

High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

Post 2015 process

Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals

Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing

2nd Committee of the General Assembly

Rio+20

Participating States

Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD)

Milestones

2014

Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States

2013

Inaugural session of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

2012

United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20)

2010

Five-year review of the Mauritius Strategy of Implementation (MSI+5)

2005

Mauritius Strategy of Implementation (MSI)

2002

**High-Level Political Forum**



The United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development provides leadership and reviews progress on sustainable development.

[More information](#)

**SDGs**

Open Working Group proposal for

**Sustainable Development Goals**

Open Working Group proposal for Sustainable Development Goals

[More information](#)

**Post 2015**

**Post 2015 process**

The process of arriving at the 2015 development agenda is Member State-led with broad participation from external stakeholders.

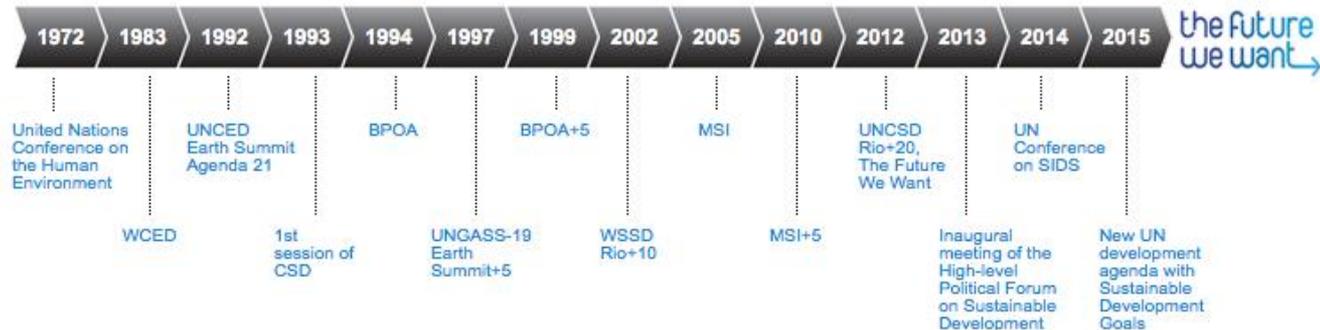
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**Rio+20**



Rio+20 resulted in a focused political outcome document which contains clear and practical measures for implementing sustainable development.

[More information](#)



Since the 1972 UN Conference on the Human Environment the reach of sustainable development governance has expanded



# OWG outcome document

## Sustainable Development Goals

- Goal 1** End poverty in all its forms everywhere
- Goal 2** End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
- Goal 3** Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
- Goal 4** Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
- Goal 5** Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- Goal 6** Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
- Goal 7** Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
  
- Goal 8** Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
- Goal 9** Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
- Goal 10** Reduce inequality within and among countries

# Sustainable Development Goals -2

**Goal 11** Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

**Goal 12** Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

**Goal 13** Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts\*

**Goal 14** Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

**Goal 15** Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

**Goal 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

**Goal 17** Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development



# Women's Major Group

## Women's "8 Red Flags" following the conclusion of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

**Women's Major Group Final Statement - 21 July 2014**

*Adoption of Outcome a Significant Step but SDGs Still Lacking Real Ambition for Urgent Transformational Change the World Needs to Achieve Gender Equality, Women's Human Rights, Sustainable Development in Harmony with Nature, and End Inequalities.*

**On Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> of July**, the first phase of a 2-year policy process at the United Nations, in which member states proposed a new set of global goals for sustainable development, ended. These new goals will follow in the footsteps of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and will determine new commitments and funding for sustainable development.

The General Assembly's (GA) Open Working Group (OWG) on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) finished its mandate and submits a report with a proposal for sustainable development goals to the 68th session of the UN General

# Women Major Group: 8 Red Flags

- We commend those governments who have fought hard to secure and advance gender equality and the women's human rights throughout this process
- We deplore the countries who consistently have tried to delete language around women and girl's rights.
- We commend the co-chairs for forging a compromise with all member states and for not having given in to pressures to reduce the goals to the lowest common denominator.
- Even though the Women's Major Group believe that ambition should have been higher, the adoption of the SDG document by the Open Working Document is a significant step forward.
- It was a complex negotiation process amidst sharp differences and disputes among member states. Taking this political reality into consideration, the adoption of the SDG document is a commendable achievement

# SDG's: what is positive?

- The standalone goal 5: “Achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls” with its targets to
  - end **all forms** of discrimination;
  - eliminate **all forms** of violence against all women and girls;
  - eliminate **all harmful practices**, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilations;
  - recognize and value **unpaid care and domestic work** (*as nationally appr*);
  - take measures to ensure women’s **full and effective** participation and equal opportunities;
  - 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;
  - and specific Means to Implement gender equality & women’s rights, including legislation, access to **finance**, productive **resources**, **inheritance**, natural resources (*in accordance with national laws*)

