

Youth and Gender Equality Strategy

Empowered young men and women as partners in achieving gender equality

UN Women

GOAL: The overall purpose of UN Women's youth strategy is to strengthen initiatives for the empowerment of young women and develop young men as partners in gender equality, women's empowerment, and women's rights.

“It is important that women grab the opportunities that are there. Young women must stay at school much longer ... They must be assertive and not be afraid to talk and to engage, because this world belongs to them just as much as it belongs to men. ... As part of the post-2015 agenda, young women will play a major role both as actors as well as people that will benefit from the new dispensation.”

— UN Women Executive Director
Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka

The Youth Bulge

- “Youth:” Any age between 10 and 35, but the UN defines youth it as 15 to 24 years old. The Youth Strategy concentrates on young people who are 18-30 years old.
- The youth population includes 1.8 billion out of 7.3 billion world population.
- 87% of the youth population lives in developing countries, with 67% in Asia and 17% in Africa.
- In the world’s 48 least developed countries, the majority of the population is under 18 years old.
- 2013: 73.4 million youth between 15 and 24 years old were unemployed—36 percent of the world’s 202 million unemployed population.
- *Many sociopolitical movements are led by youth: Arab Spring, Spain’s 15M, Mexico’s YoSoy 132.*



Young Women Count



- $\frac{1}{2}$ of the 1.8 billion youth population are girls or women.
- 2012: 31 million primary school-aged girls and ~32 million secondary school-aged girls were out of school.
- 2 of 35 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa have gender parity.
- 2000-2011: roughly 34% of women 20-24 years old in developing regions were married or in union before age 18—12% were married before age 15.
- 2014: Only 46 countries had achieved at least 30% female representation in their parliamentary bodies.

UN Women's Work in Achieving Gender Equality



- UN Women has undertaken efforts to advance youth issues, especially for young women and girls, on 4 tracks:
 - Normative Framework
 - UN System Coordination
 - Strategy Advocacy
 - Programming Efforts

UN Women's Work in Achieving Gender Equality (Cont'd)

- UN Women's strategic priority areas are:
 - Young Women's Participation and Leadership
 - Economic Empowerment of Young Women
 - Ending Violence against Women and Girls
 - Young Women and Peace and Security



Young Women as Rights Holders

- UN Women Mandate
- CEDAW
- Beijing Platform for Action and Youth
- ICPD's Program for Action
- WPAY
- CSW



Opportunity & Scope for Achieving GE in SDGs



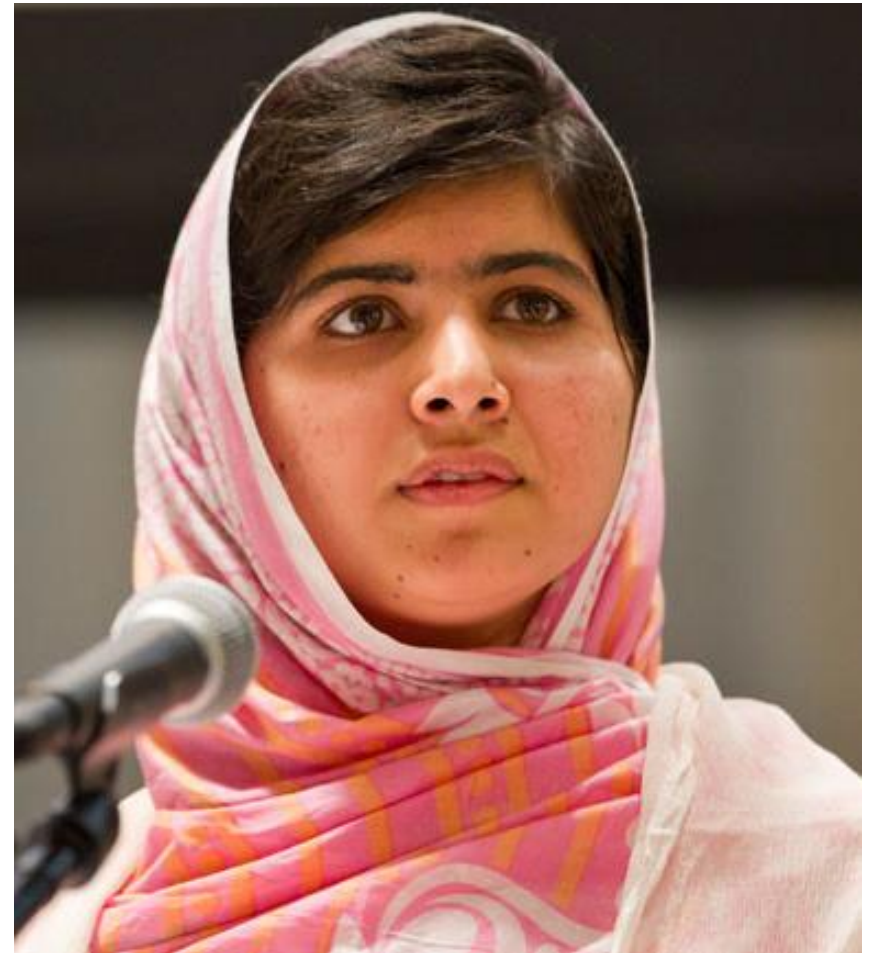
- Stand-alone goal in “Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”
- Integration of GE concerns in other priority areas of the post-2015 development agenda, with clear targets and indicators.
- Accountability mechanisms at all levels to ensure delivery on past commitments and accomplishment of SDG 5.

