

Report and Recommendations from the Regional Consultations on SDGs Localization and Implementation in East and Southern Africa

**Making Progress on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment- Progress on
the Localization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**

27th and 28th June 2018

Nairobi, Kenya





**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS**

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

AfDB	African Development Bank
AUC	African Union Commission
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
EAC	East Africa Community
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
ESARO	East and Southern Africa Regional Office
FEMNET	The African Women's Development and Communication Network
GEWE	Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment
HLPF	High Level Political Forum
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
LNOB	Leaving No One Behind
NDPs	National Development Plans
RECs	Regional Economic Communities
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SADC PF	Southern African Development Community Parliamentary Forum
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
VNRs	Voluntary National Reviews

1.0 Preamble

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs) features the stand-alone Goal 5 to “Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls (GEWE)” with 54 gender-specific targets, out of the 169 targets. It is important to note that all SDGs are relevant to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and that women’s substantive and effective contributions are critical to achieving this agenda.

The concept of localizing the SDGs refers to the process of aligning (or adjusting) national and sub-national government development frameworks to adapt the SDG targets and indicators to the local context and priorities. Localizing the SDGs involves promoting local multi-stakeholder ownership of the agenda – stepping down the globally agreed development agenda to the local in a way that they respond to local priority needs and interests. Localization also means allocating resources necessary to achieve outcomes at the national and local level.¹ Lessons from the localization of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) indicate that the involvement of the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and local governments in the process of localization, for instance, significantly contributed to the participation of local community organizations, and private sector actors and contributed to stronger accountability structures.

In June 27/28- 2018, UN Women in collaboration with key stakeholders and UN agencies held an SDG Consultative meeting in Nairobi- Kenya. The Regional Consultations on the Progress on the Localization of the SDGs focused on how Member States and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in East and Southern Africa have made progress on gender equality and women’s empowerment related SDGs, Voluntary National Reviews (VNR) as a mechanism of reporting and SDG monitoring at national and regional levels, the role of research, data and statistics in accelerating progress towards localization of SDGs and building stronger accountability mechanisms.

The consultation brought together participants from 11 Member States including Botswana, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. These included representatives from Ministries of Gender; Directors of National Statistical Offices; Regional Economic Communities and Bodies- RECs; Regional Institutions; Select Civil Society Organizations and International NGOs; and UN Officials from United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) Multi and Country Offices. It contributed towards building momentum for the High Level Political Forum for 2018 and motivating Member States for Voluntary National Reviews beyond 2018, prioritization of gender statistics and ensuring that no one is left behind in the localization and implementation of SDGs while ensuring that research and data remains critical for generating evidence for monitoring implementation and reporting on SDGs progress. From the consultations, a research agenda was developed based on the SDGs Gap Analysis-replicating UNDP finalized SDG Gap Analysis in Kenya and a possible study on the Role of Community and Citizen-Generated Data as a tool of accelerating localization and implementation of Gender Related SDGs in Africa.

The consultation was also used as a launch pad for a UN Women Internal Quality Assurance Group- Reference Group on SDGs and Gender Statistics. UN Women East and Southern Africa Regional Office (ESARO) has set up thematic regional reference groups comprised of a diverse team of high level technical experts in gender equality and women’s empowerment with relevant thematic experience in line with UN Women’s strategic priorities i.e. Sustainable Development Goals and Gender Statistics. To fulfill its mandate, UN Women utilizes the Thematic Regional Reference Groups as one of the avenues in sourcing key ideas on policy perspectives, quality assurance and timely advisory support on diverse issues including the SDGs. The thematic reference groups act as

1. SNV & UNDP (2009), Going local to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs): Stories from Eight Countries, 11

think tanks that enables UN Women to achieve the goal of ensuring women and girls benefit and attain the aspirations of the development frameworks in Africa including agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development; African Union's Agenda 2063 among others.

Some common challenges for the implementation and localization of SDGs identified by the consultation include limited technical and financial resources; perceived challenges on prioritization of goals; and capacity gaps on localization, data and statistics on gender equality and women's empowerment. This is in addition to policy incoherence in some Member States which create a conflict with priorities for investment in gender related SDGs. A further constraint regarding gender

equality and women's empowerment is the lack of standardized approaches to localization and implementation given that the only relevant lessons are those derived from the experience of operationalizing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

It was reported that implementation and localization efforts remain uneven and at different stages, weakly-resourced and uncoordinated both at national and regional levels – all of which could hamper ownership, implementation efforts and accountability for the SDG agenda, and the attainment of the gender equality agenda in particular. This paucity of information constrains reporting on and accountability for the SDG targets.

