



**A TRANSFORMATIVE GOAL
IN THE REGION FOR THE
FUTURE WE WANT**

UN Women is the UN organization dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. A global champion for women and girls, UN Women was established to accelerate progress on meeting their needs worldwide.

UN Women supports UN Member States as they set global standards for achieving gender equality, and works with governments and civil society to design laws, policies, programmes and services needed to implement these standards. It stands behind women's equal participation in all aspects of life, focusing on five priority areas: increasing women's leadership and participation; ending violence against women; engaging women in all aspects of peace and security processes; enhancing women's economic empowerment; and making gender equality central to national development planning and budgeting. UN Women also coordinates and promotes the UN system's work in advancing gender equality.

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FOREWORD

In July 2010, a few days before the XI Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, UN Women, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, was born as a result of the United Nations reform. The aim was to provide system-wide coherence with the mandate to support countries and the UN System to advance with greater efficiency and effectiveness in pursuing the goals of gender equality, women's empowerment and the defense of women's rights.

These three goals represent the "minimum standards" that must be incorporated into public policy in order to be consistent with related international commitments on gender equality, women's rights and the empowerment of women. These minimum standards are the elimination of violence against women and girls, the achievement of gender equality in capacities and resources; and the achievement of gender equality in decision-making in public and private institutions.

Within the framework of the XI Conference, the governments of the participating States received with enthusiasm the decision that created UN Women and requested the Secretary General of the United Nations "to incorporate into the management of the new entity the substantive and political agreements adopted in the successive regional conferences (...), which constitute the roadmap to guide the regional gender agenda and the strategies for governments, organs and organizations of the United Nations and civil society."

UN Women's universal mandate and its role in articulating international norms and the inter-governmental commitments with regional, sub-regional and national processes and their application in public policies, together with its programmatic presence at country level and the construction of strategic alliances with all sectors and actors, allows for the necessary synergies to advance with the agenda of gender equality and the human rights of women in our region.

UN Women advocates for the empowerment of women and girls and the protection of their rights as a central element of the post 2015 agenda.

We are currently living in a crucial time as the international community, together with governments, is defining the post 2015 development framework and the Sustainable Development Goals. UN Women advocates for the empowerment of women and girls and the protection of their rights as a central element of the post 2015 agenda. The entity promotes the adoption of a stand-alone goal that guarantees gender equality, women's rights and the empowerment of women, as well as the effective mainstreaming of gender equality perspectives across all goals of the new development framework.

The decision adopted by Member States during the 57th CSW to carry out a review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, on the occasion of the 20 years of its endorsement, shows the renewed political will to comply with the commitments of the Fourth World Conference on Women. UN Women will support this initiative through national and regional reviews, the mobilization of interested parties, support to the normative intergovernmental process and coordination.

The Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean constitutes the ideal forum to forge the synergies called for within this global momentum. I am certain that the governments gathered in Santo Domingo, and represented by their highest authorities on gender equality and women's human rights of our region, will endorse commitments that, together with civil society, the international community and the United Nations, will contribute to the construction of the future that we all want.

Moni Pizani
UN Women's Regional Director for the Americas
and the Caribbean

UN Women

According to UN General Assembly resolution 64/289 (paragraph 57 (b)), which established UN Women, the organization is governed by a multi-tiered intergovernmental governance structure as follows:

“(a) ... the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on the Status of Women shall constitute the multi-tiered intergovernmental governance structure for the normative support functions and shall provide normative policy guidance to the Entity;

“(b) ... the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Executive Board of the Entity shall constitute the multi-tiered intergovernmental governance structure for the operational activities and shall provide operational policy guidance to the Entity.”

The main functions of UN Women are: to support inter-governmental bodies, such as the Commission on the Status of Women, in their formulation of policies, global standards and norms; to help Member States to implement these standards, standing ready to provide suitable technical and financial support to those countries that request it, and to forge effective partnerships with civil society; and to hold the UN system accountable for its own commitments on gender equality, including regular monitoring of system-wide progress.

Members of the UN Women’s Executive Board are elected for a period of three years according to guidelines established by the General Assembly in the founding resolution of UN Women, A/RES/64/289.

