**SDG 5 Gender Equality**

2023.09 ver.

**Introduction**

Good day everybody! Today is another section another lecture on the introductory lectures for youth engagement concerning 2030 Development Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals.

**Speaker**

Together with me is Dr. Nurgul Dzhanaeva, the president of Forum of women's NGOs of Kyrgyzstan and my name is Lichia Yiu and I will be accompanying this conversation and throughout this particular lecture.

Let me say a few words about Dr. Nurgul, she's as I said president of NGO in Kyrgyzstan and she lives in Bishkek, it has more work more than 20 years on women's political participation, women's economic rights and what adverse advocacy against violence against women. On building women's movement in Kyrgyzstan and strengthening capacity of women's organizations and she works at different levels globally, regionally, nationally and local levels and she has a very impressive list of biography and if you are welcome to find her work on the internet if you're interested. But Dr. Nurgul has a PHD in philosophy from The Lenigard State University in 1983.

**Forum of women's NGOs of Kyrgyzstan**

Let me say a few words about Forum of women's NGOs of Kyrgyzstan. By name it is obvious it is a peak organization that groups different women's NGO but together in order to achieve scale and also have the possibility to amplify more of all the voices. It is a non-commercial organization. It was set up in 1994 and was registered in 1996 and enjoys a special consultative status with ECOSOC within the UN.

EOCSOC stands for the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. Kyrgyzstan is working for advancement of women through several programs: women's participation in political processes, women's economic rights and also stopping violence against women.

**Q1a**

With this few introduction words, I would like to welcome Dr. Nurgul Dzhanaeva. Dr. Dzhanaeva would speak on Sustainable Development for women's rights and Gender Equality SDG 5 the floor is yours please. And let me start with the first question, please tell us **what is SDG 5, what targets and indicators are involved and why it matters?**

SDG 5 is a result of the several years working of women's movement to integrate in the SDG and it was a big victory and the youth also participated in this journey to bring women's issues into the Development Agenda.

So SDG 5 is achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls, it has nine targets and 14 indicators. Let's go through the goal five targets nine targets.

**Goal 5 and its 9 Targets**

First 5.1, end all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere;

5.2 eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation;

5.3 eliminate all harmful practices such as child early enforced marriage and female genital mutilation; 5.4 is recognize and value unpaid care work and domestic work through the provision of public services infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate; 5.5 is to ensure of women's full and effective participation and an equal opportunity for leadership at all levels of decision making in political economic and public life; 5.6 is to ensure a universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights as agreed in accordance with the program of action of the International Conference on population and development and Beijing platform for action and the outcome documents of their review conferences.

There are also targets that are not going under number but they are going under letters. 5.a and they are related to the means of implementation, in first six targets are more on substance what do we want to achieve, other three targets are related to how we are going to achieve. So 5.a undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources in accordance with national laws. 5.b enhance the use of enabling technology in particular information and communication technology to promote the empowerment of women. And 5.c adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels. These are nine targets.

**Why Gender Equality Matters?**

Now, why governments, U.N, different stakeholders were convinced that it is important to include goal as a separate goal standalone goal women's rights and gender equality?

Because Gender Equality matters and it strongly impacts on the success on the effectiveness of the Sustainable Development.

For example women's economic equality is good for business. Companies greatly benefit from increasing employment and leadership opportunities for women which is shown to increase organizational effectiveness and growth. It is estimated that companies with three or more women in senior management functions score higher in all dimensions of the organizational performance and there are many more evidences and there is only one reference we are mentioning but there are quite more evidences that are demonstrating this.

When more women work, economies grow. We mix women's economic empowerment boosts productivity, it increases economic diversification and income equality in addition to other positive development outcomes. For example, increasing the female employment rates in OECD countries to match that of Sweden could boost GDP by over 6 trillion US Dollars it is estimated the gender gaps cost economy about 15 percentage of GDP and this is extremely important.

**14 Indicators of the SDG 5**

Let's go to indicators so we looked at the Goal number 5 major targets now let's see how we are going to measure the success.

The first indicator, there are 14 indicators, first indicator government should look whether or not legal frameworks are in place to promote influence and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex. I would like to add here it's not only governmental duty to look at indicators, this is other stakeholders. For example Civil Society organization, young people community may look at indicators in order to it says are we reaching something. So first indicator about legal frameworks.

Second indicator proportion of ever partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months by form of violence and by age. Next indicator proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons. Next indicator proportion of women age 20-24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18, and this is extremely important for youth to look at this data. You see a lot of young women, young boys, girls may be interested what does it matter, it's a crime and this is also protected and it's also one of the indicators.

