

B. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women

In 1979, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). The Convention moves beyond guarantees of equality and equal protection before the law in existing legal instruments, and sets out measures for the achievement of equality between men and women, regardless of their marital status, in all fields of political, economic, social and cultural life.

The signatory States to the Convention commit themselves to the implementation a series of legal, policy and programme-based measures to end discrimination against women. This commitment covers all fields of life, including marriage and family relations, as well as undertaking appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women by any individual, organization or institution. For example, the CEDAW reiterated, in its report to the HLPF in 2017, that “..realizing women's rights requires more than just legal reform. While formal equality refers to the adoption of laws and policies that treat women and men equally, substantive equality is concerned with the results and outcomes of these.”

The SDGs draw upon the commitments stated in the CEDAW (table 2).

The SDGs may be less detailed than other international frameworks in addressing issues, given that it does not provide the necessary tools for the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls (target 5.2). However, the SDGs do provide new ways to promote women's rights. For example, implementing target 4.2, on early childhood and pre-primary schooling will contribute to women's economic participation, since mothers will have more time, which will facilitate their entry enter the labour market. Moreover, there will be more job opportunities created for women. For example, investment in early childhood education in South Africa of 3.2 per cent of the GDP annually would create 2.3 million new jobs, which in turn increases women's employment.¹¹

CEDAW periodic reports are compulsory and national reviews are voluntary

It is worthy to note that CEDAW implementation procedures, including the drafting of periodic reports, are compulsory steps, which is not the case of the VNRs. Article 18 of the Convention states that State Parties undertake to submit their reports within one year after the entry into

Table 2 Linkages between the SDGs and the CEDAW articles

Sustainable Development Goals	Relevant CEDAW Articles
1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere	Articles 2 - 11 - 10 - 13 - 14
2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture	Article 12
3. Ensure healthy lives and well-being for all at all ages	Articles 12 - 14 - 16
4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	Articles 10 - 14
5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	Articles 2 - 3 - 5 - 6 - 7 - 12 - 14 - 15 - 16 - 18
6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	Article 14
7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all	Articles 13 - 14
8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	Articles 6 - 10 - 11 - 13 - 14
9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation	Articles 13 - 14
10. Reduce income inequality within and among countries	Articles 1 - 2 - 3 - 6 - 7 - 9 - 11 - 13 - 14
11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable	Articles 7 - 13 - 14
12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns	Articles 10 - 14
13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts	Articles 7 - 10 - 14
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	Articles 1 - 2 - 6 - 7 - 9 - 11 - 13 - 14 - 15
17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development	Articles 3 - 14

Source: The Human Rights Guide to SDGs – Explaining the links between human rights and all SDGs and their targets.

force for the State concerned and thereafter periodically every four years. The CEDAW Committee may request the submission of other reports between the periodic reports. In these reports, State Parties explain in details measures adopted to implement the provisions of the Convention. The Committee discusses these reports with the State Parties' representatives, looking into additional areas of work.

According to the general guidelines of the Committee on state reporting, State Parties are required to submit an initial report, within one year after ratification on the legislative, judicial or administrative measures they have adopted to give effect to the provisions of the Convention and on the achieved progress. State Parties then periodically submit, every four years, reports that include:

- > Any reservation or declaration announced on any article of the Convention with clarification on the reasons behind the position of the State Party;
- > Factors and difficulties related to the implementation of the provisions of the Convention;
- > Detailed sex-disaggregated data and statistics on the implementation of every article of the Convention and on the Committee's general recommendations to allow the Committee to assess the progress in the implementation of the Convention.

This is directly linked to target 5.1 of the SDGs and more generally to all the other goals and targets.

C. Beijing Platform for Action

In 1995, the Beijing Platform for Action identified 12 critical areas of concern that reflect gender inequality and discrimination. It invited governments to formulate national action plans, and at the same time, it provided a practical road map, listing of a number of measures that could lead to major changes. While the 2030 Agenda calls for intensifying efforts to achieve

gender equality, the Beijing Platform for Action is still the main reference for empowerment of women and girls, since it includes more than 600 recommendations to governments, international organizations, civil society and the private sector. This complementary relationship is clearly stated in the 2030 Agenda text which reiterates the commitment to the obligations of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. The 2030 Agenda also reiterates "commitments made in the Beijing Platform, and stresses the need to ensure synergies between both processes, including for the purpose of periodic reviews."¹² The ESCWA report entitled A Guide to Global Gender Targets links the gender equality SDG targets to specific goals in the Beijing Platform, including all sub-themes under SDG 5 targets (achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls) as well as other SDG targets that are not directly related to gender equality, but still pose issues of concern for women and girls, such as ending poverty, health, education and labour.¹³

The critical areas of concern in the Beijing Platform for Action include:

- > Women and poverty;
- > Education and training of women;
- > Women and health;
- > Violence against women;
- > Women and armed conflict;
- > Women and the economy;
- > Women in power and decision-making;
- > Institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women;
- > Human rights for women;
- > Women and the media;
- > Women and the environment;
- > Girls.

As is the case with VNRs, ECOSOC asked all Member States to conduct a comprehensive national review on the progress and challenges in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration its action platform. The reviews are an opportunity to conduct consultations with all relevant government and non-government stakeholders, since

these reviews include an assessment of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and also include evidence on the impact of the commitments made, by using quantitative and qualitative data such as future plans and initiatives on gender equality and the empowerment of women.

Summary: the relationship between the CEDAW, the Beijing Platform for Action and the SDGs.

The implementation of the 2030 Agenda requires the identification of the structural causes behind gender discrimination that lead to gender inequality. The same approach is being used in the CEDAW and in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. Accordingly, it is important to use such structural causes as a framework for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals from a women's rights perspective.

In addition to the thematic linkages, CEDAW, the Beijing Platform for Action and the SDGs have similar review mechanisms within the implementation framework. The SDGs clearly indicate that the use of data and information can be easily based on currently existing reporting mechanisms and that follow up and review processes at all levels should depend on available processes and programmes to avoid duplication.

The close links between the SDGs, on the one hand, and the different human rights mechanisms on the other, indicate the importance of women's issues and gender equality in the international conventions system. They also provide an opportunity to mutually benefit from the existing information and data in the follow-up mechanisms, reports and progress measurements. Since these mechanisms predate the 2030 Agenda, they provide a set of qualitative and quantitative data that the VNRs can use, namely in identifying the base year for each goal (and many VNRs benefited from this). Since the conventions are similar in the goal and

indicator content, the data available in previous reports may be an important element in policy-making. Measuring progress then becomes possible by updating these data and measuring them against the base year.

D. Integrating women's rights and gender equality in most SDGs

In the years preceding the 2030 Agenda declaration, women's rights organizations had been working on dealing with the barriers that were hindering the achievement of real gender equality - the issues that SDG 5 on gender equality and other relevant 2030 Agenda items aim to address. As a result, the SDGs reflect the commitments to deal with the main causes and practices that prevent women and girls from enjoying their rights related to poverty, hunger, health, education, water, sanitation, employment, living in safe cities and inclusive and peaceful communities, in addition to all matters specifically related to SDG 5 targets that directly focus on gender equality.

Consequently, it is important to identify linkages between the circumstances of women and all goals and targets; women and poverty, types of employment and conditions of the labour market, the disproportionate distribution of unpaid care work, women's control over their bodies, women's control over household income and resources, the impact of armed conflicts on the situation of women and girls and other issues. Some of these factors are interlinked with more than one SDG, thus, no one goal out of the 17 SDGs can be completely implemented without dealing with gender discrimination in different fields (economic, social and political) and at different levels (legislative, institutional and social).

This requires addressing the different and interlinked forms of gender discrimination and inequality and their structural causes. For example,

discrimination based on gender may intersect with other forms of discrimination based on race, religion, nationality or any other identity, thus intensifying the impact of gender discrimination. Policies, therefore, need to focus on limiting these multiple intersectional disparities.

Women are considered the main stakeholders in all SDGs, with gender equality as one of their primary components. Many SDGs acknowledge in their content that gender equality and empowerment of women are the means to achieve sustainable development. In a shift from the MDGs, the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs call for more coordinated efforts to disaggregate data based on gender data and many other indicators.

1. The principle of leaving no one behind

“Leaving no one behind” is a core principle of the 2030 Agenda. It requires adopting the necessary procedures to guarantee the implementation of all the SDGs in a way that takes into consideration, first and foremost, vulnerable groups. It is also important to go beyond the average population rates and identify population categories and their special needs, as well as to give special attention to promoting efforts to empower women.

Moreover, gender equality is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda. This crucial aspect of development is clearly reflected in the SDGs, namely:

- > SDG 5 which aims to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls;
- > Ten other SDGs that directly mention “women” within a comprehensive set of issues.

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

SDG 5 is the goal dedicated, in all its aspects, to the issues of women’s rights. It focuses on sexual and reproductive health, unpaid care work, access to resources and participation in political, economic and social life. As mentioned earlier, this goal is both directly and

indirectly linked to all other SDGs and reflects international commitments to CEDAW and the Beijing Platform for Action. Despite the importance of the goal, it does not mention the direct role of men in achieving the targets.

SDG 5 is composed of six main targets (or the expected results) in the gender equality dimension. In addition to three other targets covering means of implementation at the levels of policymaking, legislation and technology. Measuring the targets towards the achievement of the goal requires quantitative and qualitative indicator analysis. In addition to the quantitative indicators identified for this goal in the 2030 Agenda, table 3 presents some guidelines that help clarify the SDG 5 targets that are needed for a critical assessment of progress in the implementation of the SDG 5 and that can be used in addition to the proposed global indicators for a deeper analysis.

3. Other SDGs

Achieving the 2030 Agenda will not be possible without parallel progress in gender equality in a number of other SDGs. SDG 5 is not enough in itself. The 2030 Agenda is based on the interconnectedness and indivisibility of all the SDGs to achieve all dimensions of development: political, social, economic and environmental. Any effort to achieve a goal or solve a problem should be done while considering all the goals as a whole. The problem of gender equality, even if focused on SDG 5, should encompass, for example, the social dimension mentioned in SDGs 2, 3, 4, 16 and 17, as well as the economic dimension mentioned in SDGs 1, 8, 9, 12 and 17. The same applies to the other dimensions.

This is why, in addition to SDGs 5 and 10, other SDGs focus on women’s rights, specifically in agriculture, nutrition, health, education, health facilities, employment, sustainable consumption and production, climate change, transport infrastructure and public space and in ending poverty.

Table 3 Targets of SDG 5 “Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls”

Target	Suggestions to assess SDG 5 targets
Target 5.1 End all forms of discrimination against women and girls everywhere	<p>This target is directly linked to CEDAW and the Beijing Platform for Action, namely at the legal level. Consequently, the Member State’s ratification of international conventions, including CEDAW and its commitment to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, indicates progress in the achievement of this target. However, it is difficult to use the quantitative indicators of this target to measure progress due to the holistic character of the laws and the absence of measurement methodologies that are currently being developed. Thus, a qualitative critical analysis should be adopted that is based on the following:</p> <p>measurement methodologies that are currently being developed. Thus, a qualitative critical analysis should be adopted that is based on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > An assessment of progress linked to CEDAW and the Beijing Platform for Action; > A review of national legislations to check how consistent they are with international conventions; > A monitoring of implementation in countries through the analysis of the existing gap between laws and real implementation; > A monitoring of violations committed during the enforcement of the laws.
Target 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	<p>Harmful practices and violence against women and girls are linked to many factors such as culture, country specificity, absence of security because of conflicts and the weak legal protection frameworks. Consequently, the assessment of such cases may not realistically reflect the situation despite the presence of clear quantitative indicators in the methodology. This is why qualitative indicators – in addition to the required quantitative statistics – can reflect pattern transformations in habits and beliefs.</p>
Target 5.3 Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilations	<p>Harmful practices and violence against women and girls are linked to many factors such as culture, country specificity, absence of security because of conflicts and the weak legal protection frameworks. Consequently, the assessment of such cases may not realistically reflect the situation despite the presence of clear quantitative indicators in the methodology. This is why qualitative indicators – in addition to the required quantitative statistics – can reflect pattern transformations in habits and beliefs.</p>
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 household and the family as nationally appropriate.	<p>Women’s economic empowerment is not enough to alleviate the burden of unpaid care on women and girls. Thus, this target focuses on the presence of policies that redistribute that burden through the following steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Identification of public policies that either alleviate or aggravate the burden; > Identification of cultural factors that promote responsibility-sharing inside the household.

<p>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</p>	<p>A quantitative assessment of the number of women in economic or political leadership positions is not enough to truly reflect the effective participation of women, whose presence is at times “decorative” in some systems or institutions. It is useful to look into the matter in detail to understand the impact of occupying leadership positions. There should be an assessment of women's empowerment through a qualitative assessment as well as by using quantitative indicators on leadership positions.</p>
<p>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 (ICPD) and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents for their review conferences.</p>	<p>In addition to laws and systems that guarantee receiving health services according to international standards (availability, accessibility, acceptability and quality), the challenge remains in overcoming financial, cultural and belief-related barriers that lead to harmful practices. Thus, there should be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Focus on financial, cultural and belief-related barriers that lead to serious harmful practices; > Verification of the presence of legislations that allow reception of sexual health services.
<p>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.</p>	<p>In addition to laws and regulations that guarantee women equal rights to economic resources, there should be focus on the ability of women to exercise control over and make decisions related to their ownership.</p>
<p>Target 5.b Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women.</p>	<p>The target focuses on women who own a mobile phone as an indicator to measure their independence and autonomy. However, it is necessary to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Take into consideration the circumstances of every country when looking at the concept of ICT; > Understand the kind of technology that is linked to empowerment of women and their ability to access it.
<p>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.</p>	<p>This target aims to support governments with the appropriate methods to achieve gender equality. Thus, the indicator under this target does not only consider the issue of policies but rather monitor specific allocations with regards to gender equality in these policies. It aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Monitor the linkage between any public policy and equality; > Adopt statistics that show that link; > Allocate resources to implement policies that promote gender equality.

Similar to SDG 5, these goals reflect the Members States' commitments as stated in different international conventions and agreements. Many other goals include women's issues and rights even if not explicitly stated in the texts, targets or indicators. Examples include SDG 16 on peace and peaceful societies,

target 16.3 on promoting the rule of law and ensuring equal access to justice for all, target 16.10 on fundamental freedoms, in addition to means of implementation on the promotion of national institutions to prevent violence, non-discriminatory laws and SDG 17 on global partnerships (tables 4 and 5).

Table 4 Entries by themes linking the SDGs to women's issues

	Goal	Entries by themes linking the SDG to issues of women's rights
 <p>1 NO POVERTY</p>	End poverty in all its forms everywhere.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Gender discrimination in economic resource allocation; > Discriminatory legislations; > Gender-based disparities in the labour market; > Cultural standards.
 <p>2 ZERO HUNGER</p>	End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Biological differences; > Control over resources from a gender perspective; > Burden of unpaid domestic work; > Power relations inside the household; > Gender-based violence.
 <p>3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING</p>	Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Biological differences; > Control over resources from a gender perspective; > Burden of unpaid domestic work; > Power relations inside the household; > Gender-based violence.
 <p>4 QUALITY EDUCATION</p>	Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Post-basic education and gender disparities; > Quality of education; > Gender-sensitive school infrastructure linked to biological differences.
 <p>6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION</p>	Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Role of women in providing water and sanitation; > Impact on health and role of women.
 <p>7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY</p>	Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Energy and the impact of climate change, growth and industry; > Access to safe water and its impact on health and women, women's unpaid care work; > Energy to meet the daily needs of the household and role of women in providing energy.

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH 	Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > The cost of economic slowdown and the impact on individuals from a gender perspective; > Empowerment through paid work; > Gender-based relations in the labour market.
9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE 	Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > The impact of industrial progress, economic transformation and export industry growth on the work of women; > The impact of sectoral transformations to non-formal markets within the service sector.
10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES 	Reduce inequality within and among countries.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Role of financial and social policies and gender discrimination; > Inequality among countries and implementation of international conventions.
11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES 	Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Role of women and their ability to access basic services, infrastructure (transportation) and waste treatment services; > Right of women to safe urban spaces (issues of harassment in public spaces).
12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION 	Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Impact on agricultural crops, food and sea products; > Access to safe water and its impact on health and women, and women's unpaid care work.
14 LIFE BELOW WATER 	Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Pollution and its impact on food, health and women and women's unpaid care work; > Gender discrimination in work and poverty.
15 LIFE ON LAND 	Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Pollution and its impact on food, health and women and women's unpaid care work; > Gender discrimination in work and poverty.
16 PEACE, JUST AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS 	Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > The presence of effective, equitable and accountable institutions guarantees protection of women's rights through access to justice and fighting discrimination and violence; > The presence of women in decision-making positions in these institutions.

Table 5 Examples of the interlinkages between some targets and indicators of SDG 5 and the targets and indicators of other SDGs

Target 5.1: End all forms of discrimination against women and girls everywhere	
Indicator 5.1.1	Whether or not legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex.
Means of implementation	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.
	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.
	Target 16.b: Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development.
Other related targets	Target 1.4: Ensure that all men and women, particularly the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership, and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology, and financial services including microfinance.
	Target 4.5: Eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, and children in vulnerable situations.
	Target 10.2: Empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status.
	Target 16.7: Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels.
	Target 17.18: Enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for LDCs and SIDS, to increase significantly availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated data by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts.

Target 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	
Indicator 5.2.1	Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and by age.
Indicator 5.2.2	Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence.
Means of implementation	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.
	Target 5.b: Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women.
	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.
Other relevant targets	Target 5.1: End all forms of discrimination against women and girls everywhere.
	Target 5.3: Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilations.
	Target 16.3: Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels, and ensure equal access to justice for all.
	Target 17.18: Enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for LDCs and SIDS, to increase significantly availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated data by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts.
Target 5.3: Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilations	
Indicator 5.3.1	Proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18.
Indicator 5.3.2	Proportion of girls and women aged 15-49 years who have undergone female genital mutilation/cutting, by age.
Means of implementation	Target 5.b: Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women.
	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.

Means of implementation	Target 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.
	Target 17.18: Enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for LDCs and SIDS, to increase significantly availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated data by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts.
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 household and the family as nationally appropriate	
Indicator 5.4.1	Percentage of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, by sex, age and location.
Means of implementation	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.
Other relevant targets	Target 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.
	Target 17.18: Enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for LDCs and SIDS, to increase significantly availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated data by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts.
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 national parliaments and local governments.
Indicator 5.5.2	Proportion of women in managerial positions.
Means of implementation	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.
	Target 5.b: Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women.
	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.
	Target 13b: Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing States (SIDS), including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities.

Other relevant targets	Target 5.1: End all forms of discrimination against women and girls everywhere.
	Target 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.
	Target 1.4: Ensure that all men and women, particularly the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership, and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology, and financial services including microfinance.
	Target 4.1: Ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes.
	Target 4.3: Ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university.
	Target 8.5: Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value.
	Target 10.2: Empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status.
	Target 16.7: Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels.
Indicator 5.6.1	Target 17.18: Enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for LDCs and SIDS, to increase significantly availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated data by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts.
	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 ICPD and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences
	Proportion of women aged 15-49 years who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care.
Indicator 5.6.2	Number of countries with laws and regulations that guarantee full and equal access to women and men aged 15 years and older to sexual and reproductive health care, information and education.

Means of implementation	Target 5.b: Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women.
	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.
	Target 13.b: Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing States (SIDS), including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities.
Other relevant targets	Target 3.7: Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes.
	Target 17.18: Enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for LDCs and SIDS, to increase significantly availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated data by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts.

3. SDG Indicators in the Arab Region from a Gender Perspective





The SDG indicators are the backbone for monitoring progress in achieving the SDGs at the local, national, regional and global levels.

3. SDG Indicators in the Arab Region from a Gender Perspective

The Arab region is characterized by its diverse human and natural resources. In the past decades, a number of Arab States achieved progress in different fields of social, economic and cultural development as well as important achievements in education, health and women's rights. However, most of them still need to undergo a structural transformation to limit social and economic disparities on the country level and between countries in the region. Arab States also need to achieve a qualitative leap in all dimensions of development through social and economic policies that tackle the different problems linked to development.

Several Arab States have been enduring armed conflicts. This, and the subsequent refugee crisis, pose a significant challenge to development in the region. The most difficult of these challenges faced remains the Israeli occupation and the lack of a lasting solution to end it. Moreover, the Arab region is going through a severe unemployment crunch, especially amongst youth and women who represent a significant portion of Arab societies and who remain marginalized in economic policies.

The many factors which produced these challenges include: demographic growth; decreasing job opportunities for the youth; poor production infrastructure in the sectors of tourism, agriculture and industry; dependence on natural resource revenues and use of surplus in foreign investments; and economic disparities among Arab States and policies that ignore the situation of women and their unpaid care work. These political and economic circumstances have negatively impacted living standards. Although extreme

poverty is relatively low, poverty is widely prevalent in the region. An ESCWA report showed that the approximate number of poor people in the Arab region reached 116 million in 2014, 41 per cent of the overall population in the 10 countries included in the report.¹⁴

In recent years, Arab States have taken some effective steps to improve their social indicators on women's rights. However, the participation of women in the region is still hindered by barriers, namely the ongoing discrimination in some national legislations, the prevailing culture in certain communities, institutional structures and sometimes the lack of policy coordination between State institutions. Some countries in the region face difficulties in balancing their international commitments on the one hand and their national legislations on the other. Moreover, most countries lack effective mechanisms that monitor their commitment and improve gender equality.¹⁵

A. SDG data and indicators

There are 232 indicators in the SDG framework, 54 of which are gender-disaggregated and are mostly under SDG 5 on women's issues. These indicators are classified into three tiers as shown in figure 9, and the United Nations Statistical Division is constantly working on developing them, especially tier 3 indicators (table 6).¹⁶

The SDG indicators are the backbone for monitoring progress in achieving the SDGs at the local, national, regional and global levels. Thus, they work as a necessary tool to help

Table 6 Tier classification of SDG indicators

Tier	Definition	Number
1	Indicator is conceptually clear, has an internationally established methodology and standards are available, and data are regularly produced by countries for at least 50 per cent of countries and of the population in every region where the indicator is relevant.	93
2	Indicator is conceptually clear, has an internationally established methodology and standards are available, but data are not regularly produced by countries.	72
3	No internationally established methodology or standards are yet available for the indicator, but methodology/standards are being (or will be) developed or tested.	62
Mixed		5

countries and the international community to develop implementation strategies and to allocate resources accordingly.

Quantitative and qualitative data play an important role on both levels, which is why the 2030 Agenda emphasizes that quality, accessible, timely and reliable disaggregated data will be needed to help with the measurement of progress and to ensure that no one is left behind. Such data is key to decision-making.¹⁷

Therefore, in the national planning framework and thematic substantive priorities, States should include a needs-assessment process with a baseline, performance-measurement process and gap identification through monitoring the situations of the most marginalized social groups as soon as possible. This requires moving away from indicators on national averages and using indicators that measure the impact of national or local policies or programmes on the poorest and most marginalized of people.¹⁸

Thus, gender-disaggregated data represent an integral element without which states cannot monitor and track gender-disaggregated SDG indicators nor can they plan progress in gender equality. Despite this, only 13 per cent of countries worldwide allocate permanent resources for the collection and use of gender-disaggregated data.¹⁹

B. Challenges facing data collection

Member States need to identify their own national priorities, carry out comprehensive and regular reviews and highlight their own progress towards achieving the 2030 Agenda. To do so, States need to use quality, accessible, timely and reliable disaggregated data to measure achieved progress. However, the collection of such data is hindered by a set of challenges that may undermine their quality and timeliness.

One of the main challenges is linked to the nature of the SDG indicators and the availability of methodological standards and theoretical clarity. The 2030 Agenda indicators are continuously being updated through a review and development process. This progress depends on the discussions between subcommittees, the availability of statistical data and the progress in the implementation of the SDGs. It also depends on the ability of national institutions to integrate gender equality in all national goals and to produce data from a gender perspective through the SDG targets and indicators. The indicators are constantly updated to improve concepts related to data collection.

The second challenge lies in the organizational structure of every state. One important question to ask at the national level is: Do the national statistical offices and

other institutions enjoy administrative and political autonomy? Are they provided with permanent and sufficient funding? Is there a coordinating mechanism among central and local administrations and across ministries in the State to collect, store and analyse data?

The third challenge is linked to the ability and capacities of these bodies to conduct research and surveys and then collect the necessary information. Weak technical capacities and insufficient financial and/or human resources make it difficult to conduct these recurrent surveys and/or negatively impact the quality of outputs (data and statistics). In this regard, the following questions must be asked: Did the national statistical office – or any other central institution – identify the main formal national indicators to monitor the implementation of the SDGs? Do these bodies have the necessary financial and human resources? What are the alternative national statistics that are appropriate to local circumstances and that can be used? Leading from this, is the question of whether it would be possible to use statistics and data gathered by other institutions.

In brief, the gender perspective needs to be mainstreamed in national statistical strategies and given priority in regular data collection processes, otherwise gender-related data and gap-identification will remain rare. This means that more political, technical and financial support needs to be given to statistics producers and data provision processes.²⁰

Data collection processes need improvement not only in Arab States, but in all countries. The United Nations Advisory Expert Group, in addition to giving importance to the identification of a strong set of national monitoring indicators that are appropriate to the circumstances and priorities of each country, recommended the following guidelines:

- > Adopt harmonized methodologies and concepts;
- > Use technology to facilitate data production;

- > Promote resources and technical capacities to produce statistics; a developmental process in itself;
- > Assign a relevant body responsible for the mobilization and coordination of procedures to have the data revolution at the service of sustainable development.

C. Sources of data collection and their coordination

The 2030 Agenda emphasizes the national ownership of the mechanisms that implement and review of SDGs. This allows each state to adapt the SDGs according to its national priorities and economic and social realities, on the one hand, and to develop its laws and strategies, on the other. However, this national ownership is coupled with challenges facing States in identifying their priorities and developing follow-up mechanisms and performance-measurement processes, most important of which is data collection; hence, the importance of partnerships with relevant stakeholders in generating and collecting data, namely gender equality and empowerment of women data. In light of the absence of quantitative data as shown by the Arab VNRs, it is of the utmost importance to make use of regional and international mechanisms that support data production and collection and then incorporate these data in national mechanisms (Table 7).

