

SDG Action Segment for Goal 5



Partnerships to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

12.00 - 01.00 PM

5 February 2025

Trusteeship Council Chamber, UNHQ

sdgs.un.org/2025ECOSOCPartnershipForum

SDG ACTION SEGMENT

2025

Organized by

- UN Women
- United Nations Population Fund
- Women's Major Group
- Sendai Stakeholder Engagement Mechanism
- Local Authorities Major Group



**ECOSOC
Partnership
Forum**



Background

Having passed the midpoint to 2030, the world continues to face significant challenges in achieving all of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including SDG 5 on gender equality – a critical and cross-cutting enabler for all SDGs, from ending poverty and ensuring food security to addressing climate change and fostering peace. Yet progress remains alarmingly off track. One in five girls still marries before the age of 18; female genital mutilation cases have risen by 30 million compared to eight years ago; and far too many women still cannot realize the right to decide on their sexual and reproductive health. Violence against women persists, disproportionately affecting those with disabilities,¹ while adolescent girls and young women also face unique barriers to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities.² These compounded challenges affect the health and well-being of women and girls and increase the risk of HIV, with 4,000 adolescent girls and young women globally contracting the virus weekly.³

In this regard, the recently adopted [Pact for the Future](#) recognizes the need to “promote gender equality and empower and protect all women and girls as essential prerequisites to achieve the [SDGs].” Accelerated efforts are needed to achieve women’s participation and empowerment and to eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls.

The upcoming [30th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action \(Beijing+30\)](#) offers an opportune moment to reaffirm global commitments and galvanize efforts toward achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. Since the [Platform](#)’s adoption in 1995, women’s movements have played a transformative role in advocating for policy change, holding governments accountable, and mobilizing resources for structural transformation. However, shrinking civic spaces and the rise of backlash against gender equality threaten these movements’ progress, underlining the need for robust, multi-stakeholder partnerships.

This milestone aligns with the continued implementation of the [International Conference on Population and Development \(ICPD\) Programme of](#)

1 <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2024/The-Sustainable-Development-Goals-Report-2024.pdf>

2 <https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/resource-pdf/CYAA%20V2.pdf>

3 UNAIDS, Fact Sheet 2024: Global HIV statistics (Geneva, 2024).

[Action](#), which celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2024. Together, these two frameworks remain cornerstones for achieving SDG 5, emphasizing individual dignity and human rights and meaningfully engaging women and girls in their diversity as agents of change. However, the backsliding on the rights and choices of women and girls increasingly puts sexual and reproductive health at risk, reversing the hard-won gains made since 1994 in Cairo and highlighting the need for renewed actions.

As recalled in the Pact for the Future, action by **local and regional governments** (LRGs) play a pivotal role in this context, with localization and LRG action identified as key drivers to rescue the SDGs, including SDG5. By providing gender-responsive local public services, LRGs can foster inclusive, care-driven policies and actions that address multiple and intersecting inequalities. They bridge global policies with local realities, promoting partnerships and gender equality frameworks that attend to community-specific needs, including partnering with grassroots women’s organizations, collectives, movements, and other relevant stakeholders. Amid recent demographic shifts, local governments can also be crucial in tackling population dynamics and development challenges to localize the ICPD Agenda and promote multilevel partnerships.

The nexus between gender equality, **environmental sustainability, and just transitions** is also critical, as there can be no climate justice without gender justice. Women, particularly in rural, Indigenous, and other vulnerable communities, are on the frontlines of experiencing and addressing the impacts of climate crises. Yet, they are underrepresented in decision-making processes related to climate adaptation and mitigation, and their access to climate-resilient technologies and resources remains limited. Strengthening gender-responsive partnerships can address these inequities, ensuring women’s voices shape sustainable solutions and that resources are equitably accessible. To complement these efforts, the [Sendai Framework’s Gender Action Plan \(GAP\)](#) fosters resilience-building and integrates **gender-responsive risk reduction strategies** into sustainable development. Prioritizing partnerships, emphasizing women’s leadership and participation to ensure equity and inclusiveness, and tackling the burden of unpaid care work by advocating for gender-sensitive programs that redistribute responsibilities are all necessary to counteract the exacerbation of gender inequalities in this context. By addressing policy gaps with risk reduction strategies, stakeholders can proactively foster environments where gender equality efforts can

thrive, leaving no one behind.

