

Annual full-day discussion on the human rights of women

Panel 2: Women's rights and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: delivering on the promise to leave no one behind

Concept note (as of 31 May 2016)

Date and venue:	16 June 2016, 3 - 6 p.m. , Palais des Nations, Room XX, Geneva (will be broadcast live and archived on http://webtv.un.org)
Objectives:	Recognizing the centrality of gender equality to the success of the 2030 Agenda, the panel discussion will provide an opportunity to discuss how to operationalize the Sustainable Development Goals in compliance with human rights obligations, particularly related to gender equality and paying attention to the impact of intersecting forms of discrimination. It will be an opportunity for States, United Nations entities, civil society and other stakeholders to share good practices and suggestions on how to implement people-centred approaches to development, specifically in the area of gender equality, so as to deliver on the promise to leave no one behind.
Chair:	H.E. Mr. Negash Kebret Batora , Vice-President of the Human Rights Council
Opening statement:	Ms. Kate Gilmore , United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights
Moderator:	Mr. Paul Ladd , Executive Director of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD)
Panellists:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• H.E. Ms. Natasha Stott Despoja AM, Australia's Ambassador for Women and Girls• Ms. Arancha González, Executive Director of the International Trade Centre• Ms. Jayati Ghosh, Professor of Economics, Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, Jawaharlal Nehru University• Ms. Vanessa Anyoti, Young Women's Coordinator, World Young Women's Christian Association (World YWCA)
Outcome:	A summary report of the panel discussion will be prepared.
Mandate:	In its resolution 6/30, the Human Rights Council reaffirmed the principle of gender equality and the need for the full implementation of the human rights of women and decided to hold an annual full day of discussion on women's human rights. The afternoon panel discussion will focus on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the need to deliver on the promise to leave no one behind and accelerate progress on gender equality and women's human rights.
Format:	<p>The opening statement by the Deputy High Commissioner and initial presentations by the panellists, guided by the moderator, will be followed by an interactive discussion with States and observers intervening from the floor. The list of speakers for the discussion will be established at the beginning of the panel and, as per practice, statements by high-level dignitaries and groups will be moved to the beginning of the list. States and observers, including representatives of civil society, take the floor for a 2-minute intervention each (total 45 minutes), followed by responses from panellists (15 minutes). A second round of interventions from the floor (45 minutes) will be followed by responses and concluding remarks from the panellists and the moderator (15 minutes).</p> <p>To make the panel interactive, speakers are encouraged to focus their interventions on the</p>

themes of the panellists either by asking the panellists questions or sharing concrete examples and relevant national experience. Interpretation will be provided in the six United Nations official languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish).

Background: Resolution 70/1 adopted by the General Assembly on 25 September 2015, was a historic decision on a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Goals and targets. With 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets, the new universal 2030 Agenda seeks to realize the human rights of all and to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.

The adoption of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was a pivotal moment in articulating a new collective vision for development. Strongly grounded in international human rights standards, the new Agenda strives to leave no one behind and puts the imperative of equality and non-discrimination at its heart. The 2030 Agenda integrates clear lessons learned from the project of the Millennium Development Goals, in which many inequalities were masked, and the breadth of deprivations of women's human rights, such as violence against women or women's unpaid care work, were not addressed.

The specific focus of Goal 5 on gender equality presents a critical opportunity to accelerate progress on women's human rights. Through its nine targets, this goal recognises the fact that women's oppression is grounded in structural forces and institutions, characterised by deeply embedded power inequalities and discriminatory social norms which cut across economic, social, and political arenas. The targets associated with Goal 5 thus present a blueprint for action on multiple fronts to secure women's rights, including through the elimination of discrimination and violence against women, recognizing and valuing unpaid care work, ensuring access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, and ensuring women's full and effective participation in leadership and decision making.

In addition, securing the human rights of women and sustainable development for all will require explicit attention to the gender dimensions of each of the other 16 Goals. Dedicated efforts will be needed to understand and address the circumstances of particular groups of women, who experience intersectional forms of discrimination. Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals in line with human rights obligations also places an emphasis on participatory processes, and ensuring accountability when violations occur.

Recognizing the centrality of gender equality to the success of the 2030 Agenda, this panel discussion will bring together experts to offer insights on how the 2030 Agenda should be operationalized in order to deliver on the promise of equality and non-discrimination.

Background documents: Documents and resolutions on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and on the human rights of women in relation to development:

- [Human Rights Council resolution 6/30](#) (14 December 2007), "Integrating the human rights of women throughout the United Nations system"
- [General Assembly resolution 70/1](#) (25 September 2015), "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development"
- United Nations web page on [Sustainable Development Goals and Targets](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?menu=1300) (<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?menu=1300>)
- Report of the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights (2013) ([A/68/293](#))
- International Conference on Population and Development, Programme of Action (1994) ([A/CONF.171/13/Rev.1](#))
- [Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action](#) (1995)