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WMG General Debate / ECOSOC Intervention
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The Women's Major Group knows that achieving climate, gender, development, and trade justice requires global solidarity and actions informed by local needs. Cross-boundary structural issues often have intense impacts on local communities that then bear the brunt of both coping and finding local solutions, but these solutions cannot address the root of the problem because they are deep and structural.

The intersectional nature of the SDGs reflects the complexity of women's lives and realities. While 8 of the 17 goals explicitly integrate commitments to women and girls, the achievement of the agenda has implications for women's and girls' human rights. The six goals under review at the HLPF are as important for gender equality as they are critical for sustainable development.

As governments implement these SDGs, the women's major group offers the following cross-cutting recommendations:

1. Actively support the meaningful participation of women in decision-making. From increasing access to safe drinking water and ensuring that women and girls have the information and means necessary to practice menstrual health, to protecting forests, biodiversity and sustainable agriculture, to addressing safety and security within cities, women offer expertise and must be at decision-making tables. Governments should create formal opportunities to ensure that the most marginalized groups of women and women most affected by policies and programs have a say in their development.
2. Invest in the collection of gender data. The lack of disaggregated data sets back

development efforts by failing to give adequate information about who is being left behind. Invest in efforts to close the gender data gap to ensure effective budgeting and policy making.

3. Address gender-discriminatory norms, stereotypes and gender-based violence that hold women and girls back. Stigma surrounding menstrual hygiene, stereotypes about women's roles in the sustainable energy sector, and harassment on city streets all limit women's ability to participate in public life and achieve equality. Integrate strategies to address gender discriminatory norms and violence into policies and programs to address each of the SDGs.

4. Value, reduce and redistribute women's unpaid care work. Women and girls bear the burden of development failures in hours of unpaid work - collecting safe drinking water and fuel wood or on public transportation in cities to complete their care work. This in turn affects their prospects for education and employment. As a priority, invest in gender-responsive infrastructure, social protection programs and care services to reduce and redistribute women's and girls' disproportionate burden of unpaid work.

5. Use gender budgeting to ensure investments in women and girls. The failure to account for gender in budget allocations hinders effectiveness of sustainable development programs. Governments must analyze gender differentiated impacts of budgets and allocate funds to achieving gender equality targets.

6. Protect women's rights to own and control land, energy and other productive resources by eliminating discriminatory laws and putting in place proactive policies to guarantee these rights.

7. Commit to accountability from the local to the global level. None of the SDGs will be achieved without addressing the closing space for civil society; protecting women and environmental human rights defenders; ensuring that women's and feminist groups are at accountability tables, and enacting rigorous and transparent review at all levels, including at the HLPF.