At the global level, there is a United Nations inter-agency working group on SDGs. It includes experts from United Nations bodies, national statistical offices, observers and regional and international organizations and agencies. The working group works on presenting a comprehensive proposal for an indicator framework to monitor SDG implementation. It encourages involving all State organizations and bodies, civil society,

businesses and other relevant stakeholders to participate in generating the Global Monitoring Indicators (GMIs).

At the national level, it is necessary to identify the coordinating role of information collection within the relevant government body, such as the central statistical office or any other institution or body chosen to

follow-up on the preparation of the VNR in order to collect, from relevant stakeholders working at different levels, the dispersed available data. Coordination begins with a survey of the statistical situation; in Lebanon, for example, the Central Administration of Statistics was tasked with the production and collection of statistics in coordination with all administrations

Table 7 International and national bodies that may play a role in collecting data and producing indicators

Source of information	Expertise	Role	Responsibility
National statistical offices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Data and formal statistics collection from censuses, inquiry researches, or administrative systems; > Knowledgeable of international standards and methods as well as national needs and capacities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Production of main formal statistics on population and vital statistics, national accounts and other social, economic and environmental statistics; > Coordination and expert review of other state and non-state stakeholders. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Guarantee a high-quality production coordinated with relevant data on government performance and data on SDG monitoring.
Other State bodies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Collection of sectoral administrative data (information on health or education) or data on technical skills by using specific programmes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Production (or co-production with national statistical offices) of a set of sectoral data on health, education, agriculture, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Use of data to improve service provision and responsive effective governance; > Sharing these data with national statistical offices and across ministries.
United Nations agencies, World Bank, IMF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Technical experience in survey and sectoral statistics collection methodologies, including those related to poverty and economic data; > Detailed knowledge of international standards and trans-international approaches. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Providing technical advice to national statistical offices; > Checking and consolidating national data in internationally-comparable estimates; > Facilitating agreement on standards. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Supporting national processes and local capacity-building.

Donor entities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Experience gained from the production of formal statistics in high and middle-income countries; > Investments targeting programme implementation or organizational competence improvement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Funding statistical capacity-building; > Identifying new international statistics partners; > Facilitating the useful exchange of statisticians across countries. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Funding the basic statistical capacities when the State does not sponsor such activities or is incapable of doing so; > Supporting national processes and local capacity-building; > Providing resources to support the independence of national statistical offices;
Regional institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > An extensive experience in the region's circumstances and priorities; > An accumulation of knowledge and quantitative and qualitative data. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Producing trans-national data; > Supporting national experiences and data centres. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Exchange of data and experiences; > Local capacity-building.
Universities and academics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Producing sectoral data and data cleaning and analysis; > Making use of highly trained specialists and qualified individuals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Collecting and/or verifying specialized data; > Providing additional capacities in case of government's inability to do so. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Examining formal statistics in accordance with formal standards, and providing supporting or complementary evidence.
Private companies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Availability of market and consumption data, experience in managing meta data and analysing large data. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Making available consumer data and/or analysing large data to support and/or continue working on formal statistics. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Maintaining respect of individual data privacy and agreeing on an ethical framework for the sharing of data.
Civil society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Collecting data at the local community level as well as citizen-produced data, and working on data mapping, data literacy and/or methodologies not followed by government; > Supporting databases. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Providing complementary evidence to review formal statistics and make them available to regular citizens in order to find a deeper layer of analysis that embodies statistics. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Examining formal statistics and providing supporting or complementary evidence; > Observing problems that the government does not want to or cannot measure.

within the National Committee that oversees the roll-out of the SDGs. The Committee is currently preparing the Central Administration of Statistics to conduct a quick survey to identify the gaps found in the data needed for the 2030 Agenda and to review and collect all available data and statistics of the different official administrations and bodies that might assist in generating SDG indicators.

D. A reading of approaches used in voluntary national reviews to women's issues and gender equality

It is noted that there are two complementary approaches to incorporate gender equality in national reports. The first approach focuses on SDG 5 and reviews only its 14 indicators, while the second approach goes deeper and identifies how gender equality targets and indicators are included in most goals. There are 54 indicators (including those of SDG 5) where each one covers an aspect of gender equality (table 8).

Analysis of SDG 5 indicators reflects progress in overcoming the structural

barriers that hinder gender equality. However, this information is not sufficient to provide a true and comprehensive picture of the situation of gender equality and empowerment of women in different sectors. Furthermore, the process of incorporating women's issues in targets that explicitly state the nature of these structural barriers, or whose indicators target the collection and generation of gender-specific data, should never stop. The core of the 2030 Agenda, being comprehensive and inclusive, encourages making all SDG targets and indicators responsive and inclusive of gender equality and empowerment of women.

About 153 VNRs have been presented globally over the past three years. Ten Arab States presented their VNRs to the HLPF; Egypt (two VNRs), Bahrain, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, the State of Palestine, Qatar (two VNRs), the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and the Sudan. Five Arab States, including Algeria, Kuwait, Oman, Mauritania and Tunisia, are preparing to present their VNRs in 2019. As previously emphasized, the State has full ownership of the 2030 Agenda at the national level, including national policymaking, means of implementation and the drafting and presentation of the VNR.

Table 8 The number of SDG indicators linked to issues of women's rights

Type of indicator	Overall indicators	SDG 5 indicators	Other gender-related indicators
Tier 1	104	3	14
Tier 2	88	10	31
Tier 3	34	0	6
Mixed	6	1	3
Total	232	14	54

Source: Tier classification for Global SDG indicators, available at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/iaeg-sdgs/tier-classification/>; updated as of May 2019.

The State has the right to draft its review as it chooses in conjunction with the Secretary-General's guidelines for VNRs and the Handbook for Country Preparation and Presentation of VNRs. This is clearly reflected in the variety in the structure and essence of the reviews presented at the Arab regional level and global levels.

In a reading of the Arab reviews already presented, a difference is noted in the provision and availability of statistical data on the SDG quantitative indicators, namely data relevant to gender and gender equality. Some reports (such as Egypt 2016, Bahrain 2018, Qatar 2018), focused on a limited number of the SDGs and consequently limited number of indicators, while other national reports (Egypt 2018, Lebanon 2018, the State of Palestine 2018 and Saudi Arabia 2018) reviewed most of the SDGs goal by goal.

Most reports focused on the national efforts deployed to adapt the SDGs to the national needs and to incorporate them in national strategies. The reports presented examples of items in the national strategies that are consistent with the SDGs. The Arab reports

also clarified the organizational form of the reviews as well as ways to involve relevant stakeholders in the drafting stage.

However, at the level of disaggregated data according to gender, gender equality and empowerment of women, there are big discrepancies between these reports. For example, data in general, and metadata specifically, make up the basis of the reports of Lebanon and the State of Palestine, while these types of data are rare in other reports and nearly non-existent in some others.

E. Data availability: an overview of the League of Arab States special survey on “baseline indicators”

The survey launched by the LAS, entitled “Baseline Indicators”, represents a typical scenario of the challenges countries face in collecting data and indicators due to the unavailability of baseline data and indicators at the regional and national levels to monitor progress in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and other plans for the advancement of women. The survey is only a first but an important

Box 1 Managing climate change vulnerability

The Philippines' 2016 VNR explained the technical obstacles and barriers facing data collection, specifically in the area of gender and age, among others.

Sweden's 2017 VNR incorporates gender equality data in eight different goals, in the targets relevant to unpaid work distribution between men and women and in the need for a safe and inclusive urban environment.

In its 2017 VNR, Nigeria committed to using gender-disaggregated data outside the scope of SDG 5, namely in SDG 1 through the agenda of social reforms within the framework of medium-term public expenditure, where expenditure targeting the poor is gender-disaggregated to achieve equality and equity in the allocation of national resources.

The Australian 2018 VNR identifies the challenges related to gender-disaggregated data collection. In order to bridge the gaps in gender-disaggregated data, it suggests cooperation with specialized partners, such as Women's Leadership Initiative on gender-disaggregated statistics and UN Women's “Making every woman and girl count” statistics.

step in tracking the implementation of the sustainable development agenda from a gender equality perspective, and it is an important tool to consolidate data, facilitate their collection and build a handbook and platform to consolidate governmental data.

The survey was designed by joining two sets of indicators. The 2030 Agenda's global indicators on gender equality and empowerment of women were adapted to the regional indicators relevant to the Platform for Action to implement the SDGs 2030 for Women in the Arab region. These were adopted by the LAS Council in decision 701 during the Summit's 28th regular session in March 2017 in Jordan.

The survey is divided across seven thematic tables under the following titles: (1) Legislations and Laws; (2) Mainstreaming Gender Equality; (3) Political Participation; (4) Economic Participation; (5) Social Changes; (6) Elimination of Violence Against Women; (7) Security, Peace and Fighting Terrorism. A special page was added to the annexed tables, including indicators that require disaggregated information.

Out of 17 States that participated in the 2016 regional workshop on "Baseline Indicators", 14 responded to the survey. The survey includes questions on more than two thirds of the SDG indicators on gender equality. Some exceptions were noted in the survey, for example indicators 1.2.1 and 1.2.2 on rates of poverty by sex.

Based on the survey results, some disparities appeared in the availability of data linked to gender statistics necessary for the SDG indicator framework. While gender-related data are completely absent in some States' responses, Jordan presented gender-related data for most of the indicators. The Gulf Cooperation Council States did not present any data on poverty or violence against women. Only 50 per cent of States mention the base year and

only four States presented figures under indicator 1.1.1.

It is clear that the absence of data is a common feature among Arab States, since most of them are missing at least one third of the needed data to work on the 2030 Agenda indicators, and half of the States only presented half, if not less, of the required data. Gender-disaggregated data were presented for only four per cent of the indicators other than those under SDG 5.

The survey included questions on the indicator relevant to victims of physical or sexual harassment, disaggregated by gender, age, type of disability and place of occurrence. However, none of the States provided clear data on that indicator. Similarly, there were no figures available for indicator 1.4.2 on the proportion of total adult population with secure tenure rights to land, with legally recognized documentation and who perceive their rights to land as secure, by sex and by type of tenure.

The Arab States could, therefore, start using the little existing statistical data available to measure the global indicators whose computation methodology has been identified, and to develop similar adapted indicators appropriate for their respective circumstances. At the same time, States need to work on developing gender-disaggregated statistics, because these statistics are nearly inexistent (table 9).

On the other hand, generating qualitative indicators for the targets and conducting a qualitative analysis of the data related to gender are both necessary. As mentioned previously, it is difficult to quantitatively measure some indicators. For instance, indicator 5.1.1 on whether or not legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex, cannot be measured quantitatively since the direct answer is

either yes or no yet encompasses more nuance. However, a qualitative reporting on the nature of these frameworks, what they aim to achieve, the challenges they face and how effective are, all these can enrich monitoring, reporting and achievement-measurement mechanisms. On the other hand, even with the availability

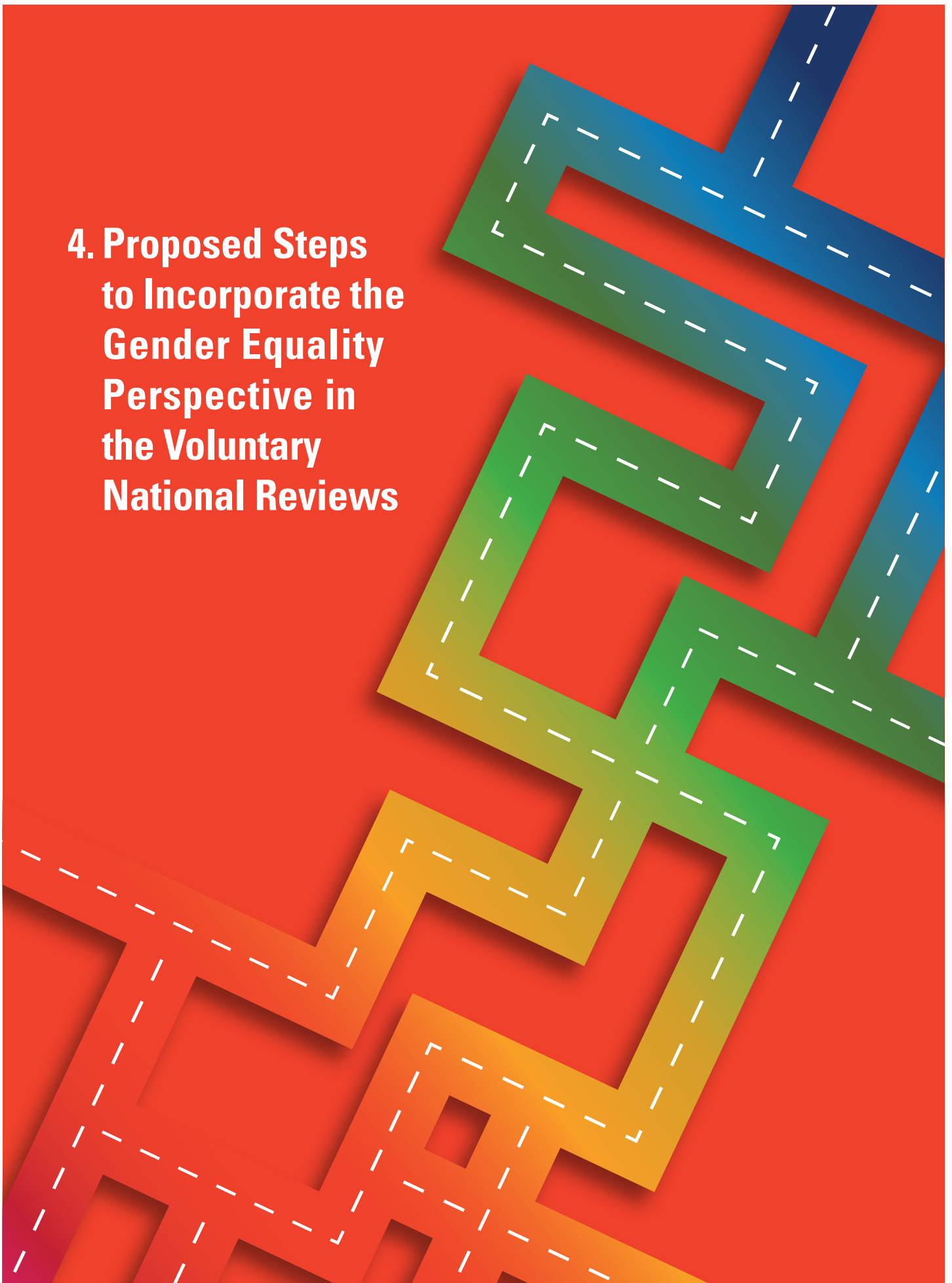
of quantitative data, qualitative analysis of quantitative data plays an important role in deepening our understanding of these data, giving them a deeper meaning. At the same time, hard work should be done to develop gender-disaggregated statistics that are, nearly inexistent under the SDG indicators as shown in figure 12.

