Sustainable Development Goal 5
and interlinkages with other SDGs

An Expert Group Meeting in preparation for HLPF 2025: "*Advancing sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based solutions for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals for leaving no one behind*"

21-22 January 2025

UN Women HQ, New York

Programme

Day 1 (21 January 2025)

8:00 am – 8:15 am	**Opening and welcome** ● **Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda**, Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy ExecutiveDirector, UN Women *(TBC)* ● UNDESA (TBD)
8:15 am – 9:15 am	**SDG 5 in Focus: Assessment of Progress thus Far and the implementation of the Beijing DPfA** As the High-Level Political Forum 2025 undertakes a comprehensive review of SDG 5, this session provides a timely and critical overview of global progress toward gender equality. It will examine the current status of SDG 5 targets and indicators, as the 30th Anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action is fast approaching. It will offer a forecast and projections for achieving SDG 5 by 2030. With the HLPF 2025 serving as a pivotal moment to reflect on gaps, challenges, and successes, this session aims to inspire action to accelerate progress, as well as how policies and legislation have been developed and implemented towards achieving gender equality at all levels. Likewise, it will also address women's full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership in political, economic, and public life, as well as the role of technology, particularly information and communications technology, as a powerful enabler for the empowerment of women and girls. Internal guiding questions for panelists:

	- What do the latest statistics reveal about global achievements and gaps in SDG 5 targets and indicators? - What forecasts and projections indicate the likelihood of meeting SDG 5 by 2030, and what additional measures are needed? - How can the Beijing Declaration & PfA and the CEDAW Convention continue to guide efforts to achieve SDG 5, particularly in the context of the HLPF review? - How can we leverage the commitments on gender equality and the empowerment of women in the Pact of the Future. What successful interventions and policies can be scaled to accelerate progress?
9:15 am – 9:45 am	***Break***
9:45 am – 11:05 am	**Breaking Barriers, Scaling Success: Lessons learned and Accelerating Progress Towards SDG 5** This section will focus on evaluating advancements made since SDG 5 was last reviewed at the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) in 2022, highlighting successful initiatives and partnerships that can be scaled up to drive further progress on SDG 5 while also generating synergies with other Goals. It will ask what has been learnt in the ten years of implementation of SDG 5, what can be done differently and what must be reinforced. Discussions will delve into key lessons learned about achieving gender equality and explore how these insights can help overcome persistent barriers. The session will also examine practical measures to strengthen the means of implementation, with a particular focus on capacity building and data collection to ensure the achievement of SDG 5. It will also address which strategies could be implemented to counter reversals and the push backs seen in the norms about gender equality. Internal guiding questions for panelists: - What have been the most significant advancements in achieving SDG 5 since the HLPF 2022 review, and what made them successful? What new challenges have slowed progress? - How can successful initiatives and partnerships, including those to respond to current shocks and crises, be scaled and replicated across diverse regional and national contexts? - What are the key lessons learned in promoting gender equality that can address persistent barriers to progress and build synergies with other SDGs? - What are some recent examples of capacity building and institutional strengthening that have empowered stakeholders to drive progress toward SDG 5? - In the ten years of SDG implementation, what are some gaps in data

	collection and analysis that have been identified, and how can they be addressed to better monitor and accelerate progress? • How can international collaboration and financing mechanisms support the means of implementation for gender equality?
11:05 a.m – 12:30 pm	**Closing the Gap: Financing for Gender Equality** This session will delve into the critical need for increased and sustained financing to achieve SDG5, also in line with SDG17, and on addressing the persistent financing gap that hinders progress toward achieving gender equality, the rights and empowerment of women and girls. Participants will explore financing mechanisms, such as gender-responsive budgeting, social impact bonds, and discuss strategies to enhance accountability and transparency in gender-related expenditures. The session will also emphasize the importance of fostering partnerships among governments, private sector, civil society, and multilateral organizations to drive impactful investments in gender equality. Discussions will also highlight the importance of embedding gender equality as a cross-cutting priority in the forthcoming Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4), ensuring a comprehensive approach to sustainable financing for gender equality and women's empowerment. Internal guiding questions for panelists: • What financing gaps exist in achieving SDG 5, and what practical steps can be taken to close these gaps by 2030? • How can gender-responsive budgeting be scaled and institutionalized to align national and local policies with SDG 5 targets and to create synergies with other Goals and Targets? • What innovative financial instruments or mechanisms, can drive investments in gender equality initiatives? • How can the private sector, multilateral institutions, and civil society enhance collaboration to mobilize resources for SDG 5? • What accountability and monitoring frameworks can ensure that financing for gender equality is effectively targeted and impactful? • How can the global community ensure that gender equality remains central to the FfD4 agenda, including in areas such as debt relief, development cooperation, and tax reform? • What role does data collection and analysis play in tracking progress on financing SDG 5, and how can this be strengthened?
12:30 pm – 1:00 pm	**Wrap up and preparation for breakout sessions**

