SAFERWORLD
PREVENTING VIOLENT CONFLICT. BUILDING SAFER LIVES

Briefing

Making Goal 16 count – ensuring a gender perspective

This paper aims to stimulate discussion on how a gender perspective can be integrated into policy and programming to advance Goal 16 on peaceful, just and inclusive societies. It draws on desk-based research and key informant interviews with experts and activists who work on gender-related issues at local, national and global levels.

A draft of this paper was prepared as background for a workshop in New York on 8th December 2016, co-hosted by Saferworld, the International Peace Institute (IPI) and the Permanent Mission of Estonia to the UN. It brought together a range of international policy actors working on peace, governance, justice and gender issues. The paper was then refined based on input and reflections expressed by participants of the New York workshop.

1. Introduction

The 2030 Agenda has made 'peaceful, just and inclusive societies' a global priority by including peace as a cross-cutting issue and as a standalone goal.[i] The inclusion of Goal 16 provides an opportunity to address barriers to peace, such as violence, lack of access to justice, illicit financial and arms flows, and political exclusion.

At the global level, discussions have begun on how donors, multilateral agencies, member states and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) can contribute to progress towards achieving Goal 16 through policies and programming. There is also increased recognition among these actors[ii] of the need to move beyond the specific targets under Goal 16 and explore links with other goals and targets across the 2030 Agenda, such as with Goal 10 on equality and Goal 5 on gender equality.[iii] These discussions will likely shape their future programming and policies around Goal 16.

While there is recognition of the need to apply a gender perspective to all efforts toward Goal 16, the question of what form this will take remains largely unexplored. Although Goal 5 includes several targets that are similar to those under Goal 16[iv], there is a tendency for those who work on peace, security, development and gender to work in silos. Indeed, gender experts who work on Goal 5 are absent from most debates on Goal 16 implementation. Meanwhile, in the official review process of the 2030 Agenda, Goal 5 will be reviewed in 2017 and Goal 16 in 2019[v], which only serves to reinforce existing divisions between the respective policy communities. There is also a broader disconnect between the 2030 Agenda and other gender-related policy frameworks such as the women, peace and security agenda[vi] and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

It is clear that a gender perspective is integrated into policy and programming that advances Goal 16. However, further discussion is needed to explore its practical application. This paper looks at how this can be done in practice by analysing the following three Goal 16 targets:

- 16.1 Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere

- 16.3 Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all
- 16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels

By looking at existing evidence, current responses and approaches as well as gender-related barriers towards achieving these targets, this paper identifies several initial findings that can serve as entry points for further discussions on integrating a gender perspective into efforts to advance Goal 16. Though this paper primarily focuses on Goal 16, further research is needed into integrating a gender perspective across all the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

2. Key findings

2.1. Goal 16 cannot be achieved without taking gender into account

Ensuring peaceful, just, and inclusive societies for everyone requires integration of gender, as it plays a key role in determining who has access to power, resources, justice, influence and security. For example, gender plays an important role in determining who perpetrates and who experiences different types of violence. Men are the primary perpetrators of violence, making up 95 percent of homicide convictions. This is not to argue that men are naturally violent, but that in most cultures, socially-constructed gender norms associate violence with men and boys in a way that is not associated with women and girls.[vii] Men are also four times as likely as women to be victims of homicide, and are more likely to suffer violent deaths during conflict.[viii] Meanwhile, women and girls are disproportionately affected by sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) – which affect about one in three women in their lifetimes.[ix] They also face a range of challenges when it comes to accessing justice and meaningfully participating in decision-making.[x]

Sexual orientation and gender identity may also affect people's experiences of violence, and their ability to access justice and participate in decision-making. Indeed, sexual and gender minorities (SGMs) – an umbrella term referring to people whose sexual orientation or gender identity does not fit within conventional societal norms[xi] – face challenges such as SGBV, human rights abuses, and discriminatory laws and practices.[xii]

By analysing peace, governance, and justice-related issues from a gender perspective, it is possible to determine the nature of the problem, what kind of strategies are needed to address it, and where there are gaps in intervention and research. However, this will also require taking an intersectional approach: a wide range of identity markers such as class, religion, and sexual orientation all impact an individual's experience and relative social, political and economic power. For example, a poor, homosexual woman may be subject to multiple layers of discrimination.