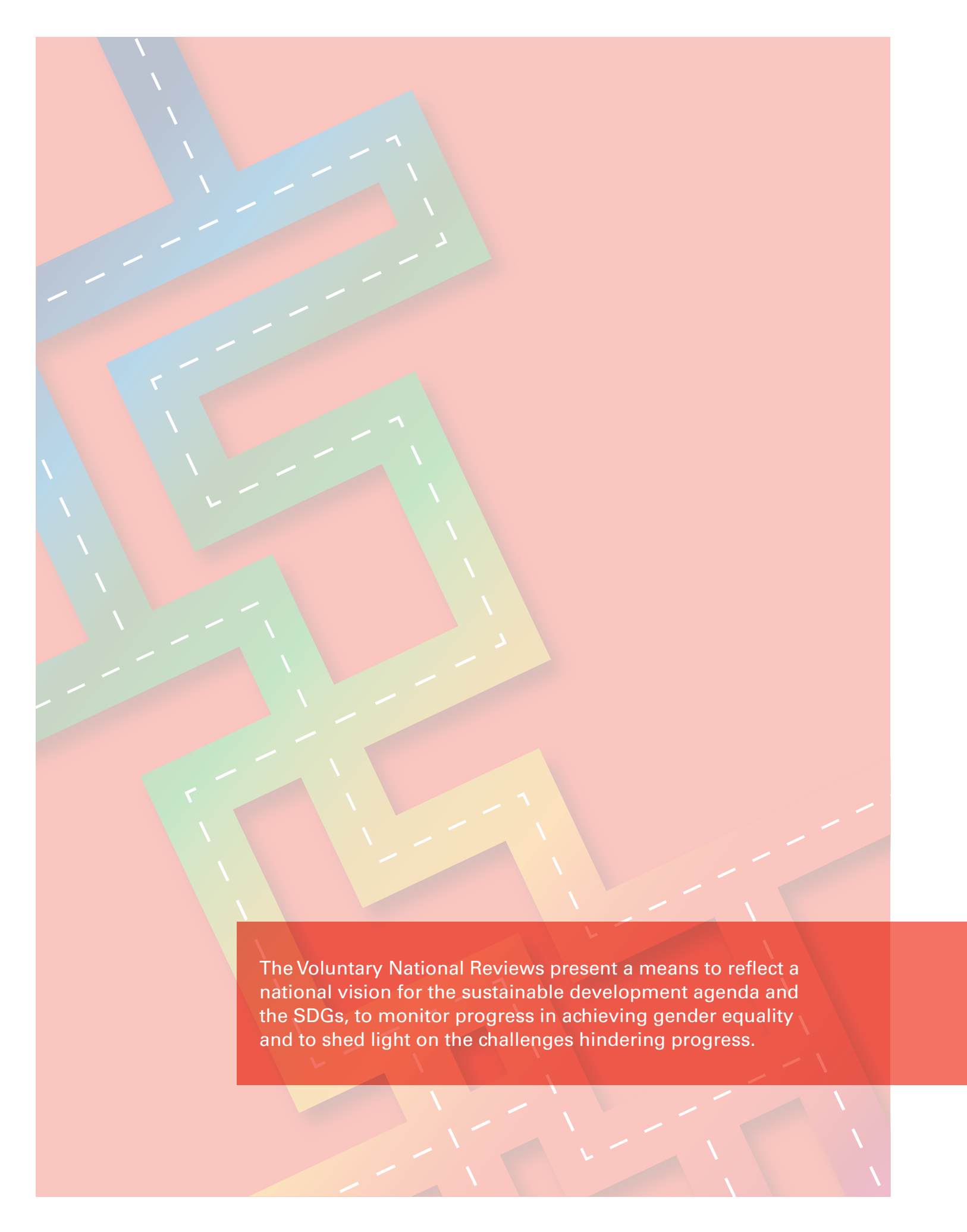
Table 9 A Summary on the availability of data according to the responses to the LAS survey: “Baseline Indicators” (percentages of most questions)

	Summary	Percentage of responses in qualitative data	Percentage of responses on SDG 5 indicators or other indicators for which data are available, disaggregated by gender	Percentage of responses that are not disaggregated by gender	Percentage of responses to which there were no data available
Jordan	Jordan presented gender-disaggregated data on most of the indicators.	11	59	14	16
United Arab Emirates	The United Arab Emirates responded to 22 per cent of the questions by providing data on women’s issues or gender-disaggregated data. But it did not respond to more than half of the survey questions.	19	22	-	59
Bahrain	Bahrain responded to 24 per cent of the questions by providing data on women’s issues or gender-disaggregated data. But it did not respond to more than half of the survey questions.	16	24	5	54
Tunisia	Tunisia responded to a large number of indicators on women, but it did not respond to 46 per cent of the survey questions.	11	38	5	46

Algeria	Algeria responded to a large number of indicators on women, but it did not respond to 41 per cent of the survey questions.	16	35	8	41
Iraq	More than half of Iraq's data are unavailable, especially those related to SDGs 4 and 5.	5	35	5	54
Oman	Oman has collected data on most indicators relevant to women except those on violence against women. However, nearly half the required data on other indicators was unavailable.	14	35	5	46
State of Palestine	Data were available for almost half of the indicators.	11	49	3	38
Kuwait	No data available for most of the indicators	8	22	-	70
Lebanon	Lebanon only presented data on a small number of indicators related to women.	11	16	5	68
Morocco	Morocco has collected data on most SDG 5 indicators, but nearly half of the indicators lack data.	14	30	3	54
Egypt	Egypt has collected data on most SDG 5 indicators, but nearly half of the indicators lack data.	11	30	-	59
Yemen	Yemen has collected data on most SDG 5 indicators, but many others still lack data.	43	8	35	14

4. Proposed Steps to Incorporate the Gender Equality Perspective in the Voluntary National Reviews





The Voluntary National Reviews present a means to reflect a national vision for the sustainable development agenda and the SDGs, to monitor progress in achieving gender equality and to shed light on the challenges hindering progress.

4. Proposed Steps to Incorporate the Gender Equality Perspective in the Voluntary National Reviews

Countries need to use the VNR as an opportunity for assessment, especially given that the guidelines for the preparation of the review call for a participatory and inclusive approach. These reports present a means to reflect a national vision for the sustainable development agenda and the SDGs, to monitor progress in achieving gender equality and to shed light on the challenges hindering progress. National mechanisms for the improvement of the situations of women play an important role at the national level to remind countries of their commitments to continuously include achieved progress in women's issues in their voluntary reviews.

Integrating a gender equality perspective in the review requires attention on two levels: during the preparation phase and in the analytical content of the themes of the review.

This chapter proposes a number of detailed steps to integrate women's issues in the VNRs presented by Arab States, based on a framework that analyses gender disparities, and also on the guidelines highlighted in DESA's Handbook for the Preparation of VNRs, while focusing on SDG 5.²¹

A. Preparation of the review and coordination structure to incorporate gender equality issues in the Voluntary National Reviews

According to the guidelines, report preparation goes through many stages. The first stage

consists of technical procedures to be followed once a country decides to prepare its VNR. The first two steps are:

- > The permanent country representative notifies the President of the HLPF;
- > A list of the countries that will be presenting their VNRs is drawn up based on the precedence of notification.

The more important stages are those of the actual preparation of the report and how women's issues and gender equality are integrated into them.

1. Coordination structure

A governmental body is tasked with the responsibility of coordinating the different stages of preparing the report. For example, an already existing body/institution, such as the Ministry of Planning, can be tasked with that responsibility, or a special decision might be taken to establish a main administration/agency for this purpose. An integrated joint ministerial group may also be formed, or a coordination office or committee may be established. Some relevant stakeholders can be unofficially asked to participate, while line ministries and administrations cover their respective goals. For example, the Ministry of Education would focus on SDG 4.

The integration of women's rights and empowerment requires that the relevant national women's machinery be part of the overall institutional framework and national mechanisms. In governments where National Women's Machineries (ministries, bodies, national committees and others) are part of the inter-ministerial structure, it would be the

Box 2 Models of the coordination mechanisms for the preparation of VNRs and the implementation of the SDGs along with the roles of the bodies working on gender equality

In the State of Palestine, to promote coordination and communication among different stakeholders, the SDG national team identified focal points for every working group. Each focal point was responsible for leading and coordinating national efforts for the follow-up and implementation of the relevant SDGs. The Ministry of Women's Affairs was tasked to lead the working group on SDG 5, in cooperation with UN Women.

In Jordan, the Higher National Committee for Sustainable Development was established in 2012, and it includes the Jordanian National Committee for Women's Affairs that was tasked with managing the working group on

gender equality. The working group on gender equality included representatives from the civil society, relevant ministries, and public and national institutions, including the administrative affairs department, in order to guarantee that the review reflects data on the indicators necessary to monitor the implementation of SDG 5 and other goals related to gender equality and empowerment of women. Moreover, the working group on gender equality is responsible for coordinating with regular reporting mechanisms on commitments to international instruments and conventions.

The United Arab Emirates tasked the Gender Balance Council with the responsibility of SDG 5 and the comprehensive role of ensuring policy coherence on gender issues.

In Afghanistan, Brazil, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia and Zimbabwe, national coordination entities were established to supervise the work of the technical working groups that include a working team on gender equality and empowerment of women. In Thailand, a senior official has been appointed in every line ministry to act as a focal point on gender equality and to help promote gender equality during the preparation of the report. These focal points were also be involved in the drafting of the report at a later stage.

responsibility of that entity to oversee inputs relevant to gender equality and empowerment of women, and to work on the integration of the gender equality perspective in the preparation of the report and its content.

2. Identifying the scope of the review

At this stage, the SDGs to be monitored are identified. The most important questions at this stage are: Are gender equality and empowerment of women issues listed on the agenda or not? How to deal with SDG 5 if it is included in the listed SDGs? If SDG 5 is not listed, can gender equality issues and empowerment of women be integrated in the reviewed goals? And how?

It should be stressed, time and again, that gender equality and empowerment of women issues are not limited to SDG 5. They are, rather, cross-cutting and relevant to all the other SDGs.

3. Stakeholder involvement plan

Moving past the initial development of the VNR plan, it is necessary to determine how to best engage stakeholders. The following questions provide useful guidance in designing a thoughtful stakeholder involvement plan:

- > Identifying the strategic objective of involving different stakeholders and consulting with them; are they going to participate in identifying developmental priorities, or are they only assisting in the

analysis and drafting of the report? Do they contribute to data collection? What is the level of their participation in the review process?

- > Identifying the main stakeholders: all government sectors at all levels, civil society, private sector, parliamentarians and national human rights institutions need to be taken into consideration. Regardless of the nature of SDGs to be reviewed, national women mechanisms should be involved, as well as civil society organizations and relevant and active international bodies working on gender equality.
- > Adopting diverse participation methods in the stakeholder involvement plan. These may include direct workshops, electronic platforms, focus groups, annotated comments, identification of consultation documentation.

Despite the strong focus on inclusiveness, only a few countries are capable of conducting meaningful consultations with multiple stakeholders in society within the available timeline. It may, therefore, be useful for National Women's Mechanisms to collaborate and work with civil society organizations on common issues during the early stages before the drafting of the review.