# Unpaid care & domestic work

Table: Time spent by women and men in paid and unpaid work around the world (minutes per day)

Country or area	Year	Paid work		Unpaid work		Total work		Ratio of total work (Women / Men)
		Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	
<b>Africa</b>								
<b>Benin</b>								
Urban	1998	235	235	195	60	430	295	1.46
Rural	1998	305	285	195	65	500	350	1.43
<b>Madagascar</b>								
Urban	2001	175	290	225	55	400	345	1.16
Rural	2001	240	360	210	40	450	400	1.13
Mauritius	2003	116	296	277	73	393	369	1.07
South Africa	2000	116	190	216	83	332	273	1.22
United Rep. of Tanzania	2006	251	345	253	75	504	420	1.20
<b>Asia</b>								
Armenia	2004	104	318	346	66	450	384	1.17
Cambodia	2004	237	370	234	56	471	426	1.11
China	2008	263	360	234	91	497	451	1.10
Iraq	2007	28	234	347	60	375	294	1.28
Kyrgyzstan	2005	210	353	342	139	552	492	1.12
Lao PDR	2002/03	270	312	150	36	420	348	1.21
Mongolia	2000	267	404	276	130	543	534	1.02
State of Palestine	1999/2000	32	307	301	76	333	383	0.87

Republic of Korea	2004	181	314	211	44	392	358	1.09
Turkey	2006	68	267	371	88	439	355	1.24
<b>Developed regions</b>								
Australia	2006	141	273	313	172	454	445	1.02
Belgium	2005	128	211	278	177	406	388	1.05
Bulgaria	2001/02	172	235	329	186	501	421	1.19
Canada	2005	186	282	252	162	438	444	0.99
Denmark	2001	233	302	210	146	443	448	0.99
Estonia	1999/2000	206	295	329	191	535	486	1.10
Finland	1999/2000	168	246	274	171	442	417	1.06
France	1998/99	152	252	294	165	446	417	1.07
Germany	2001/02	130	234	301	187	431	421	1.02
Hungary	2000	139	214	297	159	436	373	1.17
Ireland <sup>b</sup>	2005	164	346	307	102	471	448	1.05
Italy	2002/03	127	287	366	126	493	413	1.19
Japan	2006	174	342	258	68	432	410	1.05
Latvia	2003	233	337	279	144	512	481	1.06
Lithuania	2003	230	313	308	166	538	479	1.12
Netherlands	2005	117	236	241	126	358	362	0.99
New Zealand	1999	134	251	286	166	420	417	1.01
Sweden	2000/01	191	274	261	187	452	461	0.98
FYR Macedonia	2004	125	258	342	117	467	375	1.25
United Kingdom	2000/01	161	280	306	175	467	455	1.03
United States	2006	181	272	259	160	440	432	1.02

Source: United Nations. The World's Women 2010 Trends and Statistics. New York: United Nations, 2010.

<sup>b</sup> Data refer to the average weekday. Paid work includes both employment and study.