The Board also engages with the Executive Boards of other United Nations entities in an effort to harmonize approaches to operational activities. These engagements provide opportunities for sharing experiences and coordinating programme work on gender equality and gender mainstreaming across the UN system. The work of the Executive Board is guided by its Rules of Procedure.

UN Women Governing Documents:

- UN General Assembly resolution 64/289 on system-wide coherence (A/RES/64/289). Paragraphs 49–90 relate to the establishment of UN Women.
- UN General Assembly resolution 63/311 on system-wide coherence (A/RES/63/311)
- Comprehensive proposal for the composite entity for gender equality and the empowerment of women: Report of the Secretary-General (A/64/588)

UN Women acts on two fronts. It supports international political negotiations to formulate globally agreed standards for gender equality and it assists UN Member States to implement those standards by providing expertise and financial support. UN Women also assists other parts of the UN system in their efforts to advance gender equality across a broad spectrum of issues related to human rights and human development.

UN Women’s Strategic Plan for the period 2011-2013, developed pursuant to paragraph 77 of Resolution 64/289, was the first such plan created by UN-Women. The plan, assessed and revised in 2013 for the period 2014-2017 in order to align it with the planning cycles of other United Nations agencies, lays out the priorities of the organization for achieving these goals up to 2017.

The strategic plan goals:

- a) to increase women's leadership and participation;
- b) to increase women's access to economic empowerment and opportunities;
- c) to prevent violence against women and girls and expand access to services;
- d) to increase women's leadership in peace, security and humanitarian response;
- e) to strengthen the responsiveness of plans and budgets to gender equality at all levels;
- f) a comprehensive set of global norms, policies and standards on gender equality and women's empowerment is in place that is dynamic, responds to new and emerging issues, challenges and opportunities and provides a firm basis for action by Governments and other stakeholders at all levels.

Normative processes related to gender equality and women's empowerment

CHRONOLOGY

1979	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)	2013	57th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) agreed conclusions on actions to prevent and eliminate violence against women and girls
1994	International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action	2013	Montevideo Consensus at Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean
1994	The Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women (Convention of Belém do Pará)	2013	68th UN General Assembly – High-level event “MDG Success: Accelerating Action and Partnering for Impact”
1995	UN IV World Conference on Women, Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action	2013	XII Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean Santo Domingo
2000	Millennium Declaration and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)	2014	58th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) priority theme: challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls
2000	United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security	2014	69th UNGA Special Session to assess the status of implementation of the ICPD
2007	X Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, Quito	2015	MDG revisión and SDG
2010	XI Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, Brasilia	2015	Beijing +20
2010	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) is established by GA Resolution 64/289		
2012	United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Río + 20); Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)		

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) was adopted in 1979 by the UN General Assembly and came into force in 1981. Nowadays, more than 185 states have ratified the Convention. It is considered an international bill of rights for women, defining discrimination against women and sets up an agenda for national action to end such discrimination. The States that have ratified the Convention are legally bound to implement its provisions. They must submit national reports at least every four years on the measures adopted to comply with the obligations of the Convention.

Article 1 of the Convention defines discrimination against women as “...any distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex which has the effect or purpose of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by women, irrespective of their marital status, on a basis of equality of men and women, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field.”

Guiding Principles of the Convention

1. Substantive equality: equality of opportunities, equality to access of opportunity and equality of results
2. Non discrimination
3. States' obligation to adopt all necessary measures aimed at achieving the full realization of the rights recognized in the Convention (Article 24).

Obligations of the States Parties: Articles 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 16

- To embody the principle of the equality of men and women in their national constitutions or other appropriate legislation;
- To adopt appropriate legislative and other measures prohibiting all discrimination against women;
- To ensure through competent national tribunals the effective protection of women against any act of discrimination;
- To prohibit and eliminate discrimination against women by any person, organization or Enterprise;
- To modify or abolish existing laws, regulations, customs and practices which constitute discrimination against women;

- 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;
- To adopt temporary special measures aimed at accelerating de facto equality between men and women;
- To modify the social and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women, with a view to achieving the elimination of prejudices and customary and all other practices which are based on the idea of the inferiority or the superiority of either of the sexes or on stereotyped roles for men and women;
- To ensure that family education includes a proper understanding of maternity as a social function and the recognition of the common responsibility of men and women in the upbringing and development of their children;
- To eliminate discrimination against women in all matters relating to marriage and family relations;
- To take all appropriate measures, including legislation, to suppress all forms of traffic in women and exploitation of prostitution of women.

