



GWI United Nation Representative

Advocacy Report

2024

GWI advocacy goals

- 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.
- By 2030 100% of United Nations low-income Member States have increased access to tertiary education for girls and women by 50%.
- 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.
- Influence the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4.
- 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, 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.*

UNICEF: The State of the World's Children 2024

The above report looks at 3 megatrends that will profoundly shape the lives of children over the next quarter century in terms of how they live, learn, interact, and develop. These 3 megatrends are (1) demographic shifts, (2) the climate and environmental crises, and (3) frontier technologies.

Demographic Transition

We are living longer, having fewer children, and moving more frequently. In addition, displacement and migration is already affecting the lives of children. For example, in 2023, 20.8 million children were newly displaced within their countries, mostly due to conflict and disasters. To address the expected demographic shifts, UNICEF recommends that decision makers use *The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)* to guide investment in quality education, skill development, more teachers, greater access to healthcare services, and child-friendly cities.

The Climate and Environmental Crises

Children are particularly vulnerable to pollution, disease, and extreme weather. As they grow and develop, every aspect of their lives, from education to nutrition, from safety to mental health, is affected by climate and environment. Today approximately 1 billion children live in countries that already face high risk of climate and



environmental hazards. Again, turning to the CRC, UNICEF recommends that decision makers invest in climate resistant infrastructure for schools and homes, green technology, climate education, and the phase out of fossil fuels.

Frontier Technologies

Technologies being developed today will influence children's well-being for years to come. Currently 26% of people in low-income countries are connected to the Internet compared to over 95% in high income countries. Failure to remove barriers for children in low-connectivity countries means that an already disadvantaged generation will fall even further behind. For children to realize the benefits of technology the right incentives, governance, and accountability must be in place. That means we need to ensure equitable access, robust regulation, and child-centric design as we progress into an ever more technological world.

UNICEF also considered three possible future scenarios for children: a future of business-as-usual; a future shaped by delayed development producing greater inequality and environmental degradation; or a future shaped by accelerated development. To have the future we would all wish for the world's children, UNICEF recommends:

The use of data to inspire action. Accurate data on children's well-being is a powerful tool to shape policies, inspire action, and create a world where every child can thrive. It suggests accessing **The State of the World's Children: Statistical Compendium** for vital statistics on children's survival, development, and protection across countries and regions;

Engage young people in governance and decision-making as they bring new ideas and perspectives to the table; and

Create policies based on the CRC so that children inherit a habitable planet, a minimum standard of living, a more equal society, and peaceful world.

To read the complete report go to:

https://www.unicef.org/reports/state-of-worlds-children/2024?utm_source=email&utm_medium=newsletter&utm_campaign=sowc-en&utm_campaign=SOWC%202024%20%2B%20WCD%20-%20External&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Mailjet

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Empowering women and girls through lifelong, quality education and training. GWI, formerly International Federation of University Women (IFUW), in special consultative status with ECOSOC since 1947 and an NGO maintaining official relations with UNESCO and ILO.