**“Achieve gender equality
and empower all women
and girls (GEWE)”**

2.0 Objectives of the Consultation

In light of the commitments made at the 2016 meeting, and further to the recent global SDG monitoring report, UN Women organized the two-day consultative meeting to re-evaluate progress on localization and implementation of GEWE related SDGs and created opportunities for re-energizing the efforts by Member States, the RECs and CSOs in building a more cohesive partnership to accelerate progress towards the realization of gender specific SDGs with specific joint research and data interventions. The consultation:

- Promoted a shared commitment to innovation and production of good quality research on GEWE related SDGs by agreeing on potential joint research, advocacy and/ or policy interventions for the next two years 2018/ 2019.
- Mobilized Member States, regional/sub-regional intergovernmental bodies/commissions and CSOs in developing strategic linkages and collaborative approaches for regional accountability mechanisms for advancing GEWE related SDGs.
- Created a platform for peer to peer learning and identified good practices in localization and implementation of GEWE related SDGs by the different stakeholders;
- Allowed for discussions around the engagement of Ministries of Gender; Directors of National Statistical Offices; RECs and the Civil Society in the production of gender statistics and in reporting on progress on the implementation of SDGs; the principle of leaving no one behind and voluntary national reviews as a mechanism of national monitoring and accountability towards delivering on SDGs.
- Strengthened regional partnerships for effective institutional cooperation in advancing the GEWE related SDGs.
- Created a platform for the formation of a Reference Group on SDGs and Gender Statistics comprising diverse stakeholders.

3.0 Consultation Model and Structure

This consultative meeting focused on issues around the High Level Political Forum, Voluntary National Review Reporting and Processes, critical principles of SDGs including that of Leaving No One Behind, leverage on gender statistics, SDG reporting and monitoring tools, research coverage, national and regional SDG reporting and monitoring mechanisms and processes, linking SDGs and agenda Africa's agenda 2063, SDG gap analysis among other areas that can be harnessed by the different stakeholders to ensure accelerated results for gender equality and women's empowerment within the framework of SDGs.

The first day focused on reflections from the 2016 consultative meeting to appreciate the commitments made at the meeting by participating all participating institutions. Other areas covered in day one included understanding the principle of leaving no one behind, positioning the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) and prioritization of GEWE and Revisiting the 2017 High Level Political Forum-

VNRs: Experiences, challenges and lessons learnt and emerging good practices from National Statistical Offices Representatives with a focus on volunteering Member States- Botswana, Ethiopia, Kenya and Zimbabwe.

Day two focused on linking the SDGs and Agenda 2063 - Opportunities for synergy and collaborative implementation and localization. This was complimented by a panel intervention with the RECs on progress with the implementation of gender related SDGs and an SDGs gap analysis whose preliminary findings were shared taking the case of Kenya with a potential for replication in Africa. Participants were also oriented on tools for monitoring the localization of GEWE related SDGs by UNECA and how to prioritize data to effectively monitor the SDGs. The consultation concluded by identifying priority areas of engagement by RECs, Member States, Civil Society and the United Nations System to accelerate localization and implementation efforts while addressing the critical challenges discussed with proper and functional accountability mechanisms.

4.0 Critical Pathways-The Issues and Recommendations

The consultation affirmed that deeply-rooted obstacles such as unequal distribution of resources, power and wealth, combined with social and cultural norms are holding women back from attaining development aspirations in Africa. This is a major impediment in the realization of the SDGs. Africa for example has made progress on women's empowerment with critical gaps still existing. The empowerment of and investment in women and girls is the most critical priority to the attainment of SDGs and advancement of human development.

According to the last Africa Human Development report for 2016², gender inequality is costing sub-Saharan Africa on average \$US 95 billion a year. In addition, while the continent is rapidly closing the gender gap in primary education enrolment, African women achieve only 87 percent of the human development outcomes of men, driven mainly by lower levels of female secondary attainment, lower female labor force participation and high maternal mortality. Another major finding is on the UN Women Global SDG Monitoring Report- “Turning promises into action: Gender equality in the 2030 Agenda”³ which shows that gender inequalities remain pervasive across all dimensions of sustainable development, including SDGs 6-Clean water and sanitation, 7-Affordable and clean energy, 11—Sustainable cities and communities, 12-Responsive consumption and production, 15-Life on land and 17-Partnerships for the goals.

The details of the specific sessions are as follows;

i. Reflections: Understanding the Commitments at the 2016 Consultative Meeting.

