

IWDA AND THE GLOBAL GOALS: DRIVING SYSTEMIC CHANGE

*"We are determined to take the bold and transformative steps which are urgently needed to shift the world onto a sustainable and resilient path. As we embark on this collective journey, we pledge that no one will be left behind."*¹

The Global Goals for Sustainable Development ('the Global Goals' or 'SDGs') will drive the global development agenda for the next 15 years. Gender equality is both a stand-alone goal and embedded in all other goals. These 17 goals, which have been agreed on by 193 countries, provide us with a universal pathway to drive systemic change in Australia, in our region and in the world. The collective challenge is to see this potential become reality.

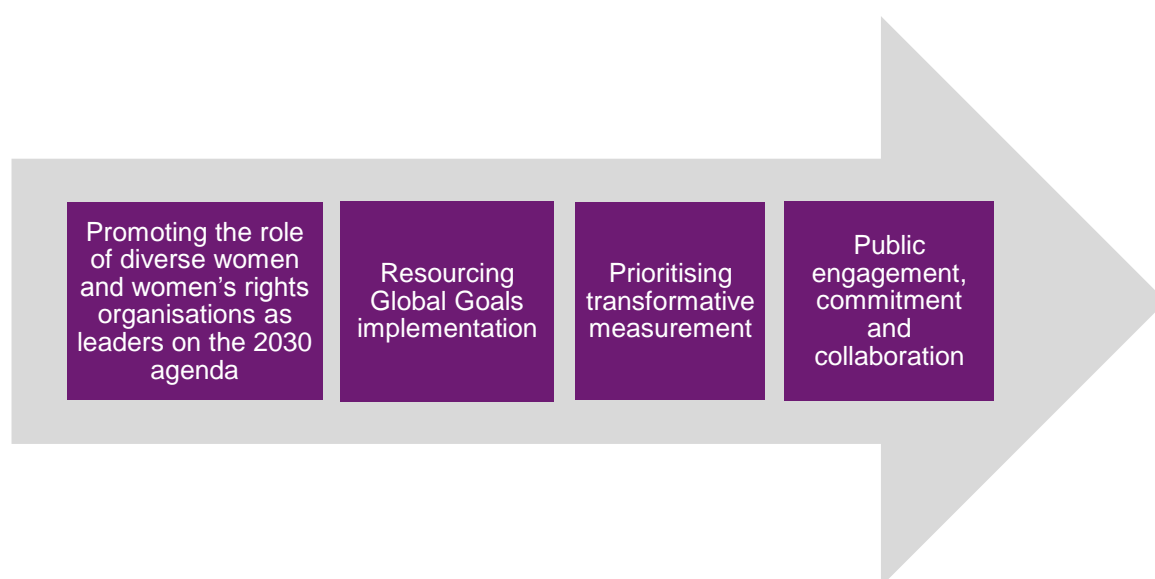
At IWDA we are focussed on what the new global agenda means for women's rights and gender equality. We know that we cannot achieve the change we hope for without gender equality and the full and effective participation of women. Yet, we know that the world over, women and girls in all their diversities continue to suffer discrimination, direct and indirect (from systems that were not designed with women in mind), do not benefit equally from economic and development advances, and experience violation of their rights, simply because they are women.

The global goals have enormous potential for transformative impact on the root causes of gender inequality but to achieve this **we need governments to meet their existing global commitments to progressing women's rights and gender equality**. This is the purpose of IWDA's work on the Global Goals.

This document sets out the priorities driving IWDA's advocacy on the Global Goals (Part 1) and IWDA's existing work at national, regional and international levels towards effective implementation of gender equality and women's empowerment targets within the Sustainable Development Goals (Part 2).

Part 1: The priorities driving IWDA's advocacy on the 2030 Agenda

IWDA has identified four priorities to drive our advocacy on the 2030 agenda within Australia, our region and the world. Each of these priorities is informed by our belief that investing in and supporting women's rights organisations and networks is crucial to making progress across the sustainable development agenda. We also believe it is essential that connections are made across the goals and targets and that gender equality and women's empowerment is explicitly recognised as central to all 17 goals.



