



## INTERNATIONAL POLICES FOR GENDER EQUALITY

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### ABSTRACT

At the turn of the year, we reflect on the remarkable events that have taken place around the world in 2015. 2015 is a year of global transformation, the year of the conclusion of the Millennium Development Goals, and, at the same time, of the launch of the new Sustainable Development Goals for 2030. This year has also celebrated the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the World Conference on Advancement of Women, held in 1995, and it's Implementation Platform, the so-called Beijing Chart. Gender equality is essential to ensure the realization of an economically sustainable and socially equitable development. The gender question is more on the stage today, during the modern phenomenon of globalization and mass immigration, which affects female matters. We will question how the activity of several agencies, institutions, and international organisations are affording the way to reach parity and equity of gender, of young and old, rich and poor, in every field of activities or social questions.

**Keywords:** Sustainable Development, advancement of Women, Beijing table, parity, gender equality.

### LAS POLÍTICAS INTERNACIONALES PARA LA IGUALDAD DE GÉNERO

#### RESUMEN

A la vuelta del año, se reflexiona sobre los acontecimientos notables que han tenido lugar en todo el mundo en 2015. 2015 a sido un año de transformación global, el año de la celebración de los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio, y, al mismo tiempo, de la puesta en marcha de los nuevos Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible para los años hasta 2030. En este año también se ha celebrado el 20º aniversario de la Conferencia Mundial de Promoción de la Mujer, que tuvo lugar en 1995, y su plataforma de aplicación, la llamada Tabla de Beijing. La igualdad de género es esencial para asegurar la realización de un desarrollo económicamente sostenible y socialmente equitativo. La cuestión de género es más en la etapa de hoy, durante el fenómeno moderno de la globalización y la inmigración masiva, que afecta a asuntos femeninos. Nos vamos a cuestionar como la actividad de varios organismos, instituciones y organizaciones internacionales están proporcionando el camino para llegar a la paridad y la equidad de género, de jóvenes y viejos, ricos y pobres, en todos los campos de actividades o cuestiones sociales.

**Palabras clave:** Desarrollo Sostenible, Promoción de la Mujer, Tabla de Beijing, paridad, equidad de género.

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## POLITIQUES INTERNATIONALES POUR L'EGALITE DES SEXES

### RÉSUMÉ

Au tournant de l'année, nous réfléchissons sur les événements remarquables qui ont eu lieu dans le monde en 2015. 2015 a été une année de transformation globale, l'année de la conclusion des Objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement, et, dans le même temps, du lancement de nouveaux objectifs de développement durable à l'horizon 2030. Cette année a également célébré les 20 ans de la Conférence mondiale sur la promotion de la femme, qui a eu lieu en 1995, et sa plate-forme de mise en œuvre, la Beijing Charte. L'égalité des sexes est essentielle pour assurer la réalisation d'un développement économique durable et socialement équitable. La question du genre est de plus sur la scène aujourd'hui, lors du phénomène moderne de la mondialisation et de l'immigration de masse, ce qui affecte les questions féminines. Nous allons voir comment l'activité de plusieurs organismes, institutions et organisations internationales se donnent le moyen de parvenir à la parité et à l'équité du genre, des jeunes et vieux, riches et pauvres, dans tous les domaines d'activités et de questions sociales.

**Mots-clés:** Développement durable, de promotion de la femme, table de Beijing, la parité, l'égalité des sexes

### 1. INTRODUCTION

On 25-27 September 2015 in New York, the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's remarking, at a side event of the United Nations Development Group (UNDG), the document *From global conversation to global action: making the SDGs work*, stated: "The adoption of the 2030 Agenda heralds a new era of global solidarity for promoting prosperity, equal opportunity, and environmental stewardship. For the first time ever, we have a transformative set of global goals agreed by all countries — and that applies to every nation"...

"Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals are designed to resonate with people around the world, women and men, young and old, rich and poor". They encapsulate a message of hope that the world can act to eliminate poverty, protect the planet, and provide a life of dignity for all. UN assure that environmental safeguard is accepted as human right, but equity is necessary and "Gender equality will be central to ensure the realization of sustainable and equitable development", said Marco Segone in the Women-USAID document *National Evaluation policies for sustainable and equitable development - How to integrate gender equality and social equity in national evaluation policies and systems*, launching the International Year of Evaluation in 2015 at UN in New York.

The question of racism involves not only the discrimination among ethnicities, but also between men and women. The process of social evolution is enlarging the possibilities for women in economic, like in scientific fields, but disparities persist in job salary, in duties, in human and civil rights.

## 2. THE NEW GOALS

The year 2015 is a focal point for the solutions of several gender questions. On October 15th, the UN, together with the entire globe, have celebrated the end, and probably the success of one of the biggest human project, realized at a global level, the fifteen years of the Millennium Development Goals, started in the year 2000.

The goals are distributed according to eight points:

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
2. Achieve universal primary education
3. Promote gender equality and empower women
4. Reduce child mortality
5. Improve maternal health
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
7. Ensure environmental sustainability
8. Develop a global partnership for development

If all points include, even indirectly, female questions, only two directly explain the correlation between development and women.

The direct points are the third and the fifth. The third recalls an equality supposed by the Human Rights Chart, but never reached, and only when the parity will be obtained, the power will be equally shared by the two genders.

The fifth recalls the risk the women afford in giving birth; especially in underdeveloped countries, where pregnancy is an adventure.

The indirectly connected points are points 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 8.

1 - The first naturally involves women, since often they provide livelihood for the entire family. Several agricultural societies are based only on female farming.

2 - Women are those who assure the school attendance of children, even when they are poor.

4 - The point four is connected to the international or local policies, but, substantially, we have to recognise that it is strictly tied to the same maternal health and economic or social conditions of women.

6 - Diseases of all the members of families fall down on the mothers and women. They are those who pay more the illnesses, their own and those of the other family members.

7 - It is recognized that women are more responsible in environmental safeguard; generally, they are more virtuous than men are.

8 - A global partnership, foreseen in the point number 8, is probably difficult, do the present marginalized situations of the women, but women are evidently able in building relationships, and in avoiding social contrasts.

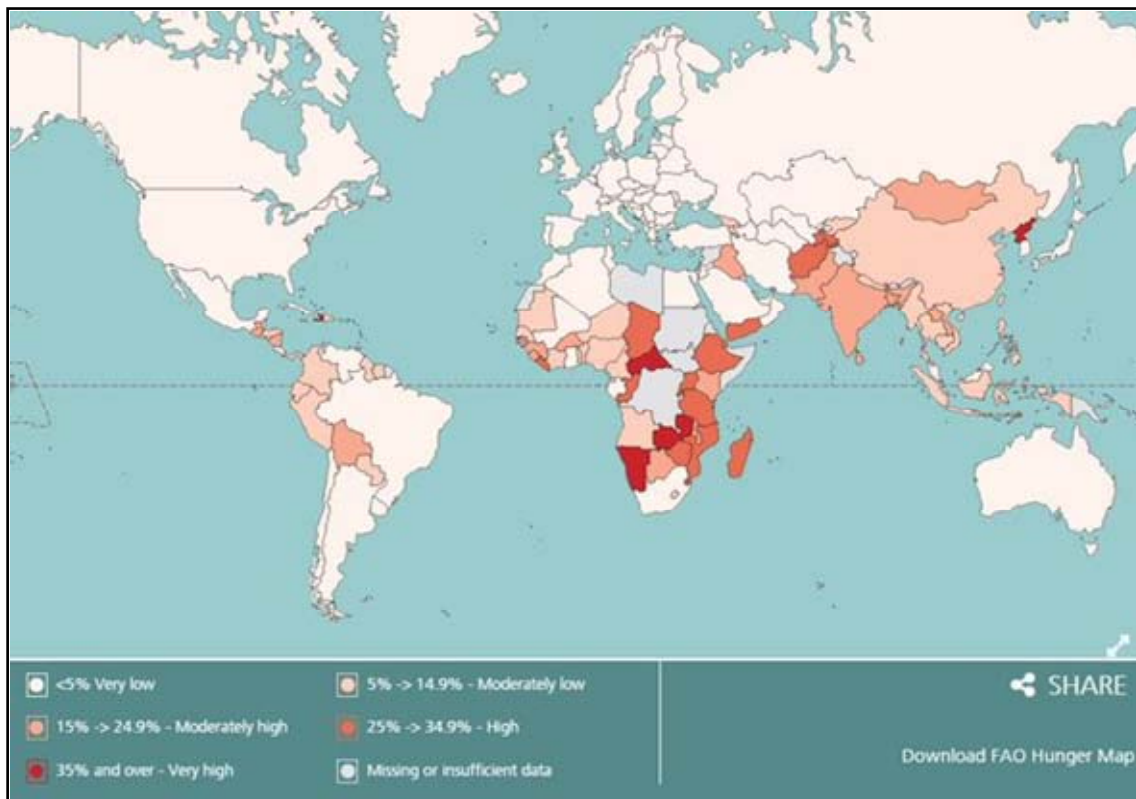
At the end of the project, several voices state that the points are not fully reached, in facts, since years before the end of the said project, a large criticism had arisen from several institutions.