The consultation reflected on the commitments made at the 2016 consultative meeting with particular focus on the role of RECs, coordination mechanisms and challenges, financing for GEWE and the linkages between the agenda 2030 and the SDGs and Africa's Agenda 2063, need for global coherence and enabling multi-stakeholder engagement.

In 2016, UN Women held a consultative meeting with the RECs in advancing gender equality and

women's empowerment within the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Africa's Agenda 2063. The bodies include the African Union Commission (AUC), the East African Community (EAC), Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), Southern Africa Development Community Parliamentary Forum (SADC PF) and regional Civil Society. The 2016 consultation provided a forum for discussion and agreement on strategic priorities to strengthen regional efforts towards accelerated action on gender equality and women's empowerment, within the framework of the globally adopted SDGs, and Africa's Agenda 2063. It also helped to define their role in the localization and implementation of gender related SDGs. One of the regional priorities emerging from the consultations included strengthening coordination between the African Union Commission and RECs with key stakeholders such as the United Nations Development System, and in particular the United Nations Economic Commission, UN Women and the UNDP. The other priority areas agreed on with the bodies and member states represented at the 2016 consultation included;

- Knowledge generation, management, and innovation to promote the gender-responsive implementation of the SDGs and Africa's Agenda 2063;
- Promotion of policy and programming coherence, supportive of the advancement of GEWE within the framework of the SDGs and Agenda 2063;
- Engaging in strategic partnerships and networks to support the advancement of GEWE under the SDGs and Agenda 2063;
- Promoting financing and institutional support for gender equality and empowerment of women and girls within the SDGs and the Agenda 2063;
- Monitoring, evaluation and measurements on gender responsive SDGs and Agenda 2063; and
- Social mobilization for SDGs.

In addition, UN Women launched a global SDGs monitoring report in 2018. “Turning promises into action: Gender equality in the 2030 Agenda

2. Details http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/corporate/HDR/Africa%20HDR/AfHDR_2016_lowres_EN.pdf accessed 15th June 2018

3. Details <http://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2018/2/gender-equality-in-the-2030-agenda-for-sustainable-development-2018#view> accessed 15th June 2018

for Sustainable Development”, UN Women’s new flagship report, provides a comprehensive and authoritative assessment of progress, gaps and challenges in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) from a gender perspective. The report monitors global and regional trends in achieving the SDGs for women and girls based on available data and provides practical guidance for the implementation of gender-responsive policies and accountability processes. As a source of high-quality data and policy analysis, the report is a key reference and accountability tool for policymakers, women’s organizations, the UN system, and other stakeholders.⁴

ii. Understanding the principle of “Leaving No One Behind” as core to the Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The commitment to ‘leave no one behind’ including women and girls has been a key feature of the implementation and localization of the post-2015 agenda and the SDGs. This was also adequately discussed at the consultative meeting. The idea that no goal should be met unless it is met for everyone was a rallying call with all stakeholders agreeing to a common position on the same and committing to prioritize this within the modalities of localization. In theory of course, this means ensuring that every individual achieves the full package of rights and opportunities the SDGs express in all the 17 goals and specifically for women and girls in the 54 targets spread across 11 goals. The session also discussed urgent actions required for the realization of the principle.

The consultation discussed some of the intersecting facets on why women and girls might be left behind in the realization of the development agenda which include: geography, discrimination, socio-economic status, governance, weak and gender-blind policy frameworks and legislation, as well as shocks and fragility. These factors cause the populations to be vulnerable to various shocks which range from economic, to social and environmental shocks that require varied levels of resilience to sustain livelihoods.

The consultation agreed that leveraging gender and other disaggregated data provide insights into who is left-behind and the vulnerable population who include women, girls, children, youth, elderly and persons living with separate abilities. Through disaggregated data, the consultation concluded that Member States and other stakeholders can identify who is left behind, interventions for mitigating the situation, options of investment that are inclusive and participatory and what should be done to ensure their needs are addressed which also includes participatory monitoring for achievement of the principle.

It was further agreed that emphasis, robust, and full implementation of the principle include and is not limited to;

- Identification of those left behind, understanding the causes of them being left behind and coming up with various strategies to mitigate such causes.
- Identifying at-risk women and girls in East and Southern African Member States while also developing case studies that explore the least available and accessible data.
- Strengthening the quality and use of new data sources including non-conventional data, the community and citizen generated data, civil registration and vital statistics as well as program/project data.
- Data providers (including governments, the major household survey programmes, international institutions and the private sector) to commit to providing data that enables effective policy making and the tracking of the relevant inequalities for action.
- Filling policy gaps through the existing policies, best practices and lessons learnt as well as the dynamics of the new data.
- Enabling environment for inclusive civil society space engagement: all stakeholders must be consulted by the Member States and given the freedom to engage in the realization of the agenda.
- Developing tools that inform active citizen participation in the localization process including ensuring they are adequately informed to ensure accountability towards government on the targets and indicators of gender related SDGs.