In order to realise the vision set out in the 2030 Agenda, the interlinked issues of conflict, violence and gender equality must be addressed. Studies have shown that a country's peacefulness correlates with levels of gender equality.[xiii] For example, evidence shows that with every five percent increase of women in parliament, a state becomes nearly five times less likely to use violence when in crisis.[xiv] While correlation does not prove causality, there is mounting evidence of a mutually reinforcing relationship between conflict, violence and gendered systems of power.[xv] For example, SGBV is a key security concern in all of the conflict-affected contexts in which Saferworld works, including in South Sudan, Kyrgyzstan and Nepal.[xvi] There is also strong evidence that the patriarchal gender norms and power structures which underpin gender inequality can drive conflict and violence.[xvii]

2.2. A holistic approach to gender is essential

By linking Goal 5 and Goal 16, there will be more coordinated approaches between the peace, security, gender, and development communities. Indeed, Goal 16 can help ensure transformative change by acting as a platform for collaboration, lessons learning and knowledge exchange. The

overlapping aims and targets of Goal 5 and Goal 16 provide many opportunities for such linkages. While Goal 5 focuses solely on women and girls and Goal 16 focuses on peace, governance and justice more broadly, targets 16.1[xviii] and 5.2[xix] both deal with violence reduction and targets 16.7[xx] and 5.5[xxi] focus on inclusive decision-making.

In addition, we must take a holistic approach to incorporating gender across the 2030 Agenda. If all targets related to gender are not addressed simultaneously, they will likely serve as gendered barriers to achieving other targets. For example, violence and insecurity make it more difficult for women to participate in decision-making or take advantage of economic opportunities. Saferworld's research in Egypt, Libya and Yemen shows that women's security concerns – ranging from harassment, fear of violence and crime, and widespread availability of arms – had a negative impact on their political participation.[xxii] Progress made on target 16.1 to reduce violence, or on target 16.4 to address illicit arms flows and organised crime would therefore provide an opportunity to make progress on targets 5.5 and 16.7 on inclusive decision-making, as it would enable women to participate in political, economic and public life. A lack of economic empowerment for women also serves as a barrier to achieving the Goal 16 targets. Women may lack the economic resources to access justice institutions[xxiii] or be unable to report intimate partner violence to the police due to economic dependence, as seen in countries such as South Sudan.[xxiv]

Integrating gender into Goal 16 can also help broaden the women, peace and security agenda, which so far has been limited to conflict, peace processes, and post-conflict settings. Goal 16 offers a long-term and development-focused approach to peace through its emphasis on addressing the root causes and drivers of conflict, such as a lack of access to justice, and political exclusion. It can therefore help ensure that greater attention is paid to the conflict prevention elements of the women, peace and security agenda. However, this will require policy actors working to advance Goal 16 to take gender seriously and link up with women's organisations at the global, national, and local levels. Many women's organisations are either unaware of Goal 16 or have not yet determined how to approach it or link it to their existing work.[xxv]

While making links between Goal 5 and Goal 16 is important, true integration of gender perspectives must go beyond this. Gender is not synonymous with women. Gender is a system of power, which shapes the lives, relationships, opportunities, and access to resources of people of different genders. It tends to favour men and boys, affording them power and resources, leaving women and girls – and in many contexts, SGMs – behind. Integrating a gender perspective also requires a critical examination of the gender norms that may reinforce gender inequalities and perpetuate conflict and insecurity.[xxvi] Meanwhile, Goal 5 focuses only on women and girls, meaning that such systems of power and influence underpinning gender inequality risk remaining unaddressed.

2.3. Patriarchal gender norms are a key barrier to progress

Patriarchal gender norms constitute a key barrier to progress on targets addressing violence and promoting access to justice and inclusive decision-making in Goal 5 and Goal 16, because they often play a role in driving violence and insecurity.[xxvii] For example, in South Sudan, violent masculinities are implicated in the practice of cattle raiding, which fuels violence within and between communities.[xxviii] Such norms can also play a role in fuelling SGBV in society more broadly – domestic abuse, for example. While peacebuilding and humanitarian communities have primarily been focused on the gendered impacts of conflict and insecurity, its gendered *drivers* – including violent gender norms – also need to be acknowledged and addressed.