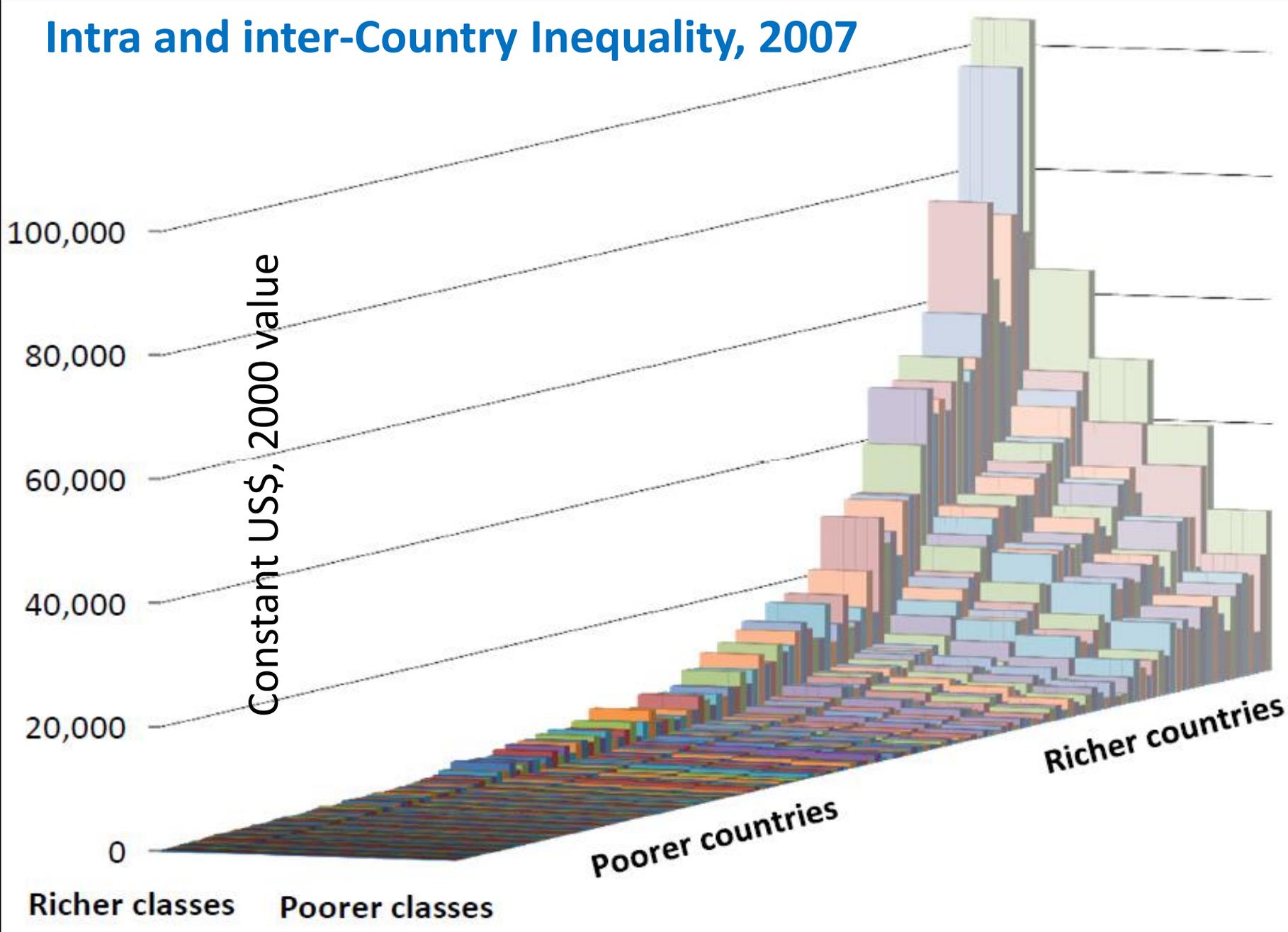
# SDG's: what else is possible

- We also welcome the fact that gender equality and women's rights are addressed in 12 other different goals
  - including equal rights to education and life-long learning, to decent work and equal pay for work of equal value;
- Unlike the MDGs, the SDG report has standalone goals on ecosystems, ocean, sustainable consumption and production
- It has a standalone goal on climate change which recognizes women's role ;
- It aims to end poverty and hunger, ensure healthy lives, universal access to water and sanitation **for all**
  - ..and not just for half the population as the MDGs aimed at

# SDG's: what else is possible ?

- The stand alone goal 11 on inequalities within and between countries, as this is imperative to addressing the root causes of poverty;
  - and the targets to reverse the trend towards ever growing income inequalities by **reforming global financial systems and fiscal measures**;
- The goal 16 on peaceful inclusive societies and its targets on participatory decision making, access to justice and reducing arms flow;
- The goal 17 on Means of Implementation (MOI) and that in addition each goal area has its own set of implementation targets - although many of these MOI targets lack ambition,

# Intra and inter-Country Inequality, 2007



Source: Ortiz and Cummins. 2011. *Global Inequality*. UNICEF

# Not transformative enough

- **The Women's Major Group has continuously called for stronger rights-based targets and a deeper transformation of our economic and financial systems, which we regret are not reflected in the SDG outcome document: the proposed SDGs are still not sufficiently ambitious, transformative or rights-based**

# 1) Human rights

- Goal 5 targets specify „according to national laws and circumstances”
  - This contradicts human rights and universality of the agenda
- No mention of “Women’s and Girls’ human rights”
- No mention of the human right to food
- No mention of the rights of indigenous peoples,
- No mention of the right for women to control their sexuality free of coercion, discrimination and violence

## 2) SRHR

- **Sexual and reproductive health targets do not go far enough.** We welcome the inclusion of commitments to universal access to sexual and reproductive health services, information and education and the protection of women's reproductive rights. However, the SDGs fall short of being a truly transformative agenda by failing to ensure the full respect, protection, and fulfilment of **sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) for all.**