The roles of the national mechanisms working on the improvement of women's situations are not limited to formal participation only. They should also:

- > Participate and launch a community discussion to identify national and regional priorities relevant to women's issues;
- > Generate relevant indicators, based on the priorities identified, to be monitored, quantitatively and qualitatively;
- > Influence the indicators adopted by the government and participate in the regional and international discussions.

4. Data

There should be close communication with the national statistical offices and other data providers as part of the planning process.

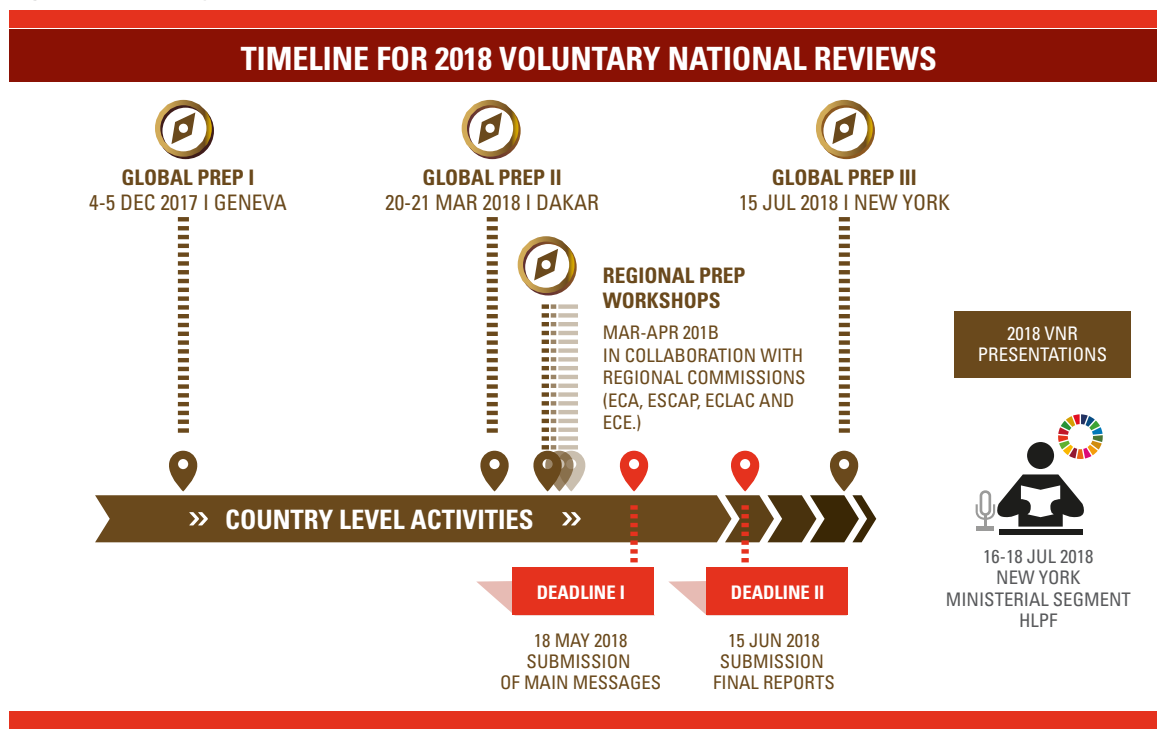
Data needs to describe trends of goals included in the review. Additional detailed statistics can be provided on progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda SDGs if a statistical annex is added to the review. Gender-disaggregated data are necessary to monitor progress in SDGs, namely in the integration of gender equality and empowerment of women. Thus, it is necessary to encourage statistical offices to make such data available.

5. Using other reports

It is important to make use of national programmes and mechanisms that can help in the identification of the content and drafting process of the review as well as its analysis process. These programmes and mechanisms include achieved or in-progress periodic reports submitted in the framework of other international conventions, such as national development plans, national strategies for development or other national reports, such as reports submitted to international bodies in accordance with international human rights conventions, as well as other general reports, such as the National Communications for the Paris Agreement, the Periodic Reports submitted to the CEDAW Committee and the reviews for the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

6. Committing to the timeline for the preparation of the review

It is necessary to allocate enough time and plan for mechanisms that are appropriate to the available resources to prepare the review within the proposed timeline. Figure 13 shows an example of the 2018 timeline. It is important to remember that time should be given to the technical review process carried out by all relevant teams and working groups, as well as to the process of summarizing the most important messages that will be delivered at the HLPE.

Figure 4 An example of the 2018 timeline for VNRs

Source: Handbook for the Preparation of VNRs.

B. Analytical content of the VNR

The Secretary-General's guidelines propose that each country decides on the scope of the review and the process to be followed in reviewing the results. Countries use the common elements included in the guidelines in a voluntary and not compulsory manner, since these elements are helpful in drawing up a specific framework for the preparation of the review. It is requested that each country shows the steps followed to implement the 2030 Agenda along with its goals and targets, as well as assesses the ensuing results.

The report needs to be theoretically and conceptually consistent with the 2030 Agenda and national characteristics and link the 2030 Agenda to national strategies and plans as well as to targets and means of implementation.

The content of the VNR should comply with the principle of "leaving no one behind"

that the 2030 Agenda is based on. It should also be gender-sensitive while analysing policies, at the level of designing and planning programmes and projects, when retrieving evidence-based and gender-disaggregated data, while building gender-sensitive indicators and follow-up systems or when drawing up a gender-equality-sensitive budget.

The analytical approach should not only be limited to an acknowledgment of needs, priorities and facts relevant to men and women while focusing on the appropriate solution, rather the 2030 Agenda goes further, since it is a transformative agenda based on a process of change at the roots of inequality. It approaches issues of women from an empowerment perspective giving individuals the ability of decision-making and changing that into wanted procedures and results. Thus, individuals – not only women – take control of their private lives, improve their situations, draw up their own agendas and gain skills. Empowerment

paves the way for true participation of all stakeholders since it works first on building self-confidence for individual development then on development of others. In brief, empowerment increases the economic, social, political and financial power of the individual and the society. Consequently, it pushes forward the following interlinked development dimensions: economic empowerment, sociocultural empowerment, physical empowerment and political

empowerment. These components are present in most SDGs that are interlinked.

Below is a table with the SDG components according to the Secretary-General's guidelines, offering advice on how to integrate gender equality in the analytical content based on the guidance note of the Beijing Platform for Action review (2015) and the required reviews within the scope of the CEDAW.

Table 10 Proposals for the integration of the principle of gender equality in the analytical content

Main components for VNR preparation	Main content according to the proposals in the Handbook for the Preparation of VNRs prepared by DESA	Proposals for the integration of the principle of gender equality in the analytical content
Integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development	The review discusses how the three dimensions of sustainable development (economic, social and environmental) are being integrated and how sustainable development policies are being designed and implemented to reflect such integration.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Focusing on linking gender equality to policy design through the three dimensions of sustainable development; > Showing how challenges linked to discrimination against women hinder integration of the three dimensions; > Analysing cross-cutting and multi-dimensional inequality where causes of marginalization are interconnected and result from gender-based discrimination and other factors.
Leaving no one behind	The review assesses how the principle of leaving no one behind has been mainstreamed in the SDGs' implementation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Including an analysis of the situation of specific groups of women and girls, for example in certain geographic areas in a country or in a local framework; > Identifying current mechanisms that will improve the process of data collection and disaggregation, as well as policies and programmes being implemented to address the needs of the aforementioned groups.

Institutional mechanisms	<p>The review provides information on how each country adapts its institutional framework in light of the 2030 Agenda. This could include information on how the views of different ministries, agencies, levels of government, and non-governmental stakeholders are considered, as well as on the institutional mechanism(s) in charge of coordination and integration for the 2030 Agenda.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Highlighting how the country is reviewing progress in implementing the SDGs, including possible plans for the conduct of national reviews and involving governmental and non-governmental stakeholders working on the integration of gender equality and women's rights.
Structural issues	<p>Countries are encouraged to report on relevant structural issues or barriers they have faced, including the possible external consequences of domestic policies. Countries can highlight the transformative policies, tools, institutional changes they have used to address these issues or barriers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Highlighting structural challenges that hinder gender equality and identifying necessary procedures to limit them.
Goals and targets	<p>Countries are encouraged to provide brief information on progress and the status of all SDGs. It would be desirable to describe critical difficulties encountered in reaching them and how they could be addressed, referring, when appropriate, to data provided in a statistical annex.</p> <p>Countries are encouraged to review all 17 SDGs; however, some could be addressed in more depth, for instance, to illustrate innovative policies to achieve goals, or examples that could be especially interesting for peer learning and important in an international context. The study of goals could focus on trends, successes, challenges, emerging issues and lessons learned, and describe what actions have been taken to address existing gaps and challenges. It could support the identification of gaps, solutions, best practices and areas requiring advice and support. The review may examine the agreed global indicators for SDGs and related targets, but countries may also choose to refer to complementary national and regional indicators. If countries are doing their second and subsequent VNRs it would be desirable to include the progress made since the previous review.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Including in the review the achieved progress in the implementation of SDG 5 in all VNRs carried out by the country even when the review focuses on specific goals; > Considering the impacts on women resulting from the implementation of any goal; > Highlighting the main achievements in promoting gender equality and empowerment of women at the level of policies, legislations and methods of addressing challenges; > Developing national indicators as well as SDG 5 indicators; > Considering remaining indicators by gender, if available; > Including in the analysis concepts of empowerment of women and gender equality (as proposed by previous chapters).

Means of implementation	<p>Based on the above challenges and trends highlighted, the review may discuss how means of implementation are mobilized, what difficulties this process faces, and what additional resources are needed to implement the 2030 Agenda, including in terms of financing, capacity development and data needs, technology, and partnerships. The review could indicate how financial systems and resource allocations are being aligned to support the realization of the 2030 Agenda. Coverage of domestic resource mobilization could include the contribution of the private sector. Countries are also encouraged to cover technology, identify concrete capacity development and data needs, and the contribution of multi-stakeholder partnerships.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Making available financial, human and technical statistical resources; > Providing statistical capacities for disaggregated data collection and for building indicators that reflect the situations of women and gender equality; > Making available the provided financial resources to implement the goals and policies in a gender-specific way.
Conclusions and next steps	<p>This section presents a summary of the analysis, findings and policy implications. It may discuss new or/and emerging issues identified by the review. This section of the review allows the country to outline what steps are planned to enhance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It could also indicate how it is planning to keep the goals under review at the national and subnational levels.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Identifying the commitment of States to international conventions on women's rights and gender equality; > Writing plans to achieve these commitments in the future.
Annexes	<p>Countries may include an annex with data, using the global SDG indicators. Countries may want to include additional annexes where they would showcase best practices and/or policies and strategies that have advanced implementation of the 2030 Agenda. They could also include comments from stakeholders on the report in an annex.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Adding annexes with gender-disaggregated data if available.

Box 3 Case study: Adapting SDG 1 on the elimination of poverty to the Arab region and integrating the gender equality perspective

Discrimination against women in the Arab region aggravates their poverty and weakens their right to access and use natural resources, technology and financial services.

Access to resources is considered the main challenge, due to the integrated and indivisible nature of women's political, civil, social, economic and cultural rights. Any violation of specific rights will negatively and directly impact a woman's wealth and ability to access resources. Laws on inheritance and other cultural values in the Arab region violate some of these rights. Illiteracy and child marriage are the biggest problems that some countries still face, especially in rural areas. Early marriage limits girls' chances of getting an education as well as their life options and put them at a higher risk of violence and maternal mortality. In the Arab region, in the period from 2000 to 2015, 15 per cent of women between the ages of 20 and 24 were married before the age of 18. Other problems that increase women's poverty rates in the region include multiple barriers preventing them from receiving services, especially rural and poor women, the absence of health insurance for women in very poor countries, armed conflicts, a tendency to limit women's abilities and duties to household tasks and curtail the work they are able to perform outside the house.

SDG 1 covers these important topics, but it ignores an important problem that increases women's poverty rates and inequality: time poverty. Women perform most of the necessary care work in households and local communities, including cooking, cleaning, raising children, caring for the elderly and the sick and drawing water and collecting firewood for the households. These tasks are time-consuming and usually limit the opportunities for women to partake in activities that could generate income. The global average time women spend on unpaid work is 5.4 hours per day. Bridging this gap by 2025 will increase the global GDP by 23 per cent. This kind of gender inequality is a violation of women's basic rights and it is economically expensive. Therefore, countries need to raise awareness on the issue and formulate appropriate policies to empower women and enable them to get address their "time poverty."

Despite the disparities in women's situations in the different Arab countries, this analysis aims to adapt SDG 1 from a gender-perspective to the different circumstances in these countries, through a discussion of the following topics in the VNRs:

- Reform of the inheritance law to allow women equal access to resources;
- Fighting illiteracy, especially in rural areas;
- Eliminating child marriage through legislations and/or means of implementation;
- Raising awareness on discriminatory cultural practices and standards and fighting extremist religious discourse.

The analysis also notes that it is specifically women who suffer from time poverty and consequently highlights the necessity of data collection on the issue according to the following:

- Raising awareness on the importance of economic empowerment of women and equality in sharing household chores and responsibilities between men and women;
- Eliminating the structural and legal barriers that hinder employment for women through the amendment of discriminatory labour laws and building safe and trustworthy transport networks, especially in rural areas.