Patriarchal norms are also a barrier to women's equal and meaningful participation in decision-making, including in peace processes. In many societies, women are expected to restrict themselves to the private sphere rather than the male-dominated public or political spheres. In several contexts in which Saferworld works, a major barrier to women's participation in community security groups is

the cultural expectation that women need permission from male family members – particularly husbands and fathers – to join such groups.[xxix]

Even when women are able to participate in public and political life, they may not be able to influence relevant processes, activities and decisions. Despite the increase in quotas to address gender inequality, political and legal institutions continue to perpetuate patriarchal gender norms. Women may face discrimination and exclusion by male colleagues, be prevented from reaching senior positions, and are rarely given leadership roles beyond so-called 'soft' issues such as welfare, education and women's rights.[xxx] For example, in Sierra Leone, women in local government have found it challenging to build coalitions with male colleagues, limiting their opportunities to influence policy decisions.[xxxi]

Finally, gender norms often translate into discriminatory social and legal systems, which serve as a barrier to gender parity in relation to access to justice. For example, women may be viewed as the property of their husbands or fathers and therefore lack full citizenship and personhood under the law. This reduces their ability to access land or inheritances, or to recognise intimate partner violence as a crime. At least 76 countries have laws that criminalise certain sexual orientations or gender identities, preventing many people from accessing justice.[xxxii]

2.4. 'Leaving no one behind' requires an intersectional approach

Fulfilling the 2030 Agenda's promise to 'leave no one behind' will require policy actors to pay attention to a wide range of identity markers such as class, religion, age and ethnicity, as they all impact an individual's experience and relative social, political and economic power. Women, girls, men, boys and SGMs are not homogenous groups. Gender is not the only, or even the main identity marker, which may determine a person's level of exclusion. For example, in Nepal, Saferworld and partners found that Madhesi women, who traditionally do not participate in any public events,[xxxiii] were particularly hard to reach and integrate into community security groups, as their families were worried that they would have indecent contact with men in these groups.[xxxiv] In addition, it is not a given that women in decision-making positions will champion gender equality or use their influence to advance women's interests. Indeed, they may prioritise the interests of their social group rather than that of women from other ethnic groups, religions or classes.[xxxv]

Women, girls and SGMs in particular tend to face multiple layers of discrimination. Marginalised women – such as those who are poor, belong to minority ethnic and indigenous groups, are disabled or live in rural areas – often face multiple barriers to decision-making processes and therefore tend to be the most excluded in society.[xxxvi] For example, Dalit rural women in Nepal count among the most disadvantaged people, and score at the bottom for most social indicators such as literacy, health and political participation.[xxxvii] Women and girls at the local level often face significant challenges in accessing security, justice and participating meaningfully in decision-making. In Kyrgyzstan, women in rural areas are stigmatised and seen as passive. For example, while women leaders are included in forums aimed at addressing local security concerns, they rarely take managerial roles and are often relegated to positions such as secretaries or assistants.[xxxviii]

2.5. Conflict-affected and fragile contexts pose a specific set of challenges for Goal 16

While the 2030 Agenda is universal, conflict, post-conflict and fragile contexts present additional gender-related barriers to meeting Goal 16 targets. In these contexts, violence stemming from existing gender inequality – such as from child marriage, female genital mutilation (FGM) or honour killing[xxxix] – is often worsened. Other forms of violence arise as well, including forced recruitment.[xl] Sexual violence is often perpetrated by all parties to a conflict, and is used as a military tactic or is implicitly condoned by military leaders.[xli] UN peacekeepers have also engaged in sexual exploitation and abuse.[xlii] While women and girls are disproportionately affected by SGBV, men and boys are also

targeted. For example, sexual violence has been used as a form of torture against men and boys in detention and interrogation centres in Libya and Syria.[xliii]

In conflict-affected and fragile contexts, women's opportunities for political representation may be limited due to worsening security conditions, restrictions on press freedoms, post-election violence and the banning of human rights organisations.[xliv] Violence and conflict may severely affect the functioning of security and justice institutions and lead to increased levels of arms proliferation, gender inequality and SGBV – as seen in countries such as Egypt, Libya and Yemen.[xlv] Targeted and innovative interventions are required in order to meet such challenges. For example, in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), mobile courts have helped ensure that women and girls in remote areas have access to justice.[xlvi]

2.6. Organisations that work to advance gender equality and rights need more political backing and support

Women's organisations worldwide are already working on the ground to increase access to justice for women and girls, address SGBV and advocate for women's inclusion in decision-making processes. They have the networks, experience and expertise necessary to make progress on these issues. For example, research has shown that internal pressure from women's organisations and activists plays a critical role in supporting women's political empowerment.[xlvii]

