

Summary workshop on gender equality - December 8, 2016

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Goal: identify opportunities, gaps/challenges, actions and recommendations, and questions with regards to achieving SDG 5 internationally.

SDG5: Achieve Gender equality and empower all women and girls

- 5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere
- 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
- 5.3 Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation
- 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
- 5.5 Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life
- 5.6 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.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.b Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women
- 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

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs gives a brief description of the Netherlands' contribution through foreign policy and development cooperation towards gender equality:

In the presentation the focus is on SDG 5.2 (violence against women and girls at work), 5.6 (sexual and reproductive health and rights) and 5.a (access to resources):

Introduction:

- Netherlands government believes SDGs cannot be achieved without including women: human rights imperative and also matter of smart development

- Increasing evidence: Investing in women can be good for women, society, economy and business (McKinsey Power of Parity; business case for Women Economic Empowerment).
- All stakeholders have a role (private sector, governments, civil society including women's organizations, knowledge institutions), value of collaboration --> better results
- Need to substantially scale up investments in SDG 5. Public investments will not be enough, we also need private investments
- Dutch government directly funds civil society organisations but also seeks to leverage/catalyze more private investments through smart use of our public funds.

Main themes:

- Dutch policies for women's rights and gender equality focus on five priorities:
 - o Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR)
 - o Combating violence against women
 - o Political empowerment of women
 - o Economic empowerment of women
 - o Women, peace and security.

Examples:

- Civil society support: strengthening lobby and advocacy, empowerment, access:
 - o SRHR: Rutgers 'Right Here Right Now' (access for young people to comprehensive sexuality education and SRHR services), Partnering with men to end Gender-Based Violence (GBV)
 - o Violence Against Women: Fair Wear Foundation/CNV/FNV (improving labour conditions in garment industry in such ways that factories remain viable)
 - o Economic: SNV FLOW project (women entrepreneurship Kenya and Vietnam).

- Private sector support: leveraging more private funds:
 - o SRHR Product Development Partnerships (Public-Private Partnerships to accelerate development of products unlikely to attract private investment, e.g. affordable medicines for neglected poverty-related diseases)
 - o Access to finance for women: Dutch Good Growth Fund (investing in Financial Institutions to enable them to increase access to finance to small and medium enterprises with special attention for female entrepreneurs), Global Banking Alliance for Women (network of banks to increase access to finance for women, in ways that benefit both women and banks)
 - o Public-Private Partnerships for Sustainable Development and Food Security (Dutch government co-invests with companies in activities that increase local private sector development and food security, specific attention to gender equality).

Results of the interactive part of the workshop:

Question 1: What are the good practices and important contributions of Dutch actors, including the Dutch government, civil society, knowledge institutes and private sector to achieve SDG5 and targets internationally?

1. Successes and opportunities identified:

- a. International/agenda setting/norm setting: The Dutch government puts gender equality high on the international agenda, gender is priority within Dutch development policy
- b. Partnerships on gender: among different cso's
- c. Participation/inclusion/agency: we can learn from best practices in i.e WASH projects In which men AND women were involved which led to good results, micro-credits have led to economic power base for household decision making
- d. Participation of men: men and boys against FGM, involvement of men and boys in female entrepreneurship
- e. SRHR and education: gender equality visible in primary education, introduction of washable sanitary napkins so that girls can continue education, family planning education towards women, advocacy
- f. Female champions: We see more female leaders in the world, like Hillary Clinton, Malala
- g. Private sector leading: private sector can give great examples of gender equality including LHBTI rights. It does so by campaigns and advertising: i.a KLM foundation 'wings of support', Dove self-esteem days, DSM produces and donates vitamins for pregnant women

Question 2: What are the gaps and challenges with regards to the contribution of Dutch actors, including the Dutch government, civil society, knowledge institutes and private sector to achieve SDG5 and targets internationally?