Source: ESCWA, Equality in the new agenda; integrating a gender perspective in the implementation of SDGs 1 and 2 in the Arab region, 2016, available at https://www.unescwa.org/sites/www.unescwa.org/files/publications/files/equality-global-agenda-arab-region-english_0.pdf.

Annex I

Relevant websites

Official Website on the 2030 Agenda	https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org
High-level Political Forum	https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf
Handbook for the Preparation of VNRs	https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/20872VNR_hanbook_2019_Edition_For_Print10122018ForewordGraphic_update.pdf
VNR database	https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/vnrs
The Human Rights Guide to the SDGs – The Danish Institute for Human Rights	http://sdg.humanrights.dk/en/node/10
Status of Women and Gender Equality in the Arab Region (Beijing +20)	https://www.unescwa.org/publications/Women-Gender-Equality-Arab-Region
SDG indicators and their sources	https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/
League of Arab States survey	
Recommendations of the Arab Forum for Sustainable Development, 2018	https://www.unescwa.org/sites/www.unescwa.org/files/events/files/arab-forum-sustainable-development-2018-final-report-en.pdf
Statistical sources	
Arab Development Portal	http://www.arabdevelopmentportal.com
SDGs Indicator Portal	https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/
Statistics Division – ESCWA	https://www.unescwa.org/our-work/development-indicators-0
Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development - Measuring Distance to the SDG Targets	http://www.oecd.org/sdd/measuring-distance-to-the-sdgs-targets.htm
SDG Index Overview	https://www.sdgindex.org/

Annex II

SDG 5 and Human Rights Mechanisms²²

SDG 5 relationship with human rights mechanisms		
Target	Mechanisms	Text
5.1 End all forms of discrimination against women and girls everywhere	Universal Declaration of Human Rights	Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty.
Indicator 5.1.1 Whether or not legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce, and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)	Article 3 The States Parties to the present Covenant undertake to ensure the equal right of men and women to the enjoyment of all civil and political rights set forth in the present Covenant.
	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)	<p>Article 2 States Parties condemn discrimination against women in all its forms, agree to pursue by all appropriate means and without delay a policy of eliminating discrimination against women and, to this end, undertake:</p> <p>2a To embody the principle of the equality of men and women in their national constitutions or other appropriate legislation if not yet incorporated therein and to ensure, through law and other appropriate means, the practical realization of this principle;</p> <p>2b To adopt appropriate legislative and other measures, including sanctions where appropriate, prohibiting all discrimination against women;</p> <p>2c To establish legal protection of the rights of women on an equal basis with men and to ensure through competent national tribunals and other public institutions the effective protection of women against any act of discrimination;</p> <p>2f To take all appropriate measures, including legislation, to modify or abolish existing laws, regulations, customs and practices which constitute discrimination against women.</p>

		<p>Article 3 States Parties shall take in all fields, in particular in the political, social, economic and cultural fields, all appropriate measures, including legislation, to ensure the full development and advancement of women, for the purpose of guaranteeing them the exercise and enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms on a basis of equality with men.</p>
		<p>Article 6 States Parties shall take all appropriate measures, including legislation, to suppress all forms of traffic in women and exploitation of prostitution of women.</p>
		<p>Article 15</p> <p>15.1 States Parties shall accord to women equality with men before the law.</p> <p>15.2 States Parties shall accord to women, in civil matters, a legal capacity identical to that of men and the same opportunities to exercise that capacity. In particular, they shall give women equal rights to conclude contracts and to administer property and shall treat them equally in all stages of procedure in courts and tribunals.</p> <p>15.3 States Parties agree that all contracts and all other private instruments of any kind with a legal effect which is directed at restricting the legal capacity of women shall be deemed null and void. 15.4 States Parties shall accord to men and women the same rights with regard to the law relating to the movement of persons and the freedom to choose their residence and domicile.</p>
	The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples	<p>Article 22.2 States shall take measures, in conjunction with indigenous peoples, to ensure that indigenous women and children enjoy the full protection and guarantees against all forms of violence and discrimination.</p>

<p>Target 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</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>5.2.1 Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and by age</p> <p>5.2.1 Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence</p>	Universal Declaration of Human Rights	Article 3 Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.
	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights	Article 7 No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. In particular, no one shall be subjected without his free consent to medical or scientific experimentation.
	International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights	Article 10 The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize that: 10.1 the widest possible protection and assistance should be accorded to the family, which is the natural and fundamental group unit of society, particularly for its establishment and while it is responsible for the care and education of dependent children. Marriage must be entered into with the free consent of the intending spouse.
	Convention on the Rights of the Child	Article 2.1 States Parties shall respect and ensure the rights set forth in the present Convention to each child within their jurisdiction without discrimination of any kind, irrespective of the child's or his or her parent's or legal guardian's race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, property, disability, birth or other status.
		Article 2.2 States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure that the child is protected against all forms of discrimination or punishment on the basis of the status, activities, expressed opinions, or beliefs of the child's parents, legal guardians, or family members.
		Article 19.1 States Parties shall take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parent(s), legal guardian(s) or any other person who has the care of the child.

		Article 19.2 Such protective measures should, as appropriate, include effective procedures for the establishment of social programmes to provide necessary support for the child and for those who have the care of the child, as well as for other forms of prevention and for identification, reporting, referral, investigation, treatment and follow-up of instances of child maltreatment described heretofore, and, as appropriate, for judicial involvement.
		Article 34 States Parties undertake to protect the child from all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. For these purposes, States Parties shall in particular take all appropriate national, bilateral and multilateral measures to prevent: 34a The inducement or coercion of a child to engage in any unlawful sexual activity; 34b The exploitative use of children in prostitution or other unlawful sexual practices; 34c The exploitative use of children in pornographic performances and materials.
		Article 35 States Parties shall take all appropriate national, bilateral and multilateral measures to prevent the abduction of, the sale of or traffic in children for any purpose or in any form.
	The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Article 16.1 States Parties shall take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social, educational and other measures to protect persons with disabilities, both within and outside the home, from all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse, including their gender-based aspects.
		Article 16.2 States Parties shall also take all appropriate measures to prevent all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse by ensuring, inter alia, appropriate forms of gender – and age- sensitive assistance and support for persons with disabilities and their families and caregivers, including through the provision of information and education on how to avoid, recognize and report instances of exploitation, violence and abuse. States parties shall ensure that protection services are age-, gender- and disability-sensitive.
	United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples	Article 22.2 States shall take measures, in conjunction with indigenous peoples, to ensure that indigenous women and children enjoy the full protection and guarantees against all forms of violence and discrimination.

<p>Target 5.3 Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilations</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>5.3.1 Proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were married or in union before aged 15 and before age 18</p> <p>5.3.2 Proportion of girls and women aged 15-49 years who have undergone female genital mutilation/ cutting, by age</p>	Universal Declaration of Human Rights	<p>Article 3 Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.</p> <p>Article 5 No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.</p> <p>Article 16.1 Men and women of full age, without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion, have the right marry and to found a family. They are entitled to equal rights as to marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution.</p>
	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights	Article 7 No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. In particular, no one shall be subjected without his free consent to medical or scientific experimentation.
	International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights	<p>Article 3 The States Parties to the present Covenant undertake to ensure the equal right of men and women to the enjoyment of all economic, social and cultural rights set forth in the present Covenant.</p> <p>Article 10 The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize that: 10.1 The widest possible protection and assistance should be accorded to the family, which is the natural and fundamental group unit of society, particularly for its establishment and while it is responsible for the care and education of dependent children. Marriage must be entered into with the free consent of the intending spouse.</p>
	International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination	<p>Article 5 In compliance with the fundamental obligations laid down in article 2 of this Convention, States Parties undertake to prohibit and to eliminate racial discrimination in all its forms and to guarantee the right of everyone, without distinction as to race, colour, or national or ethnic origin, to equality before the law, notably in the enjoyment of the following rights: 5b - The right to security of person and protection by the State against violence or bodily harm, whether inflicted by government officials or by any individual, group or institution.</p>
	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)	Article 16.2 The betrothal and the marriage of a child shall have no legal effect, and all necessary action, including legislation, shall be taken to specify a minimum age for marriage and to make the registration of marriages in an official registry compulsory.
	United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples	Article 22.2 States shall take measures, in conjunction with indigenous peoples, to ensure that indigenous women and children enjoy the full protection and guarantees against all forms of violence and discrimination.

	Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women	<p>Violence against women shall be understood to encompass, but be limited to, the following:</p> <p>2a Physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring in the family, including battering, sexual abuse of female children in the household, dowry-related violence, marital rape, female genital mutilation and other traditional practices harmful to women, non-spousal violence and violence related to exploitation;</p> <p>2b Physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring within the general community, including rape, sexual abuse, sexual harassment and intimidation at work, in educational institutions and elsewhere, trafficking in women and forced prostitution;</p> <p>2c Physical, sexual and psychological violence perpetrated or condoned by the State, wherever it occurs.</p>
<p>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 household and the family as nationally appropriate</p> <p>Indicator 5.4.1 Percentage of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work by sex, age and location</p>	International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights	<p>Article 3 The States Parties to the present Covenant undertake to ensure the equal right of men and women to the enjoyment of all economic, social and cultural rights set forth in the present Covenant.</p>
		<p>Article 9 The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone to social security, including social insurance.</p>
		<p>Article 10 The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize that:</p> <p>10.1 The widest possible protection and assistance should be accorded to the family, which is the natural and fundamental group unit of society, particularly for its establishment and while it is responsible for the care and education of dependent children. Marriage must be entered into with the free consent of the intending spouses.</p> <p>10.2 Special protection should be accorded to mothers during a reasonable period before and after childbirth. During such period, working mothers should be accorded paid leave or leave with adequate social security benefits.</p>
	Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)	<p>Article 14.1 States Parties shall take into account the particular problems faced by rural women and the significant roles which rural women play in the economic survival of their families, including their work in the non-monetized sectors of the economy, and shall take all appropriate measures to ensure the application of the provisions of the present Convention to women in rural areas.</p>

	International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention 156 on Workers with Family Responsibilities, 1981	This ILO Convention notes that Member States shall make it an aim of national policy to enable persons with responsibilities who are engaged or wish to engage in employment to exercise their right to do so without being subject to discrimination and, to the extent possible, without conflict between their employment and family responsibilities, with a view to creating effective equality of opportunity and treatment for men and women workers. This Convention also asks Member States to take account of the needs of workers with family responsibilities in community planning, and to develop or promote community services, public or private, such as child-care and family services and facilities.
<p>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</p> <p>Indicator 5.5.1 Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments and local governments</p> <p>Indicator 5.5.2 Proportion of women in managerial positions</p>	Universal Declaration of Human Rights	Article 21.1 Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives.
	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights	<p>Article 25 Every citizen shall have the right and the opportunity, without any of the distinctions mentioned in article 2 (of same Covenant) and without unreasonable restrictions:</p> <p>25a To take part in the conduct of public affairs, directly or through freely chosen representatives;</p> <p>25b To vote and to be elected at genuine periodic elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret ballot, guaranteeing the free expression of the will of the electors.</p>
	International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights	Article 3 The States Parties to the present Covenant undertake to ensure the equal right of men and women to the enjoyment of all economic, social and cultural rights set forth in the present Covenant.
	International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination	<p>Article 5 In compliance with the fundamental obligations laid down in article 2 of this Convention, States Parties undertake to prohibit and to eliminate racial discrimination in all its forms and to guarantee the right of everyone, without distinction as to race, colour, or national or ethnic origin, to equality before the law, notably in the enjoyment of the following rights:</p> <p>5c Political rights, in particular the right to participate in elections – to vote and to stand for election – on the basis of universal and equal suffrage, to take part in the Government as well as in the conduct of public affairs at any level and to have equal access to public service.</p>

	Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)	<p>Article 7 States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the political and public life of the country and, in particular, shall ensure to women, on equal terms with men, the right:</p> <p>7a To vote in all elections and public referenda and to be eligible for election to all publicly elected bodies;</p> <p>7b To participate in the formulation of government policy and the implementation thereof and to hold public office and perform all public functions at all levels of government.</p>
<p>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</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>5a.1 Percentage of people with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land (out of total agricultural population), by sex; and (b) share of women among owners or rights-bearers of agricultural land, by type of tenure</p> <p>5a.2 Proportion of countries where the legal framework (including customary law) guarantees women's equal rights to land ownership and/or control</p>	Universal Declaration of Human Rights	Article 17.1 Everyone has the right to own property alone as well as in association with others.
	International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights	Article 3 The States Parties to the present Covenant undertake to ensure the equal right of men and women to the enjoyment of all economic, social and cultural rights set forth in the present Covenant.
	International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination	<p>Article 5 In compliance with the fundamental obligations laid down in article 2 of this Convention, States Parties undertake to prohibit and to eliminate racial discrimination in all its forms and to guarantee the right of everyone, without distinction as to race, colour, or national or ethnic origin, to equality before the law, notably in the enjoyment of the following rights:</p> <p>5d Other civil rights, in particular:</p> <p>(v) The right to own property alone as well as in association with others;</p> <p>(vi) The right to inherit.</p>

