



# Gender in international global frameworks on climate change, disaster risk reduction and sustainable development

## A guide to key texts

November 2019

## Sustainable Development Goals

### **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 5**

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls



The improvement of women's and girls' status is a standalone Sustainable Development Goal with its own targets and indicators. SDG 5 is: 'Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.'

#### **5.1**

End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere

#### **5.2**

Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation

#### **5.3**

Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation

#### **5.4**

Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate

#### **5.5**

Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life

#### **5.6**

Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences.

#### **5.A**

Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance

and natural resources, in accordance with national laws

#### **5.B**

Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women

#### **5.C**

Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels

## **United Nations Commission on the Status of Women**

The CSW provides a detailed roadmap on how to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in a gender-responsive manner, so as to ensure that no one – including women and girls – is left behind. The CSW guidance is concerned with mainstreaming gender across all the SDGs, which is necessary as well as having the standalone SDG5.

The “agreed conclusions” adopted by the Commission on this topic at its sixtieth session (E/2016/27) in March 2016:

“Recognize the critical role of women as agents of change and leaders in addressing climate change, and promote a gender-responsive approach, the integration of a gender perspective and the empowerment of women and girls in environmental, climate change and disaster risk reduction strategies, financing, policies and processes, towards achieving the meaningful and equal participation of women in decision-making at all levels on environmental issues and towards building the resilience of women and girls to the adverse effects of climate change.” (p8)

## Paris Agreement on climate change

The Paris Agreement on climate change makes reference to the contributions of women and socially marginalised groups in the delivery of climate action. It does so in several of its articles, but notably, not in the mitigation articles.

In the preamble (p2):

“Acknowledging that climate change is a common concern of all humankind, Parties should, when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on...human rights, the right to health, the rights of indigenous peoples, local communities, migrants, children, persons with disabilities[check word missing]as well as gender equality and the empowerment of women and intergenerational equity.”

Poverty eradication more broadly is indicated as the context for climate action:

Article 4:

“In order to achieve the long-term temperature goal set out in Article 2, Parties aim to reach global peaking of greenhouse gas emissions as soon as possible...and to undertake rapid reductions thereafter ...in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty.”

Article 7 on adaptation is more explicit:

“Parties acknowledge that adaptation action should follow a country-driven, gender-responsive, participatory and fully transparent approach, taking into consideration vulnerable groups, communities and ecosystems, and should be based on and guided by the best available science and, as appropriate, traditional knowledge, knowledge of indigenous peoples and local knowledge systems, with a view to integrating adaptation into relevant socioeconomic and environmental policies and actions, where appropriate.”

No mention of gender and social inclusion explicitly in other articles of the Paris Agreement including:

- Article 5 and 6 on climate change mitigation do not
- Articles on technology transfer, capacity building, financing, transparency (reporting, compliance) etc.

## Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction

The Sendai Framework was three years in the making and was finally concluded by countries in 2015, and set to run through 2030. Although it encompasses a broad range of risks including those not associated with anthropogenic climate change (e.g. earthquakes, volcanoes), analysis of people affected by and economic losses generated by anthropogenic climate change demonstrate that this is a driver for increased loss and damage worldwide, year on year.

### Sendai's Seven Global Targets

- (a) Substantially reduce global disaster mortality by 2030, aiming to lower average per 100,000 global mortality rate in the decade 2020-2030 compared to the period 2005-2015.
- (b) Substantially reduce the number of affected people globally by 2030, aiming to lower average global figure per 100,000 in the decade 2020 -2030 compared to the period 2005-2015.
- (c) Reduce direct disaster economic loss in relation to global gross domestic product (GDP) by 2030.
- (d) Substantially reduce disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services, among them health and educational facilities, including through developing their resilience by 2030.
- (e) Substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020.
- (f) Substantially enhance international cooperation to developing countries through adequate and sustainable support to complement their national actions for implementation of this Framework by 2030.
- (g) Substantially increase the availability of and access to multi-hazard early warning systems and disaster risk information and assessments to the people by 2030.

### The Four Priorities for Action

#### Priority 1. Understanding disaster risk

Disaster risk management should be based on an understanding of disaster risk in all its dimensions of vulnerability, capacity, exposure of persons and assets, hazard characteristics and the environment. Such knowledge can be used for risk assessment, prevention, mitigation, preparedness and response.

#### Priority 2. Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk

Disaster risk governance at the national, regional and global levels is very important for prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, recovery, and rehabilitation. It fosters collaboration and partnership.

#### Priority 3. Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience

Public and private investment in disaster risk prevention and reduction through structural and non-structural measures are essential to enhance the economic, social, health and

cultural resilience of persons, communities, countries and their assets, as well as the environment.

#### **Priority 4. Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to “Build Back Better” in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction**

The growth of disaster risk means there is a need to strengthen disaster preparedness for response, take action in anticipation of events, and ensure capacities are in place for effective response and recovery at all levels. The recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction phase is a critical opportunity to build back better, including through integrating disaster risk reduction into development measures.

How gender and social difference come explicitly into the Sendai priorities and targets:

#### **Priority 1: Understanding disaster risk**

Nationally and locally:

(item 24) To achieve this, it is important:

a) To promote the collection, analysis, management and use of relevant data and practical information and ensure its dissemination, taking into account the **needs of different categories of users, as appropriate**; .....[emphasis added]

n) To apply risk information in **all its dimensions of vulnerability, capacity and exposure of persons, communities**, countries and assets, as well as hazard characteristics, to develop and implement disaster risk reduction policies .....[emphasis added]

#### **Priority 3: Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience**

Nationally and locally:

(item 30) To achieve this, It is important:

(j) To strengthen the design and implementation of inclusive policies and social safety-net mechanisms, including through community involvement, integrated with livelihood enhancement programmes, and access to basic health-care services, including **maternal, newborn and child health**, sexual and reproductive health, food security and nutrition, housing and education, towards the eradication of poverty, to find durable solutions in the post-disaster phase and to empower and assist people disproportionately affected by disasters .....[emphasis added]

(k) **People with life-threatening and chronic disease, due to their particular needs**, should be included in the design of policies and plans to manage their risks before, during and after disasters, including having access to life-saving services .....[emphasis added]