



CSO Partnership
for **Development Effectiveness**

A DECADE OF CSO SOLIDARITY
ON EDC ADVOCACY AND PRACTICE

CPDE Feminist Group POSITION PAPER ON GPEDC indicator 8/SDG INDICATOR 5.C.1

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Introduction

Globally, there is recognition that women's rights and gender equality are core to sustainable development, yet gender equality remains the greatest human rights challenge. In as much as, governments have made appreciable gradual progress in advancing women's rights and gender equality; structural inequalities persist in many countries preventing the full achievement of women's rights and gender equality. The World Economic Forum estimates that at the current rate of progress, women will not achieve pay or leadership equity with men for at least another 135.6 years. (UN Women, 2021).

Women's movement all over the world celebrated global standards formulated in 1995 in the Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA). But since that milestone we continue to face challenges such as underfunding to ensure effective implementation of political commitments made by governments. Governments failed to support commitments made with adequate funding and accountability mechanisms to ensure the advancement of women's rights and gender equality. The Women's movement struggled to survive in the current disabling environment and to mainstream women's rights and gender equality into the sustainable development agenda.

Countries, as a matter of urgency must undertake institutional reforms to adjust to the needs of the women's rights and gender equality agenda. The need to ensure local and country ownership is critical. Participation of women's rights groups in reforming systems and legislation continue to be quite low in many countries of the world.

Where are we?

A UN Women visualization data on countries efforts to achieve gender equality by 2030 shows that only 13% have either met or almost met the target; 24% close to target; 34% moderate to target; 15% far from target and 13% very far from target. And according to DAC, in 2021 only 5.5% of its actions had gender equality as a principal objective. Data availability on SDG 5 is uneven (UN Women), so is global progress and where data are missing, women and girls are invisible. It was noted that only 48% data needed to monitor SDG 5 are available. UN Women emphasized that except progress is accelerated by all, the entire global community will fail to achieve SDG 5. It is important that countries as a matter of priority take bold action to accelerate progress and close data gaps. An analysis by Plan International indicates that no country in the world is on track to achieve true gender equality by the 2030 target world leaders agreed under the [SDGs](#). The World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report 2021 reveals that as the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic continues to be felt, it will now take 135.6 years to close the gender gap worldwide.



Even though Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) initiative begun globally in the 1990s and UN Women has been supporting and advocating for the initiative, only around 40 countries have adopted GRB (<https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/focus-areas/women-poverty-economics/gender-responsive-budgeting>).

In spite of civil society and women's rights organizations being recognized in Doha as development actors in their own right and SDG 17 emphasizing on partnership for the achievement of sustainable development, there are still challenges in the area of transparency, accountability, participation and inclusion of civil society and women's organizations on government's policy decision making on finance.

The Feminist Group of CSOs Partnership for Development's (CPDE FG) analysis of Voluntary National Review (VNR) reports revealed that while countries report on many of the indicators for SDG 5, only few reports on 5.c.1. Country reports on 5.c.1 only enumerate funds allocated for gender equality and women's empowerment but fail to show systems that have been put in place to allow public tracking of such allocations to enhance transparency and accountability.

Call for Action – Key Asks

CPDE FG reiterate the need to integrate gender responsive budgeting into countries' Public Financial Management and financial management information *system* (FMIS) to ensure performance on gender equality and empowerment of women, transparency and accountability in the use of public funds, so that no official feels it as an added burden; no person/group/community/gender feels left out as well as enable free access to information by the public.

Our Key Asks are:

- **Address underinvestment**

Allocating funds, reforming fiscal processes, capacitating staff, reporting to public annually, monitoring:

- More money and other resources – as follow up commitments on providing financial resources to women to be allocated from State budget, local budget, ODA, development funds, PPPs, private sector and other domestic resources.
- Legal reforms on women's rights and gender equality including earmarking quotas, increasing awareness on these needs and its correlation with overall sustainable development progress; capacity building, adoption of specific mechanism of accountability, advocacy within aid and development agenda and women's rights.

- **Increase Accountability**

Countries should be obligated to report on indicator 5.c.1 including reporting on gender equality as a cross cutting issue of all the SDGs:

- To reduce inequalities in the world, SDG 5 and 10 should be reviewed in every HLPF. Since, it is not reviewed annually, most countries do not report on SDG 5.c.1. Countries may not be reporting on the progress of indicator 5.c.1 due to lack of data as it falls on tier II. Therefore, the UN should take necessary steps in encouraging countries to produce data regularly.



- **Close Communication Gap and Follow Up on Monitoring**

Countries should introduce gender responsive public financing systems:

- Allocate funds, reform fiscal processes, capacitate staff, report to public annually, adjust global indicator to national level and monitor.
- Strengthen the DAC network on Gender Equality (**GenderNet**) to advocate for finance for transformative policy-change based on the Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI) which measures discrimination against women in social institutions across 180 countries.
- Make women CSOs participation mandatory for 5.c.1 monitoring at the country level.

CPDE Feminist Group and the GPEDC

The CPDE Feminist Group participates through the CSOs global platform - CPDE in the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC) monitoring that uses the GPEDC Monitoring Framework consisting of 10 indicators with indicator 8 on **“Countries have transparent systems to track public allocations for gender equality and women’s empowerment”**. The inclusion of an indicator on women and gender equality was as a result of intensive international women’s movement struggle over the years to widen development partners’ commitments and accountability on women’s rights and gender equality.

GPEDC Monitoring Framework indicator 8 and SDG 5.c.1 are the same **'Countries have transparent systems to track public allocations for gender equality and women’s empowerment'**. CPDE FG is inviting women CSOs’ participation in monitoring SDG 5.c.1 at the country level to be able to advocate for financing for gender equality and empowerment of women and girls.

The indicator encourages governments to put in place a system to track and make public resource allocations which can then inform policy review, better policy formulation and more effective public financial management.

CPDE Feminist Group calls for stronger advocacy at the national level for monitoring, addressing challenges and reforming country systems to make commitments to women fully transparent and accountable. By tracking and making public gender equality allocations, governments promote greater transparency in and hence this could result in better accountability.

The CPDE is an open platform of civil society organisations (CSOs) around the world that is actively engaging with the official processes on the aid and development agenda. The platform aims to continuously promote effective development cooperation, especially in development cooperation and seeks the realisation of human rights, social justice, and sustainability in development. The Feminist Group (FG) is one of the core constituencies of CPDE and has members from all regions of the world.