Next 5.3.2, a proportion of goals and women aged 15-49. years who have undergone female genital mutilation cutting by age. Next indicator proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work by 6 age and location. Indicator 5.5.1, proportion of seeds held by women national parliaments and in local governments. Next indicate that proportional women in managerial positions. Indicator 5.6.1 proportion of women aged 15-49 years who made their own informed decision regarding sexual relation contraceptive use and reproductive health care. Next indicator number of countries with laws and regulations that guarantee full and equal access to women and men aged 15 years and older to sexual and reproductive health care, information and education. Next indicator relates to the means implementation 5.a.1 proportion of total agricultural population with women among owners and rights-bearers of agricultural land by type and tenure. Indicator 5.a.2, proportion of countries with the legal framework including customary law, guarantees women equal rights to land ownership and or control and the pre-last indicator 5.b.1, proportion of individuals who own a mobile telephone by sex. Indicator 5.c.1 which is the last indicator is proportion of countries with system to track and make public allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment.

**5.5 Ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership**

One of the targets and I want to pay your attention to women's equal participations in decision making. It is Target 5.5 “ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership”. Data shows that women are underrepresented at all levels of decision making worldwide and achieving gender in political life is still far off.

**Women’s political participation**

Let’s look more in details what does it mean women's underrepresentation and how it relates to us. As of September 2021, there are 26 women serving as heads of states or governments in 24 countries at the current rate, Gender Equality in the highest position of power will not be reached for another 130 years without your youth engagement, we won't be able to make better for women's political participation that's why we need your engagement.

Another data that may be interesting for you, only 21 of government ministers were women with only 14 countries having achieved 50 or more women in cabinets. With an annual increase of just 0.52 percentage points, gender parity in ministerial positions will not be achieved before 2077. When you are already old and we with literally maybe are not part of this world.

Another data we want to concentrate a little bit how important to look at the data, only 25 of all national parliamentarians are women, up to up to 11 in 1995. So that is not big increase only four countries have 50 percent or more women in parliament in single or lower houses which are Rwanda with 61% and I hope someone is from Rwanda is here among our young participants. Cuba with 53%, Bolivia is 53 percent and the United Arab Emirates with 50 percent.

It is important to pay attention to women's political participation not only at the national federal level, it is important to pay attention to local governments where a lot of life is going on and rural population is wide very wide. Data from 130 to 133 countries show that 36 percent of elected members in local deliberative bodies only two countries reached 50 percent and an additional 18 countries have more than 40 percent of women in local governments. This is a problem globally there are 27 States in which women account for less than 10 percent of parliamentarians in singular lower houses including full single lower chambers with no women at all.

There is established and growing evidence that women's leadership in political decision making to be improved but women's leadership improves the political leadership. For example, research in India in panchayats which are local governments, local councils in India discovered that number of drinking water projects in areas with women-led councils with 62 percent higher than in those with men led councils.

Is this a significant impact? It is that's why we pay attention to women's political participation.

**Some links to the database**

We want to share some links to some database that you may find useful for your further usage and digging more for data that demonstrates how important to get more women into decision making, thank you.

**Which targets need to be given priority in achieving SDG 5?**

This question is extremely important question and I think dear young participants pay attention that it is important that all SDG 5 targets need to be a priority. It is not possible to apply cherry picking approach. Some countries tried but I think it's a bad not even tendency now countries are following but it is important to remember that you can't make priorities but there are Global priorities for advocacy in the very concrete context. For example, if you are working in the area which is called in UN settings in SDG discussions called FFD. FFD means Financing for Development where discussions over means of implementation, domestic resources, international resources and how to raise funds public-private partnership. Anyway, in the financing in the processes around financing for development, maybe they can take priority on means of implementation. For example, in that discussions we will pay attention to for example indicator on 5.c.1 which is making legal reforms to allocate and to make public budgets for gender equality and women's rights. So, in that context the 5.c.1 can be a priority.

I want to share experience of the organization for which I work. Are we in the form of women's NGOs women's angels in Kyrgyzstan focused for example on increase of women's political participation in local level? Why we chosen their priority? Because in my country two years ago it was only 10.5 percent of women in local governments / in local elected bodies that's why for us it was priority for the organization to concentrate and we managed to improve the situation.

So, our choice of priority in the organization was based on the needs of the country and capacity of the organization because in Kyrgyzstan there was a significant failure in 2020. 11% now after 2021 local election 38 percent and we contributed a lot very much progress linked with focused work on chosen priority in the given context.