	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)	<p>Article 2 States Parties condemn discrimination against women in all its forms, agree to pursue by all appropriate means and without delay a policy of eliminating discrimination against women and, to this end, undertake:</p> <p>2a To embody the principle of the equality of men and women in their national constitutions or other appropriate legislation if not yet incorporated therein and to ensure, through law and other appropriate means, the practical realization of this principle;</p> <p>2b To adopt appropriate legislative and other measures, including sanctions where appropriate, prohibiting all discrimination against women;</p> <p>2c To establish legal protection of the rights of women on an equal basis with men and to ensure through competent national tribunals and other public institutions the effective protection of women against any act of discrimination.</p>
		<p>Article 14.2 States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in rural areas in order to ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women, that they participate in and benefit from rural development and, in particular, shall ensure to such women the right:</p> <p>14.2.f - To participate in all community activities.</p>
		<p>Article 16.1 States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in all matters relating to marriage and family relations and in particular shall ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women:</p> <p>16.1.h The same rights for both spouses in respect of the ownership, acquisition, management, administration, enjoyment and disposition of property, whether free of charge or for a valuable consideration.</p>
<p>Target 5b Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women</p> <p>Indicator 5.b.1 Proportion of individuals with telephone, by sex</p>	Universal Declaration of Human Rights	<p>Article 19 Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.</p>
		<p>Article 27.1 Everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits.</p>

	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights	<p>Article 19</p> <p>19.1 Everyone shall have the right to hold opinions without interference.</p> <p>19.2 Everyone shall have the right to freedom of expression; this right shall include freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing or in print, in the form of art, or through any other media of his choice.</p>
	International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights	<p>Article 3 The States Parties to the present Covenant undertake to ensure the equal right of men and women to the enjoyment of all economic, social and cultural rights set forth in the present Covenant</p> <p>Article 15.1 The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone:</p> <p>15.1.b to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its application</p>
	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)	<p>Article 14.2 States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in rural areas in order to ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women, that they participate in and benefit from rural development and, in particular, shall ensure to such women the right:</p> <p>14.2.h To enjoy adequate living conditions, particularly in relation to housing, sanitation, electricity and water supply, transport and communications.</p>
<p>Target 5c 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</p> <p>Indicator 5.c.1 Proportion of countries with systems to track and make public allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment</p>	International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights	<p>Article 3 The States Parties to the present Covenant undertake to ensure the equal right of men and women to the enjoyment of all economic, social and cultural rights set forth in the present Covenant</p> <p>Article 10 The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize that:</p> <p>10.1 The widest possible protection and assistance should be accorded to the family, which is the natural and fundamental group unit of society, particularly for its establishment and while it is responsible for the care and education of dependent children. Marriage must be entered into with the free consent of the intending spouses.</p> <p>10.2 Special protection should be accorded to mothers during a reasonable period before and after childbirth. During such period, working mothers should be accorded paid leave or leave with adequate social security benefits.</p> <p>10.3 Special measures of protection and assistance should be taken on behalf of all children and young persons without any discrimination for reasons of parentage or other conditions. Children and young persons should be protected from economic and social exploitation. Their employment in work harmful to their morals or health or dangerous to life or likely to hamper their normal development should be punishable by law. States should also set age limits below which the paid employment of child labour should be prohibited and punishable by law.</p>

	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)	Article 3 States Parties shall take in all fields, in particular in the political, social, economic and cultural fields, all appropriate measures, including legislation, to ensure the full development and advancement of women, for the purpose of guaranteeing them the exercise and enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms on a basis of equality with men.
		Article 18 18.1 States Parties undertake to submit to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, for consideration by the Committee, a report on the legislative, judicial, administrative or other measures which they have adopted to give effect to the provisions of the present Convention and on the progress made in this respect: 18.1.a Within one year after the entry into force for the State concerned; 18.1.b Thereafter at least every four years and further whenever the Committee so requests. 18.2 Reports may indicate factors and difficulties affecting the degree of fulfilment of obligations under the present Convention.

Annex III

SDG indicators directly linked to women

Indicator number	Indicator
1.1.1	Proportion of population below the international poverty line, by sex, age, employment status and geographical location (urban/rural).
1.2.1	Proportion of population living below the national poverty line, by sex and age.
1.2.2	Proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions.
1.3.1	Proportion of population covered by social protection floors/systems, by sex, distinguishing children, unemployed persons, older persons, persons with disabilities, pregnant women, newborns, work-injury victims and the poor and the vulnerable.
1.4.2	Proportion of total adult population with secure tenure rights to land, with legally recognized documentation and who perceive their rights to land as secure, by sex and by type of tenure.
1.b.1	Proportion of government recurrent and capital spending to sectors that disproportionately benefit women, the poor and vulnerable groups.
2.3.2	Average income of small-scale food producers, by sex and indigenous status.
3.1.1	Maternal mortality per 100,000 live births.
3.1.2	Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel.
3.3.1	Number of new HIV infections per 1,000 uninfected population, by sex, age and key populations.
3.7.1	Proportion of women of reproductive age (aged 15-49 years) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods.
3.7.2	Adolescent birth rate (aged 10-14 years; aged 15-19 years) per 1,000 women in that age group.
3.8.1	Coverage of essential health services (defined as the average coverage of essential services based on tracer interventions that include reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health, infectious diseases, non-communicable diseases and service capacity and access, among the general and the most disadvantaged population).
4.1.1	Proportion of children and young people: (a) in grades 2/3; (b) at the end of primary; and (c) at the end of lower secondary achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in (i) reading and (ii) mathematics, by sex.





4.2.1	Proportion of children under 5 years of age who are developmentally on track in health, learning and psychosocial well-being, by sex.
4.2.2	Participation in organized learning (one year before the official primary entry age), by sex.
4.3.1	Participation rate of youth and adults in formal and non-formal education and training in the previous 12 months, by sex.
4.5.1	Parity indices (female/male, rural/urban, bottom/top wealth quintile and others such as disability status, indigenous peoples and conflict-affected, as data become available) for all education indicators on this list that can be disaggregated.
4.6.1	Proportion of population in a given age group achieving at least a fixed level of proficiency in functional (a) literacy and (b) numeracy skills, by sex.
4.7.1	Extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for sustainable development, including gender equality and human rights, are mainstreamed at all levels in – (a) national educational policies, (b) curricula, (c) teacher education and (d) student assessment.
4.a.1	Proportion of schools with access to: (a) electricity; (b) the Internet for pedagogical purposes; (c) computers for pedagogical purposes; (d) adapted infrastructure and materials for students with disabilities; (e) basic drinking water; (f) single-sex basic sanitation facilities; and (g) basic handwashing facilities (as per the WASH indicator definitions).
5.1.1	Whether or not legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex.
5.2.1	Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and by age.
5.2.2	Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence.
5.3.1	Proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18.
5.3.2	Proportion of girls and women aged 15-49 years who have undergone female genital mutilation/cutting by age.
5.4.1	Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, by sex, age and location.
5.5.1	Proportion of seats held by women in (a) national parliaments and (b) local governments.
5.5.2	Proportion of women in managerial positions.
5.6.1	Proportion of women aged 15-49 years who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care.
5.6.2	Number of countries with laws and regulations that guarantee full and equal access to women and men aged 15 years and older to sexual and reproductive health care, information and education.






5.a.1	(a) Proportion of total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, by sex; and (b) share of women among owners or rights-bearers of agricultural land, by type of tenure.
5.a.2	Proportion of countries where the legal framework (including customary law) guarantees women's equal rights to land ownership and/or control.
5.b.1	Proportion of individuals who own a mobile telephone, by sex.
5.c.1	Proportion of countries with systems to track and make public allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment.
8.3.1	Proportion of informal employment in non-agriculture employment, by sex.
8.5.1	Average hourly earnings of female and male employees, by occupation, age and persons with disabilities.
8.5.2	Unemployment rate, by sex, age and persons with disabilities.
8.7.1	Proportion and number of children aged 5-17 years engaged in child labour, by sex and age.
8.8.1	Frequency rates of fatal and non-fatal occupational injuries, by sex and migrant status.
8.8.2	Level of national compliance of labour rights (freedom of association and collective bargaining) based on International Labour Organization (ILO) textual sources and national legislation, by sex and migrant status.
8.9.2	Proportion of jobs in sustainable tourism industries out of total tourism jobs.
10.2.1	Proportion of people living below 50 per cent of median income, by sex, age and persons with disabilities.
11.2.1	Proportion of population that has convenient access to public transport, by sex, age and persons with disabilities.
11.7.1	Average share of the built-up area of cities that is open space for public use for all, by sex, age and persons with disabilities.
11.7.2	Proportion of persons victim of physical or sexual harassment by sex, age, disability status and place of occurrence, in the previous 12 months.
13.b.1	Number of least developed countries and small island developing States that are receiving specialized support, and amount of support, including finance, technology and capacity-building, for mechanisms for raising capacities for effective climate change-related planning and management, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities.
16.1.1	Number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 population, by sex and age.
16.1.2	Conflict-related deaths per 100,000 population, by sex, age and cause.
16.2.2	Number of victims of human trafficking per 100,000 population, by sex, age and form of exploitation.
16.2.3	Proportion of young women and men aged 18-29 years who experienced sexual violence by age 18.




16.7.1	Proportions of positions (by sex, age, persons with disabilities and population groups) in public institutions (national and local legislatures, public service, and judiciary) compared to national distributions.
16.7.2	Proportion of populations who believe decision-making is inclusive and responsive, by sex, age, disability and population group.
17.18.1	Proportion of sustainable development indicators produced at the national level with full disaggregation when relevant to the target, in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics.

Annex IV

Sustainable Development Goals and international women's rights mechanisms' interconnectedness between SDGs, CEDAW and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action







	SDG Targets	CEDAW (relevant articles)	Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (relevant strategic objectives)
	1.1 By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day	Article 13: Elimination of discrimination against women in economic and social life Article 14: Elimination of discrimination against women in rural areas	A. Women and poverty
	1.B Create sound policy frameworks at the national, regional and international levels, based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies, to support accelerated investment in poverty eradication actions	Article 2: Legal steps to eliminate discrimination against women	A. Women and poverty
	1.2 By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions	Article 13: Elimination of discrimination against women in economic and social life Article 14: Elimination of discrimination against women in rural areas	A. Women and poverty
	1.3 Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable	Article 11: Elimination of discrimination against women in work and employment Article 13: Elimination of discrimination against women in economic and social life Article 14: Elimination of discrimination against women in rural areas	A. Women and poverty C. Women and health

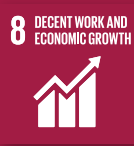





<p>1 NO POVERTY</p> 	<p>1.4 By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance</p>	<p>Article 3: Ensure the full development and advancement of women in political, social, economic and cultural fields Article 10: Elimination of discrimination against women in the field of education Article 12: Elimination of discrimination against women in the field of healthcare Article 13: Elimination of discrimination against women in economic and social life Article 14: Elimination of discrimination against women in rural areas</p>	<p>A. Women and poverty B. Education and training of women F. Women and the economy I. Human rights of women L. The girl child</p>
<p>2 ZERO HUNGER</p> 	<p>2.2 By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons</p>	<p>Article 12: Elimination of discrimination against women in the field of healthcare</p>	<p>A. Women and poverty C. Women and health L. The girl child</p>
<p>3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING</p> 	<p>3.1 By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births</p>	<p>Article 12: Elimination of discrimination against women in the field of healthcare</p>	<p>C. Women and health</p>
<p>3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING</p> 	<p>3.7 By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes</p>	<p>Article 14: Elimination of discrimination against women in rural areas Article 16: Elimination of discrimination against women in relation to marriage and other aspects of family life</p>	<p>B. Education and training of women C. Women and health L. The girl child</p>
<p>4 QUALITY EDUCATION</p> 	<p>4.1 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes</p>	<p>Article 10: Elimination of discrimination against women in the field of education</p>	<p>B. Education and training of women L. The girl child</p>






	4.2 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education	Article 10: Elimination of discrimination against women in the field of education	B. Education and training of women C. Women and health L. The girl child
	4.3 By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university	Article 10: Elimination of discrimination against women in the field of education. Article 14: Elimination of discrimination against women in rural areas	B. Education and training of women C. Women and health L. The girl child
	4.4 By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship	Article 10: Elimination of discrimination against women in the field of education Article 14: Elimination of discrimination against women in rural areas	B. Education and training of women F. Women and the economy L. The girl child
	4.B By 2020, substantially expand globally the number of scholarships available to developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and African countries, for enrolment in higher education, including vocational training and information and communications technology, technical, engineering and scientific programmes, in developed countries and other developing countries	Article 10: Elimination of discrimination against women in the field of education	B. Education and training of women F. Women and the economy L. The girl child
	4.5 By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations	Article 10: Elimination of discrimination against women in the field of education	A. Women and poverty B. Education and training of women F. Women and the economy L. The girl child
	4.6 By 2030, ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy	Article 10: Elimination of discrimination against women in the field of education	B. Education and training of women L. The girl child