SDG 5: Targets

1. End all forms of discrimination against women and girls
2. End all forms of violence against women and girls
3. End harmful practices like forced, early, or child marriages and female genital mutilation
4. Value unpaid care and domestic work by providing services and protection
5. Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunity for leadership
6. Universal access to sexual and reproductive healthcare
- 5A. Undertake reforms for female economic empowerment
- 5B. Enhance ICT for women's empowerment
- 5C. Adopt enforceable legislation

Voices of Young Women and Men in Gender Equality

- A Call to Action: Beijing+20
- Colombo Declaration on Youth 2014
- Malala Day: Youth Resolution 2013
- African Youth Declaration 2012
- Bali Global Youth Forum Declaration 2012
- ILO Youth Employment Forum 2012
- CrowdOut AIDS 2012



Voices of Young Women and Men in Gender Equality (Cont'd)



- Young people care about our their societies and boast strong numbers. They are a strategic opportunity: a chance to tap into a wealth of new talent and advance national global development goals.
- The role of youth partners is to challenge old gender stereotypes and norms, which are detrimental to the success of women, and to replace them with new gender-inclusive policies.

“Achieving gender equality is more than 50-50 representation; it is also about recognizing and respecting women’s rights as human rights, treating women with dignity, offering them equal opportunities to participate fully in the socioeconomic and political development of their individual countries.”

**- UN Women GCSAG Member
& Youth Activist Vivian Onano**

Empowered Youth as Partners

- The UN Women strategy is built on UN Women's existing Strategic Plan, which seeks to empower both young women and men to accomplish gender equality by 2030.
- Thematic Pillars:
 1. Young women's leadership and political participation
 2. Economic empowerment and skills development of young women
 3. Action to end end gender-based violence



LEAP Framework

EMPOWERED YOUNG WOMEN AND YOUNG MEN AS PARTNERS IN ACHIEVING GENDER EQUALITY

LEAPs

L: Leadership of young women in all spheres strengthened .

E: Economic empowerment of young women.

A: Action on Ending violence against young women and girls.

3Ps - **P** strengthening participation, voice and partnerships with young women and their organizations; **P** Partnerships with young men as partners of gender equality; and **P** Strengthening inter-generational partnerships throughout the life cycle to achieve a gender transformative society

Empowered Youth as Partners (Cont'd)

UN Women strategy will use cross-cutting approaches:

1. Strengthening voice, action, and partnerships with young women and their organizations
2. Young men as partners of gender equality
3. Intergenerational partnerships throughout the life cycle to achieve a gender transformative society.