Women's rights guaranteed by CEDAW:

Civil and political rights guaranteed by CEDAW

- The right to vote in all elections and public referenda and to be eligible for election to all publicly elected bodies, 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, and to participate in non-governmental organizations and associations concerned with the public and political life of the country (Article 7).
- The right to represent their Governments at the international level (Article 8).
- The right to acquire, change or retain their nationality (Article 9).
- The right to conclude contracts and to administer property and shall treat them equally in all stages of procedure in courts and tribunals. (Article 15).

Social, cultural and economic rights guaranteed by CEDAW:

- The right to education (Article 10).
- The right to work as an inalienable right of all human beings (Article 11).
- The right to health care and to access health care services (Article 12).
- The right to family benefits; bank loans, mortgages and other forms of financial credit; to participate in recreational activities, sports and all aspects of cultural life (Article 13).
- The right of women in rural areas to enjoy all the provisions of the Convention (Article 14).

States' obligation to submit national reports (Article 18).

States Parties undertake to submit to the Secretary-General of the United Nations a report on the measures which they have adopted to give effect to the provisions of the Convention within one year after the entry into force of the Convention for the State concerned, and thereafter at least every four years.

General recommendations of the CEDAW committee

- No. 1.** Initial and periodic reports (1986)
- No. 2.** Report guidelines, content and dates (1987)
- No. 3.** Education and public information to eliminate prejudices and practices that hinder the principle of equality (1987)
- No. 4.** Reservations to the Convention (1987)
- No. 5.** Temporary special measures (1988)
- No. 6.** Effective national machinery and publicity (1988)
- No. 7.** To ensure adequate resources and services to the Committee (1988)
- No. 8.** Implementation of article 8 of the Convention (1988)
- No. 9.** Statistical data concerning the situation of women (1989)
- No. 10.** Tenth anniversary of the adoption of the CEDAW (1989)
- No. 11.** Technical advisory services for reporting obligations (1989)
- No. 12.** Violence against women (1989)
- No. 13.** Equal remuneration for work of equal value (1989)
- No. 16.** Unpaid women workers in rural and urban family enterprises (1991)
- No. 17.** Measurement and quantification of the unremunerated domestic activities of women and their recognition in the gross national product (1991)
- No. 18.** Disabled women (1992)
- No. 19.** Violence against women (1992)
- No. 21.** Equality in marriage and family relations (1994)
- No. 22.** Amending article 10 of the Convention (Committee's meetings) (1995)
- No. 23.** Women in political and public life (1997)
- No. 24.** Women and health (1999)
- No. 25.** Temporary special measures (2004)
- No. 26.** Women migrant workers (2008)
- No. 27.** Older women and protection of their human rights (2010)
- No. 28.** Core Obligations of States Parties under Article 2 of the Convention (2010)
- No. 29.** Economics of marriage, family and dissolution (2013)

The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

The Declaration and Platform for Action were the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women that took place in Beijing in 1995. World leaders from 189 countries committed to adopting measures in twelve critical areas of concern, to be implemented in cooperation with the UN system, regional and international financial institutions, other relevant regional and international institutions, non-governmental organizations, and women and men at large.

The following are the 12 areas of concern of the Beijing Platform for Action:

1. The persistent and increasing burden of poverty on women
2. Inequalities and inadequacies in, and unequal access to, education and training
3. Inequalities and inadequacies in, and unequal access to, health care and related services
4. Violence against women
5. The effects of armed or other kinds of conflict on women, including those living under foreign occupation
6. Inequality in economic structures and policies, in all forms of productive activities and in access to resources
7. Inequality between men and women in the sharing of power and decision-making at all levels
8. Insufficient mechanisms at all levels to promote the advancement of women
9. Lack of respect for and inadequate promotion and protection of the human rights of women
10. Stereotyping of women and inequality in women's access to and participation in all communication systems, especially in the media
11. Gender inequalities in the management of natural resources and in the safeguarding of the environment
12. Persistent discrimination against and violation of the rights of the girl child

The Platform for Action reaffirms the fundamental principle established in the World Conference of Human Rights, celebrated in Vienna in 1993, that women rights are an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of universal human rights.