4. Details- <http://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2018/2/gender-equality-in-the-2030-agenda-for-sustainable-development-2018>

- Adopting a multi-sectoral approach in integration of policies, multi-sectoral and departmental coordination to boost the concept of Leaving No One Behind.

The consultation affirmed that the principle of leaving no one behind and GEWE are mutually reinforcing and in deed informs the realization of the SDGs. That all Member States, stakeholders working on SDGs, UN agencies and partners ought to stand by their pledge of leaving no one behind by examining the disaggregated data, building the capacity of both the right holders and bearers and then enacting equity-based policies, interventions as well as budgets and investments. The consultation stressed the fact that an excellent planning process that will leave no one behind is heavily dependent on the availability of quality and verifiable data.

Finally, this session emphasized the fact that SDG data should present the necessary actions to produce quality and timely data on a daily basis to inform sustainable development at a given level of disaggregation and population coverage, including for the most vulnerable and hard-to-reach groups.

iii. Positioning Voluntary National Reviews and prioritization of GEWE

National Voluntary Reviews (VNRs) entail sharing of experiences, good practices and lessons learnt in the localization and implementation of SDGs. All African governments are encouraged to volunteer at the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) with the understanding that it is a national and global mechanism of reporting and monitoring progress but one which requires pure volunteer efforts by Member States. The challenge of coordination was emphasized in the consultation with stakeholders and Member States affirming that there are critical coordination challenges especially amongst different government agencies, the relationships with the Civil Society and other actors, coordination with other government departments and semi-autonomous agencies like National Statistical Offices (NSOs), development agencies and the private sector. As such, a proper stakeholder engagement strategy should be identified, and the aspects of focus should be clearly defined in terms of

relationships with other government agencies and other stakeholders.

The consultation considers gender equality as an accelerator of the reviews since it is both essential to SDG achievement and an essential component of enhancing other gender related SDGs.

The consultation agreed that all Member States must allocate adequate funds for the realization of VNRs and must be ready to volunteer continuously like the case of Togo who has volunteered continuously-three times since 2016- without limitations. They must also ensure that the policy, legal framework and legislations that promote the realization of the priority goals receive adequate attention and budgetary commitments and that they advance the rights and needs of the marginalized population which include women and girls.

Some key observations included;

- Member States must view VNRs as a process that strengthens national level monitoring and reporting on SDGs in line with HLPF annual thematic focuses.
- Emphasis must be made on the role of ministries in ensuring the implementation of SDGs.
- There is need for all stakeholders advancing gender issues to have a perfect understanding of the SDGs spectrum and their interlinkages. There should be a communication strategy to avoid contradiction among partners during the localization process.
- Lack of data and poor analysis derails budget allocation for SDG interventions as the Member States are not adequately informed of the real situation and practical recommendations towards interventions.
- VNR presents an opportunity for monitoring and reporting and coordination among various stakeholders. There is need to develop a checklist for operationalizing SDGs and ensuring a meaningful engagement.
- VNRs should be pegged on the country's monitoring and evaluation frameworks. Developing an annual tracking system that will track the implementation of various SDGs is critical.

Finally, the consultation encouraged all Member States in the region to continuously volunteer at the High Level Political Forum while also building stronger, accountable and cohesive relationships not only amongst different government structures but also with the regional economic communities, the civil society and other stakeholders at country level.

iv. Revisiting the 2017 High Level Political Forum VNRs for Botswana, Ethiopia, Kenya and Zimbabwe-Experiences, challenges and lessons learnt and emerging good practices

HLPF is the most inclusive and participatory forum at the United Nations, bringing all States, Members of the United Nations and States members of specialized agencies together. All people can participate in HLPF through the major groups and other stakeholders' forums. All stakeholders are also invited to organize side events and register multi-stakeholder partnerships and voluntary commitments in support of the SDGs.