Key Levers for Youth and Gender Equality Strategy



- Data and Knowledge Generation
- Norms, Policies, and Standards
- Strengthening Intergovernmental Processes
- Enhance Capacity Development of Youth in Gender Equality
- Strengthen Advocacy
- Promote Youth Partnership and Youth-Led Campaigns
- Mobilize global campaigns with youth
- Enhance communication (online and offline) through technology and expertise
- Programme and project implantation

Strengthening Partnerships

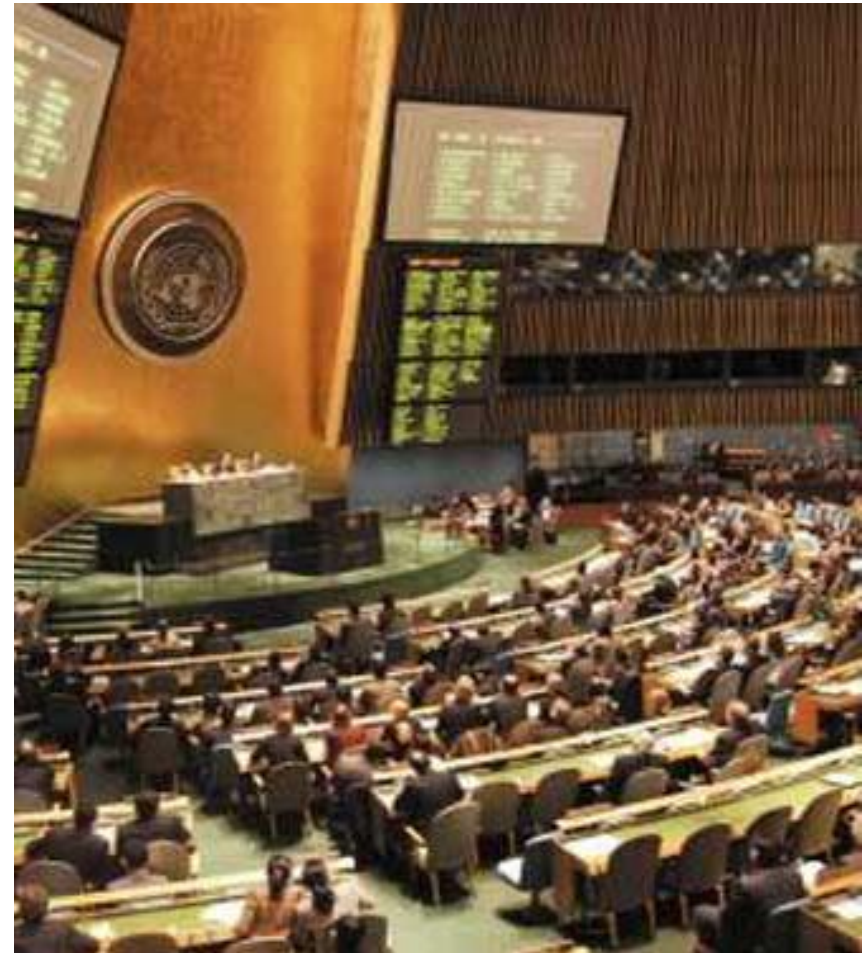
- Multilateral approach to leveraging partnerships and promoting youth participation:
 - UN Inter-Agency Networks e.g. Youth Development, etc.
 - Civil Society Organizations
 - Youth-led Organizations and Networks
 - Youth-Focused Organizations
 - Private Sector
 - Foundations
 - Media
 - Academia

UN Women's Capacity

- Develop capacity at national, regional, and global levels
- Secure technical and human resources and expertise in the early stages of roll-out
- Might explore increasing staff time devoted to rolling out of the youth and gender equality strategy.
- Develop a capacity building program online and offline specifically for youth

Resource Mobilization

- UN Women will work with parties who demonstrate commitment to gender equality to push strong investment in the strategy:
 - Member States
 - Private-sector foundations
 - High net-worth individuals
 - Possibility for Public Giving Campaigns



Monitoring and Evaluation

- Online and offline methods for assessing the changes in both the conditions and positions of young women in society.
- Youth-friendly tools that suited for youth populations around the world in monitoring SDG 5.

THANK YOU