According to the first point, FAO has released in 2015 *The State of Food Insecurity in the World* with the sub title: *Meeting the 2015 international hunger targets: taking stock of uneven progress*. The statistics of FAO reveal that undernourished people have diminished by 21,4% in world dimensions, but only by 21,3% in underdeveloped countries, since a greater success has been obtained in developed countries, where the undernourished people have decreased by 26,3%; nevertheless, in low income economies they have increased by 24,3%. A note should be added, for explaining that FAO has published in 2015 the data (table A1), calculated from 1990, not from 2000, when the MDGs began, based on the statement of the Millennium Declaration (MD) which assumed the target to "halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger".

The FAO document *State of Food and Agriculture 2010-11 - Closing the gender gap in agriculture would generate significant gains for the agriculture sector and for society*. The document states that if women had the same access to productive resources as men, they could increase yields on their farms by 20–30 percent. This could raise total agricultural output in developing countries by 2.5–4 percent.

"Women make significant contributions to the rural economy in all developing country regions. Their roles differ across regions, yet they consistently have less access than men to the resources and opportunities they need to be more productive. Increasing women's access to land, livestock, education, financial services, extension, technology and rural employment would boost their productivity and generate gains in terms of agricultural production, food security, economic growth and social welfare" (p.3).

Figure 1. FAO, Hunger map, 2015.



Source: [www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org)

The map of hunger reveals the connections among several social-economic factors. The poorer areas are those underdeveloped and their underdevelopment is in connection with the lowest female education, rights, and freedom.

In 2002 the rights to development were recognized at the WSSD in South Africa with the statement of Mary Robinson, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights: "*Poverty eradication is a major human rights challenge of the 21st Century. A decent standard of living, adequate nutrition, health care, education, decent work, and protection against calamities, are not just development goals- they are also human rights*" ([www.un.org/events/wssd/statements/unhchrE.htm](http://www.un.org/events/wssd/statements/unhchrE.htm)).

### **3. OECD CONTRIBUTION TO THE POLICIES ON DEVELOPMENT**

The OECD has significantly contributed in developing the MDGs, as it is readable in the report *Shaping the 21st Century* (1999), and it is now looking forward to contributing to the new global development framework. A preliminary proposal for the post-2015 programs reflects the OECD mission of a coherent approach to development, by designing the project "better policies for better lives" (2012), and addressing the shortcomings of the existing MDGs, the outcomes of Rio+20, as well as new global challenges for 2030.

