

**6th session of the IAEG-SDGs
Agenda Item 8**

**Women's Major Group
Gender equality and women's empowerment in SDG implementation and reporting at national, regional, global and thematic levels**

Thank you, Chair

My name is Marianne Haslegrave and I am presenting for the Women's Major Group.

I will be able to be fairly brief, as some of our data has already been presented.

Nevertheless, the Women's Major Group must be the voice that is heard on issues related to gender equality and women's empowerment in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The Women's Major Group, its member organizations and their national affiliates sit in the position of benefitting from the work done by yourselves and other National Statistical Offices, when we advocate for the policy change that will lead to the full implementation of SDG 5 on gender equality and other related targets,

Disaggregated data

For the Women's Major Group, disaggregation of data is a small, albeit important, part of our concerns in relation to the global indicator framework. We recognize that disaggregation does not capture efforts to address the structural drivers of inequality, but it does show, to some extent, the impact of structural inequality at the interpersonal level.

We see disaggregation as a method to measure whether efforts are inclusive. For the WMG, disaggregation is not our endpoint: structural change is.

To give us the data we need, we do require it to be disaggregated, as set out in para 74 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development¹ (by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migration status, disability and geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts and in the context of leave no one behind).

In the case of marginalized women, to ensure that they are identified and reached, further disaggregation is required. These marginalized women include:

- indigenous women, including indigenous black women of African slave descent and Afro-descendants
- aged and senior women, (taking on board the UNPD-DESA comments just now)
- widows and wives of the disappeared
- women in conflict and security fragile areas
- women and girls in child, early and forced marriages, victims of female genital mutilation and other harmful traditional practices
- women and girls with disabilities

¹ United Nations. A/Res/70/1

They are often invisible and are the ones that have to be reached to ensure that we leave no one behind.

Household surveys must ensure that the concerns of those most marginalised are captured. This can be achieved by randomly selecting who in the family responds.

Statistical and data-related updates for the VNRs in 2018

Statistical and data-related updates and inputs are critically important for countries submitting Voluntary National Reviews in the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) 2018.

And, disaggregated data is required for the development of evidence-based, national development strategic plans that fully include women and girls. Such data included in a statistical annex, as part of their review, will facilitate the identification of gaps in data and methodological weaknesses which can be taken into account in countries statistical plans.

In general, disaggregated data is necessary to ensure that gender equality and women's empowerment, as addressed in SDG 5, is not just a goal in itself. Gender equality should also tie in with other SDGs, recognizing their integrated nature insofar as they all have gendered implications.

We support more attention financing capacity development to implement gender-responsive monitoring systems, and for simple and accessible tools to collect and process disaggregated data.

Role of CSOs and WMG

We are heartened by the frequent references in this meeting to civil society organizations.

The Women's Major Group has taken the lead in ensuring that gender equality, women's rights and women's empowerment are fully addressed at all levels, as well as thematically based on SDG 5 and related targets. The Group has been and is represented in key meetings and has followed closely the process for the development of the global indicator framework. We look forward to future collaboration for disaggregation of data that will support our efforts to ensure that no one is left behind and those furthest behind are reached first in the achievement of gender equality and empowerment for women and girls of all ages.

Thank you