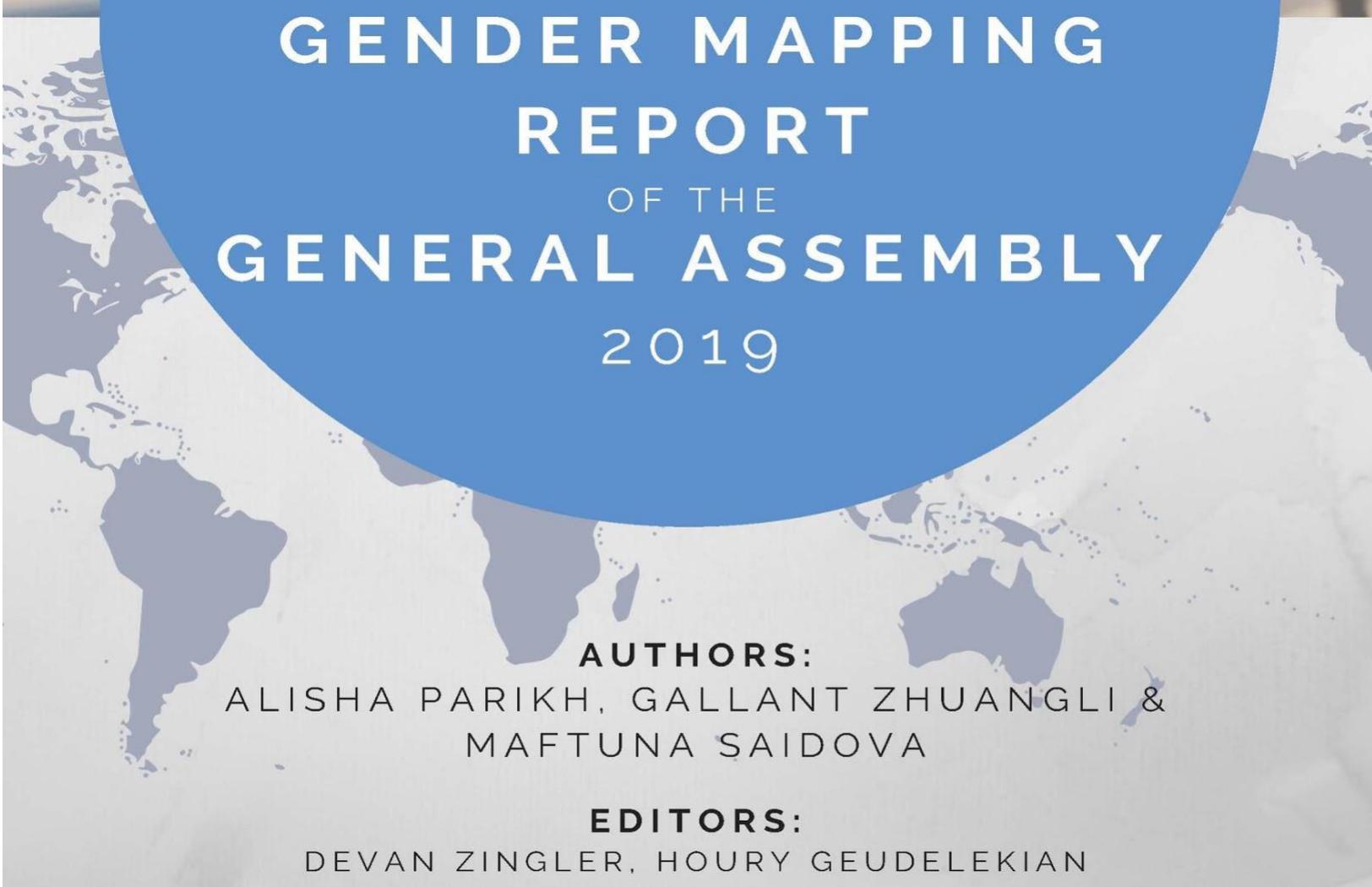




NGO CSW/NY



**GENDER MAPPING
REPORT**
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
2019

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Introduction

“Galvanizing multilateral efforts for poverty eradication, quality education, climate action and inclusion” is the theme of the 74th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), as identified by the President of the General Assembly, Tijjani Muhammad-Bande, the Permanent Representative of Nigeria to the UN. PGA Muhammad-Bande emphasized four priorities for the 74th session:

- promoting international peace and security;
- strengthening global action to tackle climate change;
- accentuating inclusion, human rights, and the empowerment of youth and women; and
- promoting partnerships for advancing the achievement of the SDGs, in particular, goals 1 (poverty eradication), 2 (zero hunger), and 4 (quality education).

On 24-30 September, the General Debate of the 74th session took place where representatives of the 193 Member States of the United Nations to address the Assembly and discuss international issues with a focus on the following SDGs:

- SDG 4: Quality Education
- SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth
- SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions
- SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

The objective of this report is to provide an analysis of the positions of a wide range of UN Member States from all of the regions of the globe. It is divided into sections based on the above Sustainable Development Goals and their respective issues. Each section examines the benefits of incorporating a gender lens to that SDG and the analyses of five different Member States’ addresses representing the five different global regions.