OECD has proposed new solutions for the period 2015-2030 (Post 2015 Reflections, 2015). Along this proposals it has implemented a *New geography of growth*: "The shift in the world's economic centre of gravity away from OECD countries, towards emerging countries, has implications for the global balance of economic power. Developing and emerging economies have outperformed OECD growth since the start of the millennium, and they now account for a larger share of world GDP. The new engines of growth and the emergence of south-south linkages also create new opportunities for developing countries".

It has also designed a *New geography of poverty*: "The new geography of growth is paralleled by a new geography of poverty. Most of today's extreme poor live in middle-income countries, but by 2025 most absolute poverty will once again be concentrated in low-income countries, 4 of them especially in the so-called "fragile states" (ibidem).

Personalization or nationalization of development is a new question. OECD recriminates the generalization organised by UN in the Millennium Declaration, and recommends *Country and context specific approaches*. OECD is aware of the growing recognition that the needs and priorities of individual countries are not adequately reflected in global negotiations and processes of setting global goals and standards. Such processes should not result in *one-size-fits-all* approaches to development. Instead, initiatives are needed that reflect the realities and challenges of each situation (ibidem).

OECD has often passed a disapproving voice to UN development policies. It has always criticized the focus based only on certain specific points, affirming that development must be an integrated process, not split on particular terms. Even if OECD criticizes UN procedures, nevertheless the officials of OECD launched a similar scheme for development, based on eleven points. Scientifically, the question remains the same, eight or eleven, that does not make great difference; substantially a difference lingers on defining more precisely the practical terms of every question. OECD

Institutions explain the comprehensiveness of their scheme with the idea of reaching a better lifestyle, which could be gained through different steps (so like in the MDGs).

Figure 2. The OECD contribution to the Post 2015 Agenda



Source OECD: OECD and Post-2015 Reflections.

The eleven OECD points of the *Post 2015 Agenda* present outcomes which include principles underlying future goals. They are:

Element 1: Measuring what you treasure, and keeping poverty at the heart of development.

Element 2: Developing a universal measure of educational success.

Element 3: Achieving gender equality and women's empowerment.

Element 4: a) Integrating sustainability into development

b) Tools for achieving existing goals and developing future goals

Element 5: Strengthening national statistical systems

Element 6: Building effective institutions and accountability mechanisms

Element 7: Developing and promoting peace and state building goals (PSGs)

Element 8: Ensuring policy coherence for development

Element 9: Sharing knowledge and engaging in policy dialogue and mutual learning

Element 10: Promoting the Global partnership for Effective Development Co-operation

Element 11: Measuring and monitoring development finance.

Here, on the OECD project, only one point directly concerns women, the Element 3, titled *Achieving gender equality and women's empowerment*. In fact, the eleven points are quite general, connected to an image of way of life. The OECD's 2012 report *Closing the gender gap: Act now*, had already emphasized before, that strong, sustainable and balanced economic growth depends on greater gender equality in all countries. Research by the OECD Development Centre has found that discrimination against women is also undermining the achievement of key development indicators, such as child health, maternal mortality and educational attainment.

The OECD Post-2015 Reflections proposes therefore to take a two-pronged approach to gender equality:

1. To retain a stand-alone and explicit goal on gender equality and women's empowerment
2. To include gender-specific targets and indicators in all other relevant development goals, to measure essential dimensions, such as: violence against women and girls; women's economic empowerment and ownership of assets; women's leadership; access to reproductive health services; girls' completion of a quality education; and women's role in peace and security.

In the OECD and Post-2015 Reflections, on Element 3, there is this question: "Why to focus on women?" The answer is: "There is no chance of making poverty a history without significant and rapid improvements to the lives of women and girls in all countries".

#### **4. WOMEN'S CONTRIBUTION TO ENVIRONMENTAL AND POLITICAL SUSTAINABILITY**

By looking for new developmental solutions, several actions have started under the name "Post 2015 Agenda" from several institutions.

