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The UN Sustainable Development Goals & Women: New Questions for Social Change and Research

Since the original research conducted by Wilson and Salmons presented in the poster presented at the Walden University 2017 National Faculty Meeting in Baltimore, MD., continuing events and publications have further refined the original themes for needed research into specific areas that complement the UNFCCC process to assist countries with achieving the outcomes of the Paris Agreement. Some of these are general, such as newly adopted statements at the July 2017 Economic and Social Council High-Level Political Forum on furthering the role of gender in Agenda 2030 implementation processes. Others are more specific. For example, the UN Secretary General's Second SDG Progress Report issued in May, 2017 identifies the role that global legal frameworks play in perpetuating gender-based discrimination. Drs. Wilson and Salmons continue to investigate gender issues and their evolving application across all SDGs.

Evolving Research on Gender and the SDGs

The research reflected in the poster was conducted by Drs. Wilson and Salmons in 2015 while the Sustainable Development Goals were being released. Dr. Wilson as Ph.D. Public Policy and Administration Faculty for Walden University and Executive Director of SeaTrust Institute served as subject matter expert for the SDGs and multilateral processes; Dr. Salmons, Educational Technology Ph.D. faculty for Walden University and CEO of Vision2Lead was the social research specialist. The research team identified preliminary themes for future research related to gender and the SDGs, delivering their preliminary findings via a public webinar held in March, 2016.

Part of this continuing collaborative research is emerging content data collection conducted by Dr. Lynn Wilson who has been involved in the SDG process since its conception at RIO+20 in 2012. She has continued to closely engage in policy-related events and SDG research through numerous iterations

leading to the 2015 launch as part of Agenda 2030 and the Paris Agreement, and in the ongoing development of global and thematic indicators for all 17 SDGs and 169 targets, including gender. She continues to work inside current SDG development processes, recently as a delegate for SeaTrust Institute to the UNFCCC SB46 negotiation meetings in Bonn, Germany in May 2017, collaborating with her organization's representative attending the ECOSOC High Level Political Forum (HLPF) on the SDGs in July 2017, and through preparing her team for COP23 meetings in November 2017 in Bonn, Germany.

Two specific actions applicable to the joint ongoing gender research are being launched by the researchers and their affiliated organizations. SeaTrust Institute is launching the first portion of the sustainable development measurement and evaluation system **Lighthouse Standard** to help countries construct their national level SDG and NAP indicators; and the researchers are co-presenting the independent online class that will support SDG and gender research, [Create Your Publication Strategy for Social Impact](#).

**PRELIMINARY SUMMARY UPDATES RELATED TO GENDER AND THE SDGS
MAY/JUNE, 2017 – DR. LYNN WILSON, SEATRUST INSTITUTE & WALDEN UNIVERSITY**

Overarching Research implications: The emphasis, policy action and general recommendation sections from the outcomes of the SB46 session below that result from outputs of the recent multilateral meetings and associated documents point to the need for more specific areas for additional research in order to provide guidance in the areas of identified need to support SDG #5, and the integration of gender across SDGs. This expands the original research shown on the poster, and places those findings within the policy and social action foci of interdisciplinary SDG scholars and practitioners.

From the further analysis of the documents and event transcripts from the SB46 meetings, specific needs have emerged for targeted appropriate spatial and temporal analysis across many categories and themes to define areas of concern and make recommendations to reduce inequality and to identify appropriate actions, policies, and measurements across SDGs that link gender emphasis, policy and actions related to the SDGs to country NDGs, NAPs and NAPAs. Cross-SDG integration is evolving as a focus for all thematic areas; gender is no exception. While the SDGs as conceived in 2012 originally focused attention on achieving a single SDG (for instance SDG #5 for Women and Girls), actions that cross SDGs are increasingly viewed as a way for countries to achieve record greater achievement credit from evaluations for actions taken on behalf of a single SDG.

Because the desired integration is dependent upon thematic working group outcomes, the outcomes need to be identified and then applied to areas that cross SDGs while remaining sensitive to country-level reporting requirements. Shown below are the results from the working group on gender from the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) at the UNFCCC intersessional meetings in May, 2017. From original meeting documents and meeting session notes, I have grouped these SB46 gender thematic outputs into categories requiring additional research and action that align with the larger body of SDG development, including the Global Indicator framework. Current Global Indicators for SDG#5 are provided as well as a list of updated sites with gender specific data and reports from key resources.

