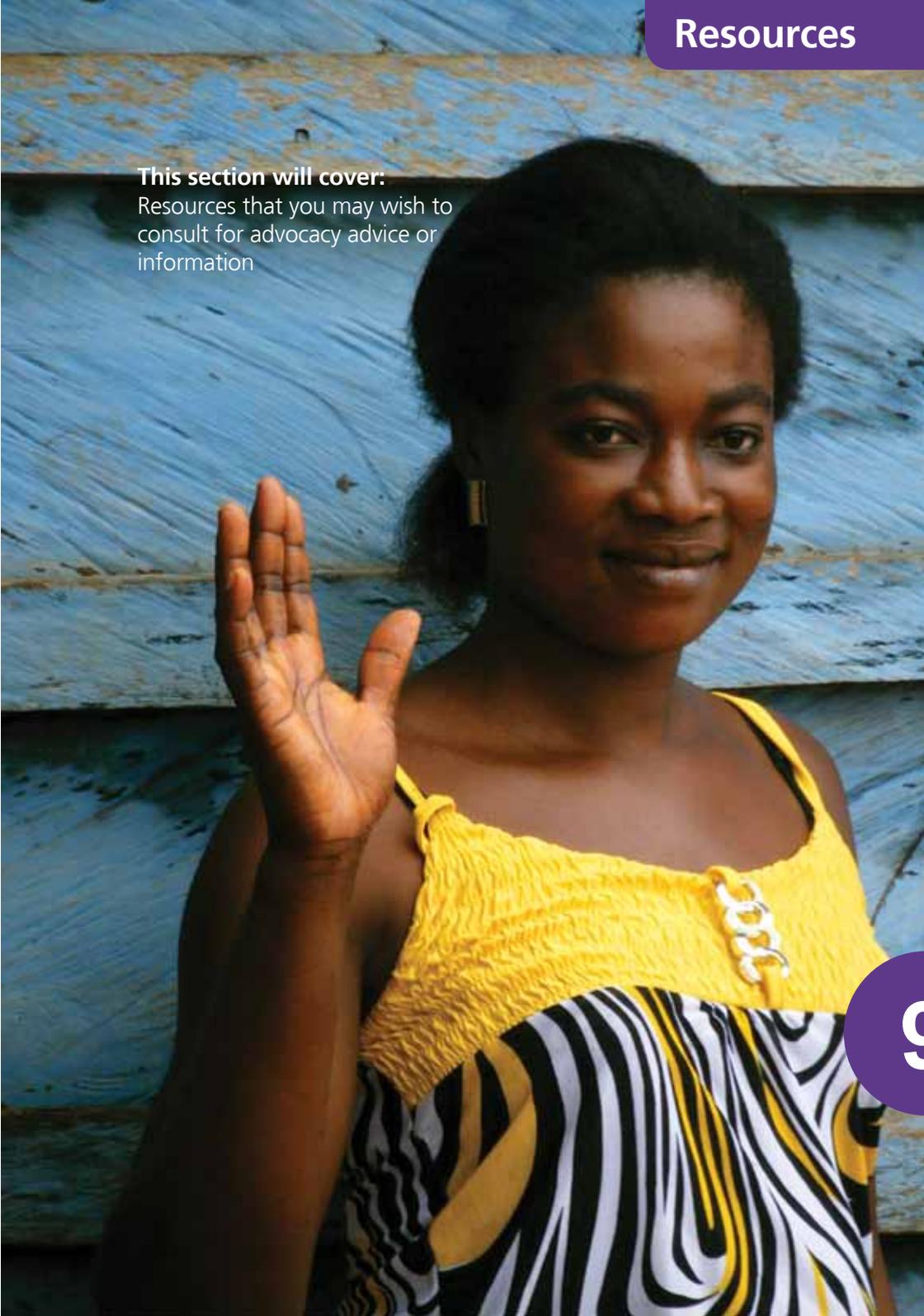


This section will cover:

Resources that you may wish to consult for advocacy advice or information



1. GENERAL TOOLKITS AND GUIDES ON ADVOCACY

Useful advocacy toolkits:

Two very clear and detailed toolkits:

- International Save the Children Alliance Advocacy Matters: Helping children change their world, Participants Handbook
<http://resourcecentre.savethechildren.se/content/library/documents/advocacy-matters-helping-children-change-their-world-international-save-ch>
- Wateraid, The Advocacy Sourcebook
http://www.wateraid.org/documents/plugin_documents/advocacy_sourcebook_2.pdf