Member States from Botswana, Ethiopia, Kenya and Zimbabwe showcased their experiences arising from the VNR for 2017 which was meant to create a platform for peer to peer learning on approaches, challenges and lessons learnt. Some of the experiences, challenges and lessons learnt that were shared include;

- An observation that limited lead time and wider scope of consultations is critical for a comprehensive VNR.
- Continuous and clear, accessible and succinct communication between the UN Mission in New York and the Country volunteering is essential in guiding preparations.
- Funding is needed to support broad based consultations not only restricted to urban areas BUT ensuring that all stakeholders are reached and involved to ensure that No One is Left Behind.
- Lack of baseline data and data for monitoring progress is a major challenge although Member States reported progress since 2016.
- Coordinating for inclusion is critical as

currently there are huge coordination challenges especially at national level with diverse stakeholders in realizing the VNRs.

v. Linking the SDGs and Agenda 2063 - Opportunities for synergy and collaborative implementation and localization

The consultation affirmed that the SDGs and agenda 2063 share similarities such as the implementation at the national level, sectoral and the sub-sectoral implementations. That there is need for a harmonized adaptation, implementation, monitoring and reporting.

Agenda 2063 condenses various development and transformation priorities for the next fifty years. The five-decade long term framework envisions an integrated, successful and peaceful continent, championed by her own citizens and becoming a dynamic force in the whole world. Key priorities of Agenda 2063 entail the sustainable transformation for Africa, which is dependent on her primary resources and basic production techniques for the industrialization and diversification of her economy. The vision further encompasses the quest for good governance that brings on board all political and economic institutions. Unlike the Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development which, focuses on the 17 goals and their subsequent targets and indicators, Agenda 2063 is anchored on seven overarching aspirations with 34 priorities, 174 targets as well as 200 indicators. Additionally, the implementation of the latter agenda is structured into five 10-year plan periods.

Nonetheless, it is worth noting the Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development is a plan of action that targets people, the planet as well as prosperity based on the concept of sustainable development within its three dimensions- economic, environmental and social facets. The agenda also focuses on matters of governance, peace and security while it is also established by strategies to realize its effective implementation. For instance, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which knits together commitments of the international community

towards the attainment of the Agenda 2030. From the African context, Agenda 2030 is perfectly linked to the 2063 Agenda by the Common African Position on the post-2015 Development Agenda.

This Common African Position emanated from an elaborate multi-stakeholder consultation that traversed all Africa sub-regions leading to its adoption by all heads of states in the continent in February 2014. The position represents the African key concerns for the post-2015 development agenda while also represents the African bargaining position during the intergovernmental negotiations in the 2030 Agenda. Accordingly, several of the key development concerns that this Common Position articulated earned expression in the Agenda 2030, which further justifies why the two Agendas overlap in their goals, targets and indicators. In fact, a focused comparison on the various goals, targets, and indicators of the two Agendas shows substantial convergences and as to whether they are strongly or weakly matched. While revealing the strength of the match, the comparison digs into the level of disaggregation and the focus of the selected goals, targets and indicators is the same.

vi. Panel intervention with the RECs on progress with the implementation of gender related SDGs

This was a panel intervention with the East African Community (EAC), Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). Apologies were received from the African Union Commission (AUC), Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) and Southern Africa Development Community Parliamentary Forum (SADC PF).

The agencies shared their areas of work on SDGs. Concerns were raised on the challenges on harmonization particularly at the reporting stage premised on the many agendas, strategies and frameworks that Member States are expected to report on. Operational tools including guidance notes, and check lists should be developed to

adopt a common approach on implementation, monitoring and reporting for SDGs.

Reporting by Member States is often complicated by lack of consistency, comprehensiveness and specificity in databases on gender related statistics and indicators for the region, with a few Member States completely lacking data. Accordingly, it would be imperative to engage UN Women in harmonizing data from the Member States and in developing the related tools and guidance notes.

The consultation further alluded to the harmonization between SDGs and Agenda 2063 through various indicators which was reported to show that up to 65%, 71% and 89.2% of the indicators have harmony between IGAD and AU Agenda 2063, IGAD and Agenda 2030 and AU Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030 respectively. Some of the pathways for improvement include;

- The RECs need to strengthen the coordination mechanism among themselves under the leadership of the AUC and across different blocs.
- Need for a common gender indicator framework across the continent, linked to the SDGs, Agenda 2063 and the new AU Strategy. For Member States, it would be useful to have a single harmonized approach, perhaps customized on the regional and national level. Further, harmonization of reporting mechanism will help to avoid inconsistency and not overburden member states of layers of reporting.
- Leverage on the COMESA Economic Empowerment Fund. 50 million African women speak platform, a good platform implemented between COMESA, ECOWAS and EAC (a digital platform with the purpose to empower women).
- There needs to be a gender continental framework for all stakeholders to adhere to the implementation and localization of SDGs.
- Establish integrated data management mechanisms as all stakeholders need consistent data among RECs.

vii. SDGs gap analysis: Preliminary findings taking the case of Kenya and potential for replication in Africa

A study on SDG Gap Analysis was discussed with possibilities of replication in other Member States. Uganda confirmed undertaking a similar study currently and it was recommended that this study be replicated across the region by all Member States. Another study area discussed was the role of community and citizen generated data on the implementation and localization of SDGs.