Despite this, many local women's organisations struggle under the current funding climate, face threats and intimidation, and remain disconnected from relevant policy communities at the national and global levels. For example, women's groups have faced backlash from violent groups in Afghanistan.[xlviii] Women's rights defenders face targeted attacks on their reputation and honour, which aim to discredit their efforts and reinforce patriarchal gender norms.[xlix] In Uganda, women's organisations that work to address SGBV continue to face significant funding constraints, limiting their ability to respond effectively.[l] Organisations that are advocating for SGM rights also face a number of obstacles including legal constraints, threats and intimidation.[li] Making progress on issues related to access to justice, violence reduction and inclusive decision-making will require providing these organisations with political backing and solidarity, as well as technical and financial support.

2.7. The importance of sex-disaggregated data

While not yet finalised, the global indicator framework[lii] for the SDGs, agreed by the UN Statistical Commission in March 2016, provides a means for tracking global progress. This data has the potential to be used for accountability purposes and could also be used to inform decision-making – for example, by demonstrating where there are inequalities between identity groups. How the international community measures global issues determines how they address them. The 2030 Agenda also recognises that 'quality, accessible, timely and reliable disaggregated data will be needed to help with the measurement of progress and to ensure that no one is left behind'.[liii]

However, there is a glaring gap in data availability and the availability of sex-disaggregated data for Goal 16 indicators. Several of the indicators that are based on administrative data – such as 16.1.1 on the number of homicides or 16.3.2 on the number of unsentenced detainees – should be disaggregated by sex. Yet, there is only partial coverage across many datasets available,[liv] despite strides over the past two decades to increase availability.[lv] When data is available, it is often not used for gender analysis.[lvi] A recent report by the UN Statistics commission found that when sex-disaggregated data is collected it is often too broad to enable quality gender analysis.[lvii] In addition, the challenges associated with collecting data on the needs and experiences of SGMs are immense. Current statistical methodologies do not allow for categories beyond sex (man or woman). In addition, in light of the hostile environment facing many SGMs around the globe, many will likely be reluctant to disclose their identity. In addition to the need for sex-disaggregated data, there is also a broader need for better gender statistics, for example in relation to FGM.[lviii]

Closing the gender data gap will require action. First, data gatherers should ask about gender on surveys or count women specifically in the initial data collection. However, for gender statistics to be reliable, taking a gender perspective into account when designing targeted sampling, questionnaires and survey modules is also critical.[lix] Second, objective parties should also support these efforts in order to ensure that the data is disaggregated by sex. This could include civil society organisations (CSOs), research institutes, companies, and UN agencies that play an important role in contributing to data collection on the Goal 16 indicators, which can confirm or bring into question the 'official' data. This contribution should not be overlooked. Third, significant and sustained funding will be necessary to build data capacities. This is particularly the case in conflict and post-conflict settings where capacity to collect data – including the sex-disaggregated variety – is low or practically non-existent.[lx]

When measuring progress towards Goal 16 targets, it will also be important to utilise valuable data collected under other relevant indicators – particularly those under Goal 5. For example, SGBV takes many forms, and the indicators for target 16.1 on violence reduction do not cover all of these. However, Goal 5 indicators include several additional forms of SGBV such as trafficking (5.2.1) and FGM (5.3.2).

Finally, engaging with ongoing global initiatives to increase the availability and prioritisation of sex-disaggregated data will be important, and will help ensure that sex-disaggregated data for Goal 16 indicators will be prioritised and collected. For example, the Inter-Agency Expert Group on Gender Statistics (IAEG-GS), mandated to provide guidance on the production of gender statistics, will establish an advisory group on gender indicators in 2017. The group will identify gender-relevant SDG indicators to be presented to the UN Statistical Commission for consideration.[lxi] Meanwhile, UN Women has launched a five-year programme entitled 'Making Every Woman and Girl Count', which will invest resources and expertise – focusing on 12 pathfinder countries – to ensure that gender data is generated, prioritised and used.[lxii]