SDG 4: Quality Education

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

By: Alisha Parikh

Introduction

SDG 4, Quality Education, reflects the need for inclusive and quality education for all, including the promotion of lifelong learning opportunities. In the last two decades, the world has seen a drastic increase in access to universal primary education, as well as in the number of girls in school. However, while tremendous progress has been made in achieving equitable access to education, many factors inhibit the full achievement and realization of quality education. Conflict-affected areas and regions of high poverty continue to lag behind in providing accessible and quality education, particularly for girls. While the gender equity in education has increased, girls are more adversely impacted by conflict, poverty, and social and cultural norms that hinder their prospects for education. Many world leaders addressed the General Debate discussing issues such as conflict and poverty as obstacles to achievement of other goals, such as quality education. However, education must be placed as a top priority for countries in order to reap the benefits it has for growth and development.

Benefits of Incorporating a Gender Lens

Gender must be at the forefront of achieving the Sustainable Development Goal of quality education. Doing so offers immense benefits not only for girls and women, but also for their families, communities, and nations at large. Girls' education leads to greater achievements in national development. For girls specifically, every additional year of school increases her future earnings. Children born to literate mothers are 50% more likely to survive past the age of five, and the likelihood of infant mortality reduces with each additional year of schooling. Girls who achieve seven or more years of schooling are also likely to delay marriage and childbirth, thus contributing toward ending child marriage and child mothers. Furthermore, educating girls has benefits for greater access to health care and facilities, and a reduction in contracting diseases such as HIV. Finally, training more women teachers serves as a positive and necessary role model for girls, increases the likelihood that parents will send their daughters to school, and improves the educational experience of girls. These tremendous benefits of incorporating a gender perspective in education speaks to the potential for impact on a nation's development and achievement of targets.

Member State Analyses

Belgium

“Gender equality is of vital importance to achieve development... Feminism...is also a concern of men. It is incumbent among us to change our thinking; this is necessary for all to seek to achieve.”- (H.E. Charles Michel, Prime Minister; 8:08)

Charles Michel, the Prime Minister of Belgium, addressed the General Debate with a focus on the need for trust, dialogue, and a shared commitment to universal values and goals. These characteristics, he says, should be what brings humanity together. Michel states sustainable development as one of the three most pressing issues today. In regard to education, Michel notes the tremendous progress that has been made, such as increased access to education worldwide. Despite such progress, the Prime Minister also notes the work that lies ahead of us, including addressing the instability and poverty that prevent many children from attending school or receiving adequate education. In thinking about solutions to such pressing issues, Michel calls for technological innovation, a greater sense of initiative and entrepreneurship, and an upholding of democratic values.

The Prime Minister of Belgium briefly addresses gender, however, not specific to the progress and remaining challenges in regard to education. Michel claims that feminism involves a change in our thinking, and a necessary commitment for all to seek to achieve. While this is an important first step, girls and women must be at the forefront in thinking about quality education. Belgium’s leader also notes that gender equality is an essential component of development. Building on his argument of a shared commitment to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, we argue that the target of quality education cannot be fully achieved without addressing the specific opportunities for and challenges faced by girls and women. Thus, Michel’s call for dialogue and initiative must position gender equality as a critical driver of progress.

Bangladesh

“Having achieved the milestones of gender parity and 100% percent enrollment, we are now focusing on enhancing the quality of education, with emphasis on e-learning and qualified teachers.”- (H.E. Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister; 7:25)

Bangladesh is perhaps among those countries that have achieved tremendous developmental milestones in the last few decades, particularly in regard to economic growth, healthcare, and education. These goals are intertwined, and shape the country’s potential for achieving gender equality and quality education. Sheikh Hasina notes in her address to the General Debate that Bangladesh has achieved one of the fastest poverty reduction rates in the world. This achievement has a significant impact on achieving quality education. In Bangladesh, she states, the school dropout rate has decreased from 50% to 18%, and 352.20 million books have been distributed in 2019 alone, through the Free Book Distribution Program up to grade 10. As the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Hasina also discusses extensive and inclusive rural development, including

homegrown projects. Such an emphasis offers accessible and quality education to those areas and groups often excluded. Furthermore, education is an investment in human capital, which in turn contributes to the creation of an inclusive society. In this way, progress in education is associated with progress in other developmental areas, such as economic growth and access to healthcare.

Bangladesh is also one of the countries that has achieved gender parity in education, particularly in enrollment levels. While Bangladesh has also emphasized the quality of educational provision, specific issues impact girls and women more adversely than they do men. While equal numbers of boys and girls may be attending school, achievements and challenges may have greater impacts on girls than on boys. For example, a reduction in school dropout rates may be a result of more girls staying in school and completing their education. On the other hand, the freely distributed textbooks may reinforce gender bias through its content or may be inaccessible to girls altogether if written in the national language, in a context in which girls often know their home languages better. In sum, the Prime Minister of Bangladesh undoubtedly incorporates a gender perspective in regard to major development areas, but a greater attention must be given to specific differences in schooling experience as a result of gender.

Nicaragua

“UNICEF also recognizes that in Nicaragua, significant progress has been made to guarantee free access, extensive coverage, and better quality education.” - (H.E. Denis Ronaldo Moncada Colindres, Minister of Foreign Affairs; 4:57)

Colindres, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Nicaragua, calls for a “reinvention” of the United Nations in his address to the General Debate. He says that this is necessary and indispensable for assuring and continuing progress toward the achievement of goals and elimination of human rights violations. Such violations, and unilateral coercive measures, he argues, must be eliminated in order to focus on achieving quality education as part of the 2030 Agenda. Colindres builds on these arguments by calling for a need to defend human rights and assure peace. In doing so, he also discusses the call to Nicaragua’s government to serve the poor and historically marginalized – a group of the population of which women are often a part. Furthermore, the Minister discusses the Cooperation Program, an agreement between UNICEF and Nicaragua for 2019 – 2023, in focusing on overcoming poverty and improving quality education as part of the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda.

