

GWI United Nation Representative Advocacy Report 2020

GWI advocacy goals

1. 100% of United Nations 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 United Nations low income Member States have increased access to tertiary education for girls and women by 50%.
3. 100% of United Nations Member States commit to and implement policies for continuing education to empower women throughout the life course, within the formal and informal economies.
4. Influence the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4.
5. All 17 SDGs will include girls' education targets.

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

NB: *Although these goals represent GWI's mission, our United Nations Representatives are should always promote all GWI key messages and represent GWI professionally.*

Name: Maryella Hannum

City of UN Representation: New York

Session/meeting attended: UN DESA Webinar, Webex/Online, April 9, 2020 10 am – 11:30 am EDT

Subject of session/meeting: Economic and social impacts of COVID-19

Sustainable Development Goals addressed: Global impact of COVID-19 on sustainable development

Summary of session/meeting:

This webinar was critical in raising awareness and sharing of information on COVID-19 in three critical areas: 1) Economic Impact; 2) Social Impact; 3) Financial Markets and Financing

The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) launched three briefing papers which target the social, economic and financial impacts of COVID-19 as well as public policy recommendations: (all available for download – see links below)

- The World Economic Situation And Prospects: COVID-19: Disrupting lives, economies and societies, April 2020
- Addressing the social crisis through fiscal stimulus plans

- Corona crisis causes turmoil in financial markets

<https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/publication/world-economic-situation-and-prospects-april-2020-briefing-no-136/>

<https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/publication/un-desa-policy-brief-58-covid-19-addressing-the-social-crisis-through-fiscal-stimulus-plans/>

<https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/publication/un-desa-policy-brief-59-corona-crisis-causes-turmoil-in-financial-markets/>

The webinar served to present the main findings of the three briefing papers as well as to create an opportunity to exchange views globally with stakeholders and partners.

Highlights and key take away messages for GWI:

Approximately 900 global participants were on the call. The call included 3 speakers presenting findings of each of the three 3 briefing papers listed above. The call included topics such as a need for a measured and coordinated global response, global lock down, containment, testing, various approaches to stimulus packages, risk of debt crisis, digital divide, timing and sequence, as well as the way forward.

Discussion included: special needs of developing countries; impact on education for children (i.e. experience of children in rich countries with online access to continued schooling versus those in poor countries); vulnerability of non-salaried workers in service sectors (described as those hardest hit by loss of income); and the need for greater global coordination, economic governance and solidarity.

Special concerns discussed included the overall impact to health and education services. The magnitude of the impact was discussed and need for social protections for vulnerable populations. Groups disproportionately impacted are: women, as they take on the increased demand and burden of home care, and 75% of healthcare workers are women (risking their own health and lives); importance of looking at the crisis through a gendered lens; children and access to schools; youth with early careers and limited or no income; elderly populations; and those with disabilities. Areas for added protections: ensure people can stay in their homes; a stronger need for government support and a coordinated global response. It was stated that an increase in inequalities will occur as a result of the public health crisis. Many will experience a loss of main sources of income as well as a loss of income earners and providers (death). This will lead to an increase in number of widows and orphans, psychological needs for support of these groups, along with special care, resources and services for migrants and refugees.

Financing and financial volatility and increase risk of debt crisis was presented. It was emphasized short-term solutions and long-term actions are needed to respond and address the crisis globally. A report is available with more in-depth information on financing and the financial turmoil and impact of COVID-19 on sustainable development at

<http://developmentfinance.un.org>

Although the crisis brings tremendous setbacks, there are also opportunities to bring sustainable development to the fore. For example, integrating issues of sustainable development in program and policy responses. Stimulus packages can include initiatives and programs that would support sustainable development such as applying tax revenues on carbon and fossil fuels. Questioning where we can get the most impact in sustainable development with monies spent to protect economies and in implementing social protections while managing a global public health crisis. Scaling up sustainable development with infrastructure investment such as public transportation vs private transportation, reduce landfills, etc. Choose recovery options that are more sustainable over long term.

ILO statistical reports are available on labor impact and magnitude to low skilled workers.

Intervention by GWI representative:

Reporting and sharing of information with relevant links.

How this serves GWI members:

Raise awareness of disproportionate impacts of COVID-19 on certain segments of society and the global impact of COVID-19 on sustainable development.

A recording of the webinar will be available online at the UN DESA website along with slides of each presentation (not yet posted).

<https://www.un.org/development/desa/en/covid-19.html>

Submitted by:

Maryella Hannum
GWI United Nations Representative/NY