So Lichia this context means a lot but not if you're a government.

**Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work**

We don't have much time to concentrate more on other details but I would like to bring your attention to some of the data that and I was happy when Lichia mentioned unpaid work, thank you Lichia very much.

There is data which you can read and find very useful in order to see what is the situation in the Target 5.1 related to recognition and value and paid care and domestic work there are very many gaps.

**Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control**

If we undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources as well as access to ownership and control, there are quite important facts and figures that women's access to economic, to financial, to infrastructure resources really increases their ownership and control and in benefits the economic empowerment for the whole country. This data will be shared with you, I hope Lichia all this will be available to the slides so that our participants can read more details for access to economic resources.

**Q2**

Yeah, well thank you Nurgul because I think you point out a very important questions it's not enough just to have the right but also have the capabilities and in this context about women's ability to participate in societies, in their communities and in work will require resources at from different levels.

So, what I want to ask you is **how much progress have we made since the launching of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development in 2016,** which is already sort of close to these eight years.

**Progress areas**

Thank you so much Lichia for this question and the dear participants there are progress areas I was sharing more gaps and challenges and where we were failing. But in fact governments are doing a lot of work, different partner stakeholders contributing to sustainable development despite the challenges. So, what are the what are the progress women's participation in political process increased, it is at very slow speed but it's increasing.

And if you review your country data your country legislation you will find quite a good example of legislation and there are countries with budgets already so women's political participation is improved a lot of quotas in many countries, a lot of the above mentioned data on political participation. I was showing you from the negative side showing the gaps but it's also says that we are doing already there are countries for example with more than 50% women in parliaments.

Attention to violence against women it increases significantly. A lot of amendments to legislation in our countries are going on laws, civic mechanisms are set up and it's because it's now getting more attention not only from women’s perspective but also as part of SDG. Because they are part of the Sustainable Development Goal framework, we can bring more attention to violence against women increased.

It is a pity that only 19 percent but it's still a progress, already some countries 19% of the countries allocate and track budget for gender equality and women's right. This is slow speed but it's good to recognize that it is in process and we depend very much on young people engagement if you realize, if you look and take it on this, I hope maybe the process will be much higher speed.

**Q3**

Well why progress is made but you also mentioned it's not fast enough because the number of 2077 stuck in my mind indeed. By then probably not only, I won't be around but also probably in some place rotten already under the ground. So the question is **what are the key challenges what are the barriers that preventing us moving faster on this agenda item?**

**Key challenges in implementing SDG 5**

Thank you very much Lichia, dear participants, I would like to share with you not concrete challenges for before in front of concrete target but let me share the context-wide challenges.

Continuing patriarchy, it's a reality it's challenging why we try to advocate more women in decision making because majority unfortunately those men who are in power are bearing very often stereotypes. And I think it's very important and these stereotypes are very often patriarchal. I am sure you face this already a lot patriarchal attitudes in your own life and this is a continuing challenge.

Big Challenge lack of accountability and it will be good if you list for yourself which of the challenges you want to choose to address. Accountability is continuing challenges there is few mechanisms for accountability on women's rights in the SDG framework.

We looked at the VNR reports very few countries are reporting for example on how much budget they're allocating for women's rights we are interested as Lichia noted not only in political reforms we also want financial backup for these reforms. You can't say to a child wait a minute, we love you but we can't give you food and clothes, it will die. That is the same with the goal we need to have accountability for commitments for allocation of budgets for proper legislation, we need local accountability mechanisms.

It's a pity to say but I think one of the key challenges that youth ownership of the SDGs is lacking that's why I was so happy when Dr. Lichia Yiu has started this process of training capacity building engaging youth. It's your world. We are bringing something but it's your time to bring something. And ownership means a lot if you want later to speak about what does it mean ownership, I would be happy Dr. Lichia to share but just keep going ownership when you read the program of your country, when you read commitments, you follow up them, you ask the government and you try to do something for this target with your own perspective, with your own enthusiasm and with your own strength.

There is also another challenge lack of integrating in other SDGs. In the SDG, in the transforming the world Agenda 2030, it's clear written that women's rights and gender equality will be a standalone goal but also it will be cross-cutting integrating in all SDGs.

There is a process and there are achievements in that area that ecologists, environmentalists are doing already good work on that but it still lacks. Lack of integrating in other SDGs is important and it's one of the challenges.

Under investment is another challenge, which is sometimes even recognized and addressed by governments, by donors, by private sector and I want you when you will be reading the slides or you will be reading the SDG 5 to look at your context and bring in add other key challenges in implementing SDGs. If you are working for example on the sexual reproductive rights of Youth, you will find a set of specific challenges if you look at economic empowerment of women, there is a set of specific challenges. And it will be good if you work on it and add challenges specifically in your context.