The UN have invited the OECD to bring its expertise and knowledge on gender equality and women's rights in development, to processes led by the UN on the Post-2015 Development Agenda. Papers have been prepared on measuring discriminatory social institutions and paid and unpaid work – for the UN Women/UNICEF consultation on addressing inequalities in the post 2015 framework.

The OECD answers that it will continue to share its expertise on gender equality, drawing, for example, on the OECD gender initiative, on gender inequality in education, employment and entrepreneurship; the work of the DAC Network on Gender Equality (GENDERNET); and the social Institutions and Gender Indexes.

OECD has prepared an outline for calculating development. In general, individual well-being and progress are measured according to:

- Quality of life
- Health status
- Work and life balance
- Education and skills
- Social connections
- Civic engagement and governance
- Environmental quality
- Personal security
- Subjective well-being

Material living conditions are calculated according to:

- Income and wealth
- Jobs and earnings
- Housing
- GDP

OECD concludes that sustainability of well-being over time requires preserving different types of capital:

- Natural capital
- Economic capital
- Human capital
- Social capital

The core focus of the international projects is development, but, since women are important elements of progress, women and development compose a UN unique constituent. Another core focus is sustainability, as recognised by Agenda 21 in Rio de Janeiro 1992, where it is stated that women are the principal means for maintaining sustainability, since they are the teachers of their children, so they can assure the continuity of education for the safeguard of the environment. In fact, all the International Organizations recognise that sustainability is principally a question of education.

This otherwise requires a better education for women, who generally are less involved in formal educational processes, or they follow minor subject of studies, and with difficulties they follow scientific laboratories. It is demonstrated by OECD that an educational scientific background will assure a general amelioration of the economic level of the female social conditions, other than assuring a major degree of dignity. The scientific skills for women are so important that in certain countries associations of Women in Science are created, for example in Italy, and one of them has been founded in Heidelberg (DE), hosted at the EMBL Laboratory of EMBO Institute (Embriology Organisation).

In USA, several ways for attracting girls in maths are searched, since many women demonstrate to be successful in managerial positions, obtaining prodigious success. Generally, girls do not follow hard science curricula, because of stringent traditions and usual paths of education, especially in underdeveloped countries; sometime, the parents are those who organise the daughter's careers, so, traditionally, the girls follow their own parent's suggestions or they are forced to early marriages.

All the instruments adopted by international institutions (UN, OECD, EU) act towards seven goals for women, in order to join:

1. Environmental and energy sustainability;
- 2.
3. Quality for girls at secondary or higher levels of education, including learning outcomes;
4. Women economic empowerment;
5. End of violence against women and girls;
6. Sexual and reproductive health and rights;
7. Women leadership, voice and influence;
8. Women peace and security.



The intention to reach a gender parity requires not only a substantial education assured to girls, but also, at the same time, an improved education for boys, who have to learn about human rights, which assure respect for all the members of humanity. Political institutions, at a local, national, and international level, should also assure human rights. This could be synthetized by the OECD slogan "Better Policies for Better Life".

## 5. POLICIES AT EU LEVEL

The Council of Europe, other than UN, makes a great works for Human Rights. The Gender Equality Commission at the Council of Europe reiterates: "Equality between women and men is an integral part of human rights and a fundamental criterion of democracy" (Doc. 13733 of 17 March 2015).

Referring to the Resolution 2012 (2014) and the Recommendation 2053, "Women's rights and prospects for Euro-Mediterranean Co-operation" (2014) of the Parliamentary Assembly, we notes that "In the countries on the southern shore of the Mediterranean, equality between men and women is developing unevenly, alongside democratic transition, with significant advances in certain countries and a situation of instability hampering progress in others". The Council of Europe will help in strengthening co-operation with the countries of the region and contribute to the processes of Democracy through Law, promoting The Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (CETS n. 210. Istanbul Convention).

The reply of the Committee of Ministers to the Recommendation 2053 states: "Equality between women and men and actions to stop violence against women form an integral part of the Council of Europe's co-operation priorities with the countries of the southern neighbourhood".