2.8. Qualitative as well as quantitative analysis is needed

While sex-disaggregated data is important, it will only tell us part of the story. The women, peace and security agenda has taught us that it must be combined with solid qualitative gender analysis. For example, without combining quantitative data with qualitative research, it is difficult to assess the nature of women's political participation. With regard to the indicators for measuring progress on UN Security Resolution 1325, the number of women included in peace processes can sometime look relatively high. However, the numbers alone do not tell us if the 'one woman out of 50 men' was the secretary or senior mediator, or whether she had a say in determining the outcomes of the negotiations.[lxiii] The addition of qualitative research allows policymakers and programme designers to better understand the nuances behind the numbers. Strong qualitative analysis and case studies on SGMs will be needed, given the lack of sex-disaggregated data that reflects their situations. However, given the sensitivities, or even dangers, involved in openly identifying outside traditional gender categories, a 'do no harm' approach must be taken to understand the context so as not to endanger individuals without their consent.[lxiv]

The evidence base on strategies to address patriarchal gender norms also needs to be strengthened. This includes research on the role of violent masculine gender norms in driving violence and insecurity, and on how peacebuilding programming can be designed to effectively address these norms. Very few of the existing programmes to challenge patriarchal gender norms are designed explicitly to prevent conflict.[lxv] In addition, while most evaluations demonstrate that such programmes can lead to short-term changes in attitudes and behaviours, further research is needed to understand the long-term impacts.[lxvi]

2.9. Lessons can be learnt from past experiences

Policy actors who seek to integrate a gender perspective into efforts to advance Goal 16 would benefit from drawing on the lessons learnt and best practices of existing programmes, initiatives, and policies to address gendered issues of peace, justice, and inclusion. By building on existing experiences and learning from past mistakes, we will be better placed to achieve Goal 16 targets. While it is not comprehensive, an analysis of existing evidence reveals some initial findings.

First, policy actors need to become better at understanding and responding to specific gendered aspects of peace, justice and governance at different stages of a conflict cycle. For example, disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration (DDR) programmes often do not provide women with the same benefits as men, despite their loss of economic resources during the conflict. This undermines their access to economic means, and consequently also to justice and decision-making.[lxvii] Policy actors should also prioritise addressing root causes of gender inequality during times of peace, as they are often linked to gender issues in conflict and post-conflict situations (and vice versa). For example, the exclusion of women in peace time tends to be linked to the exclusion of women in peace processes.[lxviii] Research indicates a strong rise in domestic violence and trafficking in post-conflict settings, levels that may be even higher than during conflict.[lxix]

Second, the focus of existing research, programming and services related to SGBV is almost exclusively on women and girls. While these efforts should be prioritised – women and girls do make up the majority of the survivors of violence – men, boys and SGMs are also targeted and need access to adequate services, legislative protection and support. For example, discriminatory policies, practices, and attitudes of relevant institutions – including healthcare services – might impact on their ability to access SGBV prevention and response programming.[lxx]

Third, gender-transformative approaches that challenge gender norms and the power imbalance between men and women hold potential. Such approaches have proven to be some of the most effective ways to tackle SGBV.[lxxi] For example, SASA! – a community mobilisation approach promoted by the organisation Raising Voices – seeks to prevent violence against women by addressing the imbalance of power between women, men, girls and boys. An evaluation of its impact in four communities in Kampala, Uganda showed several positive outcomes, including reduced social acceptance of gender inequality and intimate partner violence, as well as a decrease in intimate partner violence and sexual risk behaviours. The community response to violence against women also improved.[lxxii] In Nepal, the NGO Saathi realised that working with women's groups in order to address SGBV was not sufficient in itself, and began to also form men's groups to engage with perpetrators at the community level and promote non-violence.[lxxiii] However, there is little evidence on how best to address gender norms that cause and perpetuate conflict and insecurity, and most peacebuilding actors have not developed and piloted programming models for challenging such norms. Given that transforming gender norms is a long and challenging endeavour, donors and other key actors may not prioritise such efforts, favouring those that are likely to yield quicker and more tangible results.

Fourth, while policies such as laws and quotas to ensure greater gender equality are important, they are not enough to transform patriarchal gender norms and attitudes or to ensure the meaningful participation of women in all areas of society. For example, despite the fact that Nepal's new constitution includes explicit rights and protection for SGMs, they continue to face discriminatory attitudes and social stigma.[lxxv] In addition, while quotas can have a positive impact on societal perceptions of the role of women in politics, in many contexts women are yet to have real influence over policy decisions.[lxxvi] The 'Broadening Participation' project examined 40 peace processes and found that when women's groups had strong influence over the process, the chance of success was much higher.[lxxvii] The fact that women's participation increases the likelihood of achieving peace demonstrates the importance of going beyond representation to focus on strengthening the quality and nature of women's political participation within decision-making bodies.

