

# Gender Equality and the Sustainable Development Goals

## Toward a More Feminist United Nations

The Feminist UN Campaign brings together leading, feminist thinkers in civil society, philanthropy, academia and former UN staff around a shared agenda for women's rights and gender equality at the United Nations. These insights were first brought together in a flagship report, "Toward a More Feminist United Nations," published by the International Center for Research on Women (ICRW) in September 2016. The report highlights both transformative and practical steps the Secretary-General, his staff and UN agencies can make in achieving gender equality across the UN system, in both its policies and practices. Specific recommendations on gender equality and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are outlined below in this policy brief. To read the full report, please visit: <https://www.icrw.org/publications/towards-feminist-united-nations/>.

The SDGs represent the single largest opportunity to both focus concerted effort on achieving gender equality and to mainstream a focus on gender across global, sustainable development efforts. However, the Goals currently lack a meaningful accountability framework and are in danger of losing or watering down their focus on gender.

We therefore recommend that the UN:



Support grassroots, rights-based movements and protect civil society spaces in Member States through explicitly engaging with them

Link the SDGs and their targets to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) to enable a feminist accountability framework where Member States must report on their progress and can be challenged by civil society

- Support more effective shadow reporting by civil society organizations to ensure full citizen oversight of SDG claims
- Protect the stand-alone gender Goal (SDG 5) and ensure gender mainstreaming throughout all other Goals, including throughout the measurement framework



Ensure that gender equality and women's human rights are cross-cutting themes in all related forums and discussions for follow up and review of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, including the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), which should include shadow reporting

Provide guidelines and support to countries to ensure that women's civil society and feminist organizations can play an active role in implementation of the 2030 Agenda at all levels



Link the SDGs with the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and ensure that the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) has a clear mandate to oversee implementation of the 2030 Agenda

Secretary-General advance the collection and use of complete, accurate gender data to measure efforts toward and achievement of the targets outlined in SDG 5 and across the SDGs



Secretary-General appoint a high-level designee for SDG implementation who ensures that these proposals for monitoring and accountability are undertaken