## 3a) Concentration of power

- **Concentration of power and wealth imbalances that deepen poverty and inequalities within and between countries are not sufficiently addressed, and the agenda lacks targets to reverse this trend, notably missing are:**
  - **“Universal” social protection floors for all**
  - **“Progressive tax systems worldwide, including elimination of VAT for basic foods, medicines, sanitary products, the implementation of innovative financing mechanisms for development, such as global taxes, specially the financial transactions taxes”**
  - **Eliminate illicit financial flows, “transfer pricing and tax havens” and “introduce a global corporate tax floor”**

## 3b) Macro economic systems

- Although we welcome language on debt relief and restructuring, access to justice, information and participation, and a “global partnership for development”, women would have wanted to see stronger targets addressing:
  - **Extraterritorial practices** should have been addressed, ending impunity and transferring the burden, impacts and costs to States, citizens and the environment.
  - The needed **reform of the global trade and finance** agenda, including the responsibility of IFIs, has been only partly addressed.
  - **Transformation** is not achieved by implementing rules which are flawed; therefore we oppose the too-static call for “**rule of law**” which too often enforces those already in power. We instead insist on access to justice to ensure human rights take precedent over short term economic interests.

# 4) Redistribute unpaid work

- **The burden of unpaid domestic and care work still rely on women.** Women still subsidize the entire economy by performing most of the unpaid domestic and care work, derived from the sexual division of labour. The outcome derived from it equals the 60% of the value produced in the world. This means that there is not enough money in the world to pay for the value generated by the work of women. The burden of those tasks are the main obstacle for women to fully exercise their rights, due that it demands from them an excessive time use and their entire energies. Unpaid domestic and care work derives from discriminatory gender roles. This is a macroeconomic and structural agenda that affects developed and developing countries, deepening inequalities. We are glad to see a target on this issue, but feel it is not strong enough, and in addition to valuing unpaid work, the target 5.4 should have aimed to “**reduce and redistribute**” unpaid care and domestic work

# 5) Women & Planet

- **Lack of recognition of women as farmers, fishers, indigenous peoples and key for sustainable natural resource management.** Half of the goals lack references to gender equality and women's human rights, particularly in the context of decision making on climate, oceans, ecosystems, fisheries, water and energy, including from rural, remote and pastoralist communities. The SDGs should have included:
  - Free and prior informed consent and rights of indigenous peoples
  - Women as decision makers, resource managers and experts on adaptation and disaster resilience in goals on water, energy, and management of ecosystems
  - Lack of commitment to remain within planetary boundaries

# 6) Peace and Participation

- **Insufficient attention to women's role in peace and justice.** We welcome the fact that the SDGs, – against much opposition – include a goal on “**peaceful and inclusive societies**“, and that the goal on education includes a target on “strengthening a culture of peace and nonviolence“, however, we regret that the targets do not include:
  - Ensuring women's full participation in peacekeeping, peace building, and reconstruction
  - Protection of women human rights defenders
  - Protection of vulnerable populations affected by crisis and conflict, including refugees and IDPs Access to meaningful, affordable or free, and human rights-based justice systems for all individuals, and particularly for women and marginalized groups;
  - Financing these targets to support justice and participation in a meaningful way including by reducing and redirecting military spending.

# 7) Concern about Partnerships

- **Concern around “partnership(s)”** The myriad green lights given to private sector financing and partnerships for sustainable development, without any specific language on evaluations, accountability, transparency and overall governance, is deeply worrying.
- Multi-stakeholder partnerships must absolutely be accompanied "with a UN-led governance framework that incorporates accountability, ex-ante assessment and criterion (such as having demonstrated sustainable development results), transparent reporting, independent evaluation, and monitoring mechanisms”.

# 8) Technology

## **Concern: Technology focus remains on trade and private access**

- Although technology is put forward in many different goals as an essential component to realize each goal, there is not a recognition of the:
- urgent need for fair and equitable access to technology and to
- overcome intellectual property barriers,
- the need for developing countries to build and develop their own technological base, and
- multilateral, independent, participatory **evaluation** of technologies for their potential social, economic, environmental and health impacts.

SDG need to ensure the establishment of a Technology Transfer Mechanism that could address these aspects should have been clearly affirmed

# Next steps: FfD / MOI

- WMG focus in the coming year, leading up to the Post-2105 Summit in September 2015, will be to ensure that the Post-2015 Agenda will have **strong financial commitments, with a focus on public funding for sustainable development** based on a reform of current unsustainable financial and trade systems.
- We must ensure that in the negotiations on the sustainable development financing package, from the Financing for Sustainable Development to the Post-2015 Summit, governments **commit to women's equal say, equal access and equal share in access to finance** and other Means of Implementation, and we call we call on governments to ensure a concrete and relevant set of MOI targets for the full realization of Goal 5, and to commit to **“financing women's rights organisations.**