



Advocacy report template

GWI advocacy goals

1. 100% of UN Member States commit to policy, legislation, budget and infrastructure to facilitate transition of girls from primary to secondary school and ensure gender parity and gender equality throughout secondary education by 2030.
2. By 2030 100% of UN low income Member States have increased access to tertiary education for girls and women by 50%.
3. 100% of UN Member States commit to and implement policies for continuing education to empower women throughout the life course, within the formal and informal economies.

Please bear in mind these three overarching, long-term goals in any UN intervention that you make on behalf of GWI. Any intervention should push these three goals further.

NB: *Although these goals represent GWI's mission, UN Reps are also invited to promote GWI key messages on areas where especially relevant e.g. women in STEM, securing investment in women teachers, addressing barriers to girls' education such as child marriage.*

Meeting attended: (place, date, time, name of meeting)

Convening of HLPF; 7-9-18; Un Headquarters, NYC; 8:00-10:00 a.m.

Subject of meeting:

How Far Have We Come?

Refers to SDG no #: (please reference)

SDGs 6, 7, 11, 12, 15, 17

President of ECOSOC

In opening remarks, Ms. Chatardova acknowledged that progress has been made but the pace remains too slow. We need to make NGOs our allies, push governments to do more, hold governments accountable, and mobilize communities, the private sector, and the scientific and academic communities. We are talking of nothing short of transformation.

Sec. Gen. for Economic and Social Affairs - DESA

1. Take stock of existing challenges that could prevent reaching the 2030 SDGs.
2. Assess whether our actions are keeping pace with our aspirations.
3. Urgently scale up implementation.
4. Bring together leading universities to demonstrate how they are integrating SDGs into their curriculum and research.
5. Make data reliable, open, transparent and shared with all. Highlight positive results and evidence-based good practices in terms of reaching specific SDGs.
6. In September of 2019 we will analyze 'Next Steps'. Therefore, this year will inform and influence future considerations. Now is the time for both reflection and action.

SECRETARY GENERAL REPORT ON PROGRESS

It has been three years since we committed to protect the planet, deal with poverty, and see progress in the lives of those furthest behind. Based on data from national systems many are living better lives. However, climate change and conflict hinder progress, and poverty in rural areas remains severe.

Social Protection: Approximately 4 billion people were without social protection in 2016, especially older women, mothers with newborns, children, those with disabilities, and the unemployed. For the first time in a decade hunger is on the rise. It is estimated that the number of people going hungry has increased from 777 million to 815 million.

Health: Significant progress has been made in terms of lower maternal deaths and deaths of children under 5. Likewise, some forms of discrimination against women have decreased; child marriage rates are down 40%. Nevertheless, gender inequality remains a major hurdle.

Water, Sanitation, Environment: 4.5 billion lack sanitation and 2.1 billion lack a safe and accessible source of water. Forest areas are still shrinking although at a slower rate. Climate change has resulted in increases in temperature, storm severity, and natural disasters. Food and water insecurity, as well as natural resources, are challenged.

Other Statistics:

1. The number of people without electricity dropped, but only 76% of rural peoples have access compared to 98% of urban peoples.
2. Conflict is one of the main drivers of food insecurity in 18 countries and increases displacement and migration.
3. 73% of children under 5 now have their births registered, although there was no breakdown by gender.
4. Only 5 donor (developed) countries have met their budgetary commitment in terms of helping poorer countries reach the SDGs.

Recommendations:

1. Need disaggregated and open data; very few developing countries have data statistics. Need to expand tools for collection and dissemination of data.

The goals are within our reach but the will must be there. The need for investment is pressing.

Special Consultants Were Invited to Address the Delegates

Jeffrey Sachs - Columbia University - Center for Sustainable Development

The biggest obstacle to reaching fair, sustainable societies is greed. Rich countries could help poor countries. An additional obstacle is that of vested interests, including but not limited to coal, gas, oil, and big agriculture.

TAX -GDP RATIO - countries that tax themselves the most are the happiest and most sustainable because they provide free healthcare, free quality education, a basic standard of living etc. If you want sustainable development you must pay for it.

6 Key Transformations Are Needed

- 1 - Most important - quality education and skill training
- 2 - Health
- 3 - Clean energy
- 4 - Sustainable land and water
- 5 - Food, land use, oceans
- 6 - Digital technologies for proper use and safety

How to Finance SDGs in Poorer Countries :

Poor countries need help. Many cannot fund the SDGs out of their budgets. All developed countries need to meet their budgetary commitments. In addition, new sources of income are needed (See below):

1. Place a tax levy of 1% on High Net Worth Individuals (Billionaires)
2. Taxation of off-shore accounts
3. Tech Tax - 5 companies worth trillions (Apple, Google etc.)
4. Financial Transactions Tax
5. Carbon Tax
6. Carbon Offset Purchases by Industry
7. Industrial Fines for Pollution and Climate Disasters
8. Crackdown on Tax Evasion

Our job is that every child on the planet has a future because if not, we do not have a future.

Maria Soledad Cisternas Reyes - Special Envoy on Disability

There should be an outcry over the lack of funding for the disabled.

Stopping corruption and tax evasion in poor countries is essential.

The UN should act on regulations to prevent businesses who create barriers to sustainable development.

Corporations should take actions to foster human rights and therefore SDGs.

Establish management plans that include diversity, inclusiveness, resiliency.

Make technology available to all.

Alex Steffen - Planetary Futurist

Nobody believes we are going too fast. Speed is the solution not the problem.

Acknowledge that we do not have 1 economy but 2 - one is sustainable and one is not.

Redistribution of wealth is needed for sustainability. Disrupt the unsustainable systems - If we are not able to disrupt the powers that are holding back new solutions we will not succeed. Deliver breakthroughs and innovations.

On a finite planet sustainability and development must be one. Only one way forward - fast!!!

Relevant treaties/conventions/resolutions:

SDGs 6, 7, 11, 12, 15, 17

Intervention by GWI rep: (what you did)

Disseminate information.

* Notable level of urgency sounded by multiple presenters.

How this serves GWI members:

- a. Explain trends in development in this particular subject.
- b. Explain why these trends and developments are relevant to GWI and NFAs.
- c. Outline what needs to be done at international and national levels.

Next steps: (what needs to be done)

Continue to advocate for education for girls, for children with disabilities, for those most likely to be left behind.

Publish best practices in education.

Highlight technological advances that can reach rural children, refugees etc.

Submitted by: Maureen Byrne, Ph.D.

7-12-18