



PERMANENT MISSION OF HUNGARY
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK



High Level Political Forum side event

12 July 2018 at 1.15 pm

United Nations Headquarters Conference room 8

Are Women meaningfully involved in implementing SDG 6+ in the national plans?



CONCEPT NOTE

- Objective:** The session aims to discuss the interlinkages of SDG 5 and 6, and reflect on the ways forward
- Organizer and co-organizers:** Permanent Mission of Hungary to the UN, Women and Water Partnership
- Contributors:** International Federation of Business and Professional Women, Soroptimist International, NGO Coordination Commission on the Status of Women
- Chair:** H.E. Ambassador Katalin Annamária Bogyay, Permanent Representative of Hungary to the UN
- Moderator:** Ms Seemin Qayum, Policy Advisor of UN-Women on Sustainable Development
- Speakers:**
- Keynote presentation by Ms Uschi Eid, former chairperson of the UN Secretary-Generals' Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation (UNSGAB) on the results of the voluntary national reports about the role of women in the implementation of SDG 6 and water related targets
 - Sharing experiences around the integration of women and, or the combined implementation of SDG 5 and 6 as well as ideas of countries that have both SDGs in their top priorities by Australia, Germany, South Africa, the Netherland, European Commission - European External Action Service
 - Ms Lesha Witmer, member of the Women for Water Partnership Steering Committee on state of affairs of recent reports and tools

Debate resulting in key recommendations to the HLPF

Closing: Ms Mariet Verhoef-Cohen President of Women for Water Partnership and Soroptimist International.

Background:

As far back as 1992, the third Dublin principle¹ has been confirmed in multiple declarations and policies, starting with the Johannesburg Action Agenda all the way to the latest development at global level - a dedicated SDG5 with its targets on women's empowerment. Implementation however is lagging behind: in many countries, essential services on which millions of women and girls depend such as access to water and sanitation, are chronically underfunded, of poor quality or simply unavailable.

Agenda 2030 and the SDGs give unique guidance both on women's empowerment (SDG5) and the importance of "water and sanitation" (SDG 6) and the connection between the two. Recent reports inter alia by the High Level Panel on Water² (HLPW), the UN Water synthesis report³, the UN Women and Global Water Partnership Action Piece⁴ all make the connection and suggest venues for action. The UN Water report⁵ explicitly mentions the connection between SDG targets and gender inequality [SDG 5.1, 5.2, 5.4, 5.5] and other inequalities [10.1–10.3]. The reports signal that as countries roll out their national implementation strategies, it is paramount that investments in these and other strategic areas are prioritised (UN Women). Addressing both SDG 5 and 6 requires a strong emphasis on strategic gender interests and redressing existing inequalities in power and status, not just addressing practical needs (HLPW).

The core of the Agenda 2030 is how countries and national entities handle and respond to these targets and challenges and interlinkages. WfWP and partners hence analysed the voluntary national reports (2016-2018) on the combination of the two: did countries address the joined implementation of SDG 5 and 6?

This year, Member States are presenting their voluntary national reports on SDG 6.

First outcomes of the analysis seem to indicate that:

- even countries that have both issue in their top-priorities, do not seem to make clear connections in their national plans and actions on the SDG targets (yet);
- there seems to be more attention in the plans to gender and women's issues in the framework of international development cooperation than at national level;
- the main "language" in the plans is on policy and good intentions (gender mainstreaming), not so much on implementation and concrete measures;
- sex-disaggregated data seem to be missing "everywhere" and hence are not part of the analysis and future planning of diversity in measures. So **investment in data disaggregation** is needed to identify implementation more clearly and target resources better, in particular to ensure that we Leave No One Behind;
- **improve localisation of the Agenda** also at the sub-national level to include specific ways that women's organisations (and inter alia Youth, local governments, the private sector) can contribute to national reporting (and thus at the global level);
- **develop improved multi-stakeholder partnerships** with civil society and other stakeholders, particularly at the local level;
- and **provide an honest assessment of progress to date**, existing gaps, specific challenges and lessons learned to be able to use the HLPF as a key opportunity for peer learning and exchange.

¹ <http://www.un-documents.net/h2o-dub.htm>

- ² <https://waterpartnership.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Gender-Goal6-Critical-Connection.pdf> and see “ what success looks like” graph
- ³ http://dialogue.unwater.org/app/uploads/2018/05/SDG-6-Synthesis-Report-2018-on-Water-and-Sanitation_UNEDITED.pdf (pages 16 and 17)
- ⁴ <https://www.gwp.org/globalassets/global/about-gwp/publications/gender/gender-action-piece.pdf>
- ⁵ <file:///C:/Users/Windows/Downloads/Water-and-Sanitation-Interlinkages.pdf>