This toolkit is especially good on participatory methods including research:

- VSO, Participatory Advocacy: A Toolkit for VSO Staff, Volunteers and Partners
http://www.vsointernational.org/Images/advocacy-toolkit_tcm76-25498.pdf

This one also looks at participatory activism:

- UNICEF, Advocacy: People's Power and Participation Guide
<http://www.advocate-for-children.org/advocacy/start>

Good ideas for media work are in chapter five of this one:

- Civicus, Campaigning toolkit for Civil Society Organisations engaged in the Millennium Development Goals
http://www.civicus.org/new/media/MDG_Toolkit.pdf

This toolkit on monitoring and evaluation also provides a very interesting way of looking at advocacy planning:

- Harvard Family Research Project, A User's Guide to Advocacy Evaluation Planning
<http://www.hfrp.org/evaluation/publications-resources/a-user-s-guide-to-advocacy-evaluation-planning>

Other useful advocacy toolkits:

- INTRAC, Advocacy and Campaigning Course Toolkit
<http://www.intrac.org/data/files/resources/629/INTRAC-Advocacy-and-Campaigning-Toolkit.pdf>
- International Planned Parenthood Federation, Generating Political Change: Using advocacy to create political commitment
<http://www.ippf.org/en/Resources/Guides-toolkits/>

[Generating+political+change.htm](#)

- Tearfund, Understanding Advocacy Toolkit
http://tilz.tearfund.org/webdocs/Tilz/Roots/English/Advocacy%20toolkit/Advocacy%20toolkit_E_FULL%20DOC_Parts%20A%2BB.pdf
- BOND, Advocacy and campaigning: How to Guide, Ian Chandler
<http://www.bond.org.uk/> (not easily available on their website)
- Oxfam also has well written case studies of advocacy:
http://www.oxfam.org.uk/resources/learning/gender/programmeinsights_gender.html and http://www.oxfam.org.uk/resources/learning/right_heard/index.html

2. RESOURCES SPECIFICALLY FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS ADVOCACY

Advocacy toolkits:

- AWID An Advocacy Guide for Feminists, Young Women & Leadership Series, 2003
<http://www.awid.org/Library/An-advocacy-guide-for-feminists>
- K. Evans, 'A Guide to Feminist Advocacy,' Gender & Development, 1364-9221, Vol. 13, Issue 3, 2005, pp. 10 – 20
www.genderanddevelopment.org
- GEAR Campaign, Advocacy toolkit for Civil Society Organisations
<http://www.gearcampaign.org>
- Just Associates, A New Weave of Power, People & Politics: The Action Guide for Advocacy and Citizen Participation by Lisa VeneKlasen with Valerie Miller
<http://www.justassociates.org/ActionGuide.htm>

Addressing media on women's rights:

- WACC, 'Mission Possible': A Gender and Media Advocacy Toolkit
http://fesmedia.org/fileadmin/files-fesmedia.org/Mission_Possible.pdf

General sources of information and statistics:

- A valuable list of terms to help non-gender specialists to find their way around the vocabulary that is used, and to understand why it matters to get the words right: Johanna Son (ed), IPS Gender and Development Glossary, third edition,
<http://www.ips.org/mdg3/GenderandDevelopmentGlossary.pdf>

Statistics on women's rights:

- Womankind Worldwide:

<http://www.womankind.org.uk/about/why-women/statistics/>

Information on women human rights defenders:

- FrontLine, Protection Manual for Human Rights Defenders
<http://www.frontlinedefenders.org/manuals/protection>
- AWID & Women Human Rights Defenders International Coalition, List of Materials and Resources for Women Human Rights Defenders
<http://www.awid.org/eng/About-AWID/AWID-News/New-reference-tool-for-women-human-rights-defenders>

Women's rights and feminist international networks:

These websites are good sources of information about what others are doing, news of opportunities, and more issue-based analysis.