In his address, Colindres mentions gender equity as only one, among many, issues necessary to address in order to continue along the path toward development. In regard to quality education, no specific attention is given to gender. While Nicaragua may have made significant progress toward improving quality education, without a gender-perspective and focus on the education of girls and women, full realization of this goal cannot be achieved. Nicaragua, along with other nations, must capitalize on this issue in order to reap the tremendous benefits of incorporating a gender lens in regard to quality education.

Botswana

“Botswana recognizes the importance of quality education – that is, education that empowers, education that fuels prosperity, education that positions citizens to be globally competitive...Quality education is the only way any country can be a participant and a beneficiary of the Fourth Industrial Revolution.” - (H.E. Unity Dow, Minister for International Affairs and Cooperation; 5:38)

Unity Dow, in her address to the General Debate, notes a recommitment to the aim of “leaving no one behind.” To do so, she states, existing inequalities demand urgent address. Dow also explicitly describes the role of quality education, and its importance in successful and effective implementation of the 2030 goals. While 2019 has been a significant year for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, Dow states that greater investment in quality education is needed, and that all countries must work together to create an enabling global environment. Furthermore, in highlighting the role of quality education, Unity Dow is one of the few states leaders who describes what quality education entails, namely, an education that empowers citizens, fuels prosperity, and positions citizens to be globally competitive. These qualities are essential in achieving quality education and providing lifelong learning opportunities. Through a focus on such characteristics, quality education can be a force for long-term growth and development. Dow expresses that Botswana has successfully attained gender parity in access to education. While this is a significant milestone, the pressing issues that continue to exist, such as large class sizes, under-resourced schools, and old infrastructure, may have a greater negative impact on girls’ education than on boys’ education. This point is not described by Unity Dow. With large class sizes, girls may be less likely to participate or face a greater chance of harassment. Old infrastructure is particularly threatening to quality education for girls because lack of toilets and other sanitation facilities are often the singular, or primary, reason that girls stop attending school or dropout altogether. Botswana must continue to build on the achievements made thus far in gender parity in access to education, and incorporate a deeper gender perspective for the specific issues impacting women and girls’ education.

Lebanon

“Indeed, no justice...no right...no peace can be established as long as the principle prevailing in our world is ‘I am strong, therefore I am right.’” - (H.E. Michel Aoun, President; 19:28)

Lebanon, like many countries in the Middle East, is severely impacted by conflict and instability. Aoun, the President of Lebanon, highlights the additional strain on the country as a result of the Syrian displacement crisis. Lebanon, he says, will continue to face serious negative effects of hosting a large number of refugees. In this regard, education of all individuals, would also be compromised. Without establishment of peace and justice, Aoun claims, the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals will be hindered. He calls for an action to make Palestinian youths “education candidates,” not “revenge candidates.” In order to establish peace, and therefore accelerate progress toward the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals including quality education, Aoun states Lebanon is committed to dialogue and convergence. As a pluralistic

society, Lebanon promotes acceptance of differences, and convergence and co-existence of various religions, ethnicities, and cultures aimed at bridging gaps among people. Such qualities are crucial in recognizing the importance of establishing peace and stability, in order to improve quality education and provide lifelong learning opportunities. Aoun discusses gender and the role of women in regard to peace, though not specifically in regard to quality education. The role of women, he states, has been an instrumental component of implementing Resolution 2035: Women, Peace, and Security.

While the establishment of peace is a pressing concern and aim of many Middle Eastern countries, a greater focus on quality education has significant potential to accelerate progress and development. Furthermore, by advancing the role of women not only in establishing peace, but also in promoting quality education and learning opportunities, Lebanon and other Middle Eastern countries can harness the tremendous benefits of incorporating a gender perspective in efforts toward the Sustainable Development Goals.

Conclusion

State leaders of several countries, such as Bangladesh, Nicaragua, and Botswana, discussed significant progress made toward gender equality in regard to education. While these countries have achieved gender parity in terms of access to education, a greater focus needs to be placed on the specific issues impacting women and girls in education. Access is a first step, but attainment of SDG 4 goes beyond this, calling for quality education and lifelong learning opportunities. The issue of gender is critical in full attainment of this goal. Belgium recognizes the importance of gender equality for sustainable development, and calls for a change in thinking and mindset. Many countries in the Middle East, such as Lebanon, call for action toward peace in order to realize achievement of other goals, including education. Often, gender is noted as an instrumental component of establishing peace, but not enough in regard to the provision of quality education. Overall, countries must highlight the unique potential and benefits of incorporating a gender perspective in education, and must address the specific challenges facing women and girls in achieving so. Gender parity in access to education is undoubtedly a milestone, yet state leaders must consider the broader picture. Incorporating a deeper gender perspective not only enhances education, but also accelerates progress in other developmental areas.

SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

By: Alisha Parikh

Introduction

Sustainable Development Goal 8, Decent Work and Economic Growth, has critical implications for overall progress and development. This target concerns both the broader picture of global economic development as well as the specific experience of the individual in the workforce. While the past quarter century has seen tremendous progress in economic growth, primarily through the reduction of those living in extreme poverty, many challenges remain. With the increase in women entering the labor force, the global economy reflects widening inequalities and a shortage of jobs. In this report, key governmental addresses reflect national economic development in relation to other developmental targets. The increasing prominence of climate change and migration in today's world drastically impacts countries' economic development. Furthermore, a country's relation with other countries also influences its economy, such as through trade. In the General Debate, state leaders discussed the progress and continued challenges that remain in regard to national economic growth. Many argued the rising negative impact of climate change, conflict, and instability. While pressures remain, state leaders addressed the pressing need to strengthen and deepen participation in multilateral efforts to drive economic growth and development of all nations and individuals.

