

Statement: Intersessional Meeting for Dialogue and Cooperation on Human Rights and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights welcomes this inter-sessional meeting for dialogue and cooperation and its specific focus on Sustainable Development Goals 5 and 17. The COVID-19 pandemic continues to have a detrimental and disproportionate impact on the human rights of women and girls around the world and only an intersectional feminist approach built on true partnerships and collaboration will succeed in reaching the targets of the 2030 Agenda.

As the High Commissioner has highlighted in the first session, women's inequality remains powerfully entrenched as an obstacle to political empowerment, economic opportunity, physical safety, equal pay and individual freedom of choice, all of which have been further exacerbated by the on-going pandemic. The pandemic has also exposed the structural vulnerabilities and inequalities of the largely gender-blind fossil fuel-based energy system disproportionately affecting women and girls, as the lack of accessible energy, in all its dimensions and in line with the right to an adequate standard of living, further aggravates their economic inequalities and energy poverty.

With 8 years left to the 2030 Agenda, more and faster action and delivery is needed to accelerate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. Despite this, governments are planning on producing more than twice as many fossil fuels, such as oil, gas, and coal by 2030 than would be consistent with limiting global warming to 1.5°C.¹ The renewable energy transition is crucial to ensure that States can reach their targets as they provide clean, reliable, easy to mobilize and cost-effective energy for essential services. Implementing renewable energy systems is also an opportunity to redefine our energy systems into ones that protect the environment, respect human rights, and advance gender equality. Yet, oftentimes renewable energy projects do not adapt a human rights lens within their planning and implementation stages, endangering the achievement of SDG 5 as women are left out of processes which can detrimentally impact their livelihoods.

The protection, respect, fulfilment, and promotion of human rights must be at the forefront of all measures taken by States and other stakeholders towards the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda and should be used as a guiding compass to steer the green transition in a direction that guarantees women's human rights. Moreover, an effective and just green transition will require regional and global partnerships that take into consideration human rights, ensuring that such alliances do not support actions and decisions which neglect the negative human rights impact of green transition projects, but lead the way for sustainable development in line with human rights.

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¹ SEI, IISD, ODI, E3G, and UNEP. The Production Gap Report 2021. (2021).
<http://productiongap.org/2021report>



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