The Committee welcomes the exchanges and relations already established and urges a continued co-operation to support and build on the progress already achieved in these countries" (Doc. 137333, 17 march 2015).

The Committee (cit.) on Equality and Non-Discrimination is focusing on three priorities:

- Preventing racism and intolerance, violence against women.
- Combating racism and intolerance, violence against women.
- Fighting against discrimination on the ground of sexual orientation and gender identity.

The EU Assembly considers that "co-operation by the Council of Europe with the Southern Mediterranean countries should also continue to assign a major role to the gender equality component in the inter-parliamentary context" (Parliamentary Assembly Debate on 30 September 20114, Recommendation 2053).

Mrs Santerini, the Italian representative of gender issues, at the European Parliament, thinks that the matter should be afforded through other Parliamentary works, such as the Recommendation 2049 (2014) on *Identities and diversity within intercultural societies*, or other groups, such as the Committee on Culture, Science and Education, but she would express her opinion on the importance of educational work in transmitting

historical values and remembrances, to better evaluate the present situations with historical background (p.9).

Disparities between men and women start from birth, or even before birth, in the sense that parents like more, or prefer, male babies than female babies. In some cases, parents arrive at female infanticide (Guilmoto, 2015). Daughters are considered an economic burden, while sons are viewed as a source of lifelong support. Discriminatory practices are also present in inheritance and forced marriages (Langa et al, 2014). Disparity continues in schools, since the ratio of girls to boys is lower from primary until tertiary education. Later, in adulthood, it is lower the share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sectors, like the proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments (UN 2013, We Can End Poverty 2015: Millennium Development Goals). [www.un.org/millenniumgoals](http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals)

To focus on boys also does help the discrimination process, since the peers and families put social pressure to fit stereotypical notions of masculinity. It is necessary for both boys and girls to promote appropriate and sensitive ways of celebrating rites of passage at birth and adolescence that stimulate cultural values, without causing physical damages.

The reasons and consequences of these situations are elucidated in the OECD Report, *Closing the Gender Gap: Act Now* (2012). Usually young women are less likely than young men to be in paid work, education or training, since schools are not enough safe or affordable for girls; women are over-represented in domestic and family works, or at the informal end of labour market, what is called "occupational segregation", so they are at risk of poverty and have limited prospects of upward mobility. Women are much more likely to own small enterprises in developing countries, but they remain a minority, so the access to finance must be assured more largely. According to that, it is worth of mention the experiment of Muhammad Yunus in Bangladesh, where women are sustained and financed in exploiting small enterprises. Yunus states that women are more likely to help their children, or to send them to school, than men do. He noticed that men are prone to use the gained salary for themselves, when not for buying alcohol or tobacco; at the opposite, women use their money for the children first (Galvani, 2005, 2006).

Yunus has been the first one to help women in having what it has recently been suggested by OECD to be the key for the future, the so-called "financial literacy". Even if the education gap is quite adjusted in OECD countries, wide breaks remain in female and male educational choices, as mathematics and sciences persist as educational option predominantly chosen by boys. Women are increasingly more likely to become NEETs (Not in Education, Employment and Training).

Long-lasting problems solutions depend entirely on society. Society can help in transforming social norms and institutions. Social norms and practices are usually discriminatory, even in developing countries, like China and India. Among them, there are early marriage, female genital mutilation, son bias, linked to inheritance matter, violence against girls, and female exclusion in the public sphere. Female exclusion brings to inequality in economic growth, for the countries where exclusion is practiced. If we accept that modern economy is based on knowledge, consequently any difference has not to be made between men and women, when they have the same quality of education (CoE AS/Soc PV 02 - 2015).

The Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, on the document AS/Ega /Inf 05 2015, considers that equality should be based on non-discrimination on every ground such as sex, sexual orientation and gender identity, race, colour, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, ethnicity, belonging to a national minority, property, birth, age, disability or other status (p.3). The Sub-Committee on Gender Equality is involved in considering matters relating to equality between women and men and women rights, including political representation, economic empowerment, violence against women and gender-related violence, trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation, sexual and reproductive health and issue related to women's rights and freedoms.