Benefits of Incorporating a Gender Lens

As countries adhere to greater efforts towards gender equality, increasing numbers of women are entering the workforce. Thus, in regard to the target of Decent Work and Economic Growth, it is critical to address gender. Above all, the economic empowerment of women plays a central role in the recognition of women's rights and gender equality. Women's participation in and contribution to the global economy fosters economic diversification and income equality, while boosting productivity and increasing a country's GDP. Furthermore, businesses also benefit by creating greater employment and leadership opportunities for women – through greater and more effective performance. It is essential that women not only increasingly participate in the workforce, but also are offered decent work. This includes non-discriminatory economic policies, such as maternity protection. When gender is considered as a critical component of economic growth and the provision of decent work, the potential for countries' overall development and progress is unleashed.

Member State Analyses

United States

“Nations that empower women are much wealthier, safer, and much more politically stable. It is therefore vital not only to a nation’s prosperity, but also is vital to its national security to pursue women’s economic development.”- (H.E. Donald Trump, President; 30:34)

President Trump spoke primarily about patriotism, and respect for each country’s differences. Specific to the United States, Trump mentions that pro- growth economic policies in the United States have resulted in the lowest domestic unemployment rate in over half a century. This achievement, he states, is due to tax cuts leading to production of jobs, rising wages and incomes, and greater employment rates for African American, Latin American, and Hispanic Americans. However, Trump neglects to state the improved employment rates of women. Furthermore, President Trump also discusses relationships with other countries, in regard to trade and the economy. He states that our goal is balanced trade, “that is both fair and reciprocal.” In line with this point, Trump describes a new trade deal with the UK, and the positive economic impact of placing tariffs on Chinese goods.

President Trump was one of the state leaders in the General Debate who addressed economic initiatives that empower women. The Women’s Global Development and Prosperity Initiative is one of the first government-wide approaches to women’s economic empowerment. The initiative seeks to secure women’s rights to own and inherit property, travel freely, access credit and institutions, and work in the same industries as men. This initiative is a milestone achievement for women’s economic empowerment, focusing on the economic rights of women not only in the United States, but also in countries around the world.

While President Trump adequately addresses gender in relation to economic empowerment and development, he neglects to discuss the challenges that women still face, such as unequal pay, discrimination in the work force, and difference in potential opportunities for men and women. The discussion of achievements for women’s economic empowerment is critical, but leaders must also address the inequalities that hinder women’s full and meaningful participation in and contribution to economic growth.

Bangladesh

“Bangladesh has often been cited as a ‘development miracle’... despite turbulence in the rule-based international order and apprehensions of economic slowdown, Bangladesh continued to prosper over the last ten years.” - (H.E. Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister; 3:52)

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina discussed the incredible economic progress that Bangladesh has achieved over the last decade – the highest growth among twenty-six countries. Such economic achievement includes a 188% in expansion of GDP at current prices, a triple increase in exports from 2005 to 2017, a three and a half times increase in per capita income, and an increase in investment. Hasina also describes Bangladesh as achieving one of the fastest poverty reduction

rates in the world. Such developmental progress, she states, results from a strategy of addressing inequality, decent work, financial work, and focusing on extensive and inclusive development. Hasina also mentions a special emphasis on vulnerable groups, but does not mention women as one such group. While she mentions the achievement of gender parity in education, she does not illustrate the same in economic opportunities and participation.

As one of the few female state leaders addressing the General Debate, Hasina spoke surprisingly little about gender in regard to economic growth. Despite such honorable progress and economic achievements in Bangladesh, the Prime Minister does not substantially address the role of women, or gender equality, in the economy. Not only do women significantly contribute to and boost economic productivity, but such growth also impacts women differently than it does men, particularly in lower-income countries. Thus, while the progress and development of Bangladesh is commendable, specific attention must be given to the incorporation of a gender perspective in regard to economic growth.

Mexico

“The Government of Mexico considers itself to be a feminist government...we believe that gender equity is the very basis of an equal society. We cannot change social reality without a deep, far-reaching commitment to promote gender equity.” - (H.E. Marcelo Ebrard Casaubon, Minister of Foreign Affairs; 9:27)

Casaubon, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, focused on the need to strengthen multilateralism, as one of the most crucial and effective ways to resolve today’s major issues. In regard to economic growth and development, Casaubon describes the purposes of previous changes in regime. The first, he states, includes the aim of separating economic power from political power. The second and third transitions in regimes perhaps have the most direct relevance to economic growth. The purpose of the second transition, Casaubon argues, was an effort to reduce inequality. Despite being one of the largest economies in the world, Mexico still has over 52 million people living in poverty. Following this transition, the third change in regime resulted from an effort to increase economic growth – primarily through a foundation of self-confidence and innovation. Thus, these changes in regime undoubtedly reflect Mexico’s efforts to improve its economy, by addressing shortfalls and seeking effective solutions.

In the General Debate, Casaubon also discusses economic growth in terms of migration. He describes an economic solution to migration, by illustrating the creation of over 60,000 jobs in the Central American region in just one year, providing options for people where they live and reducing the necessity of migrating. Despite claiming that the government of Mexico considers itself to be a “feminist government”, Casaubon makes no reference to women or gender in economic growth or decent work. Poverty and displacement, two issues deeply affecting Mexico, have disproportionately negative impacts on women. Women are more likely to be negatively impacted by poverty and instability, with consequences for not only themselves, but their families

and communities as well. In response to such issues, it is essential that the potential of women's contribution to Mexico's economic growth be realized.