Themes from SB46 working group on gender

Capacity building, knowledge sharing and communication

Coherence within the UNFCCC and other UN agencies

Gender-responsive implementation and Means of Implementation

Gender balance and participation

Monitoring and reporting

Analysis:

Gender Emphasis areas

- Capacity building to create “gender champions”
- Mainstream gender in national, regional and global climate change actions
- Gender responsive implementation in NAPS, NAPAs, NDCs
- Capacity building on gender budgeting
- Ensure gender balance
- Integrate gender in Technology Needs Assessment (TNA) and Technology Action Plans (TAPs)
- Capacity building on gender budgeting
- Ensure effective participation of local, grassroots and indigenous women
- Target resources to support the equal participation of women and men from developing countries’ national delegations

Policy & Action Items

- Review at COP25, with submissions to report on actions in 2019
- Integrate trained gender champions as national gender focal points
- Prioritize building institutional capacities for mainstreaming gender at all scales
- Systematically integrate gender into various work programs and thematic areas and their respective bodies under the UNFCCC, rather than create a separate workstream
- Increase gender effectiveness through enhancing the participation of women in policy and in local communities
- Integrate gender into measurement and reporting under the transparency framework
- Integrate gender into the existing MRV climate finance system
- Integrate local and traditional knowledge in the formulation of climate policy and to recognize the value of the participation of grassroots women in gender-responsive climate policy at all levels.
- Identify inequality "hot spots" that need policies at different scales to reduce current and future vulnerability to climate change

Tools and mechanisms that are needed for creating gender-responsive systems


- Create reporting mechanisms, tools and knowledge sharing for gender-responsive implementation across national planning processes

- Create and implement tools for gender-responsive implementation in NAPS, NAPAs, NDCs
- Develop mechanisms for regular reporting and analysis of gender dimensions of Parties' actions especially related to NAPS and NDCs

Summary general findings that are particularly pertinent to gender issues

- Recommendations cut across many themes and SDGs, at distinct stages including framing/ scope of the action plans, global and thematic indicator development and measurement, and M&E reporting
- Capacity building needs at international and national levels
- The action plan and its priority areas, activities, monitoring and review should be concrete, verifiable and achievable.
- Training needed for delegates

SDG Global Indicators as of 7/3/2017 specifically attached to Goal #5

Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	
	
5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere	5.1.1 Whether or not legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex
5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation	5.2.1 Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and by age
	5.2.2 Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence
5.3 Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation	5.3.1 Proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18

	5.3.2 Proportion of girls and women aged 15-49 years who have undergone female genital mutilation/cutting, by age
5.4 Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate	5.4.1 Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, by sex, age and location
5.5 Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life	5.5.1 Proportion of seats held by women in (a) national parliaments and (b) local governments
	5.5.2 Proportion of women in managerial positions
5.6 Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences	5.6.1 Proportion of women aged 15-49 years who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care
	5.6.2 Number of countries with laws and regulations that guarantee full and equal access to women and men aged 15 years and older to sexual and reproductive health care, information and education
5.a Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws	5.a.1 (a) Proportion of total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, by sex; and (b) share of women among owners or rights-bearers of agricultural land, by type of tenure
	5.a.2 Proportion of countries where the legal framework (including customary law) guarantees women's equal rights to land ownership and/or control
5.b Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women	5.b.1 Proportion of individuals who own a mobile telephone, by sex
5.c Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels	5.c.1 Proportion of countries with systems to track and make public allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment

The next major event is the fifth High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), taking place from 10-19 July 2017 in New York City. One of the goals reviewed in depth at this year's forum is Goal 5 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls). The others for this year's review are Goal 1 (End poverty in all its forms everywhere); Goal 2 (End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture); Goal 3 (Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages); Goal 9 (Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation); Goal 14 (Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development); and Goal 17 (Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development), which will be considered each year.

During the second week of the HLPF, 44 countries will present Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) on implementation of the 2030 Agenda. These will include a special focus on this year's topics, including women and girls. The ECOSOC High-level Segment is expected to adopt the Ministerial Declaration on July 20, 2017 at 5:30 pm Eastern Standard Time.

For additional information and to continue the conversation on ***Gender and the SDGs***, recent and upcoming events and online tools will provide more evidence to the preliminary summary presented here.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR UPDATED INFORMATION ON GENDER AND THE SDGS:

UNFCCC: GENDER DECISIONS, GOVERNANCE OPTIONS, AND OTHER INTERACTIONS WITH UNFCCC PROCESSES

http://unfccc.int/files/gender_and_climate_change/application/pdf/sbi46_unfccc_mandates_governance_workstreams.pdf

UN WOMEN TWITTER

https://twitter.com/unwomenEval?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw&ref_url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.uneval.org%2F

UNFCCC LESSONS LEARNED

http://unfccc.int/files/gender_and_climate_change/application/pdf/sbi46_unfccc_other_plans_lessons_learned.pdf

UNFCCC: INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS ON THE GENDER ACTION PLAN

http://unfccc.int/files/gender_and_climate_change/application/pdf/informal_consultations_gender_action_plan.pdf

UN WOMEN - GENDER EVALUATION REPORTS

<http://gate.unwomen.org/>