Kenya's policy framework was discussed as relates its support to SDGs. It was reported that the SDGs are fully addressed by the constitution 2010 directly at 68% or indirectly at 32% (Preliminary SDG Gap Analysis study findings). Similarly, the study further reported that the SDGs are also addressed by the vision 2030 and the Medium-Term Plan III at 97%. The SDGs targets are also addressed fully by the current legal regulatory framework at 68% with the best addressed goals of SDGs being Goals 3, 4, 13, 14, 15.

To cover the gap in the analysis, Member States must be ready to reform their governance systems, energy production and use and urbanization including transport and housing. This is in addition to the need for a proper and functional coordination, monitoring and evaluation as the key areas that require critical analysis to address.

A recommendation was discussed in terms of focusing on the quality of the process of implementation and localization of SDGs by involving more people, creating awareness through campaigns and publishing relevant policies and/or legislation. This is in addition to ensuring policy coherence and maintenance of the success spirit throughout the process.

viii. Tools for monitoring the localization of GEWE related SDGs

UNECA has rolled out various measures to measure gender equality including African Gender and Development Index, reviews of implementation of Beijing Platform for Action and ICPD, African Gender Scorecard and the UNECA-AfDB Africa Gender Index.

On monitoring, UNECA performs a mapping exercise in collaboration with AUC and AfDB of the goals and targets of both agenda 2030 and agenda 2063. That exercise led to the development of an integrated monitoring and reporting framework on 138 indicators. The agency has also developed *Handbook on the Integrated Regional Indicator Framework of Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063: Concepts and Definitions* and an Outline toolkit on Gender Statistics.

Some issues highlighted;

- There is a large set of indicators of Agendas 2030 and 2063 (138 indicators) to monitor at national levels.
- Lack of sex-disaggregated data at the national level, especially on the economic sector affects SDG and agenda 2063 implementation.
- Lack of experts on gender statistics at the national level should be addressed by sealing capacity gaps.
- Poor coordination of gender statistics activities at the national, sub-regional and regional levels must be addressed.
- Member States must review their roles of coordination and have clear rules of coordination, identifying relevant gender stakeholders as well as their roles to help avoid duplication of efforts.
- Need for awareness of history and missed targets. Proposal that all Member States and other stakeholders look at the role of evaluations as only evaluations that can tell us what's working and what's not working and why. Make sure evaluations are feeding into planning through partnerships with evaluation players.

- Recommendation around policy reviews including policy coherence. One policy sometimes contradicts others. E.g. minimum age of marriage in different countries in Africa. Harmonization is critical through an inclusive and a comprehensive process. It is important to get the high-level political leadership beyond the ministry of gender to support the process.
- Addressing baselines should be anchored on evidence and data by developing and rolling out a coordination framework that is efficient and effective, and do not have duplicating efforts.
- The session concluded that political coordination especially among ministries is significant in maximizing the impacts of the SDG localization efforts as well as working around policy targets to anchor performance contracts in strategy, policy and development plans.

ix. Prioritizing data to effectively monitor the SDGs

The importance of gender statistics to fill critical gaps in data coverage has been acknowledged at the meeting. The requirements for monitoring the SDGs from a gender perspective demand a significant scaling-up of this work to meet the expectations of Member States and other actors to realize the ambition set out in Agenda 2030.

Also, harnessing the current momentum and support to effectively monitor the progress towards achievement of SDGs and for reporting requires deeper level of production and use of data and statistics. Traditional sources of data which are often not disaggregated nor analyzed sufficiently will not effectively monitor and report on the gender dimensions of the SDGs to ensure that no one is left behind.

The consultation affirmed that gender statistics is about identifying, producing, disseminating and analyzing statistics to understand how gender issues affect women, girls, individuals and society. It is critical and essential to determine and track progress and guide implementation in the direction we want the progress to be

realized, through generation and management of data.

African governments have shown their firm commitment to the institutionalization of a system to generate timely and quality disaggregated data not only through the national statistical offices but also need to leverage on community and citizen generated data. To achieve the principle of leaving no one behind, specifically women and girls, as dictated by Agenda 2030, requires putting a lot of emphasis on full disaggregation of data, the analysis of data, the design of data instruments and tools, the method of data collection and the intersection between sex dis-aggregation and other types of disaggregation. This point was also emphasized by the Chief Guest at the meeting- see annex 1- Participant List and Agenda.