Botswana

“Botswana...is confronted by many challenges, including extreme poverty and inequalities. In this regard, our government continues to direct significant resources to inclusive development and economic growth. Consequently, we have various policies on poverty eradication programs to support the most vulnerable in society...” - (H.E. Unity Dow, Minister for International Affairs and Cooperation; 4:19)

In her address to the General Debate, Unity Dow discusses Botswana's commitment to tackle major challenges confronting the country, namely extreme poverty and inequalities. She also highlights youth unemployment, rising social economic inequalities, and unsustainable levels of consumption as factors hindering the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals. A central component of her address is inclusivity, and reaching those most vulnerable, such as women, youth, and individuals with disabilities. In addition, Dow calls for working together to create an enabling global environment, consisting of a fair and rule based global trading system. Botswana, as a global leader in diamonds, endorses the Kimberly Process, aimed to promote legitimate diamond trade and prioritize capacity building for its members. Finally, Dow warns that financial institutions must consider unintended consequences of counter-terrorism de-risking approaches, such as limited access to and use of banking facilities and the possible collapse of small banks. To address this and other existing challenges, Dow calls for a “shared prosperity”, or progress in which no one is left behind.

While Dow mentions gender in regard to education, she does not mention how rising economic inequalities differently and more greatly affects women. In addition, policies directed toward poverty eradication and greater inclusivity may be in place, however it is the implementation of such policies that creates real change. In her claim of reaching those most vulnerable in society, Dow scarcely mentions women, and does so by grouping them with other vulnerable groups. Furthermore, there is no mention of how economic participation differently affects women, and of how gender inequality is a major component of rising social inequalities. While Botswana is committed to shared progress in economic growth, the significant challenges impacting women and the tremendous contribution they can make must be acknowledged.

Afghanistan

“The new Afghanistan continues to transform itself into a center of cooperation, connectivity, and development in our region...Afghan-led initiatives are...opening new frontiers for trade, the movement of goods and people and ideas throughout South and Central Asia.”- (H.E. Hamdullah Mohib, Chair of Delegation; 16:10)

Hamdullah Mohib, the Chair of Delegation, addressed the General Debate speaking largely about the efforts toward peace in Afghanistan. The impact of conflict and instability stifles nearly all

other aspects of development, including economic growth. Only with peace, Mohib states, will Afghans be able to appreciate opportunities and freedoms, such as those in the economic system. As a primarily agricultural economy, Afghanistan is also significantly impacted by the effects of climate change. Thus, a pressing challenge of the country's economic sector in this regard is to find long-term solutions while simultaneously providing immediate relief. However, Mohib does provide a positive outlook. He calls for Afghans to turn hope into belief, and work toward the common objective of peace. As part of the solution toward peace agreements, Mohib credits women's initiatives and highlights the country's own national development agenda, 'The Afghanistan SDGs.' Mohib is one of the only state leaders to address his country's citizens as "countrywomen and men", acknowledging the women in Afghan society. Mohib also explicitly credits women in regard to uniting around a common peace agenda, and voicing their concerns in the process of developing a peace agreement. However, in terms of economic growth and equality, Mohib makes no reference to women or gender inequality within the workforce. As a country with strong cultural norms regarding gender, Afghanistan must be critically aware and conscious of the way in which instability and inequalities disproportionately affect women. While peace is a critical foundation from which Afghanistan can rebuild, the contribution of women to development, and particularly to economic growth, is of utmost importance.

Conclusion

Overall, several state leaders discussed gender in regard to national development. However, most often gender was discussed within the realm of quality education (Bangladesh, Botswana), peace (Afghanistan), or more generally. While gender was discussed, specific attention must be paid to how women contribute to economic growth, and how economic opportunities differently impact women. President Trump did discuss the Women's Global Development and Prosperity Initiatives, while Causabon claimed that Mexico considers itself a "feminist government." While each of these discussions regarding gender is important and insightful, it does not provide a view of gender equality in achieving SDG 8, Decent Work and Economic Growth. Furthermore, Bangladesh has made drastic achievements toward overall development and greater gender parity, however, again with a lack of focus on women in the economy. Thus, while the above state leaders make mention of gender, we argue that a much deeper-rooted, gender-sensitive perspective is needed in addressing the opportunities for decent work and economic growth.

SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

By: Maftuna Saidova

Introduction

Goal 16, which aims to promote sustainable development and peaceful and inclusive efforts via institutional development and increased access to justice, is one of the many issues the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF 2019) sought to discuss and highlight. The focal points of Goal 16 include reducing violence, promoting the rule of law through the strengthening of institutions, and increasing access to justice for all individuals. Corruption, human trafficking, tax evasion, and violence in all spheres are some of the pertinent factors which hinder the overall achievement of peace, justice and inclusive institutions around the world. Overall, goal 16 aims to eliminate and address all forms of violence, abuse, exploitation, human trafficking, while also promoting the rule of law at the national and international levels.

Benefits of Integrating a Gender Lens into SDG 16

There is significant evidence put forth by various sectors including academia and non-governmental organizations, which suggest that increasing and encouraging the participation of women in local and national political institutions directly leads to the decrease of in-state conflict and violence. Not only is women's equal participation at all levels a basic human right, but it is also a crucial precursor to the establishment of long-lasting peace. ¹

Women remain underrepresented and unrecognized at all levels of national and international political processes:

- 3 out of 11 peace agreements signed in 2017 contained gender-sensitive provisions.
- Only 2% of mediators, 5% of witnesses and signatories, and 8% negotiators were women in major peace processes between 1990 and 2017.
- When women are included in peace processes, there is a 35% increase in probability of an agreement lasting at least 15 years.