Priority 1: Promoting the role of diverse women and women’s rights organisations as leaders on the 2030 agenda

The Global Goals provide an important opportunity to amplify existing international agreements and agreed language on women’s rights and to engage with, and support, the efforts of women’s rights organisations and networks to create transformative change for women and girls everywhere. Consultation and cooperation with civil society has been identified as integral to implementing the Global Goals.² However, we believe that not only must diverse women and women’s rights organisations be consulted and engaged in the implementation of the Global Goals; beyond this they must be **recognised and promoted as leaders** on the 2030 agenda.

This must include:

Promoting the central role of women’s rights organisations, networks and gender machineries to making progress across the sustainable development agenda: Governments and development actors have a role to play in promoting the importance of women’s rights organisations and machineries for gender equality as agents for change. Research shows clearly that strong, autonomous women’s movements are essential to realising women’s rights. Yet, women’s rights organisations frequently face the challenge of limited understanding about why women-focussed organisations are needed. Women’s rights organisations focus on women-led solutions that are firmly rooted in local communities, contexts and the needs and experiences of women and girls. Without this valuable knowledge, and **the full and effective participation of diverse women and girls in the implementation and review of the Global Goals**, we cannot achieve transformative lasting change.

Investing in women’s rights organisations and networks: While women’s rights organisations worldwide have increased their calls for funding that matches both the extent of change needed as well as the commitments made by governments and development actors, funding still falls short. Women’s rights organisations continue to face financial unsustainability and current funding trends often constrain the ability of these organisations to access funding. Flexible long-term core funding is vital for sustaining the long-term movement building work that underpins progress towards gender equality.

Funding women’s organising and movement building: It is vital that resources to women’s rights organisations and networks support leadership development and movement building, as well as programs with specific, quantifiable outcomes.³ The Pathways of Women’s Empowerment programme research found that interventions aimed at supporting women’s capacities to act together and creating supportive relationships among women are much more likely to have a transformative effect than interventions aimed at individual women.⁴ The World Bank’s Voice and Agency research also concluded that women’s movements are crucial to build the necessary consensus for progressive policy and legal reform.⁵

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Priority 2: Resourcing Global Goals implementation

Effective implementation of the Global Goals requires the mobilisation of means of implementation, including financial resources, coordination and accountability mechanisms, technology development and collaborative partnerships. This necessitates increased investment to close the gender financing gap including resourcing to support transformative policy and financing actions for gender equality and women's rights at national, regional and international levels and aligning private investment and capital flows to the Global Goals.

This must include:

Increasing investment in gender equality and women's empowerment: Governments that have committed to the Global Goals must also meet their financing obligations, including through specifically tracking and increasing the amount of overseas development assistance invested in gender equality and women's empowerment. This must include funding support for women's rights organisations and networks and supporting their ability to actively engage in decisions that affect them.

Resourcing coordination and whole-of-government implementation mechanisms: The follow-up and review of the Global Goals requires investment in review and accountability mechanisms at national, regional and international levels. It is important that this includes resourcing for coordination mechanisms as well as fully-costed and financed implementation plans. These mechanisms should reflect the high-level political commitment to gender equality and women's empowerment and a long term approach to transformative change developed in consultation with civil society. The role of women's rights organisations (and civil society more broadly) in monitoring progress should be clearly defined and government capacity to bring about gender equality in their countries explicitly supported.

Strengthening and resourcing machineries for gender equality: To deliver on the Global Goals it is crucial to strengthen machineries for gender equality at the global, regional and national levels, in terms of both financial resources and technical expertise. High-level political leadership across government is also essential to ensuring a coordinated and consistent approach to meeting gender equality-related targets within the Global Goals, within government and across the community.

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Priority 3: Prioritising transformative measurement

Implementation of the Global Indicator Framework is essential for closing the gap between commitments and real change for diverse women and girls. Indicators are significant because they can make issues and disadvantage visible and inspire action – what gets measured is more likely to get done. The Sustainable Development Agenda embraces the ‘Leave No One Behind’ principle, calling for the disaggregation of data by age, sex, income and geographic location, among other things. To ‘leave no one behind’, we need to measure change in a way that makes individuals visible, is gender-sensitive, people-centred and intersectional.

This must include:

Prioritising the collection of gender data: 53 of the 230 indicators in the Global Indicator Framework are gender-related. However, currently there is either limited data being collected or no agreed existing methodology to collect this data for 67 per cent of these indicators. We urgently need investment in enhancing measurement capabilities. Too often women and their priorities are systematically excluded from data collection because they are not involved in shaping data collection systems. It is essential that female statisticians, other statisticians concerned about gender equality, women’s rights organisations and local women are involved in deciding what should be measured and how. The Individual Deprivation Measure (see below) could make a valuable contribution to data collection and availability against some SDGs, particularly in relation to gender and poverty targets that still lack data.

Measuring change at the individual level: It is not just the indicators that are important but also who collects the data, the scale at which the data is collected (for example, whether it is at an individual or household level) and how the data is interpreted. If we are going to ‘leave no one behind’, we need to measure change at the individual level. The [Individual Deprivation Measure](#) (IDM) assesses poverty at an individual level including information about the characteristics of household members and types of household. It enables population data to be built from the ground up based on the lived experiences of poor women and men (the dimensions used in the IDM were developed through participatory research with poor women and men in six countries across Asia, Africa and the Pacific, to learn how they would define and measure poverty). The IDM has the potential to track the extent to which progress towards the Global Goals, as measured by national-level indicators, is leading to change for the most marginalised individuals.

Intersectional analysis: Data collection processes that reveal the impact of intersecting barriers and discriminatory factors are integral to the ‘Leave No One Behind’ principle. Understanding which groups in society are doubly- or triply- disadvantaged will help to inform where further efforts and resources need to be directed to achieve transformative change for diverse women and girls. The [IDM](#) enables accurate disaggregation of data by sex, age and other characteristics. Significantly, the measure can also capture intersectional and cross-cutting linkages, in terms of overall deprivation and deprivation in each IDM dimension (e.g. the unique profile of deprivation for older women living in rural areas, and how this differs from the experience of older men, or younger women).

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Priority 4: Public engagement, commitment and collaboration

The success of the Global Goals depends on **collaboration and partnership** across issues and against targets, with a shared vision for people, planet and prosperity. We must work to strengthen connections and joint action on gender equality and women's empowerment, both at home and abroad. This must involve raising the global public's awareness of, and engagement with, the critical importance of SDG implementation as well as fostering new partnerships between governments, private sector actors and civil society. Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls must be at the heart of all of these efforts.

This must include:

Strengthening connections and joint action on gender equality and women's empowerment: The Global Goals apply to all countries. This provides an important opportunity for bridging traditional divides between 'domestic' and 'international' issues and encouraging collaboration across local, national, regional and global spaces to drive transformative change for women and girls. We must **move away from siloed approaches and work as broad constituencies who share a common concern**. Through sharing expertise and best practice and adopting a coordinated approach we can jointly contribute to the success of the 2030 Agenda.

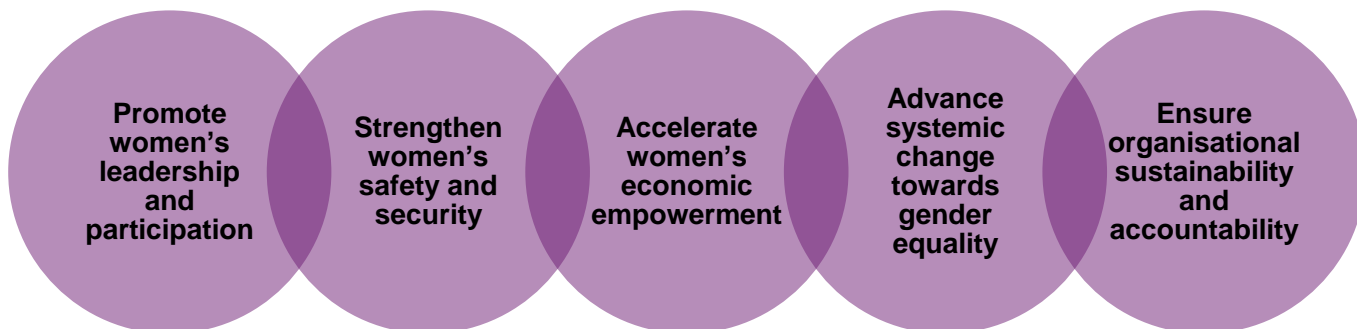
Increasing public engagement with the Global Goals and their transformative potential: Real change also requires public commitment to the Global Goals and what they are trying to achieve. We need to increase global public awareness of the Global Goals and the importance of gender equality and women's empowerment to achieving the 2030 Agenda. This must include private sector engagement to promote gender equality and the crucial role of business in advancing sustainable development. We need to talk about the Global Goals in our homes, schools, workplaces and communities, and move from public engagement to global action.

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Part 2: IWDA’s contribution towards effective implementation of gender equality and women’s empowerment targets within the Sustainable Development Goals

IWDA’s vision is gender equality for all. The purpose of our organisation is to advance and protect the rights of diverse women and girls. We do this through five goals, as described in the [2016-2021 Strategic Plan](#):



This work sees IWDA working in Asia Pacific regional partnerships, international research collaborations, global coalitions and national alliances that demand accountability and action on existing international frameworks and Commitments. These include the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Beijing Platform for Action, United Nations Security Council resolutions on women, peace and security⁶, the Cairo Programme of Action as well as various human rights treaties.⁷

We believe that successful implementation of the Global Goals requires action on gender equality and women’s empowerment across all Goals and at all levels. It also necessitates sharing information about our actions so we can build on each other’s work, fill gaps and collectively work to ensure no one is left behind.

IWDA is working across many of the Global Goals. We have mapped existing work at national, regional and international levels and this is summarised below. We encourage other organisations to consider their own existing actions and to identify areas for collaboration across issue areas and across national, regional and international levels. We will also align our organisational monitoring, evaluation and learning tools with SDG indicators wherever possible.

Summary of IWDA actions (2016-2021) across the Global Goals at national, regional and international levels

IN AUSTRALIA

IWDA will join national efforts through established coalitions, alliances and institutional mechanisms to hold Australian state and federal Government accountable to the Global Goals. We will play a convening role to foster links between domestic and international women’s rights organisations in Australia. Through our communications, our policy influencing and research work, and through our program partnerships we will strive to influence both state and federal governments in Australia and the Australian public to accelerate action towards gender equality and women’s empowerment through the SDGs framework.

IWDA ACTIONS (2016-12)
Promote the Individual Deprivation measure (IDM) as a tool for tracking the implementation of the SDGs by the Australian Government.
Collaborate with Australians in our campaigns for women's inclusion, representation and leadership.
Join national advocacy efforts and dialogue groups through established coalitions and alliances to hold the Australian Government accountable to the SDGs.

Continue collaboration with Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) and its members to strengthen gender equality outcomes in and through the Australian aid program and across foreign and trade policy more generally. Align IWDA's monitoring, evaluation and learning indicators with SDG indicators where possible to contribute to national reporting and data collection.

Incorporate SDG advocacy and commentary into IWDA's Communications Plan.

Support efforts to implement and promote the Australian National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (2012-2018) and link with IWDA programs, networks and experiences.

Support efforts for the third and fourth action plans under Australia's National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children (2010 – 2022) to reduce violence against women both domestically and through the Australian aid program.

Coordinate joint advocacy, communications and political strategy with partners and networks on women's leadership linked to CEDAW (including shadow reports); the Beijing Platform for Action; relevant SDGs; and climate change to influence Australian Government policy and practice.

Conduct research, generate evidence from IWDA program partnerships to identify barriers and enablers to women's participation in leadership and disseminate findings to influence the Australian Government and Australian public.

Convene national and international dialogues on SDG 5 fostering links between domestic and international women's rights organisations in Australia to accelerate action towards gender equality and women's empowerment.

Develop and promote an IWDA value for money framework that demonstrates the transformative impact of core funding to women's rights organisations.

Identify local, national and regional points of influence to strengthen policies, laws, and regulations impacting women's economic empowerment (incl. trafficking laws & labour codes).

Monitor Australian Government engagement in trade agreements.

Document/disseminate evidence of women human rights defenders' successes/ challenges to influence the Australian Government.

Engage a diversity of male advocates to actively promote gender equality at home and abroad.

Partner with NGOs to advocate and increase access for women and girls to sexual and reproductive information, services and resources including conducting and disseminating the Last Taboo research (Fiji, Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea) findings in Australia and joint lobbying with the We Rise Coalition (Fiji) to influence Australian Government priorities.

Generate evidence and advocate for gender-responsive budgeting by Australian state and federal Governments.

IN OUR REGION

In Asia and the Pacific region, IWDA will conduct research and generate evidence from program partnerships to identify barriers and enablers to women's participation and leadership, women's safety and security, and women's economic empowerment, to inform implementation and review of the Global Goals. We will work in collaboration with partner organisations and other women's rights organisations and feminist movements to amplify women's priorities and experiences, to foster networks, to track progress and to advocate for change in the region.

IWDA ACTIONS (2016-21)

Promote the Individual Deprivation measure (IDM) as a tool for tracking the implementation of the SDGs in our region.

Convene national and international dialogues on SDG 5 in the Asia and Pacific region, fostering links between domestic and international women's rights organisations to accelerate action and amplify voices.

Coordinate joint advocacy, communications and political strategy with partners and networks on women's leadership linked to CEDAW (including shadow reports); the Beijing Platform for Action; relevant SDGs; and climate change in Asia and the Pacific region.

Conduct research and generate evidence from IWDA program partnerships to identify barriers and enablers to women's participation in leadership. Disseminate findings in our region.

Support partnership campaigns with organisations addressing gender and trafficking or displacement programs in the Asia and Pacific region.

Resource women's rights organisations in our region to better engage and influence social norms and attitudes regarding women's work in the formal and informal sector.

Collaborate with partner organisations across our region to amplify the experience and impact of climate change and environmental events on women's security and wellbeing.

Identify local, national and regional points of influence to strengthen policies, laws, and regulations impacting women's economic empowerment (including trafficking laws and labour codes).

Resource feminist movements and gender and development coalitions for strategic planning, policy analysis and risk management in the Asia and Pacific region.

Address the under-representation of women in leadership roles in our region including working with partner organisations to disseminate evaluation and learning papers, develop advocacy plans, links to women's civil and political participation, human security or ending violence against women, and to support the campaigning of current and emerging women leaders, including young women, to achieve and retain elected office.

Lobby for increased access to services for protection and support for survivors of gender-based violence in our region including promotion of the 'Safe Families' toolkit and dissemination and advocacy in relation to the 'GBV to Gender Justice' outcomes and community attitudes survey findings.

Resource and participate in exchanges and learning and development activities to strengthen partner networks and engagement in our region.

Partner with NGOs to advocate and increase access for women and girls to sexual and reproductive information, services and resources in the Asia and Pacific region including conduct and disseminating the Last Taboo research findings; promotion of the Fiji GIRLS program and joint lobbying with the We Rise Coalition.

Resource women's rights organisations in our region to better engage and influence social norms and attitudes regarding women's work in the formal and informal sector.

Consolidate and advocate evidence of good practice from programs that support women's equal participation in and benefit from formal sector work and generate new evidence and visibility to valuing women's unpaid work, reproductive roles and the care economy in Asia and the Pacific.

Establish new relationships with private sector partners to strengthen women's ability to secure decent jobs, sustainable livelihoods, accumulate assets, and influence institutions and public policies for growth and development across the Asia Pacific region.

IN THE WORLD

IWDA will generate evidence and disseminate findings in international fora to demonstrate 'what works' and the required global action in relation to gender-equality related goals and targets. We will also promote the globally applicable Individual Deprivation Measure and disseminate analyses generated by the IDM to influence decisions, action and policy change in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the international level.

IWDA ACTIONS (2016-21)

Disseminate research findings from IWDA program partnerships in international fora that identify barriers and enablers to women's participation in leadership.

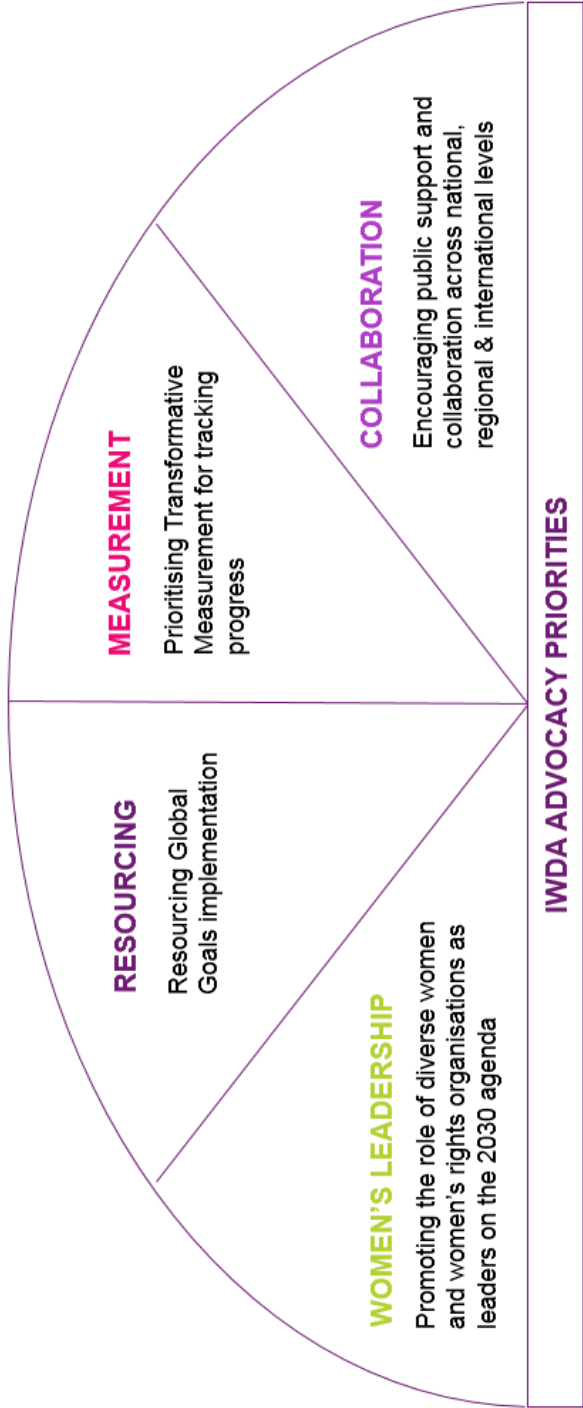
Promote the Individual Deprivation Measure (IDM) as a globally applicable measure of individual-level multi-dimensional poverty and disseminate analysis generated from the IDM to influence decisions, action and policy change at the international level.

Disseminate relevant program and research findings and advocate for increased global investment in energy and water, sanitation and hygiene infrastructure to reduce women's labour burden and increase the productivity of women's time

Continue to generate evidence on the nature and prevalence of violence against women with disabilities and promote global action and application of toolkits

Present new evidence and required action at regional and international levels on the interface between gender-based violence and income.

Promote IWDA's feminist approach and economic empowerment framework that addresses women's position in and/or access to: the care economy, labour rights, reproductive health, environmental resources, migration, regional trade, technology, credit and banking.



IWDA ACTIONS ACROSS NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS



IN AUSTRALIA
IWDA will join national efforts through established coalitions, alliances and institutional mechanisms to hold the Government accountable to the Global Goals. We will play a convening role to foster links between domestic and international women's rights organisations in Australia. Through our communications, our policy influencing and research work, and through our program partnerships we will strive to influence both State and Federal Governments in Australia and the Australian public to accelerate action towards gender equality and women's empowerment through the SDGs framework.



IN THE REGION
In the Asia and the Pacific region, IWDA will conduct research and generate evidence from program partnerships to identify barriers and enablers to women's participation and leadership, women's safety and security and women's economic empowerment to inform implementation and review of the Global Goals. We will work in collaboration with partner organisations and other women's rights organisations and feminist movements to amplify women's priorities and experiences, to foster networks, to track progress and to advocate for change in the region.



IN THE WORLD
IWDA will generate evidence and disseminate findings in international fora to demonstrate 'what works' and the required global action in relation to gender-equality related goals and targets. We will also promote the globally applicable Individual Deprivation Measure and disseminate analyses generated by the measure to influence decisions, action and policy change in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the international level.

To learn more: Further detail on IWDA's work and analysis of the Global Goals is available on our website (www.iwda.org.au). We are producing a series of briefs which give you an in-depth look at some of the specific gender-related targets and what these potentially mean for women and girls (see box below for those available as of November 2016).

IWDA GLOBAL GOALS BRIEFS

The Global Goals: Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

<https://www.iwda.org.au/resource/global-goals-and-gender-equality>

The Global Goals: Women's Rights Organisations and Networks

<https://www.iwda.org.au/assets/files/20160308-Womens-rights-organisations-and-Global-Goals-Policy-Brief.pdf>

The Global Goals: Women, Peace and Security

<https://www.iwda.org.au/resource/the-global-goals-women-peace-and-security/>

The Global Goals and Unpaid Care

<https://www.iwda.org.au/resource/global-goals-and-unpaid-care/>

Global Goals: Moving Towards Implementation

<https://www.iwda.org.au/assets/files/The-Global-Goals-moving-towards-implementation.pdf>

A full mapping of IWDA's existing work against the 17 Global Goals is available on request. Please contact ssmee@iwda.org.au to request a copy or for further information about IWDA's work on the Global Goals.

¹ *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*: Preamble, available at:

<http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>

² Report of the Secretary General (2015), *Women's Empowerment and the links to sustainable development*, E/CN.6/2016/3, 31 December 2015, para: 23, available at: http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/CN.6/2016/3

³ UN Women (2015), Report of the Expert Group Meeting on the CSW 60 Priority Theme: Women's Empowerment and the link to Sustainable Development, UN Women, Glen Cove, New York, 1 – 4 November 2015, available at:

<http://www2.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/csw/60/csw60%20egm%20report.pdf?v=1&d=201601282130>

⁴ Pathways of Empowerment Research Consortium (2012), *Empowerment a Journey not a Destination*, p.10 available at <http://www.pathwaysofempowerment.org/PathwaysSynthesisReport.pdf>

⁵ World Bank (2014) *Voice and Agency: Empowering women and girls for shared prosperity*, p.169

⁶ UNSCR 1325, 1820, 1888, 1889, 1960, 2106, 2122 and 2242.

⁷ Including the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.