The lack of **adequate financing** for gender equality continues to impede progress and the achievement of SDG 5. This gap hampers efforts to implement transformative initiatives, from changing harmful social norms to advocating for bodily autonomy. Feminist funds, driven by women's movements, have emerged as vital mechanisms to bridge this gap by channelling resources directly to community-led solutions. Multi-partner resource mobilization, fiscal transfers, and decentralization to LRGs are also crucial to close the financing gap for gender equality and drive sustainable financing by promoting community-led, locally-driven solutions.

Data and evidence play a vital role in driving accountability on gender equality issues. With only five years left to achieve the SDGs, leveraging the transformative potential of gender-disaggregated data, evidence-based solutions, increased financial investments, and multilevel collaboration in monitoring and reporting implementation is key. UN Women's [Gender Snapshot 2024 report](#) shows, however, that countries are, on average, only at the halfway point in planning, producing and making gender data available.

Addressing these challenges requires the need for coordinated efforts and innovative solutions by UN entities, Member States, civil society, the private sector, youth representatives, academia and local governments. The current global context also requires effective multi-stakeholder strategies that engage non-traditional partners, as well as fostering dialogue with those who promote narratives that counter the advancement of gender equality. By unpacking some of the systemic barriers, including governance frameworks and financing deficits, that are hindering the achievement of SDG 5, this Action Segment intends to inspire actionable solutions to accelerate gender equality and deliver on the promises of the 2030 Agenda.

Objectives of the Segment

- **Highlight data as a catalyst:** Showcase innovative uses of gender-disaggregated data and evidence to advance gender equality and inform effective policies and interventions.
- **Strengthen resourcing, including public financing and enabling governance frameworks for gender equality:** Discuss strategies to mobilize and scale up funding for gender equality, with a particular

focus on feminist funds and locally-driven initiatives.

- **Promote local partnerships:** Explore how local governments and community-based partnerships can drive transformative change for gender equality at the grassroots level.
- **Celebrate effective partnerships:** Share case studies of successful, inclusive, multi-stakeholder partnerships that have contributed to advancing SDG 5.

Follow-up processes

- 69th Session on the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW69) (10-21 March 2025)
- 58th Session on the Commission on Population and Development (CPD58) (7-11 April 2025)
- High-level Political Forum (14-23 July 2025) with SDG3 and 5 under in-depth review
- Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (30 June-3 July 2025)
- The Second World Summit for Social Development (4-6 November 2025)

Resources

- [Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals: The gender snapshot 2024](#)
- Review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly. Report of the Secretary-General (Forthcoming)
- [Bridging the Gender Gap in Access to finance for women entrepreneurs through Gender Lens Investing](#)
- [Women's Major Group HLPF 2024 Position Paper](#)
- [Gender Action Plan to support the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 \(Sendai GAP\)](#)

**For additional information,
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- Ms. Galanne Deressa, Intergovernmental Affairs Coordinator, UNFPA, deressa@unfpa.org

Programme

Welcome by youth moderator

- Ms. Loretta Ching'andu, Education and Gender Equality Youth Advocate

Panel discussion/ fireside chat

Panellists:

- Ms. Shawyn Patterson-Howard, Mayor of Mount Vernon, New York
- Ms. Aarushi Khanna, Asia-Pacific Regional Lead, Equal Measures 2030 (virtual)
- Ms. Foteini Papagiotti, Deputy Director of Policy & Advocacy, International Center for Research on Women (ICRW)
- Mr. Olela Tonny, Gender Expert, Child Protection & SRHR Advocate (virtual)

Key Themes for Discussion

- **Partnerships for Change:** Leveraging diverse stakeholders— civil society, local governments, women's movements, private sector, UN entities, traditional and religious leaders, and philanthropies - to scale up progress on gender equality.
- **Data-Driven Transformation:** Highlighting the importance of gender-responsive data in tracking progress, identifying gaps, and driving systemic change.
- **Bridging the Financing Gap:** Addressing the disproportionately low share of international funding allocated to gender equality and exploring innovative financing mechanisms.

Interactive discussion

Moderator facilitates interactive Q&A with audience and panel members

Key takeaways

- H.E. Ambassador Al-Wasil, Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the UN and Chair of the 69th session of the Commission on the Status of Women

Closing remarks

- Ms. Diene Keita, Deputy Executive Director, Programme, UNFPA

Action Segment Rapporteur

- Mr. Albert Lladó, Manager for Partnerships, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)