- African Feminist Forum (AFF)
<http://www.africanfeministforum.com/>
- Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD)
www.apwld.org
- Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID)
<http://www.awid.org>
- Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN)
<http://www.dawnnet.org/>
- European Women's Lobby
<http://www.womenlobby.org>
- G-CAP (Global Campaign against Poverty) – Feminist Task force
<http://feministtaskforce.org/2011/03/07/81/>
- Gender Equality Architecture Reform (GEAR) campaign
<http://www.gearcampaign.org/>
- Latin American and Caribbean Women's Health Network
<http://reproductiverights.org/en/organization/latin-american-and-caribbean-women%E2%80%99s-health-network-lacwhn>
- South Asian Women's Network (SAWNET)
<http://www.sawnet.org/>
- Women in Development Europe (WIDE) Network
<http://www.wide-network.org/>
- Women's Environment and Development Organisation (WEDO)
<http://www.wedo.org/>
- Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights (WGNRR)
<http://www.wgnrr.org/>

- Women Human Rights Defenders International Coalition
www.defendingwomen-defendingrights.org

3. THEMATIC RESOURCES

Below is a brief summary of some of the central issues for women's rights advocacy. It is intended only as a cursory overview to introduce the issue, describe the international agreements and recent developments which may be of use in your advocacy, and to suggest further resources.

3.1 VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Issue

Violence against women and girls (VAWG) is a global problem and has been recognised as an obstacle to the achievement of equality, development and peace. Advocacy may focus on a specific form of violence such as domestic violence, female genital mutilation, trafficking or sexual violence as a tactic of war. It could also cover the impact of violence on a particular sector such as violence against girls in schools, the intimidation of women in politics or VAWG as a cause of women's vulnerability to HIV. Any campaigning on VAWG should consider the attitudes and stereotypes surrounding VAWG within the particular country/community context.

International Framework

Although CEDAW does not explicitly mention violence against women and girls, General CEDAW Committee Recommendations 12 and 19 clarified that CEDAW includes violence against women and made detailed recommendations to State parties (see **section eight 2.3**).

Other important frameworks include the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (1993), Beijing Platform for Action (1995) which identified VAWG as one of the twelve critical areas of concern (see **section eight 2.5**), Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women (Convention of Belém do Pará) (1995) (see **section eight 2.4**) and the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (2011).

Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security addresses the impact of war on women and increasing women's contributions to conflict resolution and sustainable peace. Subsequent resolutions 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009) and 1960 (2010) focus on preventing and responding to sexual violence as a tactic of war.

In 1994, a UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, was appointed to seek and receive information on violence against women. In 2010, a Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict was appointed.

The United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women (UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women) also supports local, national and regional initiatives to end violence against women.

25 November is recognised as the International Day for the elimination of violence against women.

Resources

UN Women have developed a virtual knowledge centre for VAWG <http://www.endvawnow.org/en/>

The National Online Resource Centre on Violence against Women (VAWnet) contains some useful information: <http://www.vawnet.org/>

Stop violence against women advocacy tools, a project of Advocates for Human Rights http://stopvaw.org/Advocacy_Tools.html

This paper looks at alliance building on VAW following a workshop organised by Creating Resources for Empowerment in Action (CREA) <http://www.awid.org/Library/Building-Alliances-Globally-to-End-Violence-Against-Women>

UN global campaign, UNiTE to End Violence against Women: <http://www.un.org/en/women/endviolence/>

3.2 POLITICAL PARTICIPATION AND LEADERSHIP

Issue

Action to strengthen women's voice includes measures to support women's leadership, to encourage women to stand for office, and to increase their ability to participate meaningfully at all levels of decision making. Advocacy may focus on legislative change, such as quotas mandating women's representation, or less tangible issues such as changing attitudes and political culture.

International Framework

The Beijing Platform for Action adopted in 1995 set a target of a

minimum of 30 percent of women in representative assemblies (see **section eight, 2.5**).

Women's presence in public office is one of the indicators for MDG 3 (specifically the proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments) but it received little attention at the 2010 MDG Review Summit (see **section eight, 2.2**).

Women's leadership and participation is one of the priorities of the new UN Women (see **section eight, 3.1**).

The Southern Africa Development Committee (SADC) Gender and Development Protocol stipulates that women should have equal representation with men in all areas of political decision-making by 2015.⁴⁴

Resources

The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), the international organisation of Parliaments of Sovereign States, seeks to increase women's parliamentary representation through studies and surveys demonstrating its importance:

<http://www.ipu.org/wmn-e/world.htm>

The UN Women website provides facts and figures:

http://www.unifem.org/gender_issues/democratic_governance/facts_figures.php

Pathways of Women's Empowerment consortium is a network of academics, activists and practitioners across five different regions. One of their four focus areas is women's voice:

http://www.pathways-of-empowerment.org/research_building.html

3.3. SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS (SRHR)

Issue

Sexual and reproductive rights issues include access to contraception, HIV, sexual violence, safe abortion, sex work, and maternal health.

