



HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM

Review of SDGs implementation: SDG 5

12 JULY 2017, United Nations, New York, USA

QA Response Delivered by Buky Williams, Education as a Vaccine

Thank you for the opportunity. My name is Buky Williams and I am speaking on behalf of the Women's Major Group.

I am following up on the powerful statement by my sister Nalini.

Achieving gender equality must benefit all women and girls. We must recognize that women and girls are not a homogenous group, gender is not a binary and as such women in all their diversity and multiplicities must be seen as partners in the implementation of the SDGs.

Because gender inequality is a root cause of poor health, poverty, hunger, and harmful and discriminatory practices such as child, early, and forced marriage, a root cause approach to solutions is needed.

The WMG calls on governments to:

- Respect, protect and fulfill the human rights of women and girls not just in word but in action
- Protect and engage environmental and women's human rights defenders, and recognize the links between the environment, women's rights and gender equality
- Prevent gender-based violence by addressing social norms around gender and violence; reducing and prevent childhood exposure to violence; reducing and prevent the harmful use of alcohol, and improving the legal and justice system response
- Reform and repeal discriminatory laws and policies
- Create and strengthen gender-responsive public services
- Recognize the links between gender equality and financing
- Recognize women's and girls' autonomy and decision-making as critical to sustainable development and gender equality
- Collect and use gender- and human rights-responsive data
- And lastly, given that Gender equality (Goal 5) while important as a standalone goal also underpins the implementation of the other goals, recommit to the universality of the agenda.

The lack of value placed on women and girls and the discrimination and violence they face in public and private spaces throughout our lives remain a significant challenge in addition to our lack of ability to exercise our right to control our own lives

and bodies. As a result, there are many barriers women and girls must overcome to live a life of dignity and freedom and to achieving SDG 5.