1:00-2:00p.m.	**Lunch Break**
2:00p.m.-4:00p.m.	**Parallel working groups to discuss recommendations for accelerating progress on SDG 5, managing trade-offs and generating synergies across the 2030 Agenda**

2:00p.m.-4:00p.m. (continued)

1) **Data-Driven Equality: Leveraging Gender Data to Achieve SDG 5 and deliver across the 2030 Agenda**

Achieving Sustainable Development Goal 5 (SDG 5) on gender equality needs robust, disaggregated data to inform effective policies and monitor progress. However, significant data gaps persist, with only 55% of the necessary data available in 2024, leaving many women and girls unrepresented in statistical analyses. This session will explore the current landscape of gender data, identifying challenges and trends. It will also highlight opportunities to enhance data systems through technological innovations, capacity building, and international cooperation. By strengthening gender data collection and analysis, evidence-based policies that effectively address inequalities and accelerate progress toward SDG 5 can be developed while also enabling analysis of opportunities to address trade-offs and build synergies with other Goals and Targets through SDG 5 achievements.

Guiding Questions:

- What are the primary obstacles to collecting comprehensive gender-disaggregated data, and how can they be addressed?
- How can improved gender data inform and transform policies to effectively advance SDG 5 while building synergies with other SDGs?
- What are some examples of technological innovations and partnerships being applied in closing gender data gaps?
- How can States build capacity to produce and use high-quality gender statistics for monitoring and achieving SDG 5?
- What best practices exist for integrating gender data into national statistical systems and policy frameworks how can disaggregated data, not only by sex, but by age, disability status, sexual orientation, ethnicity, educational level, and location be made available and more accessible for advocacy purposes?
- How can global and regional collaboration foster consistency and comparability in gender data? What are the benefits or the disadvantages of using harmonized gender data?
- What role does gender data play in addressing intersecting inequalities, such as those faced by marginalized groups, in achieving SDG 5?

2) **Climate Equity: Empowering Women, Driving Resilience**

The intersection of climate change and gender inequality presents unique

challenges and opportunities for advancing sustainable development and building resilience. Climate change disproportionately affects women and girls due to existing social, economic, and cultural inequalities, yet women and girls also play vital roles as leaders, innovators, and agents of change in addressing climate induced crises. This session will explore the critical links between climate action and gender equality, highlighting the importance of integrating gender-responsive, human rights-based, and intersectional approaches into climate policies, programmes, and financing mechanisms in light of the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment. Discussions will focus on ensuring women's leadership and participation in climate decision-making, enhancing access to climate financing for gender-responsive initiatives, and addressing the specific needs of women and girls in climate-impacted regions. The session will also highlight the importance of recognizing and leveraging traditional knowledge and community-based practices to create inclusive and sustainable climate solutions. By exploring the gendered dimensions of climate change, the session will identify actionable strategies for promoting climate equity, resilience, and transformative change for accelerating progress towards the achievement of SDG 5.

- How can gender-responsive approaches be effectively integrated into global and national and climate policies, strategies and plans, including National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and Long-Term, Low-Emission Development Strategies (LT-LEDS)?
- What mechanisms can ensure women's full, equal, and meaningful participation and leadership in climate decision-making processes at all levels, and how can their traditional knowledge and leadership in community-based climate solutions be better leveraged and amplified?
- How can climate financing mechanisms, including the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF), better integrate gender equality, support women-led climate initiatives, and address barriers to financial inclusion for women?
- What cases can be highlighted where gender-responsive adaptation and resilience-building programmes have successfully increased women's capacity to address climate risks and strengthen their resilience?
- How can climate policies and programmes integrate multiple and intersecting forms of discriminations faced by women and girls, including indigenous women and women form local communities?
- What are some examples of effective multi-stakeholder partnerships, including among governments, civil society, and the private sector, that promote intersectionality considerations and gender-responsive climate action?
- What are some promising accountability mechanisms to ensure that gender equality is prioritized in climate action? What tools and frameworks can be used to effectively measure the impact of gender-

responsive climate actions?