The National Statistical Offices need to take rigorous steps to minimize existing data gaps to support implementation and monitoring of national and international gender equality targets. The National data producing agencies have the capacity and mandate to produce quality data, however, there is lack of systematic approach and capacity on the areas of methodology development, quality assurance, full disaggregation of data, communication with data users and utilization of data to create knowledge.

Additional observations include;

- Data disaggregation is inadequate at country level which limits inclusive development.
- There is need for harmonization of national indicators with SDG metadata.
- There is a general mismatch, national data may exist, but it is not harmonized properly through international data systems to be recordable to other Member States due to differences in methodologies, concepts etc.
- Limited capacity for National Statistical Offices and other government actors constrain satisfactory data generation, management, analysis, access and utilization and must be addressed.

5.0 Recommendations- Prioritizing areas of collaboration to support the localization, implementation, monitoring and reporting of GEWE-related SDGs

The consultation developed an agenda focusing on research and data, knowledge generation, operationalization of SDGs, coordination for SDGs, social mobilization and advocacy. These are discussed below;

a. Research and Data

- I. Establish a mechanism from local to national level that will facilitate existing community and citizen generated data to feed to the national statistics to accelerate the consolidation and use of gender disaggregated data.
- II. Identify concrete action points to drive increased use of gender statistics.
- III. Integrate gender monitoring evidence of the Agenda 2030/Agenda 2063 into the National Development Plans.
- IV. Undertake in-depth SDG Gap Analysis- research on how SDGs have been aligned/mainstreamed in the National Development Plans with a specific focus on gender using Kenya and Uganda as pilots.
- V. Consider a study on the effect/impact of current macroeconomic policies on the poverty eradication goals/interventions of government.
- VI. Strengthen administrative data management systems (standardizing the collection and analysis to meet the international standards, the way data is compiled, analyzed, quality assured, stored and disseminated).
- VII. Conduct a mapping and identify what need to be done in in terms of gender related SDGs to promote dissemination of the existing research in order to establish a regional compendium.
- VIII. Engage data custodians to ensure involvement of the RECs on the process of refining the methodology and meta data.
- IX. Conduct a study on role of community and citizen-generated data as a tool of accelerating localization and implementation of gender related SDGs in Africa.

b. Knowledge Generation

- I. Produce a knowledge product on good practices for integrating SDGs principles in Voluntary National Reviews reports at the High Level Political Forum.
- II. Consider creating a GEWE and region-specific SDGs knowledge platform for sharing, peer to peer learning and south-south linkages. This platform would build on good practices, approaches and localization efforts by different Member States in Africa to create an opportunity for cross country and regional fertilization and learning on gender related SDGs.
- III. Document and share emerging good practices from SDGs implementation including Voluntary National Reviews and other interventions.
- IV. Consider holding an annual consultative meeting with Ministries of Gender, National Statistical Offices, Regional Economic Communities and Interparliamentary/Governmental Bodies, Civil Society, UN agencies and other stakeholders on localization and implementation of SDGs. This will not only allow for peer to peer learning but will also ensure continuity and sustained momentum for the achievement of the agenda.

c. Operational Guidance on SDG Localization and Implementation

- I. Ensure that all discussions on SDGs include the agenda 2063 as this is the overarching framework within which Africa implements the SDGs and is well synergized with the SDGs. There is need for clear integration of the two agendas to ensure that achievement of the other contributes to realization of another.
- II. Guidance is needed on the integration and operationalization of the Leaving No One Behind principle in policies programming, budgeting and monitoring for SDGs.
- III. Develop an operational guide/tool on realization of the Leaving No One Behind principle of SDG localization and implementation.
- IV. Mobilize citizens to understand the programs that are targeting them and empower citizens to demand accountability.

d. Coordination for SDGs Localization and Implementation

- I. Increase efforts on engagement on SDGs with stakeholders beyond not only the region but also expanding the networks of those involved in SDGs implementation and all platforms and fora discussing issues related to SDGs to build more synergy and leverage on other existing knowledge relevant for East and Southern region.
- II. Institutionalize SDGs coordination mechanisms at national level, up to the grassroots level with media, CSOs, Private sector among other stakeholders. Linked to this is the need for a proper coordination mechanism amongst the regional economic communities which is currently reported to be weak as regards SDG localization and implementation.
- III. Review and develop tools to evaluate localization of SDGs to move them beyond volunteerism.
- IV. Need for policy coherence at national level.
- V. Ensure that the civil society form a critical part of the coordination mechanism.

e. Social Mobilization and Advocacy for SDGs

- I. Each Member State need to come up with a clear social mobilization and communication strategy for the SDGs localization and implementation.
- II. Engage all stakeholders in the process of localization to ensure the process is inclusive and impactful.
- III. Document transformative and effective practices of stakeholder engagement and show value for what citizen engagement means while showcasing what works.
- IV. Leverage on statutory meetings for high level engagement with Member States on SDGs for social mobilization and advocacy on gender related SDGs.