Finally, women's organisations have been using accountability tools – including civil society shadow reports – to hold governments to account for their commitments to gender equality for many years. For example, women's organisations regularly submit civil society shadow reports to the CEDAW Committee, which monitors its implementation. Various women's networks produce similar reports to assess their governments' action on the women, peace and security agenda.[lxxviii] There are also a number of tools available on how best to structure civil society shadow reports.[lxxix] Valuable lessons learnt and best practices from such experiences can be leveraged in order to strengthen the accountability components of the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) – a key SDG monitoring and review process – which so far has fallen short.[lxxx] While much more work is needed to ensure that accountability mechanisms have teeth, such reports may encourage coalition building among CSOs and contribute to holding governments accountable for its actions.

3. Recommendations

Despite ongoing efforts, much more must be done if we are to ensure 'peaceful, just, and inclusive societies' for all – including women, girls and SGMs. The promotion of gender equality is at the heart of the 2030 Agenda – and all countries have work to do to in this regard. In order to integrate a gender perspective into policy and programming efforts to advance Goal 16, policy actors will need to act in several different areas as outlined below.

Comprehensive approach to gender

- **Mainstream a gender perspective into all efforts:** Gender should not be treated as an add-on or a box-ticking exercise, but must be effectively integrated into any policy and programming. A gender analysis must underpin all efforts to advance Goal 16.
- **Approach gender holistically**: By going beyond linking Goal 5 and Goal 16, to a focus on the intersection of all gender-related aspects in the 2030 Agenda, gendered barriers can be addressed more effectively.
- **Prioritise challenging patriarchal gender norms**: Concrete steps must be taken to promote gender norms that favour non-violence and gender equality. These should include providing support to existing efforts and to innovative approaches and programming to strengthen the evidence base on how gender norms can drive conflict and insecurity. It will also mean undertaking long-term efforts to challenge and reform structures and institutions – including political parties – that are perpetuating these norms.
- **Take an intersectional approach:** The specific needs and experiences of *all* genders – including of people from various classes, ethnic or other social groups – must be fully understood in order to effectively address them. It is therefore not enough to simply include 'women' in decision-making, consultations or interventions – policy actors must include a broad spectrum of voices and perspectives.

Support and partnerships

- **Provide support and political backing to local organisations working to advance gender equality:** International support and solidarity can help local organisations that are already working to make progress on many of the relevant targets, but who face challenges such as funding constraints, threats and intimidation.
- **Form networks with women, peace and security actors:** The opportunity to continue to share and learn across the respective communities working on Goal 16, Goal 5 and the broader women, peace and security agenda is vital to the success of a gender-sensitive approach to Goal 16. Networks and synergies between these actors at the local, national, and global levels will be required to move this agenda forward.
- **Ensure that all policy and programming efforts are context specific:** Targeted interventions are important, as the specific nature of gendered challenges and barriers will

vary between countries. Such interventions must be underpinned by thorough gendered context analysis to ensure maximum impact and sustainability.

Accountability

- **Integrate a gender perspective into follow-up and review processes of the 2030 Agenda:** Ensuring that a gender perspective is integrated into the follow-up and review of all 17 SDGs (and Goal 16 in particular) will put gender at the forefront. It will also be critical for all stakeholders to focus on peace and conflict-related issues when reviewing progress on Goal 5 at the HLPF in July 2017.
- **Draw upon best practices and lessons learnt from past experiences:** By liaising with women's organisations and drawing upon valuable lessons and best practices from their experiences in working to hold governments accountable for their commitments, the HLPF as an accountability mechanism can be strengthened.
- **Ensure meaningful civil society engagement in follow-up and review processes of the 2030 Agenda:** In order for the HLPF and related processes to provide ample space to civil society's accounts of national progress, local actors – especially women's organisations – should be supported to participate in and shape such processes.
- **Prioritise and support efforts to generate sex-disaggregated data:** Such data can help reveal critical gaps and inform decision-making to help fulfil the 2030 Agenda's promise of 'leaving no one behind'. This will require significant capacity building and financial support for all actors involved in data collection and analysis, including non-governmental actors. However, in order for such data to drive accountability at the national level, it will need to be used by civil society actors and other relevant accountability actors to challenge official narratives of progress and demand change.
- **Combine quantitative data with solid qualitative analysis:** Experiences from the women, peace and security agenda have taught us that indicators alone will not tell the full story of progress. The data will need to be put into context, requiring solid qualitative analysis. Such analysis is also critical because it can help increase the understanding of the challenges that SGMs face.
- **Measure success primarily through tangible impact:** Policy and programming interventions must aim to achieve real impact by prioritising efforts that result in concrete outcomes such as meaningful participation, in addition to measures that strengthen legislation or create new institutions.

