Summary of positions on negotiations for the post-2015 framework

Updated July 2015

While some important advances have been made, and must now be protected, the Gender and Development Network (GADN) also argues that there are some areas where improvement is still needed. A more detailed response to the Open Working Group’s earlier zero draft document can be found on our website. The following is our response updated in the light of the ‘Final draft of the outcome document for the UN Summit to adopt the Post-2015 Development Agenda’.

Preamble

We welcome the inclusion of “achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls” under the People section of the five ‘P’s, however we note that gender inequality is also acting as a barrier to achieving all of the other five ‘P’s, and should not be left in a silo in the ‘people’ section.

Introduction

We welcome the observation in paragraph 5 “These are universal goals and targets which involve the entire world, rich and poor countries alike” and reaffirm that this should apply to all the targets under Goal 5 including the target on unpaid care.

We strongly endorse the need for a stand-alone paragraph on gender equality, high up within the declaration. Within this we suggest stronger language on women’s rights, avoidance of the ‘instrumentalisation’ of women in the achievement of sustainable development, and greater focus on tackling damaging social norms and structural barriers to gender equality. In Para 19 we welcome the inclusion of “economic resources and political participation” in relation to gender equality and suggest the following changes:

*Working for Achieving gender equality and realizing the human rights and the empowerment of women and girls will make a crucial contribution to progress across all the goals and targets. The achievement of full human potential and of sustainable development is not possible if one half of humanity continues to be denied its full human rights and opportunities. Women and girls must enjoy equal access to quality health and education, economic resources and political participation as well as equal opportunities with men and boys in all areas, including for employment and leadership. All forms of gender inequality, discrimination and violence against women and children, both boys and girls, should be eliminated, will be combated.*
Para 24 should be amended to include mention of reproductive rights

To extend healthy life expectancy for all, we must achieve universal health coverage. No one must be left behind. We commit to accelerating the progress made to date in reducing infant, child and maternal mortality and morbidity including by ending all preventable deaths of infants, children and pregnant women by 2030. We are committed to ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health care services, including for family planning, information and education and the protection of reproductive rights and the rights of women, men and youth to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality. We will equally accelerate the pace of progress made in fighting malaria, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, hepatitis and other communicable diseases and epidemics. At the same time we are committed to devoting greater effort to tackling non-communicable diseases.

We have concerns that Para 38 will be used as a way of justifying women’s subordinate position within traditional family structures. We therefore suggest the following changes:

We recognize the role of the family in its diverse forms, as a contributor to sustainable development; and the protection of the human rights of all individuals within families, households and communities, one measure of success of the implementation of the new Agenda will be its ability to strengthen and protect all families.

Goals and targets

Whilst there are improvements that could be made to the precise wording of the goal and targets, and whilst we continue to question the absence of any dates against the targets and the inclusion of nationally appropriate clauses, our view is that any attempt to open up Goal 5 should be resisted. The limited technical improvements proposed by the co-facilitators do not in our view, amount to an opening up of the SDGs.

More mainstreaming of targets relating to the specific barriers facing women and girls are needed across the goals, for example in relation to public spending on essential services and social protection. The inclusion of measures to promote gender equality in areas such as education and adult literacy, land rights, energy access, health, water and sanitation, employment and labour rights are welcome and should be protected in the final framework.

Indicators

We have prepared more detailed comments on suggested indicators elsewhere. More broadly, we argue that where targets comprise component parts each part should be clearly measured. For example target 5.3 clearly implies global action on both female genital mutilation (FGM) and Child, Early and Forced Marriage (CEFM) and both should be measured.

Political will and technical capacity should also be directed to ensure that new data is captured for the targets and indicators that most reflect women’s priorities, for example measuring change in social norms and in ensuring that data for women over 49 is collected.

Means of Implementation

We hope that the Addis outcome will include specific language on financing for gender equality, including references to gender-budgeting and support for women’s rights organisations, which will then be prominently integrated into the Post-2015 Outcome Document.
A stand-alone paragraph should stress that realising the gender ambition of the SDGS will require dedicated and adequate resources – in scale scope and quality- as well as gender mainstreaming in the formulation and implementation of all financial, economic, and social policies, alongside women’s full and equal participation in the economy. GADN has elsewhere outlined its key asks towards the Addis Conference ii.

**Follow up and Review**

We call on member states to conduct reviews at least every four years that include an assessment of outcomes for all economic and social groups, including women and girls, to ensure that no one is being left behind.

**For further information contact:** coordinator@gadnetwork.org

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1 A full set of our reports, briefings and responses on the post 2015 framework can be found at www.gadnetwork.org.


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