



## General Assembly

*Topic: Measures to promote, enhance and further improve worldwide equality and justice in accordance with the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals*

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### 1. Definition of key terms

**SDGs:** The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is a project founded by the UN in 2015. It shows a list of 17 measures, that should assure a better life for the planet and people by the 2030. Important issues covered in this project are poverty, inequality, climate, environmental degradation, prosperity, peace and justice.

**Equality:** ensuring that everyone has the same chances to have a better life or improve his personal skills. No one should be discriminated because of his appearance, sex, sexual orientation, origin, religion or economic status.

**Justice:** Justice is what our society considers as “right”, considering our moral concepts of ethics, rationality, law, religion, equality and fairness.

**Sustainable:** That causes little or no damage to the environmental, therefore it can be used in a long period of time

**FGM:** Female Genital Mutilation

**MDGs:** Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are goals that should be done by 2030. They are similar to the SDGs since the care for those people who need immediate help.

### 2. Introduction

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable development is a plan of action created in 2015 in order to maintain and strengthen universal peace. The sustainable development goals invite all the



countries in the world including the richest and the poorest, by promoting prosperity and at the same time protecting our planet. There are 17 different sustainable development goals and 169 targets to transform the world in a better place.

Thanks to these goals all member states will unite to try and end all the forms of poverty, fight inequalities and will deal the problem of climate change and, last but not least, the goals will make sure no one is left behind. Former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon stated that “They are a to-do list for people and planet, and a blueprint for success.”

Furthermore, the SDGs will be led by countries, these countries will have to rely on their own sustainable programs, policies and plans to implement the SDGs. All member states will be guided to ensure a global commitment for the realisation of these targets. Every collaborator, such as governments, the private sector, civil society and more, is assumed to participate actively in the accomplishment of the new agenda.

The SDGs also include some of the eight Millennium Development Goals which were not completely achieved because they expired at the end of 2015. In fact, they aim to attain gender equality and develop woman and girls empowerment. The integrated and invisible MDGs help to balance the three Sustainable Development (SD) dimensions which are the following: social, economic and environmental.

Sustainable Development is a development which tries to balance all the society's needs against the present problems of the economics, social and environmental conditions.

### 3. Background information

SDGs is a blueprint that were adopted by the UN in 2015. However, before all 193 member states joined. First of all, in June 1992 more than 178 countries gathered in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and adopted a plan of action named Agenda 21, which consisted in improving the wellbeing of humans and protect the environment from desertification and pollution.

Eight years later, September 2000, another meeting of the UN member states took place at the UN Headquarter in New York. In the end, eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were adopted. The aim of this project was to reduce extreme poverty by 2015.

In 2002 the Agenda 21 has been improved during another meeting of the UN in Johannesburg, South Africa. This time the member states decided to concentrate on a global partnership, in order to facilitate collaboration that can overcome extreme poverty.

It is June 2012, when a first idea of the SDGs has been idealized during the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. It was a document called “The Future We Want”, that should be added to the MDGs.

2015 has arrived and the years available to the MDGs to reduce extreme poverty were over. This is why the General Assembly (GA) decided to discuss a new Agenda to improve the previous one. At the end of this discussion, today's SDGs were agreed, which, as explained above, are 17 and deal with topics such as poverty, inequality, climate, environmental degradation, prosperity, peace and justice.



The facts that led to the institution of the 17 SDGs are many.

In many countries women are subject to a great deal of violence and also do not have the same rights as men. During the past decade 200 million of women have been subject to FGM and 20% of global girls have experienced sexual violence from their partner. Still currently there are 49 countries, where there are no laws that can prevent such actions.

In addition to domestic violence, a major issue that needed to be solved was the disparity in work recognition, especially in politics, where the percentage of female representation was under 20%.

One of the points, where the SDGs put more emphasis was peace and justice., The reason is that only in the past decades more than 50 wars have been made and most of them are still in progress. Most countries are Middle Eastern and African.

#### 4. Major countries involved

**Afghanistan:** The Taliban's ideals, supported in 1996 since the Taliban came to power, drastically marked the Afghan culture towards women. In fact, the female had no rights and had to submit to her husband. She couldn't drive, go to school, do politics or even show herself in public. Women who would disobey these orders would have to face very harsh penalties, even fatal ones.

