

# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND UN HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS

## from a feminist perspective

### SDGs & CRC

### Women's Major Group

The [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#), also known as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a collection of 17 interlinked global goals designed to be a "blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all." It was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2015 and is intended to be achieved by 2030.

SDGs and targets have been defined to inspire the actions necessary to safeguard the needs of present and future generations.

Inequality, poverty and discrimination, which are central to the SDGs are intergenerational issues and significantly affect the realization of children's rights and children's well being worldwide.

The CRC and the SDGs are two multi-reinforcing agendas. The CRC provides a comprehensive framework of rights that are central to all ages and SDGs. All of the SDGs therefore must be implemented in line with the CRC, its optional protocols and its Committee's general comments.

WHAT IS CRC?

The [Convention on the Rights of the Child](#) (CRC) is a treaty adopted by the UN General Assembly resolution in November 1989 that came into force on 2 September 1990 and has been ratified by 196 governments so far. Currently the most ratified convention out of all the UN conventions, the CRC sets out the civil, political, economic, social, health and cultural rights of children. Governments who have ratified CRC are required to submit regular reports to the [Committee on the Rights of the Child](#), usually every five years. The Committee, which consists of independent experts, can also receive complaints from individual children in countries where the government has ratified its [Third Optional Protocol on a Communications Procedure](#).

WHAT ARE THE SDGs?

WHAT IS THE INTERLINK AND INTERPLAY BETWEEN THE SDGs AND THE CRC?



## WHO COULD YOU REACH OUT TO?

The **Women's Major Group** facilitates participation and inputs CSOs working to promote human rights based sustainable development with a focus on women's human rights at the UN

**Child Rights Connect** is an independent, non-profit network made up of more than 90 national, regional, and international organisations aiming to ensure that all children can fully enjoy their rights, as defined by the CRC. They provide support to civil society, children, and all interested partners that would like to engage with the CRC Committee.

**Girls Not Brides** is a global partnership with more than 1,500 diverse member organizations committed to ending child marriage and enabling girls to fulfil their potential.

An **interactive mapping** of the linkages and synergies between the Sustainable Development Goals, Targets and Indicators with the CRC by UNICEF.

A **dashboard and analysis** by UNICEF that measures countries' progress on the 44 child-related SDG indicators using the latest available pre-COVID data.

A **guide** by Child Rights Connect on how to engage in the reporting cycle of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.

## TOOLS TO CHECK OUT

## TIPS FROM THE MOVEMENTS

Every year the United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner submits a report on the progress in achieving the SDGs from a child rights perspective to the High Level Political Forum on SDGs. Civil societies can engage in this process by participating in stakeholder consultations or sending in their submissions for the report.

The Committee hosts a biannual Day of General Discussion where the Committee invites the participation and submissions from civil societies and children on the specific thematic issues being discussed. Children may also send other forms of submissions, such as video and audio recordings for the Day of General Discussion.

Whether your government is up for review at the CRC Committee and the SDGs Voluntary National Review (VNR) at the same time or at different times, women's rights organizations can take advantage of either reviews or coinciding reviews by:

**Drafting a shadow report** to the CRC Committee and an alternative report for the VNR in a complimentary way by incorporating SDGs commitments into the CRC shadow reporting and vice versa or utilize one or the other report to highlight issues that cannot be covered in the other review process.

**Add whatever changes** that might have occurred in the time between the two reviews in the latter reporting.

**Submit your SDGs Alternative Report** to the CRC Committee for its consideration in its review and Concluding Observations to your government.

**Use the Concluding Observation or General Recommendations** from the CEDAW Committee in your SDGs advocacies with your government.

Utilizing all of the different existing human rights processes as well as the SDGs processes in a complimentary way can allow for stronger protection and respect of the human rights of girl children.

The CRC does not explicitly mention child early and forced marriage though the CRC does make mention of other inter-connected rights such as freedom from sexual exploitation and abuse (**Article 34**), right to education (**Article 28**) and defining the age of majority at 18 (**Article 1**). Article 16 of CEDAW on the other hand, does specifically mention how "betrothal and the marriage of a child shall have no legal effect, and all necessary action, including legislation, shall be taken to specify a minimum age for marriage..." While SDG 5 Target 5.3 also specifically calls for the "elimination of all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation."