

THE GLOBAL GOALS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Advocacy and the SDGs Checklist

All Governments will be expected to work towards and report against the Global Goals for Sustainable Development ('the SDGs') over the next 15 years. This advocacy checklist aims to help you think about how you can use the SDGs (and, in particular, Goal 5 on gender equality and women's empowerment) as a way of engaging with departments and ministers, demanding resources and commitments from your Governments, and collaborating with others to achieve the greatest impact.

Using the SDGs as an entry point

- What [goals and targets](#) are relevant to your work or future work planning?
- How can you increase government knowledge around these goals/targets? Can you organise a workshop, a meeting or prepare a briefing? Can you suggest forming a joint working group between Government and Civil Society Organisations on the SDGs or is there an existing mechanism that can be used?
- How can you use the SDGs to add external legitimacy to your advocacy work? Can you mention relevant targets when you talk to Government officials or MPs? Can you add a reference to the SDGs in your publications?
- How can you link up your work on other international frameworks (such as CEDAW or UNSCR 1325) with the SDGs? This resource gives an overview of the links between [CEDAW and the SDGs](#).
- Check the goals that are being examined at the [High Level political Forum \(HLPF\)](#) this year. Do they link to your work?
- Find out when your Government is planning to undertake its [Voluntary National Review \(VNR\)](#). You can offer to provide input from civil society or you may wish to prepare an alternate report. [This guide](#) may be useful.

Working in partnership

- Are other networks or organisations in your national or regional spaces using the SDGs, and in particular Goal 5, in advocacy work? Can you work together? Consider actors in the private sector, government and civil society.
- Are there resources you can share? Can you apply for funding together?
- Can you organise an event with other civil society organisations to increase their awareness and strategise together on how to use the SDGs, and in particular Goal 5?
- Can you work together to produce an alternate report alongside your Government's VNR?
- Can you engage with the [Women's Major Group \(WMG\)](#) and their advocacy work at the HLPF or seek funding to attend the [Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development](#) or the HLPF with other women's organisations from the region? See this guide produced by the WMG for [practical information on how to engage with the HLPF](#).
- You can find a global registry of voluntary commitments and multi-stakeholder partnerships [here](#).

Using the SDGs as a lever for change

- **Create new policy or legal frameworks:** There is a commitment in the SDGs to create gender sensitive policy frameworks (Goal 1). Can you use this commitment to demand a new or revised policy? Are there discriminatory laws in relation to any of the Goal 5 target areas that you can highlight?
- **Enable local ownership:** The SDGs call for people-centred development. Think about how you can use the new goals to demand consultation, participation and ownership by people, and in particular women and girls, in relation to development decisions and processes. Can you think of ways to encourage local ownership of the goals, as well as sufficient resources at the local level to implement them? This guide on [localising the SDGs](#) may be helpful.
- **Improve data collection:** The SDGs include a commitment to increase gender disaggregated data (Goal 17). How is data being collected in your country? How can you use the SDGs to push for improvements or new investment in data collection?
- **Demand more resourcing:** Can you use the commitments in the SDGs in relation to gender equality and women's empowerment as a way to get funding for work you are already doing? Can you ask for new funding for an event, a meeting or a new project proposal related to the SDGs? Can you demand increased resourcing for your gender ministry?
- **Track progress:** How will you monitor the usefulness of the SDGs to your work? How will you keep track of the Government's progress against the SDGs? Have you already collected information on your Government's progress on gender equality and women's rights which you can use as a starting point to track change? The VNR process provides an important entry point for assessment of national progress. Reports on [international](#) and [regional](#) progress are also produced annually.
- **Engage in regional and international processes:** Regional and international processes such as the HLPF and the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development can provide an entry point to ensure gender equality and women's empowerment is at the forefront of your Government's implementation of the SDGs. Governments in Asia and the Pacific have also committed to a [Regional Road Map for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific](#) which is an important accountability tool.

Useful information & tools to support SDGs advocacy can be found here: <https://iwda.org.au/wave-ifwg-sdgs/>

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For Sustainable Development