## 6. NEW SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

On 25-27 September 2015, in the occasion of the seventieth anniversary, following the development gaps of the MDGs, and the suggestions of other institutions, UN declared to build up on the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seek to address their unfinished business. UN has adopted a historic decision on a comprehensive, far reaching and people centered set of universal and transformative goals and targets. Setting a new agenda for development and new global Sustainable Development Goals, published the document *Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* ([www.sustainabledevelopment.un.org](http://www.sustainabledevelopment.un.org)).

The Agenda is addressed to all countries, taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development, and respecting national policies and priorities.

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets demonstrate the scale and ambition of the Agenda. They seek to build on the Millennium Development Goals and complete what they did not achieve. They seek to realize the human rights of all and to achieve gender equality and the empowerment to all women and girls. They are integrated and indivisible, and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental.

Agenda is grounded in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, international human rights treaties, the Millennium Declaration, and the 2005 World Summit Outcome. It is informed by other instruments such as the Declaration on the Right to Development.

At the point 8 of pag.41, all the conferences themes on which the Agenda is based are enlisted:

The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, the World Summit on Sustainable Development; the World Summit for Social Development; the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development; the Beijing Platform for Action, and the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development - including the outcomes of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries; the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States; the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries; and the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction.

The new 17 Goals for 2030 are:

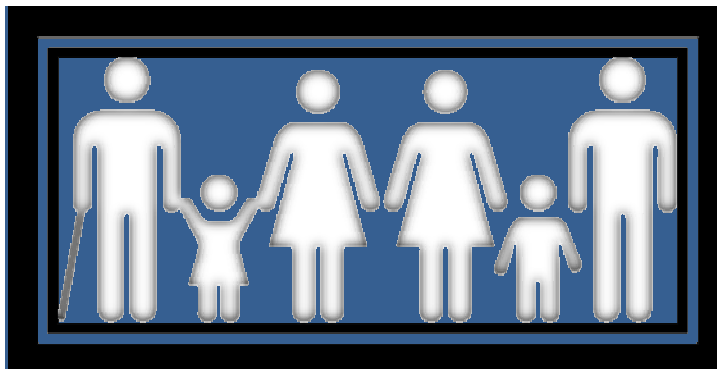
- Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere
- Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture
- Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
- Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
- Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
- Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
- Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
- Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
- Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries
- Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
- Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
- Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts\*
- Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
- Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
- Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
- Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

References to women in the seventeen points and relatives targets, appear several times, in connection with education, hunger, child rights, empowerment and leadership, ICT, sanitation, decent work, migration, green and public spaces, climate change management...in the framework of *transforming our world for the better* (p. 40).

Babatunde Osotimehin, Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), noted that access to good health care and reproductive rights remained elusive for many women and that not a single country had achieved full gender equality. "We cannot advance by leaving half of the population — our women and girls — behind," he said at UN General Assembly on 22 September 2014.

One remark appears from the image of sustainable goal number 1, or the goal of *No Poverty- End poverty in all its forms everywhere* (Fig.3). The image represents adults and children, but one child for two adults; the essential signal is unspoken. It is not allowed to speak about birth control, as it was seen at several conferences on population, for example in Doha, on May 2009, in Cairo in September 1994. Religious advocates always block proposals on every type of control, but many threats are connected to repeated pregnancies, like maternal and child health, and children risks of deaths at birth or in the first years of life. Nevertheless, the uncontrolled population growth should be of great global concern.