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/multimedia/2018/10/infographic-womens-meaningful-participation-builds-peace>

Member State Analyses

Turkey

“The world has forgotten about Aylan Kurdi too quickly” - H.E Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdogan, President of Turkey

Turkey’s battle with domestic acts of terror has contributed to the perpetual rise of in-state violence. During his speech, Mr. Erdogan spoke of the various ensuing humanitarian crises around the world: migration, resettlement of refugees, fighting extremist groups, and the death of Jammal Khashoggi. The Syrian migration crisis, in particular, has created an arduous task for neighboring countries. Turkey becoming one of the largest host countries to Syrian refugees has exacerbated the political and economic instability in Turkey. Additionally, the Turkish government’s attitude towards Kurds in Turkey, as well as the state-led surveillance of members and activities related to terrorist organizations, have all contributed to the rise of in-state violence. President Erdogan spoke of a permanent solution to resolve these issues, and his proposal is to return the Syrian migrants, negotiated and agreed on between the governments of Syria, Turkey, and Russia. Under this proposal, Turkish and allied forces would eliminate terrorist organizations in the east of the Euphrates and would instead create safe zones for the refugees. According to President Erdogan, the creation of such safe zones would ensure the resettlement of 1 to 2 million refugees. However, the proposal creates more complications for the governments of Turkey and Syria as it lacks safety nets for the vulnerable women and children who are caught in the middle of designated conflict zones.

Lebanon

“Unfortunately, the international political approaches for the Middle East region still lack justice and use double standards, which makes our peoples question the concept of democracy” - H.E Mr. Michel Auon, President of Lebanon.

Lebanon’s path to achieving political stability has been anything but orderly, as can be seen with the recent outburst of protest from the Lebanese people. The protests, led by over a million Lebanese people, are largely a response to the recently implemented austerity measures and tax reforms enacted by the economically struggling Lebanese government. It was reported that protesters were tear-gassed and chased down in Beirut.² While the president spoke of the need for the international community to not only recognize the values of the United Nations but to also value them during his UNGA speech, the treatment of the protests by the Lebanese government demonstrates that the people of Lebanon are dissatisfied with the current government and feel neglected. While it is true that the Lebanese government has a duty to address the concerns of its citizens, the violence and economic struggles are a part of a larger issue stemming from the humanitarian crisis in the Middle East. Therefore, resorting to violence

²<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/oct/18/lebanon-brought-to-a-standstill-by-protests-over-economic-crisis>

to address the dissatisfaction of the protests will not guarantee long-lasting peace and order within the country.

Kazakhstan

“Kazakhstan will not become a success story in its social-economic development unless profound political transformation is accomplished.” - H.E Mr. Kassym-Jomart Tokayev.

Kazakhstan, a former Soviet state, certainly surprised the world with the election of its new President, who took office after Nazarbayev’s resignation. Central Asia, a region known for authoritarian regimes and state-led corruption, seems to be heading toward a new democratic era. During his UNGA speech, President Tokayev spoke of cooperation among the Central Asian nations, Kazakhstan’s support for UN Peacekeeping operations, and its commitment to ensuring the existence a plural society. Additionally, Kazakhstan’s close relationship with China, its largest investor and trade partner, has resulted in the overall dissatisfaction and thus led to the outbreak of protests. ³ The protesters, many of who are women, young people, and men, have been brutally targeted by Kazakh police. Although Kazakhstan is the first Central Asian nation to have had an incumbent president to resign from office, the institutional mistreatment of civilians will have detrimental effects on the political development of the nation. Yet, it will be up to President Tokayev, who faces newly implemented constitutional restrictions by Nazarbayev, his predecessor, to overcome these issues to achieve an inclusive democracy.

Venezuela

“Venezuela is at peace.” - H.E Ms. Delcy Rodriguez, Executive Vice President

Venezuela has been ensued in a revolutionary power struggle between the constitutionally recognized leader Juan Guaido and the current President Nicolas Maduro. Although Guaido is the constitutionally elected leader, President Maduro has control over the Venezuelan government, including the employment of its armed forces. Venezuela has been suffering various economic sanctions from the US, although this is being somewhat alleviated by the support from the Russian government and Venezuela’s oil trade. During her UNGA speech, Vice President Rodriguez claimed that President Maduro is a leader whose leadership coincides with the self-determination of the people in Venezuela while condemning on the U.S influence over Venezuelan affairs. However, she did not comment on the current economic crisis and its impact on the people of Venezuela resulting from the inefficient institutions of the Venezuelan government.

Sudan

“Young women and men of Sudan made this revolution and they will make their future as they wish and the state will be there to help them.” - H.E Mr. Abdalla Hamdok, Prime Minister

On December 19th, Sudan witnessed a successful unprecedented revolutionary protest to oust its former political dictator, Omar al-Bashir. Since then, Sudan has been undergoing political

³<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-kazakhstan-china-protests-detentions/dozens-detained-in-kazakhstan-at-anti-china-protests-idUSKBN1W60CS>

transition processes which will be followed by elections in 2022. The newly elected prime minister spoke of Sudan's intentions to join Human Rights treaties CEDAW and CAT. Additionally, under the temporary government, Sudan has signed an agreement with the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHRO) to establish an office in the country to monitor the implementation of these conventions. More importantly, Prime Minister Hamdok gave the credit of the revolution to the women. Sudan has elected its first female Foreign Minister in the country - Asma Mohamed Abdalla. The Prime Minister asked for the international community to aid them in their journey to a democratic country, which is currently undergoing a three-year civilian rule.