For example women's economic empowerment is central to realizing women's rights and gender equality, women's economic empowerment includes women's ability to participate equally in existing markets. The access to and control over productive resources access to decent work, control over their own time, lives and bodies; and increased voice, agencies and meaningful participation in economic decision making at all levels from the household to international resources.

And I think if you look at economic empowerment you will see here, there is specific challenges. For example women's ability to participate, it is challenge area;

equality in participation existing markets are not very open to women; access to control to productive resources, it's about only 15% of big productive resources are owned by women, this is also this balance in ownership also decision making. I'm fascinated if you allow me to share Lichia, I was fascinated how Danish women advocated and managed to include in Denmark strategies if I remember correctly that they are now struggling to give to put women in private sector, leadership, women equal participation, gender parity.

**Q4**

In each young person's own context **can you think of or give us an example where young people have been active and come together to contribute to this SDG 5 Gender Equality?**

You probably know the Youth Forum that is regularly held for European region of the ECOSOC, they are meeting every year as Youth Forum to discuss SDG implementation so there are groups that are leading the process, but unfortunately, it's not widely spread, right? Lichia

If you are sitting somewhere in village and you don't have education you cannot write what we are talking about and this is important to address everything. But I want to tell you not about only about European perspective, for example I know one young activist was a great speaker at UN in several events telling about young women in migration issues and her voice was heard so she was overcoming a lot of challenges and even being speaking and voicing. S he grew up I saw her during five years and she grew up and she contributed to raising attention to young people's situation in migration.

Another case I want to share that is coming from Kyrgyzstan my own country and I met with a group of young women who are working for advancing women's economic rights. They set up an organization and they are already and they are young themselves, they are about between 25 to 30 something, quite young girls and women who now covering not only Kyrgyzstan but Central Asia in order to provide opportunities and to raise awareness, to raise access to young rural not only rural urban startups.

(That sounds great)

And that is so young women advancing women’s economic example “She Starts” in Kyrgyzstan you can Google and you will find and recently she was speaking in one of our sessions Jadira from this organization. She's fantastic and I think you can do so many things they already managed to not only raise awareness among youth who wants to make income generating activities, they also already found sources to support them. So there are already projects that are going well and now they are opening access to markets so it is she starts in Kyrgyzstan

**Q5**

Great! So **what do you think for a young person can get started and where they can make a difference?**

**So many things are waiting for you!**

Thank you Lichia, I think there are so many spaces to do this but let me just share my own thinking and maybe our dear friend, dear participants, dear colleagues will do in my opinion but I am sure they will add much more things that they can do. Let me just share what I was thinking.

First be proactive, what does it mean be proactive don't wait till they call you to do something. Knock the door, knock the window, ask the space, be proactive that is requiring it's a demanding approach / demanding thing you have to read a lot. That's why these educational lectures are so important that helps to not only know but also more confident. Second learn, read, review existing materials increase advocacy skills if we want to go knock the door and we want to amend legislation or we want increased excess or we won't change legislation. We want to know how to do it and that is increase in advocacy skills maybe Dr Lichia you will be your next phase will be advocacy skills.

Learn languages I'm not talking about geographical languages, country languages, I'm talking about political language. It is extremely important and especially when you will be working engaging in advocacy language is a power. For example, write sexual reproductive right or sexual reproductive health. It's good to say reproductive health and rights, many governments would avoid rights it's a political powerful language, human right. Learn languages, choose gaps, challenges that needs your particular attention and needs your actions, review best practices, and take actions.

I think we can continue telling about things that we can do or example, there are many platforms working on women's rights and gender equality, join this women's rights and gender equality platforms, make campaigns at your own level, collect data you will be powerful if you have data. This is really a big success if you collect data and you voice it use advocacy. Become an advocate for women's rights and gender equality join and support women's organizational advocacy.

I think these actions are just a few of actions that you can take so many things are waiting for you and I think in order to advance women's rights and gender equality among your cycles, you need your capacity, you strengthening, you need your partnership and you have such a lot big strength. I am sure use your strengths using your strengths is a powerful tool. And of course and let me finish with this action

voice your issue or concern. Nobody will be raising your issue of concern, you are entitled and you have the power to tell it your issue of concern.

Wow that is a fantastic in terms of your presentation and encouragement for young people to get engaged and take actions and have confidence in terms of their own experience and insight. So, I want to thank you very much.