3) Breaking the Cycle of the feminization of poverty: Poverty Eradication, Social Protection, and Social Services

Poverty is not gender neutral. As research has shown throughout the years, women and girls are more likely to experience poverty due to systemic inequalities, including limited access to education, healthcare, financial resources, and social protection, which constitutes a persistent barrier to achieving SDG 5. At the same time, women are often responsible for unpaid caregiving responsibilities, and experience restricted economic opportunities, and unequal access to social services, which reinforce cycles of inequality. This session will focus on gender-responsive economic policies and delve into how targeted interventions and gender-responsive social protection systems can break the intergenerational cycle of feminization of poverty, enabling women and girls to fully participate in and benefit from economic and social development. Achieving these outcomes will directly support the achievement of SDG 1 (No Poverty) SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities) and SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), while also contributing to the implementation of all the other SDGs. To advance SDG 5, this session will focus on building robust, gender-responsive social protection systems, from cash transfer programs to universal healthcare, including sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights and childcare services, while examining how these systems empower women and foster economic independence. Discussions will examine how social policies can ensure access to healthcare, education, and childcare services, enabling women to achieve economic and social empowerment.

Guiding Questions:
- How do gender-focused social protection systems, including care systems, empower women and contribute to the achievement of SDG 5?
- What innovative approaches can ensure women and girls in marginalized communities have access to education, healthcare, including sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights and financial services?
- How can governments prioritize the needs of women and girls in poverty reduction strategies to ensure long-term impact?
- What roles do public-private partnerships play in delivering gender-sensitive social safety nets and services?
- How can the international community work collectively to address structural inequalities and negative social norms that perpetuate poverty among women and girls?
- How does investing in women's economic empowerment accelerate progress towards the 2030 Agenda, and SDG 5 in particular?

4:00 – 4:30p.m.	**Key messages and recommendations from the Breakout Sessions 1,2 and 3.**

Day 2 (22 January 2025)

8:00 am – 8:10 am	**Welcome and recap of day 1 messages**
8:10 am – 10:10 am	**Parallel working groups to discuss recommendations for accelerating progress on SDG 5, managing trade-offs and generating synergies across the 2030 Agenda** 4) **Bridging the Digital Divide: Empowering Women and Girls through Gender-Responsive Technology and Innovation.** Science and technology is rarely gender-responsive and often fail to take into account the specific needs and aspirations of women and girls, either as users or creators of digital innovation. In addition, there's a persistent gender digital divide, fueled by the significant barriers women and girls face with regards to education, employment and leadership in the science, technology and innovation (STI). Women hold only one in three research positions worldwide and in 2022, women made up less than one in four employees in science, engineering and ICT jobs. Only one in five science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) jobs. Only 15% of tech startup founders are women and only 17.7% of inventors named in international patent applications were women. Without representation, fast evolving technologies such as AI can reinforce biases against women and minority groups and widen inequalities. Women are more likely than men to hold jobs that could be replaced by AI technology (3.7% of female employment compared to 1.4% of male employment). Despite these challenges, a number of companies, innovators, governments and other actors are developing and expanding practical science and technology solutions for gender equality and sustainable development. This session will showcase these efforts and identify the partnerships needed for scaling up evidence-based solutions. It will identify concrete strategies to increase the participation of women in STEM including in the design phase. • How can science, technology and innovation (STI) be used to address challenges specifically faced by women? What are some case studies of women-centered tech and innovation solutions? • How can STI initiatives also address interlinkages and intersectionalities of exclusion related to gender, age, ability, ethnicity and others? • What are some policies that help ensure resources are directed toward gender-responsive research and innovation? • How can businesses, civil society, private sector, governments and other stakeholders create an enabling ecosystem for women's leadership and participation in STI? • What policies or regulatory frameworks are needed so that technological change, such as the development of AI, bridges gaps and inequalities

rather than leaving women and girls behind? And what are examples of AI being leveraged to close the gaps and inequalities?