6. Annexes

Annex 1: List of Participants

No.	Name	Organization	Country
	Hon. Safina Kwekwe Tsungu	State Department of Gender Affairs- Ministry of Public Service, Youth and Gender Affairs	Kenya
	Zebib Kavuma	UN Women Kenya Country Director	Kenya
	Thokozile Ruzvidzo	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)	South Africa
	Themba Kalua	UN Women, South Africa Multi-Country Office	Ethiopia
	Agnes Kitembo	UN Women	Kenya
	Ahmed Fetiya Dedgebaya	Central Statistical Agency	Ethiopia
	Andjouza Ahamada	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)	Zambia
	Angelica Pino	SONKE Gender Justice	South Africa
	Annette Griessel Theresa	Department of Women	South Africa
	Bafana Khumalo	SONKE Gender Justice	South Africa
	Christopher Kuongui	UN Women, ESARO	Kenya
	Edna Akullq	UN Women	Uganda

	Elizabeth Nankya	Akina Mama Wa Africa	Uganda
	Esete Berile	UN Women	Ethiopia
	Esther Muiru	GROOTS Kenya	Kenya
	Esther Okello	UN Women, ESARO	Kenya
	Eunice Musiime	Akina Mama Wa Afrika	Uganda
	Eva Sibanda	UN Women, ESARO	Kenya
	Florence Ndagire	Akina Mama Wa Africa	Uganda
	Gorata Mighty Ntshwabis	Ministry of Nationality, Immigration and Gender Affairs	Botswana
	Hulda Ouma	UN Women, ESARO	Kenya
	Jack Onyisi Abebe	UN Women, ESARO	Kenya
	Jimmy Tabu	UNDP Regional Service Centre	Ethiopia
	Julius Chokerah	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	Kenya
	Ken Oluoch	Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Council of Governors.	Kenya

	Lorah Madete	The Ministry of Finance and Planning, Tanzania	Tanzania
	Magwiza Mwajuma	Gender Development, Ministry of Health	Tanzania
	Marie Goretti Nduwayo	UN Women	Ethiopia
	Martin Wanjohi	UNDP SDG Gap Analysis Consultant	Kenya
	Mary Saba	The Sustainable Development Goals Center for Africa (SDGC/A)	Rwanda
	Mauree Tumusiime Bakunzi	Office of the Prime Minister	Uganda
	Mayasa Mwinyi Mafoud	Office of the Chief Government Statistician	Tanzania
	Mcallum Sibande	Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare	Malawi
	Mhaza Gharib	Ministry of Labour Empowerment, Youth Women and Children	Tanzania
	Michael Faraday	UN Women, ESARO	Kenya
	Mphatso Janet Nyekanyeka	Department of Economic Planning and Development	Malawi
	Mubarak Mabuya	Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)	Djibouti
	Nadège Muhimpundu	East African Community Secretariat	Tanzania

	Norah Madaya	Uganda Bureau of Statistics	Uganda
	Patterson Siema	UN Women, ESARO	Kenya
	Rachel Kagoiya	The African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET)	Kenya
	Rachel Mbaria	Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)	Djibouti
	Raesibe Evelyne Mailula	Department of Women	South Africa
	Rebeca Ssanyu	Forum for Women in Democracy /DRT	Uganda
	Rodgers Dhliwayo	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	Kenya
	Sheila Kawamara Mishambi	Communications and Networking Programme Officer and Lead on the SDGs- EASSI	Uganda
	Sorsie Gute Deme	Central Statistical Agency	Ethiopia
	Steven Nyaruwata	The Ministry of Women Affairs	Zimbabwe
	Talumba Banda	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)	Zambia
	Tinashe Enock Mwadiwa	The Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency (ZIMSTAT)	Zimbabwe
	Vuyelwa Portia Segokgo	Gender Affairs Department Ministry of Nationality, Immigration and Gender Affairs	Botswana



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