<p>4 QUALITY EDUCATION</p> 	<p>4.7 By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development</p>	<p>Article 10: Elimination of discrimination against women in the field of education</p>	<p>B. Education and training of women E. Women and armed conflict L. The girl child</p>
<p>5 GENDER EQUALITY</p> 	<p>5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere</p>	<p>Article 1: Definition of discrimination against women Article 2: Legal steps to eliminate discrimination against women</p>	<p>A. Women and poverty B. Education and training of women C. Women and health F. Women and the economy G. Women in power and decision-making H. Institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women L. The girl child</p>
<p>5 GENDER EQUALITY</p> 	<p>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</p>	<p>Article 2: Legal steps to eliminate discrimination against women</p>	<p>A. Women and poverty D. Violence against women F. Women and the economy I. Human rights of women L. The girl child</p>
<p>5 GENDER EQUALITY</p> 	<p>5.3 Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation</p>	<p>Article 16: Elimination of discrimination against women in relation to marriage and other aspects of family life</p>	<p>C. Women and health D. Violence against women H. Institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women I. Human rights of women L. The girl child</p>
<p>5 GENDER EQUALITY</p> 	<p>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</p>	<p>Article 14: Elimination of discrimination against women in rural areas</p>	<p>F. Women and the economy D. Violence against women I. Human rights of women</p>
<p>5 GENDER EQUALITY</p> 	<p>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</p>	<p>Article 7: Elimination of discrimination against women in political and public life</p>	<p>B. Education and training of women G. Women in power and decision-making H. Institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women</p>








	<p>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 for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences</p>	<p>Article 5: Family education Article 12: Elimination of discrimination against women in the field of healthcare</p>	<p>B. Education and training of women C. Women and health L. The girl child</p>
	<p>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</p>	<p>Article 2: Legal steps to eliminate discrimination against women Article 14: Elimination of discrimination against women in rural areas</p>	<p>B. Education and training of women F. Women and the economy H. Institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women</p>
	<p>5.B Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women</p>	<p>Article 14: Elimination of discrimination against women in rural areas</p>	<p>B. Education and training of women F. Women and the economy C. Women and health</p>
	<p>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</p>	<p>Article 3: Ensure the full development and advancement of women in political, social, economic and cultural fields. Article 18: Submission of reports on legislative, judicial and administrative steps taken by States</p>	<p>A. Women and poverty B. Education and training of women F. Women and the economy H. Institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women I. Human rights of women J. Women and the media L. The girl child</p>
	<p>6.1 By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all</p>	<p>Article 14: Elimination of discrimination against women in rural areas</p>	<p>A. Women and poverty C. Women and health I. Human rights of women K. Women and the environment L. The girl child</p>
	<p>6.2 By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations</p>	<p>Article 14: Elimination of discrimination against women in rural areas</p>	<p>A. Women and poverty C. Women and health L. The girl child</p>







6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION 	6.4 By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity	Article 14: Elimination of discrimination against women in rural areas	A. Women and poverty C. Women and health I. Human rights of women K. Women and the environment L. The girl child
6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION 	6.5 By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate	Article 14: Elimination of discrimination against women in rural areas	A. Women and poverty C. Women and health I. Human rights of women K. Women and the environment L. The girl child
7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY 	7.1 By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services	Article 13: Elimination of discrimination against women in economic and social life Article 14: Elimination of discrimination against women in rural areas	A. Women and poverty F. Women and the economy K. Women and the environment L. The girl child
7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY 	7.B By 2030, expand infrastructure and upgrade technology for supplying modern and sustainable energy services for all in developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States, and land-locked developing countries, in accordance with their respective programmes of support	Article 13: Elimination of discrimination against women in economic and social life Article 14: Elimination of discrimination against women in rural areas	A. Women and poverty B. Education and training of women F. Women and the economy
8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH 	8.3 Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services	Article 13: Elimination of discrimination against women in economic and social life	A. Women and poverty B. Education and training of women F. Women and the economy G. Women in power and decision-making
8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH 	8.4 Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, in accordance with the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production, with developed countries taking the lead	Article 11: Elimination of discrimination against women in work and employment Article 14: Elimination of discrimination against women in rural areas	A. Women and poverty F. Women and the economy K. Women and the environment



 <p>8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH</p>	<p>8.5 By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value</p>	<p>Article 11: Elimination of discrimination against women in work and employment Article 14: Elimination of discrimination against women in rural areas</p>	<p>A. The burden of permanent and increased poverty of women F. Women and the economy</p>
 <p>8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH</p>	<p>8.6 By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training</p>	<p>Article 10: Elimination of discrimination against women in the field of education Article 11: Elimination of discrimination against women in work and employment Article 14: Elimination of discrimination against women in rural areas</p>	<p>A. Women and poverty B. Education and training of women F. Women and the economy L. The girl child</p>
 <p>8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH</p>	<p>8.7 Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms</p>	<p>Article 6: Measures to stop all forms of trafficking and the exploitation of prostitution of women</p>	<p>A. Women and poverty B. Education and training of women E. Women and armed conflict L. The girl child</p>
 <p>8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH</p>	<p>8.8 Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment</p>	<p>Article 11: Elimination of discrimination against women in work and employment</p>	<p>A. Women and poverty D. Violence against women F. Women and the economy L. The girl child</p>
 <p>8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH</p>	<p>8.10 Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all</p>	<p>Article 13: Elimination of discrimination against women in economic and social life Article 14: Elimination of discrimination against women in rural areas</p>	<p>A. Women and poverty B. Education and training of women F. Women and the economy</p>
 <p>8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH</p>	<p>8.B By 2020, develop and operationalize a global strategy for youth employment and implement the Global Jobs Pact of the International Labour Organization</p>	<p>Article 11: Elimination of discrimination against women in work and employment Article 14: Elimination of discrimination against women in rural areas</p>	<p>A. Women and poverty B. Education and training of women F. Women and the economy I. Human rights of women</p>

	9.1 Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and trans-border infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all	Article 14: Elimination of discrimination against women in rural areas	A. Women and poverty B. Education and training of women F. Women and the economy L. The girl child
	9.3 Increase the access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises, in particular in developing countries, to financial services, including affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and markets	Article 13: Elimination of discrimination against women in economic and social life	A. Women and poverty B. Education and training of women F. Women and the economy L. The girl child
	9.C Significantly increase access to information and communications technology and strive to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in least developed countries by 2030	Article 14: Elimination of discrimination against women in rural areas	A. Women and poverty B. Education and training of women J. Women and the media L. The girl child
	10.1 By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average	Article 1: Definition of discrimination against women Article 3: Ensure the full development and advancement of women in political, social, economic and cultural fields	A. Women and poverty B. Education and training of women F. Women and the economy
	10.2 By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status	Article 1: Definition of discrimination against women Article 2: Legal steps to eliminate discrimination against women Article 3: Ensure the full development and advancement of women in political, social, economic and cultural fields. Article 7: Elimination of discrimination against women in political and public life Article 11: Elimination of discrimination against women in work and employment Article 13: Elimination of discrimination against women in economic and social life Article 14: Elimination of discrimination against women in rural areas	A. Women and poverty B. Education and training of women F. Women and the economy G. Women in power and decision-making L. The girl child

	<p>10.3 Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard</p>	<p>Article 1: Definition of discrimination against women Article 2: Legal steps to eliminate discrimination against women Article 3: Ensure the full development and advancement of women in political, social, economic and cultural fields. Article 7: Elimination of discrimination against women in political and public life Article 11: Elimination of discrimination against women in work and employment Article 13: Elimination of discrimination against women in economic and social life Article 14: Elimination of discrimination against women in rural areas</p>	<p>A. Women and poverty B. Education and training of women F. Women and the economy G. Women in power and decision-making L. The girl child</p>
	<p>10.4 Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality</p>	<p>Article 2: Legal steps to eliminate discrimination against women Article 3: Ensure the full development and advancement of women in political, social, economic and cultural fields. Article 11: Elimination of discrimination against women in work and employment Article 13: Elimination of discrimination against women in economic and social life Article 14: Elimination of discrimination against women in rural areas</p>	<p>A. Women and poverty F. Women and the economy</p>
	<p>10.7 Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies</p>	<p>Article 6: Measures to stop all forms of trafficking and the exploitation of prostitution of women Article 14: Elimination of discrimination against women in rural areas</p>	<p>A. Women and poverty D. Violence against women F. Women and the economy</p>

	11.1 By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums	Article 14: Elimination of discrimination against women in rural areas	A. Women and poverty
	11.2 By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons	Article 14: Elimination of discrimination against women in rural areas	A. Women and poverty B. Education and training of women C. Women and health L. The girl child
	11.3 By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries	Article 7: Elimination of discrimination against women in political and public life	G. Women in power and decision-making
	11.7 By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities	Article 13: Elimination of discrimination against women in economic and social life	K. Women and the environment
	12.8 By 2030 ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature	Article 10: Elimination of discrimination against women in the field of education Article 14: Elimination of discrimination against women in rural areas	A. Women and poverty B. Education and training of women K. Women and the environment
	13.3 Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning	Article 7: Elimination of discrimination against women in political and public life Article 10: Elimination of discrimination against women in the field of education Article 14: Elimination of discrimination against women in rural areas	A. Women and poverty B. Education and training of women K. Women and the environment
	13.B Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing States, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities	Article 7: Elimination of discrimination against women in political and public life Article 14: Elimination of discrimination against women in rural areas	A. Women and poverty B. Education and training of women H. Institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women K. Women and the environment

	16.2 End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children	Article 6: Measures to stop all forms of trafficking and the exploitation of prostitution of women	A. Women and poverty B. Education and training of women C. Women and health D. Violence against women E. Women and armed conflict L. The girl child
	16.3 Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all	Article 15: Equality between men and women before the law	I. Human rights of women L. The girl child
	16.6 Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels	Article 3: Ensure the full development and advancement of women in political, social, economic and cultural fields	H. Institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women
	16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels	Article 7: Elimination of discrimination against women in political and public life	B. Education and training of women G. Women in power and decision-making I. Human rights of women J. Women and the media
	16.9 By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration	Article 9: Equality between men and women to nationality	I. Human rights of women L. The girl child
	16.B Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development	Article 1: Definition of discrimination against women Article 2: Legal steps to eliminate discrimination against women Article 7: Elimination of discrimination against women in political and public life Article 11: Elimination of discrimination against women in work and employment Article 13: Elimination of discrimination against women in economic and social life Article 14: Elimination of discrimination against women in rural areas Article 15: Equality between men and women before the law	A. Women and poverty B. Education and training of women F. Women and the economy G. Women in power and decision-making H. Institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women I. Human rights for women J. Women and the media L. The girl child

<p>16 PEACE, JUST AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</p> 	<p>17.8 Fully operationalize the technology bank and science, technology and innovation capacity-building mechanism for least developed countries by 2017 and enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology</p>	<p>Article 14: Elimination of discrimination against women in rural areas</p>	<p>A. Women and poverty B. Education and training of women F. Women and the economy H. Institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women I. Human rights for women J. Women and the media L. The girl child</p>
<p>16 PEACE, JUST AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</p> 	<p>17.18 By 2030, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts</p>	<p>Article 3: Ensure the full development and advancement of women in political, social, economic and cultural fields</p>	<p>A. Women and poverty B. Education and training of women F. Women and the economy G. Women in power and decision-making H. Institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women I. Human rights for women J. Women and the media L. The girl child</p>

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Endnotes

1. See <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>.
2. See <https://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2014%20MDG%20report/MDG%202014%20English%20web.pdf>. and <http://www.un.org/ar/millenniumgoals/pdf/MDG.2015.rept.pdf>.
3. See <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>.
4. See Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals: Report of Secretary-General, E/2018/64.
5. Global Sustainable Development Report, Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform, see <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/globalreport>.
6. E/HLPF/2019/3/Add.3.
7. For more information, see Voluntary National Reviews: Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform, available at <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/vnrs>.
8. Handbook for the Preparation of Voluntary National Reviews, 2019 Edition, available at https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/20872VNR_hanbook_2019_Edition_v2.pdf. See Voluntary National Reviews Database at <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/vnrs>.
9. Handbook for the Preparation of VNRs.
10. UN Women, p. 247.
11. A Guide to Global Gender Targets, ESCWA. Available at https://www.unescwa.org/sites/www.unescwa.org/files/page_attachments/a_guide_to_global_gender_targets_0.pdf.
12. A Guide to Global Gender Targets, ESCWA. Available at https://www.unescwa.org/sites/www.unescwa.org/files/page_attachments/a_guide_to_global_gender_targets_0.pdf.
13. E/ESCWA/EDID/2017/2.
14. E/ESCWA/ECW/2017/4.
15. See <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/indicators-list/> for the complete list and more information.
16. A/RES/70/1.
17. E/ESCWA/RFSD/2018/6/Report, para. 102.
18. UN Women, p. 61.
19. UN Women Issue brief, available at <http://www.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/library/publications/2018/issue-brief-making-women-and-girls-visible-en.pdf?la=en&vs=2720>.
20. Handbook for the Preparation of VNRs.
21. Human Rights Guide for SDGs: explaining the link between human rights and all SDGs and their targets, available at <http://sdg.humanrights.dk/en/node/10>.