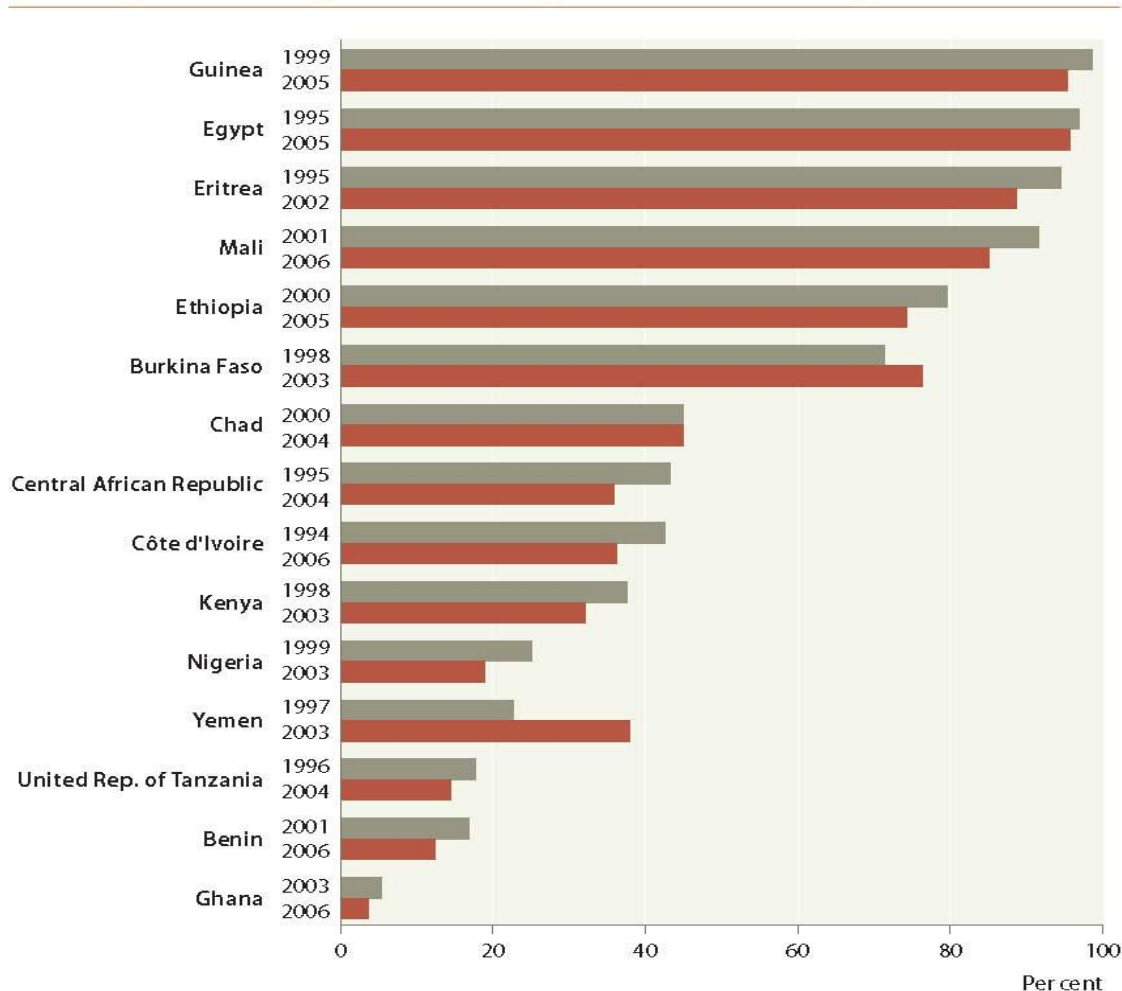
**Egypt:** Egypt is the country with most Female Genital Mutilation (FDG) and ca. 92% of women between 15 and 49 years is subject to this violence. Women are also subject to inequality in the workplace. Only 26% of women currently work in Egypt, and the difference in wages is abysmal. Not much changes in politics, in fact only few women manage to return to that circle of people, who deal with politics. To combat this issue USAID (United Nation Development Programme) works in partnership with Egypt, in order to improve the wellbeing of women.

**Indonesia:** Although there is a “no tolerance policy” on violence against women, the number of women raped between 2010 and 2014 increased extremely. Indonesia is one of those countries that has had very extensive economic development in recent years. The enrichment of the state is not synonymous with enrichment of the people, especially for the females. The latter are still being subjugated and their opinions ignored, as many women are still caught in the stigma.

**Saudi Arabia:** Women can not take any decision without the permission of the male figure, which is known as “mahrams”. In 2015 the female acquired the right to vote for the first time, but the road to an emancipation is still a long way off.

Figure 6.7

Women aged 15–49 subjected to female genital mutilation, two points in time



**Poland:** In Europe, too, there is no shortage of problems relating to justice. In fact, the Polish state has introduced a law, which imposes a minimum age for being a judge of the Supreme Court (65 years). This would result in the dismissal of one third of the judges and consequently



the government would have the power to name those new judges who would replace the latter.

**India:** India plays a fundamental role in the conformation of the Sustainable Development Goals. There is a famous expression popularized by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi which says "Saba Saath Sabka Vikas" which means "Collective Effort, Inclusive Growth", this is the pillar for India's national development agenda. In February 2017 the South Asian Speakers' Summit was organized by the Indian Parliament as well as other forms which have focused on the removal of poverty, gender equality, resource mobilization for the SDGs and climate change.

## 5. UN involvement

The UN plays a crucial role in supporting all the member states' implementation of 2030 agenda and of the 17 sustainable development goals. Every voluntary commitment and multi stakeholders partnerships are well authorized and appreciated. The UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, by promoting the three SDs dimensions which are social, environmental and economic works together a common achievement. Moreover, UNDESA not only is an essential support to the member states, because they take care of creating and implementing the different strategies to reach the sustainable development; but they also provide very important information such as broad range of analytical products, policy advice and technical assistance.



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