The Commission on the Status of Women

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is the principal global policy-making body dedicated exclusively to gender equality and advancement of women. It is a functional commission of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), established by ECOSOC resolution 11(II) of 21 June 1946.

In 1996, ECOSOC in resolution 1996/6 expanded the Commission's mandate and decided that it should take a leading role in monitoring and reviewing progress and problems in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and in mainstreaming a gender perspective in UN activities.

During the Commission's annual two-week session, representatives of UN Member States, civil society organizations and UN entities gather at UN headquarters in New York. They discuss progress and gaps in the implementation of the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the key global policy document on gender equality, and the 23rd special session of the General Assembly held in 2000

(Beijing+5), as well as emerging issues that affect gender equality and the empowerment of women. Member States agree on further actions to accelerate progress and promote women's enjoyment of their rights in political, economic and social fields. The outcomes and recommendations of each session are forwarded to ECOSOC for follow-up.

UN Women supports all aspects of the Commission's work and facilitates the participation of civil society representatives.

Methods of Work

The Commission adopts multi-year work programmes to appraise progress and make further recommendations to accelerate the implementation of the Platform for Action. These recommendations take the form of negotiated agreed conclusions on a priority theme.

Under its current methods of work, established by ECOSOC resolutions 2006/9 and 2009/15, at each session the Commission:

- Engages in general discussion on the status of gender equality, identifying goals attained, achievements, gaps and challenges in relation to implementation of key commitments;
- Focuses on one priority theme, based on the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the 23rd special session of the General Assembly;
- Holds a high-level roundtable to exchange experiences, lessons learned and good practices on the priority theme;
- Evaluates progress in implementing agreed conclusions from previous sessions as a review theme;
- Convenes interactive panel discussions on steps and initiatives to accelerate implementation, and measures to build capacities for mainstreaming gender equality across policies and programmes;
- Addresses emerging issues that affect gender equality;
- Considers in closed meeting the report of its Working Group on Communications;
- Agrees on further actions for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women by adopting agreed conclusions and resolutions;
- Contributes gender perspectives to the work of other intergovernmental bodies and processes; and
- Celebrates International Women's Day on 8 March, when it falls within its session.

Multi-Year Programme of Work

The Commission elaborates its programme of work and every year adds an annual review theme to evaluate the implementation of agreed conclusions from a previous session.

Based on the most recent resolution from 2009 that establishes the priority and review themes for 2010–2014, the 58th review session will be dedicated to the following priority and review themes:

58th CSW (March 10th to 21st 2014): Priority theme: Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls. Review theme: Access and participation of women and girls to education, training, science and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work, from the 54th session of the CSW.

The 'agreed conclusions' adopted at the 57th CSW constitute a comprehensive blueprint of 69 concrete actions that governments and other stakeholders are expected to take. It stresses the need for preventive measures rooted in gender equality and women's empowerment in economic, political and all other spheres. There are important steps to improve laws and policies, commit adequate resources, and engage men and boys. Member States agreed to essential responses to violence, especially integrated services offering health care, psychological counseling, social support and other forms of assistance to survivors. To end impunity, States are expected to punish perpetrators. Clear actions are also set out to improve evidence and data to capture the pervasiveness of violence, and shape efforts to end it. For the first time, the phenomena of gender-related killings, or femicide, and cyber-stalking are highlighted, along with the importance of special provisions to address them.

First Session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development and the Montevideo Consensus.

The **Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development** was adopted by official representatives from 38 member countries and associate members of the United Nations at the First Session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development, held in Montevideo from August 12th to 15th 2013. It contains a series of agreements to strengthen implementation of population and development issues beyond 2014. States adopted 130 measures concerning nine priority areas, which are part of the new post 2014 agenda on population and development, and agreed to promote them. The Consensus constitutes a public policies framework to end discrimination and inequality and promote social inclusion.

