

Women's Major Group (WGM) on Capacity Building as a Means of Implementation (MoI) in the Post-2015 Development Agenda

April 21-24 April

Capacity Building

- Capacity building is a cross cutting issue and necessarily encompasses a wide variety of activities, involving a diverse array of actors at the local, national and global levels. Its goal is to strengthen the ability of key stakeholders involved in the Post-2015 development agenda, including local and national governments, civil society and community based organizations, to collaboratively achieve the sustainable development goals and targets.
- All capacity building efforts must be guided by principles of equality and equity, respect and protection of all persons of all ages' human rights and fundamental freedoms, including sexual reproductive health and rights and the right to development, gender equality, common but differentiated responsibilities, transparency, accountability and rule of law.
- Women must be at the center of all aspects of capacity building efforts from conceptualization, design, and implementation. In particular women must be prioritized as recipients of capacity building efforts. Specifically, capacity building addresses a variety of concrete needs, primarily at national level, such as technology, systems strengthening, institutional architecture, gender budgeting, data collection and management, among others.

Capacity building must address the following agendas at the core of its efforts:

- Prioritize gender equality, the human rights of women of all ages and human conditions and their empowerment;
- Secure the delivery of essential services and social protection;
- Secure respect for and protection of human rights and increase mechanisms for human rights protection and remedies for violations.
- Increase successful partnerships and effective engagement of governments with civil society;
- Improve capabilities for technology transfer and implementation;
- Enhance data management & implementation monitoring and evaluation;
- Institutional and system strengthening should consider rule of law, accountability and transparency.

Who should be involved?

- Women have a unique role to play as beneficiaries, designers, implementers and recipients of capacity building efforts at the national level. In particular, women are central in the efforts to reduce poverty, improve the environment, conceptualization, design and implementation, and monitoring and evaluation. However, measures to visibilize, value, reduce and redistribute unpaid domestic and care work must be promoted while capacity building measures take place, in order to avoid reproducing structural inequalities.
- Civil Society can both assist in capacity-building and should be recipients of it.
- Local and national institutions, parliamentarians, academia, and different civil society groups, including youth, disabilities, indigenous, and other relevant actors.
- The private sector needs to be engaged in a thorough capacity building process to fully comply with the human rights framework, gender equality, transparency and accountability on their social and environmental impacts (including extraterritorial practices), transition towards a zero fossil-fuels and no nuclear activities, and other principles that are needed to be in full coherence with the sustainable development agenda.

How should capacity building needs be assessed, met, incentivized and monitored?

Member States should undertake a process to identify their unique, context-specific key capacity building needs. Although South to South and Triangulated capacity-building are important to exchange policy solutions, best practices and lessons learned, including for professional training and skills-building, North to South cooperation needs to remain at the core of the efforts. Common but Differentiated Responsibilities should be the criteria for these efforts. Gender equality must be a primary focus in all national capacity-building efforts.

Specifically, capacity-building should focus on:

- **Capacities and functions of national institutions and civil society.**
- **The wellbeing of all persons, women and men of all human conditions across the life span, by strengthening social agendas (such as health systems), but also by integrating the environmental and economic pillars in a coherent manner.**
- **Ensuring quality, relevant education for all girls and boys, but also including a notion of life-long education.**
- **Achieving gender equality, the full realization of women of all ages' human rights and their empowerment.**
- **Delivering to specific needs based on gender, age, ethnic, geographical and other conditions.**
- **Bolstering the data revolution and strengthening the capacities of national statistical systems**