International Framework

CEDAW specifies the right to reproductive choice and calls for a minimum age for marriage (see **section eight, 2.3**).

The International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo in 1994 recognised the interrelationship between human sexuality and gender relations. It also recognised the impact of gender-based

sexual violence, and efforts to control women's sexuality.⁴⁵

The Beijing Platform for Action (1995) paragraph 96 recognises the right of women to have control over matters related to their sexuality, including sexual and reproductive health, free of coercion, discrimination and violence (see **section eight, 2.5**).

MDGs 4 and 5 focus on the less contentious areas of reproductive health, specifically in relation to maternal health and family planning, with less talk of rights (see **section eight, 2.2**).

The African Union's Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa (2003) was the first time a legally binding international human rights instrument explicitly articulated a woman's right to abortion when pregnancy results from sexual assault, rape or incest; or when continuation of the pregnancy endangers the life or health of the pregnant woman. It also explicitly calls for the legal prohibition of harmful practices such as female genital mutilation.⁴⁶

Resources

A Claudia & S Kowalski-Morton, *A Youth Activists' Guide to Sexual and Reproductive Rights*, (2006) provides an overview of international agreements and suggestions for advocacy:

<http://www.summitfund.org/foundation/pdfs/srr-guide.pdf>

For more information about how to use the Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa see: Center for Reproductive Rights, *The Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa: An Instrument for Advancing Reproductive and Sexual Rights* (2005).

Other useful websites include:

Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights:

<http://www.wgnrr.org/>

UNFPA: <http://www.unfpa.org>

International Planned Parenthood Federation: <http://www.ippf.org/en/>

3.4. ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Issue

Women's economic empowerment covers work in the formal and informal sectors as well as access to credit and financial products. It includes counting and valuing the contribution that women's unpaid work makes to the economy.

International Framework

CEDAW, article 11, specifies equal rights in employment including equal pay and healthy working conditions as well as a right to maternity leave

(see **section eight, 2.3**).

The International Labour Organisation (ILO) has been a focal point for advocacy on women's employment rights. The decent work agenda covers issues around the quality of women's work.

<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/standards/relm/ilc/ilc90/pdf/rep-vi.pdf>

In 2011, the ILO adopted the Convention Concerning Decent Work for Domestic Workers. The text of this Convention is available at:

<http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/cgi-lex/convde.pl?C189>

Resources

UNRISD Research and Policy Brief 9: Why Care Matters for Social Development and other useful documents on unpaid care can be found at:

[http://www.unrisd.org/80256B3C005BB128/\(httpProjects\)/37BD128E275F1F8BC1257296003210EC?OpenDocument](http://www.unrisd.org/80256B3C005BB128/(httpProjects)/37BD128E275F1F8BC1257296003210EC?OpenDocument)

Useful websites are:

DAWN: <http://www.dawnet.org/>

AWID: <http://www.awid.org/>

Center for Women's global leadership: <http://www.cwgl.rutgers.edu/>



ANNEX ONE:

Key international human rights instruments for advocacy⁴⁷

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)
<http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/index.shtml>
- Convention on the Political Rights of Women (1952)
<http://www.un-documents.net/cprw.htm>
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966)
<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/law/ccpr.htm>
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966)
<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/law/cescr.htm>
- Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergency and Armed Conflict (1974)
<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/law/protectionwomen.htm>
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) (1979)
<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/cedaw.htm>
- Optional Protocol to CEDAW (1999)
<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/protocol/index.html>
- Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (1993)
<http://www.un-documents.net/a48r104.htm>
- Universal Declaration on Democracy (1997)
<http://www.ipu.org/cnl-e/161-dem.htm>
- UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (2000) and UN Security Council Resolution 1820 (2008) – Women, Peace and Security – focus on sexual violence in conflict
<http://www.peacewomen.org/un/sc/1325.html>

ANNEX TWO:

The MDGs and women's rights⁴⁸

This table shows how the absence of women's and girls' rights undermine each MDG goal, and how promoting these rights would help to meet the goals

(Goal 1) Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

Women typically grow, process, manage and market food and are responsible for raising small livestock and managing vegetable gardens. It is estimated that women contribute around 60-80% of agricultural labour in sub-Saharan Africa and around 50% in Asia⁴⁹. Yet billions of people continue to go hungry because discrimination prevents women from owning land and other productive assets. This reduces agricultural productivity and undermines the key role women farmers play in ensuring food security for their families. Where women have access to and control over productive resources and inputs, this yields high economic and social returns. It is estimated that agricultural productivity in Africa would increase by up to 20% if women's access to resources such as land, seeds and fertilisers was equal to men's⁵⁰.

