



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General

July 2022

Original: English and French

2022 session
13 July 2022- 18 July 2022
Agenda item 5
ECOSOC High-Level Segment

Statement submitted by Graduate Women International (GWI), in
consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statements, which are being
circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social
Council resolution 1996/31.

Graduate Women International (GWI) research identifies six critical need areas for the successful implementation of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4

The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic continue to be devastating for the education of women and girls, setting back women's and girls' education by twenty years in many countries. To regain momentum, the United Nations (UN) has urgently called for an acceleration in implementing the 17 SDGs. Especially relevant is the 2022 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) theme, "Building back better from COVID-19 while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", which notably amalgamates with recent GWI research that identified six critical need areas for the successful implementation of SDG 4, quality education and lifelong learning.

In response to the UN's call for help to renew the acceleration of the SDGs by adding capacities to UN agencies, GWI affiliates in 48 countries researched the SDG progress in their respective countries. With a focus on SDG 4, the research, conducted during the fall of 2021, identified six categories of action needed to implement the SDGs, irrespective of the county's demographics and economic level:

1. Building Awareness about the SDGs
2. Outreach to Communities and Vulnerable Populations
3. Conducting Community Dialogues
4. Providing Training and Support Based on Existing Programmes
5. Policy Review and Development
6. Data Collection

Applying research findings, GWI will contribute to the implementation of SDG 4 by adding capacity to the UN agencies. This goal is based on GWI's understanding that graduate women have the competencies to respond to capacity needs identified by the UN and that Institutes of Higher Learning (IHL) can share responsibility in this effort.

As graduate women, GWI values the transformative, unique position of IHL to influence the implementation of SDG 4. Furthermore, given their access to large numbers of young people, IHL have the ability to work alongside GWI to contribute to the six actionable categories.

IHL create future SDG implementers. Recognizing that research cooperation contributes to the implementation of all 17 SDGs, GWI calls for a continued, global, and concerted effort to cultivate partnerships and collaboration that provide a unique interface between IHL, the six action items, policymakers, and the success of SDG 4. GWI suggests that the HLPF uptake the GWI research data and create strong alliances with IHL and nongovernmental organizations to achieve SDG 4 successfully.

Certainly not exhaustive, GWI recommends that the 2022 HLPF elevate its commitment to the achievement of the SDG 4 with emphasis on activities to carry out the six need categories defined in the GWI research and continue to encourage collaboration between IHL at the global level as a means of achieving SDG 4.

Word count: 500