5) Transforming Norms: Freedom from Violence, Stigma, and Stereotypes
This session will address gender-based violence, discrimination, stereotypes and negative social norms which perpetuate inequality and hinder women and girls from enjoying their human rights. It will delve into the heightened risks of gender-based violence during crises, including the COVID-19 pandemic, and address the alarming persistence of conflict-related sexual violence in fragile and conflict-affected settings. The discussion will focus on prevention strategies to put an end to gender-based violence and discrimination and promote inclusive narratives that empower women and girls while addressing the interesting forms of discrimination and stigmas that exacerbate marginalization, as well as how these strategies would contribute to the achievement of SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) This session will also align with targets with that emphasize on dismantling societal norms that perpetuate stigma and stereotypes, such as child, early, and forced marriage and female genital mutilation; and adopting and strengthening policies and enforceable legislation for gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. The session will highlight survivor-centered approaches and examine how addressing human rights violations and systemic discrimination can create equitable societies and more resilient institutions.

Guiding Questions:

- What are the most effective interventions to prevent gender-based violence and systemic discrimination, and how can they be scaled up globally?
- What lessons can we draw from the increase in gender-based violence during the COVID-19 pandemic, and how can these lessons inform strategies to address future crises?
- What are effective interventions to prevent and respond to conflict-related sexual violence, and how can these be integrated into broader peacebuilding and humanitarian efforts?
- How can governments strengthen accountability frameworks to address human rights violations, including conflict-related sexual violence, and ensure justice for survivors of gender-based violence?
- How can laws and policies explicitly combat multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination faced by women and girls?
- How can we address deep-rooted stereotypes and negative social norms and practices, including child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation, which perpetuate gender inequality?
- What is the role of the media and how can they challenge stereotypes and negative social norms and promote equality, and how can it be mobilized to promote positive, empowering narratives with respect to women and girls?
- How can education systems and public campaigns be leveraged to foster

long-term cultural shifts toward equality and non-discrimination?
- What are the gaps in the implementation of global and national policies addressing gender-based violence?
- How to actively engage more men and boys in addressing discrimination against women and girls, gender-based violence and stereotypes and negative social norms?
- How can survivors of GBV be more involved in the design of national policies and actions to prevent and combat this phenomenon and how can survivor-centered approaches contribute to societal transformation?

6) Advancing Women Political and Economic leadership and participation for effective governance.
Achieving SDG 5 requires transformative shifts in governance and institutional frameworks to ensure women's full, equal and meaningful participation in decision-making processes and the development of gender-responsive policies across all sectors, including in political and economic spheres. Target 5.5 specifically emphasizes the importance of women's leadership in political, economic, and public life, while cross-cutting with SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions) by promoting inclusive governance and accountability, and thus contributing to a more effective and meaningful participation of women and girls in the implementation of all the SDGs. This session will explore how gender-responsive institutions can dismantle systemic barriers and amplify women's roles in governance and decision-making processes as well as accelerate progress toward gender equality, build trust in institutions by integrating gender perspectives into governance structures, enhancing transparency, and fostering inclusive decision-making processes. It will also examine accountability frameworks to track and measure progress, ensuring commitments to gender equality translate into impactful actions and highlight innovative approaches to creating equitable policies that ensure women's voices are represented in trade, economic development, public administration and political leadership, thereby accelerating progress towards gender equality and stronger, more inclusive institutions.

Guiding Questions

- What policy reforms and institutional practices have proven successful in increasing women's participation and leadership in political institutions, including parliaments, cabinets, and local governments??
- How can gender-responsive budgeting and planning enhance institutional accountability to SDG 5?
- What tools and indicators are most effective in measuring progress toward gender equality in governance and political and economic participation?
- How can governments and institutions ensure gender-responsive policy development and implementation, particularly in political and economic spheres such as trade, economic planning and public administration?
- What mechanisms can enhance women's participation in political and public life, and decision-making overall?

	- How can we amplify women's roles in political and economic matters and ensure their voices are mainstreamed into institutional strategies and reforms? - How are some recent examples of policies implemented by governments and organizations that are gender-responsive and inclusive in both political and economic arenas? - How can accountability frameworks be strengthened to measure and incentivize gender equality progress across political and economic sectors?
10:10 am - 10:20a.m.	*Break*
10:20a.m. - 10:50a.m.	**Key messages and recommendations from the Breakout Sessions 4, 5 and 6.**
10:50 a.m – 11:50a.m	**Discussion in plenary and finalizing recommendations**
11:50a.m.– 12:00p.m.	**Next steps**