Conclusion

All things considered, there has been significant progress made in implementing Goal 16. This can be seen in the current political circumstance of Sudan, whose revolution was largely led by women. However, it is clear that there is still ample room for progress to be made. World leaders rarely mentioned women and their capabilities or issues related to gender and the need to promote gender perspectives as a precursor to the promotion of peace and justice during UNGA 2019. Such a trend where there is a lack of support from state leaders has encouraged, in spaces where state recognition and involvement aren't present, women activists to emerge as leaders and voice their dissatisfaction with their state. This can be seen in the cases of Lebanon and Kazakhstan where women, along with thousands of citizens in their respective countries, were inspired to protest. Ensuring that such encouragement creates further progress, members of the international community should take it upon themselves to monitor and assess the political initiatives of countries where dissatisfaction is strong among citizens and encourage women leaders to take part in their initiatives. Additionally, instead of simply calling out the governments which resort to state-led violence, international actors, specifically those who have extensive knowledge of Human Rights Law, should couple their disapproval with referencing to existing Human Rights Treaties and resolutions so as to make a more universal argument which can build on current understanding of the issues.

SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

By: Maftuna Saidova

Introduction

SDG 17 focuses on the implementation of coherent policies aimed at promoting development at all levels including environmental, and calling for a more active and reinvigorated Global Partnership for Sustainable Development. The following areas have been targeted as the most critical for the achievement of Goal 17: resource mobilization, technology, capacity building, trade, policy and institutional coherence, multi-stakeholder partnerships, and data, and monitoring and accountability across all areas of institutional development. Although there have been significant improvements in each area, new challenges have arisen which need to be addressed to achieve full sustainable economic development. Such new challenges include the increase of migrants and the economic responsibilities they have entailed on the host countries.

Benefits of Integrating a Gender Lens to SDG 17

There is strong evidence produced from all sectors of society proving that women and girls are central to the economic empowerment of all nations. Ensuring economic access for women and girls not only ensures the achievement of Goal 5: achieving gender equality, but it allows for the reduction of poverty and food security.

- Active efforts to increase female employment can lead to OECD countries' GDP to increase by over USD 6 trillion.⁴
- It has been reported that gender gaps can decrease the economy of countries by 15% in GDP.
- The private sector greatly benefits from female employment. Female employment efforts have produced effectiveness and growth in organizations.

Country Analyses

⁴ <https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/economic-empowerment/facts-and-figures>

Hungary

“[Migration] harms and threatens the nationality of the host countries” - H.E Péter Szijjártó, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade

The Hungarian government has repeatedly expressed disapproval of the Global Migration Compact (GCM) which was adopted by a vast majority of UN Members on December 10, 2018. The Hungarian Minister stated that the agreement does not protect the rights of migrants, rather it promotes the act of migration, “which is a dangerous phenomenon.” The Minister then began to speak about the rise of terrorism and implied that it was due to the rise of migration and that the terrorists themselves had “migration backgrounds.” The migration agreement, the Minister claimed, put a burden on the host countries and that the international community should instead focus on stabilizing the countries where the migrants are fleeing from, as they are the ones who are “losing.” The UN should focus on helping countries with capacity building measures to prevent migration. In other words, the Hungarian Minister called on an issue which many member states have expressed support for: providing capacity-building support to the governments of countries where the migrants are fleeing from instead of having to accept the responsibility for the migrants.

Lebanon

H.E Mr. Michel Auon, President of Lebanon

As of 2018, Lebanon was ranked the third highest country to be in debt in the world, with a total public deficit of over USD 75\$ million.⁵ However, Lebanon’s decision to not use force against the protests, their encouragement of women into government, and their recognition of Resolution 1325 into a national action plan, all demonstrate that they are on the path to progress. Additionally, President Michel noted that the “wars in the Middle East” have had repercussions that are becoming widespread in the economic and political levels of neighboring countries, such as Lebanon, one of the host countries for refugees. The austerity measures and the tax reforms, the president noted, is largely in part due to the large influx of refugees Lebanon has allowed into its territories over the years, with the Syrian humanitarian crisis only “worsening” economic conditions. However, he concludes with the message that Lebanon is on the path to becoming a place where religions, cultures, and races can co-exist.

Kazakhstan

“In this complex environment Kazakhstan firms pursues a policy of inclusive and sustainable development, comprehensive dialogue and peaceful endeavors” - H.E Mr. Kassym-Jomart Tokayev

Kazakhstan’s close relationship with its biggest investor, China, has caused many citizens to speak out in protest. The protests, which escalated to physical suppression by the Kazakh law enforcement, took the attention of the world media, particularly because they came after the

⁵ <https://www.newsweek.com/mass-protests-lebanon-over-1-million-1466544>

resignation of Nazarbayev. During his address to the General Assembly, the current President, Tokayev, spoke of the need to cooperate to end nuclear threats and reduce the threat of climate change in Central Asia as well as his intentions for the country. However, no mention was made about China's growing influence, under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in the country and the dissatisfaction of the citizens over the deals made between the countries. What the citizens are particularly upset over is the loss of job opportunities that will result from the investment deals, amounting to \$27.5 billion. Chinese companies tend to send their workers abroad instead of hiring the locals.⁶ President Tokayev stated that he wants to build an inclusive Kazakhstan built on sustainable development with "open dialogue."