Priority actions:

- A. Full integration of population dynamics into sustainable development with equality and respect for human rights (agreements 1 to 6)
- B. Rights, needs, responsibilities and requirements of girls, boys, adolescents and youth (agreements 7 to 17)
- C. Ageing, social protection and socio-economic challenges (agreements 18 to 32)
- D. Universal access to sexual and reproductive health services (agreements 33 to 46)
- E. Gender equality (agreements 47 to 65)
- F. International migration and the protection of the human rights of all migrants (agreements 66 to 75)
- G. Territorial inequality, spatial mobility and vulnerability (agreements 76 to 84)
- H. Indigenous peoples: interculturalism and rights (agreements 85 to 91)
- I. Afro-descendants: rights and combating racial discrimination (agreements 92 to 98)
- J. Frameworks for the implementation of the future regional agenda on population and development (agreements 99 to 108)
- K. Follow-up recommendations (agreements 109 to 130)

With the adoption of the Montevideo Consensus, a platform is established in Latin America and the Caribbean for dealing with population and development issues from human rights, gender and interculturality perspectives, as well as a commitment to increase the efforts in favour of their recognition, promotion and protection.

The rights of diverse groups of women, throughout their life cycles, with an emphasis on sexual and reproductive rights, are reflected in the new priority themes as necessary conditions for their empowerment and sustainable development.

With the adoption of the Montevideo Consensus, new human rights standards have been created. Governments agreed, for the first time ever, on a definition of sexual rights, which from now on constitutes the agreed basis and language in the Latin American and Caribbean region on this theme (agreement 34). The issue of sexual orientation, gender identity and LGBTs was framed from a point of view of rights and no discrimination.

In addition, governments committed to the rights of afro-descendants and to fight racism and discrimination, framing these issues as a specific thematic axis and as part of their agendas, both for compliance and accountability purposes.

In this first Conference, and in the Consensus itself, a more equal participation of civil society was also reflected, with responsibilities regarding implementation and follow-up (agreement 99).

The Montevideo Consensus constitutes a key input to the formulation of the sustainable development goals and for the development of the post 2015 agenda.

The Regional Conference on Women: Quito and Brasilia Consensuses

The Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean is a subsidiary body of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) which is convened on a regular basis, at least every three years, to identify women's needs at the regional and sub-regional levels, undertake periodic assessments of the activities carried out in order to fulfill the regional and international plans and agreements on the subject, serve as a forum for debates on relevant issues and present recommendations.

To date, the member States of ECLAC have held 11 sessions of the Regional Conference on the integration, the first one in Havana, Cuba (1977), and the last ones in Quito, Ecuador (2007) and Brasilia, Brazil (2010).

The XII Regional Conference will take place in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, from October 14th to 18th 2013, and will focus on **gender equality, women's empowerment and information and communications technologies (ICTs)**.

The sessions of the Regional Conference are attended by representatives of the Member States and associate members of the Commission, representatives of organs and entities of the United Nations System and non-governmental organizations recognized in the region. In 2013, UN Women participates in the Conference for the first time since its creation in July 2010.

The main outcome of the Conference is the Consensus document which is endorsed by the governments of all the participating Member States and which constitutes the political agreement to advance the inter-governmental gender agenda in the region.

A position paper is also presented at the Conference, prepared by the Division for Gender Affairs of the Commission, which is technical in nature, related to the main theme of the Conference and constitutes the framework for the

discussions and development of the Conference's work. On this occasion, the theme of the document is: *"Women in the digital economy. Breaking through the equality threshold"*.

Gender and ICTs

Today, ICTs form an essential support for the entire array of economic, political, cultural and social activities and represent a productive sector in their own right. As such, ICTs can drive equality by helping to reduce gender inequities as well as serving as a basis for the analysis of the potential interaction between social and digital gender gaps, beginning with the premise that women's access to ICT use is a necessary —though not sufficient— condition for opportunities in an increasingly interactive context.

Economy, well-being and technology are all crucial and interconnected elements for the design of pro-equality public policies capable of tackling the challenges of today's society ambitiously and innovatively. The core argument for their integration into policy revolves around women's role in processes of change and sustainable development in countries, which cannot be achieved without equitable participation by men and women in the quest for equality.