Figure 3. The number one image of the new 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals



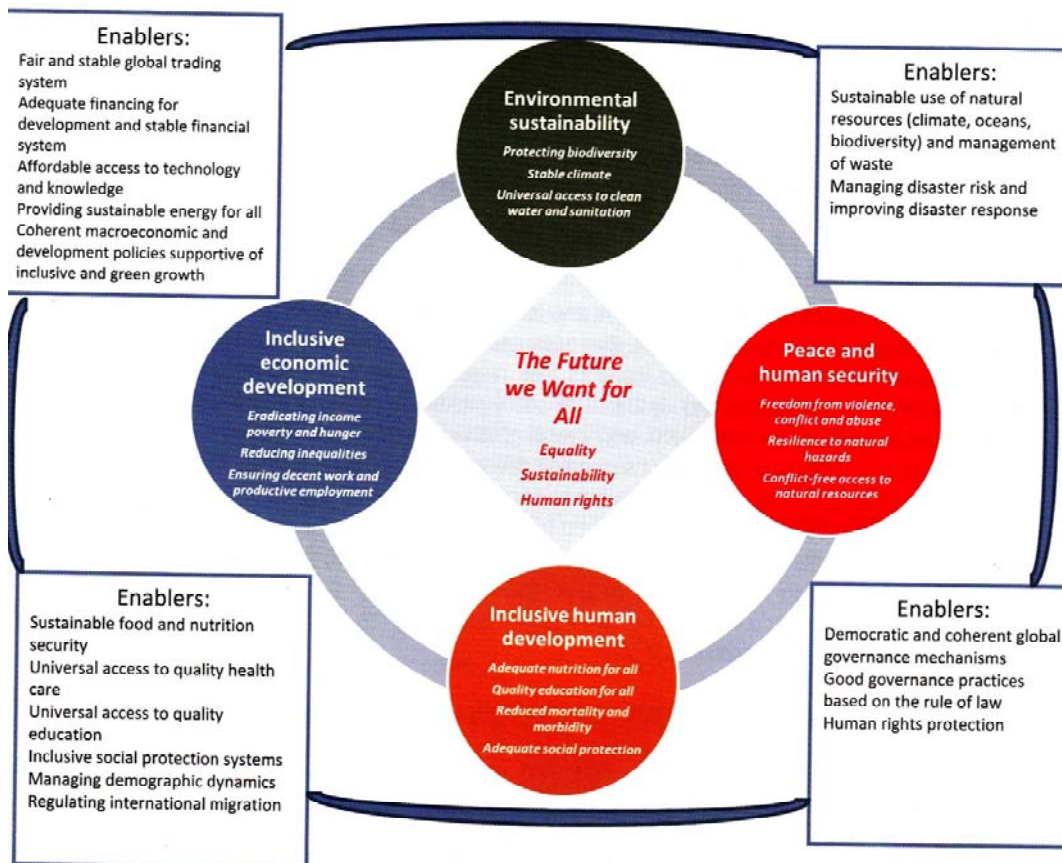
Source: UN.

The solutions proposed for reducing inequality, poverty, hunger, health, well being, education, peace, justice, decent work, water, energy, economic development, biodiversity, and climate change become harder when connected to an uncontrolled population growth.

## 7. CONCLUSIONS

Much work has been done by several institutions, but much has to be done again.

Figure 4. Summary of the passages from Millennium Development Goals (2000-2015) and Sustainable Development Goals (2015-2030).



Source: UN System Task Team on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda (2012), *Realizing the future we want for all: Report to the Secretary General*, [www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/Post\\_2015\\_UNTReport.pdf](http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/Post_2015_UNTReport.pdf).

The way to the complete realization of Human Rights Chart, signed in 1948, is long, and now a new right has been ascribed, the Right on Sustainable Environment. The concept of the link between human rights and environmental protection has had its first recognition in the Stockholm Declaration in 1972, when UNEP had been created. It was then reflected in the Human Development Report 2000, and in Johannesburg WSSD in 2002. In 2003, in Geneva, UNEP has welcomed the decision by the United Nations Commission on Human Rights to emphasize the strong link between human rights and a healthy environment: "The protection of the environment and sustainable development can also contribute to human well-being and potentially to the enjoyment of human rights".  
([www.un.org/press/en/2003/unep147.doc.htm](http://www.un.org/press/en/2003/unep147.doc.htm)).

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