About Saferworld

Saferworld is an independent international organisation working to prevent violent conflict and build safer lives. We work with local people affected by conflict to improve their safety and sense of security, and conduct wider research and analysis. We use this evidence and learning to improve local, national and international policies and practices that can help build lasting peace. Our priority is people – we believe that everyone should be able to lead peaceful, fulfilling lives, free from insecurity and violent conflict.

We are a not-for-profit organisation with programmes in nearly 20 countries and territories across Africa, the Middle East, Asia and Europe.

Saferworld has been working in the Somali region for over 10 years. Its programmatic focuses have included supporting the role of Non-State Actors (NSAs) in key decision-making processes on peace, security, and development; enhancing civil society oversight of democratic processes; supporting reconciliation and political dialogue; and facilitating stronger community security.

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i United Nations General Assembly (2015), 'Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development'

ii Existing global initiatives include the Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Promoting Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies, the Pathfinders for Peaceful Just and Inclusive Societies, the Goal 16+ Forum, the SDG16 Data Initiative and the Leave No One Behind Partnership.

iii See for example Tomlinson A (2015), 'Peaceful, just and inclusive societies in the Sustainable Development Goals: A universal agenda', (http://www.quno.org/sites/default/files/resources/2015.12.07%20CPRF%20QUNO%20Remarks%20Peace%20SDG.pdf) and Centre for International Cooperation (CIC) (2016), 'Pathfinders for peaceful, just and inclusive societies: A side event to UNGA 71-20 September 2016', (http://cic.nyu.edu/sites/default/files/pathfinders_unga_meeting_report_270916.pdf)

iv The SDG targets are on violence reduction (16.1 and 5.2), inclusive decision-making (16.7 and 5.5) and non-discrimination (16.b and 5.1).

v United Nations General Assembly (2016), 'Follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level', A/RES/70/299, April

vi The eight UN Security Council Resolutions (1820, 1888, 1889, 1960, 2106, 2122 and 2422) on women, peace and security frame the Women, Peace and Security Agenda.

vii Saferworld (2014), 'Masculinities, conflict and peacebuilding: perspectives on men through a gender lens', November

viii Saferworld (2014), 'Masculinities, conflict and peacebuilding: perspectives on men through a gender lens', November

ix World Health Organisation (WHO) (2016), 'Violence against women', September (http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs239/en/)

x Governance and Social Development Resource Centre (GSDRC) (2015), 'Gender and governance: Topic Guide', July

xi Saferworld (2016), 'Gender analysis of conflict toolkit', June

[xii] Human Rights Council (2015), 'Discrimination and violence against individuals based on their sexual orientation and gender identity', Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, A/HRC/29/23, 4 May

[xiii] For example: Institute for Economics and Peace (2011), *Structures of peace,* p 17-18; Caprioli, M. (2000), 'Gendered conflict'. *Journal of Peace Research*, 37(1), 51-68; Caprioli, M. (2005), 'Primed for violence: the role of gender inequality in predicting internal conflict'. *International Studies Quarterly*, 49(2), 161-178; Melander, E. (2005), 'Gender equality and intrastate armed conflict'. *International Studies Quarterly*, 49(4), 695-714.

[xiv] Caprioli M, Boyer M.A (20010, 'Gender, Violence and International Crisis', *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, **45** (4), pp. 514

[xv] A range of evidence and analysis is set out in Breines, I., Connell, R. and Eide, I. (2000), Male roles, masculinities and violence: a culture of peace perspective.

[xvi] Saferworld (2016), 'Gender and Community Security', June, p 2

[xvii] A range of evidence and analysis is set out in Breines, I., Connell, R. and Eide, I. (2000), Male roles, masculinities and violence: a culture of peace perspective.

[xviii] 16.2 end abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence and torture against children

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

[xx] 16.7 ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels

[xxi] 5.5 ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic, and public life

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