Brasilia Consensus

What kind of State? What kind of equality? was the theme of the 11th session of the Regional Conference. ECLAC presented a position document examining the achievements made in gender equality and the challenges still facing the Governments of the region in this regard, in light of the interplay between the State, the market and families -the three social institutions built up over time through policies, institutions, legislation, usage and custom, that together establish the conditions in which social and gender hierarchies are changed or perpetuated. The deliberations were based on the assessment of the main advances and challenges concerning fulfillment of the commitments arising from the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995) and the regional conferences on women.

The participating countries, represented by ministers and delegates of the highest level, adopted the following agreements in order to address the challenges to women's autonomy and gender equality:

1. Attain greater economic autonomy and equality in the workplace
2. Enhance the citizenship of women
3. Broaden the participation of women in decision-making and the exercise of power
4. Address all forms of violence against women
5. Facilitate women's access to new technologies and promote egalitarian, democratic and nondiscriminatory practices by the media
6. Promote the conditions for the integral health of women and for their sexual and reproductive rights
7. Carry out training and activities for exchanging and disseminating experiences with a view to the formulation of public policies based on the data collected by the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean
8. Promote international and regional cooperation for gender equality.



The Quito Consensus

During the X Regional Conference, member countries discussed the following fundamental issues for gender equity: analysis of the contribution of women to the economy and social protection, especially in relation to unpaid work performed by women; and political participation and gender parity in decision-making processes at all levels.

In the Quito Consensus, countries agreed to adopt all necessary affirmative action measures and mechanisms, including legislative reforms and budgetary measures, to ensure the full participation of women in public office and in political representative positions. They also called upon countries to develop electoral policies of a permanent character that will prompt political parties to incorporate women's agendas and the gender perspective in their content, actions and statutes, with a view to consolidating gender parity as a policy of State.

In relation to labour issues, the Quito Consensus called for guarantees to eliminate all discriminatory, precarious and illegal labour conditions and to encourage women to participate in occupational sectors that transcend sexist forms of labour segregation. It also called for the equalization of labour conditions and domestic work rights with those of other types of paid work in accordance with ratified International Labour Organization conventions and international standards of women's rights. It called for the elimination of the income gap

between women and men and wage discrimination in all areas of work, and the abrogation of legislative and institutional mechanisms that give rise to discrimination and precarious working conditions.

Countries agree to adopt measures that contribute to the elimination of all forms of violence and their manifestations against women, especially femicide and feminicide, as well as to undertake efforts to sign ratify and disseminate the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and its Optional Protocol as a means of ensuring its application.

Agreements by theme:

National mechanisms for the advancement of women i); Political participation, parity and decision-making iii), iv), v), vi), vii), viii), ix), x), xi); Unpaid domestic work, work/life balance xiii), xiv), xx), xxiii), xxvii), xxi); Social security xv); Employment, labour conditions and salaries xvi), xvii), xxii); Land ownership, financing and technologies xviii); Adolescent and young women xxvi); Indigenous and Afro-descendant women xix); Health, sexual and reproductive rights, HIV/AIDS xxiv), xxv); Violence xxviii), xxix); Interregional and intraregional migration xxxiii), xxxiv); Smuggling and trafficking of women and organized crime xxxi), xxxii); Education xxx); Media xii); Regional and international cooperation iii); CEDAW xxxv); International Rural Women's Day xxxvi); Equality observatory to strengthen national gender machineries. Agreement No. 3

Gender Equality and Women's Rights in the Post 2015 Development Agenda

We are currently at a key moment when the international community and the governments are defining the development framework which will come after 2015, as well as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) established at the Rio+20 Summit. The post 2015 development agenda tries to achieve a greater convergence between the sustainability and poverty agendas, and to consolidate and amplify the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), in the context of new challenges and scenarios.

UN Women is promoting the empowerment of women and girls and the protection of their rights as a central part of

this new development framework. It calls for the incorporation of a stand-alone goal to guarantee the achievement of gender equality, women's rights and the empowerment of women, as well as the mainstreaming of the gender equality perspective into the other goals of the new development framework.

The entity emphasizes that this new stand-alone goal should focus on the following priorities, which represent the three priority target areas to address gender equality, women's rights and women's empowerment:

Protection against violence against women and girls

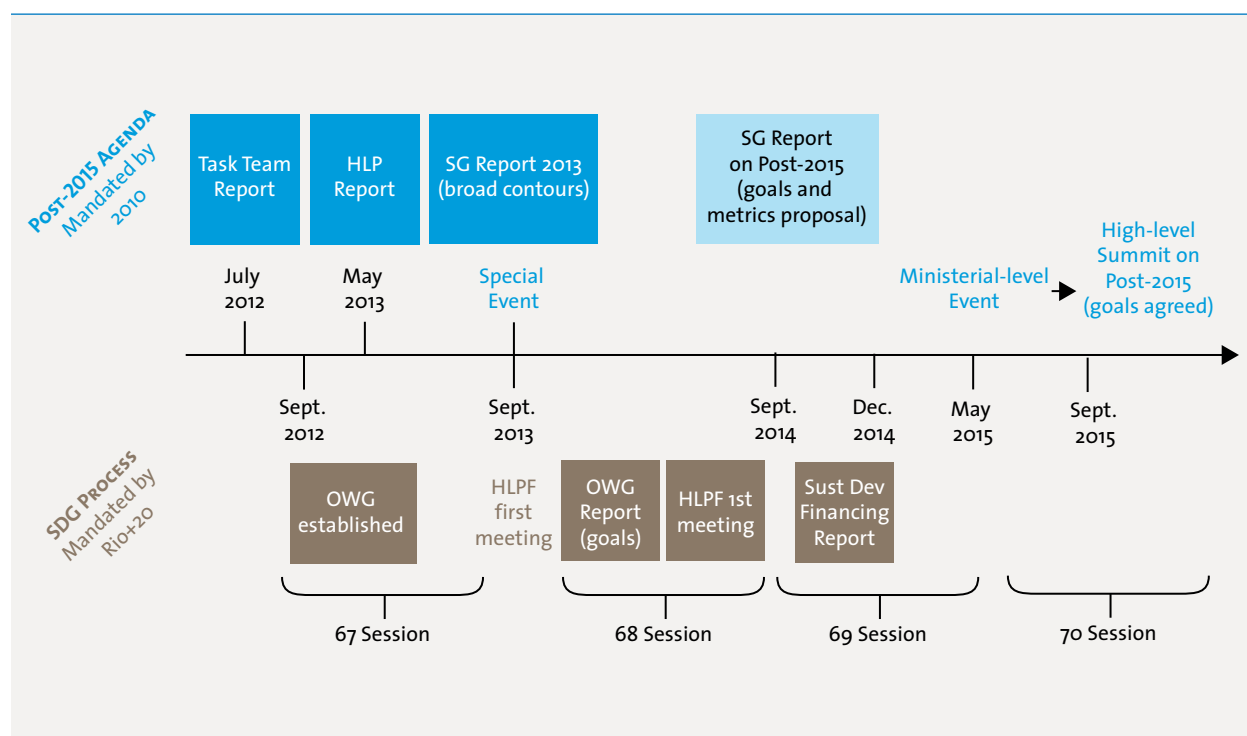
- Concrete actions to eliminate the debilitating fear and/or experience of violence must be a centerpiece of any future framework.
- Gender equality in capabilities and resources - knowledge and health— encompassing sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights for women and adolescent girls - as well as resources and opportunities, such as productive assets (including land), decent work and equal pay – needs to be addressed with renewed urgency to build women's economic and social security.
- Gender equality in decision-making power in public and private institutions, in national parliaments, local councils, media and civil society, as well as in private-sector institutions, such as in the management and governance of firms, and in the families and communities.

In addition to holding a series of thematic consultations during 2013, the United Nations System has supported 88 countries in holding national consultations with a wide spectrum of interested parties, including governments, civil society, private sector, media, universities and think tanks.

As a result, four reports have, or are to be, presented to the Secretary General of the United Nations by:

1. The High Level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda;
2. The United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN);
3. The United Nations Global Compact;
4. The United Nations Development Group.

A Possible Road Map to 2015





Within the framework of the 68th Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, a high level session took place on September 25th 2013 on the Millennium Development Goals, as a first step in the inter-governmental process towards the final definition of the post 2015 development agenda to take place in September 2015.

