



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General

July 2024

Original: English and French

2024 session

15 - 18 July 2023

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.



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General

July 2024

Original: English and French

Statement

Graduate Women International (GWI) Calls for Prioritizing Women in Decision-Making in Response to Education Crisis Threatening 2030 Agenda

In this urgent statement to the 2024 High-Level Political Forum under the Economic and Social Council, GWI and its international network of university women issue a resounding call to action urging member states to prioritize women's participation in all forms of decision-making, especially amidst the education crisis threatening the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This call reinforces GWI's commitment the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It embodies GWI's collective pursuit to advance the status of women and girls through education. The following points must be considered for the HLPF outcomes and SDG reviews:

Women's participation in decision-making creates stronger and fairer representation within institutions and governance structures. It ensures that a broader range of perspectives and experiences are considered during policy formulation and implementation at all governance levels. By promoting gender parity in decision-making, states strengthen institutions' integrity and effectiveness, thereby advancing Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 for Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions. Expanding the range of stakeholders involved in development processes serves to overcome biases that exist in traditional decision-making structures. Evidence proves this builds trust and allows for effective collaborations nationally, contributing to SDG17, promoting partnerships as powerful step towards gender equality.

With their unique knowledge and skills, women are crucial formulating and implementing sustainable strategies and innovative approaches to address a wide range of intersectional challenges. Their involvement in governance increases the likelihood that policies and programs are designed to address the specific needs of women and girls leading to more effective poverty eradication efforts (SDG1), improved access to food resources (SDG2), and gender-responsive climate policies (SDG13).

Recommendations: GWI urges member states to identify, implement and prioritize policies to increase women's representation in decision-making roles:

- Invest in leadership training within education.
- Promote inclusive governance structures by identifying and dismantling structural barriers.
- Implement gender-sensitive data collection and analysis and create action.
- Promote multistakeholder partnerships by supporting NGOs.

In conclusion, GWI answers the Urgent Call to Action by the new ECOSOC President, Her Excellency Paula Narváe, who emphasizes the "need for stronger support for countries to tackle global challenges and boost SDG." GWI urges member states to promote women's participation in decision-making as crucial for achieving SDGs and building better education systems and governments. GWI and like-minded NGOs offer their expertise, resources, and support to ensure meaningful inclusion of women in these processes.



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General

July 2024

Original: English and French

Word count: 464