Venezuela

"Economic terrorism Venezuela has caused a nine-fold drop in its income." - H.E Ms. Delcy Rodriguez Vice President

Due to food shortages and decreasing imports of domestic products, Venezuela has become heavily dependent on its oil imports, which amounted to \$29 billion last year.⁷ However, instead of speaking about specific ways and proposals to improve the economic situation of the country, Vice President Rodriguez focused on condemning the U.S. for its interference in Venezuelan political affairs and its support for Juan Guadio, during her speech. Of the factors contributing to the Venezuelan crisis are failing economic policies, which Vice President Rodriguez does not mention. The economic stability of Venezuela is a precursor to its peace, as can be seen with the dissatisfaction of the Venezuelan people with the inefficient governmental institutions.

Egypt

"For decades, Egypt has sought to strengthen and deepen the bonds of cooperation with its brothers of the Nile Basin countries with whom it enjoys eternal relations." - H.E Mr. Abdel Fattah Al Sisi, President

President Abdel Fattah Al Sisi spoke of various issues ranging from the current crises ensuing in the Middle East to the need to improve the balance and efficiency of the UN and its processes. Egypt, which is currently serving as the Chair of the African Union (AU), will focus on development at all levels, specifically in Africa, said President Al Sisi. One of the issues the president has focused on is the need to remove Sudan from the State-Sponsored terrorist list, which significantly curtails its financial stability and political development. Allowing Sudan to return to the international community and thus, back into development, is a crucial step for the full achievement of the African Union Development Agenda (2063). Mr. Abdel Fattah Al Sisi highlighted the role of regional financial institutions as well as the role of private stakeholders in the region, as crucial for the development of the region. However, he also noted that the ensuing humanitarian crises, specifically the crisis in Syria, Yemen, and Libya, require just and

⁶ <https://www.economist.com/asia/2019/09/26/kazakhstan-promises-to-allow-public-protests-just-not-yet>

⁷ <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-venezuela-exports-insight/in-hungry-venezuela-food-producers-step-up-exports-to-survive-idUSKBN1X215M>

comprehensive negotiations in conjunction with the existing UN resolutions which address these issues, respectively.

Conclusion

Evidently, direct foreign investments, the rise of migration, the impact of economic reforms, and political instability are existing obstacles to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 17, which undertakes to strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development. Additionally, no mention was made in regards to the inclusion of female employment by any of the countries. As in the case of Hungary, the Minister spoke of providing capacity building support without mentioning that in most of the countries where migrants are fleeing from, women carry most of the responsibility. Additionally, in the case of Lebanon, the issue of gender and UNSCR 1325 and the need to implement economic reforms were presented as separate issues instead of issues which are linked. Lastly, in the case of Kazakhstan and Egypt, they made no reference to creating initiatives to work with women as a precursor to maintain economic stability. In other words, it is clear that if women are to be seen as crucial building blocks for sustainable development, the efforts of various stakeholders from the private and public spheres will be necessary.

Conclusion

As demonstrated in each “Benefits of Integrating a Gender Lens” section, the meaningful participation of women and girls, as well as gendered analysis, is essential to achieving each of the Sustainable Development Goals. While many governments mentioned the importance of gender equality and the consideration of women and girls for achieving different goals, there is much room for improvement.

Next steps:

The NGO CSW/NY interns have compiled this report in order to help civil society:

- Understand the public position of UN Member States on gender equality and related issues
- Gain a holistic and comparative analysis between Member States
- Hold UN Member States accountable for their commitments and goals
- Demonstrate the relevance of addressing gender equality across intersectional human rights and development issues
- Make suggestions for best practices, improvement and needs for policy changes and track innovative programs
- Track the progression of the UN Member States’ stances from year to year
- Learn which countries are allies for specific causes and build partnerships accordingly
- Learn which countries are allies for specific causes and build partnerships accordingly
- Add to the collection of established languages that can be used to prove precedent and shared interest when lobbying for gender equality in the UN sphere

Actions you can take:

- Share this report with your networks. The more information we have, the more successful our outcomes will be.
- Utilize this data and analysis to sensitize your task force and strategize for your meetings with Member States for the CSW and NGO CSW Forum.
- Attend an Advocacy Training at the NGO CSW Forum and read our [Advocacy Guide](#) for strategies to achieve your advocacy goals and download our Advocacy App.



NGO-CSW facilitates a platform for the voices and leadership of feminists and women's rights organizations globally who lobby for their inclusion in the UN deliberations in pursuit of gender equality.

We envision a world without sexism, sexual violence, or discrimination against women and girls, where economic, political, and social policies encourage their empowerment and wellbeing.

NGO CSW/NY was founded in 1972 under the auspices of the Conference of NGOs (CoNGO). It was formed in preparation for the International Women's Year (1975), the UN Decade of Women (1975-1985), and the First World Conference on Women held in Mexico City in 1975. Its mandate was to provide a forum for exchange of information, facilitating a corporation among its member organizations and later, assisting the international community in implementing the Beijing Platform for Action (after its adaption during the fourth International Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995) and other UN agreements. NGO CSW has expanded its international presence through the establishment of regional NGO CSW offices. In 1973, CoNGO approved NGO CSW/Geneva, and NGO CSW/Vienna was approved not long after in 1982. In 2015, regional offices in Africa, Arab States/MENA, Asia/Pacific, and Latin America/Caribbean were formed as well. While NGO CSW/NY has developed and grown since 1972, it has been a key platform for international advocacy toward the promotion of women's human rights, gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

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