One of the main actors in this process is the Open Working Group of the General Assembly, which includes the following governments of Latin America and the Caribbean:

- Colombia / Guatemala,
- Bahamas / Barbados,
- Guyana/Haiti/Trinidad and Tobago,
- Mexico / Peru,
- Brazil / Nicaragua,
- Argentina / Bolivia / Ecuador

This Group, which is tasked with preparing a proposal on the Sustainable Development Goals to be presented as a report

to the General Secretary, has the support of the United Nations Technical Support Team (TST). The TST, co-chaired by DESA and UNDP, with the participation of the Regional Commissions (ECLAC in the case of Latin America and the Caribbean), consists of over 40 UN entities. The TST has produced a series of conceptual documents as an important input in the construction of the post 2015 development agenda, out of which two are relevant for gender equality and women's empowerment:

1. Addressing inequalities: The heart of the post-2015 agenda and the future we want for all (ECE, ESCAP, UNDESA, UNICEF, UNRISD, UN Women)
2. A transformative stand-alone goal on achieving gender equality, women's rights and women's empowerment (UN Women)

UN Women's document is a call to pay greater attention to the structural roots of gender inequality in the new development agenda.

The Three Components of the Transformative Stand-Alone Goal on Achieving Gender Equality, Women's Rights and Women's Empowerment

1. Protection Against Violence Targets

- Prevent and respond to violence against women and girls
- Ensure security, support services and justice for women and girls

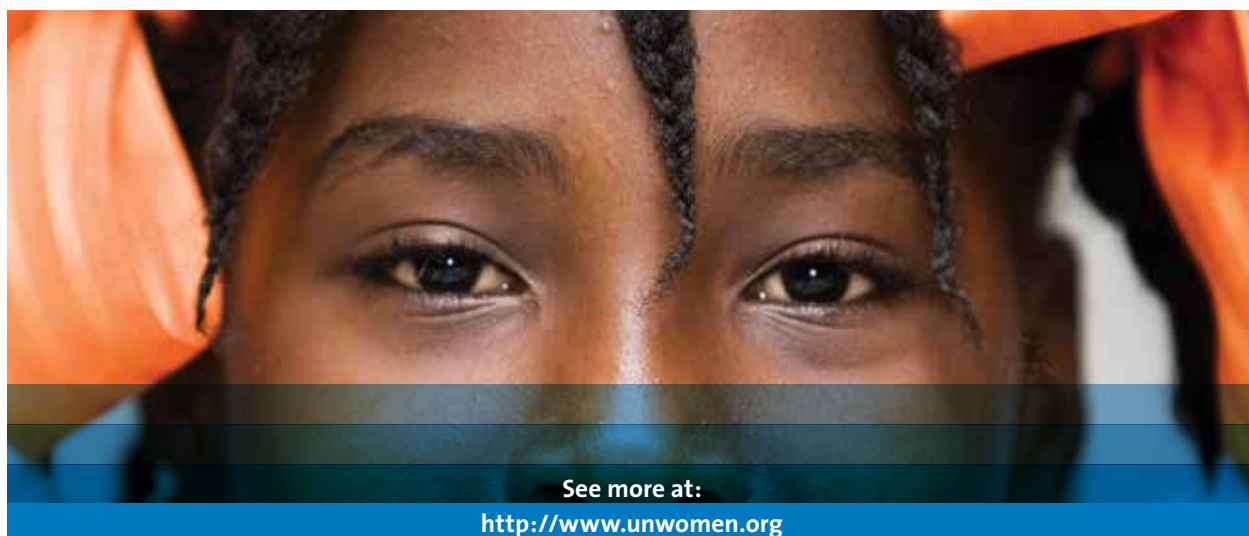
2. Capabilities and Resources Targets

- Eradicate women's poverty
- Promote decent work for women
- Build women's access to, and control over, productive assets
- Reduce women's time burdens
- Promote education and skills for women and girls
- Improve women's and girls' health
- Reduce maternal mortality and ensure women's and girls' sexual and reproductive health, and reproductive rights
- Ensure women's sustainable access to energy
- Ensure women's sustainable access to water and sanitation

3. Leadership and Participation Targets

- Promote equal decision making in households
- Promote participation in public institutions
- Promote women's leadership in the private sector
- Strengthen women's collective action

For each component, a set of indicators is proposed to ensure accountability.



See more at:

<http://www.unwomen.org>