2. Challenges and gaps identified:

- a. World in turmoil: backlash of Trump era -> female unfriendly statements that are advocated, changing political shifts towards populism
- b. Economic: we need quota women in leadership position, high drop-out of girls in secondary education, lack of right and access to land for women, economic independence of women still low
- c. Violence: sexual violence, child marriages, and it is not only about victimized women but also the other way around
- d. Participation of men and boys: unequal role division of men and women (i.e. child care, maternity leave, financial independence), gender projects do not yet effectively target men, gender is still a female domain
- e. Norms and culture: mismatch in dialogue between different religions, political beliefs etc, difficult to balance talking about gender equality with respect to other cultures and beliefs, we still live in a masculine world meaning that masculine values are the norm
- f. Population growth: threat to globe as it is rising tremendously

- g. Data&indicators: lack of indicators to measure progress on gender equality, data gap in gender disaggregated data, like rights and land titles, education, economic independence, labour, child care
- h. Female champions: role models must touch the heart to make a difference and apparently female champs are not yet doing so (i.e. Hillary Clinton)
- i. Political power of the Netherlands: political changes threat to financing of gender projects, Dutch government has insufficient political power to push its political agenda concerning gender advocacy, we miss out in political female prime minister.

Question 3: Which actions are necessary, or recommendations do you have that are necessary to improve the contribution of Dutch actors towards achieving gender equality internationally? Could the government, civil society and private sector increase impact through (multi-stakeholder) partnerships, and if so how? Indicate in your answers which type of actor(s) you refer to.

3. Actions/recommendations/next steps:

- a. Norm setting/stereotyping: work with bottom up approaches and local organizations in order to close gap of cultural changes in gender problems
- b. Inclusion: worlds governance systems is changing -> include more stakeholders from bottom up
- c. Education & policy: create gender neutral communication, address gender stereotyping, include feminist literature in curricula, create online courses on self-esteem, enforce legal rights
- d. Policy & government: adjust policies to get more women into political parties, higher management of private sector and advisory councils, create a feeling of solidarity
- e. Partnerships & inclusion: understand the added value of different partners, f.e. private sector can have a positive influence and role model in women's empowerment, include local initiatives in multi-stakeholder partnerships, support cso – do not exclude them
- f. Private sector: motivate private sector to include local enterprises
- g. Data & research: develop database on salary
- h. Participation men and boys: adjust gender programs on the needs of women and men, create awareness on 'what is in it for men'
- i. Communication/female champs: use best practices as storytelling to address social and societal issues (f.e. advertisement of Ariel in India, see: <https://youtu.be/wJukf4ifuKs>), better understanding of language used in gender issues, highlight positive role models, abolish Wonder Woman as UN Ambassador (has been done), organize empowerment concert like Global Citizen festival
- j. Labour and Care: create facilities to improve gender equality on the work floor such as paid leave, child care support etc

Conclusion:

In the discussion the changing political and social climate was mentioned several times (f.e. the election of Trump, Brexit..) and what this will mean for the world political, economic and social order. Moreover, what it's effect will be on Dutch society in its upcoming elections and the gender equality agenda for the national as well as the international agenda. Creating multi-

stakeholder partnerships to collaborate and put gender equality on the agenda is much supported by all stakeholders. Next to the good examples of multi-stakeholder partnerships given in the introduction by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the good examples of civil society partnerships, effective examples of private sector have been mentioned in addressing gender (in)equality - especially in the marketing of products by which they put gender equality on the agenda (some examples have been mentioned in the successes and next steps). However, it has also been mentioned that in achieving SDG 5 we need stakeholders from all levels, from local to national, to regional to international and from government to civil society. We need to act now because the unequal power relations between men and women are still too high. It was addressed that we do have to take into account that this civil society experiences shrinking space financially, politically and socially. A plea has been made towards the government to keep on to the leading position it has on addressing the issues of gender equality and SRHR worldwide.

Rutgers, WO=MEN and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will continue to collaborate with their partners to make sure we will achieve SDG 5 and make gender equality a cross-cutting issue in all SDG's.

At this moment, Rutgers, Sharenet and WO=MEN are conducting a survey amongst their members to get more information on the work done on SDG 5 and the progress made. We hope to share the results in spring 2017 and continue to plan for action with all stakeholders involved.

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