Gender biases in labour markets also mean women's productive potential is less effectively utilised than men's. In low- and middle-income countries, women's labour force participation is 57% compared with 85% for men, with women workers earning on average only three-quarters of what men earn⁵¹. This reduces women's ability to create their own prosperity and contribute fully to a country's economy. When women have access to decent employment, this not only makes a crucial contribution to poverty and hunger reduction at the household level, it is also associated with reduced poverty and faster growth⁵².

(Goal 2) Achieve universal primary education

Progress towards MDG2 continues to be undermined by gender inequalities, including factors such as:

- girls' responsibility for domestic tasks which means they are kept out of school, or are exhausted when at school and have no time for study
- experiences of violence on the way to and at school which deter them from attending and undermines learning
- perceived lower economic worth of girls means parents don't prioritise girls education when resources are scarce
- lack of sanitary facilities and no access to sanitary protection deters girls from attending school, especially once they start menstruating
- child and early marriage and teenage pregnancy, which means girls drop out of school prematurely.

Where girls do complete primary education, this can be instrumental in achieving not only MDG2 but all the other MDGs. For example, girls who complete primary education are likely to have fewer and more healthy children, have more access to information on sexual and reproductive health, be better able to protect themselves from HIV, and be more competitive in the labour market⁵³.

**(Goal 3)
Promote
gender equality
and empower
women**

Empowering women and girls has a catalytic impact on reducing poverty, stepping up progress towards the MDGs, and accelerating development for future generations. For example, providing girls with an extra year of schooling increases their wages by 10-20%⁵⁴, and as noted above, women with more years of schooling have better maternal health, fewer and healthier children and greater economic opportunities. Promoting women's participation in local and national politics also enables women to influence decisions on government priorities and spending, and is crucial for strengthening political accountability and ensuring a more effective allocation of financial resources. To date, efforts to empower women and girls have largely focused on girls' education, yet achieving gender equality and women's empowerment will require action to empower women in all spheres of their lives – social, economic and political.

**(Goal 4)
Reduce child
mortality**

The causes of child mortality, such as disease and malnutrition, are significantly related to women's health, education and economic status. For example, completion of primary education by mothers is strongly associated with better nutrition for their children and fewer of their children dying in infancy or childhood. In Africa, children of mothers who have spent 5 years in primary education are 40% more likely to live beyond the age of 5, while an educated woman is 50% more likely to have her child immunised⁵⁵. Expanding women's economic opportunities also fuels improved nutritional, health and educational outcomes for children because women usually devote a higher proportion of their earnings to meeting basic family needs such as food and healthcare: typically women put an average of 90% of their earnings back into the family compared to the 40% that men contribute⁵⁶.

**(Goal 5)
Improve
maternal health**

Poor maternal health is rooted in gender inequality and women's low status in society. This undermines women's power to make decisions about their reproductive lives, and results in a lack of investment by governments in reproductive health care because of the low value placed on women's lives. Promoting women's economic, social and political status is the most effective strategy for reaching MDG5. In La Paz, Bolivia, for example, maternal mortality has fallen by 75% because women's groups have implemented education and empowerment programmes, and educated men about gender equality and reproductive health⁵⁷. Improvements in maternal health have a positive impact not only for women themselves, but for their families, economies and societies, and particularly for improving the life chances of their children.

**(Goal 6)
Combat HIV/AIDS,
malaria and other
diseases**

Women make up 59% of people infected with HIV in sub-Saharan Africa and 64% of 15 to 24 year olds living with HIV in developing countries⁵⁸. Gender inequality drives the epidemic due to a host of social, cultural, biological and economic reasons, including women's and girls' entrenched inequality within their sexual relationships and marriage. Violence against women and girls increases women's risk of infection by reducing their power to refuse sex or negotiate the terms of sex within their relationships. In some countries, 30% of women report that their first sexual encounter was forced⁵⁹. Women and girls also bear the

primary physical and psychological burden of care for people living with HIV. In addition, tuberculosis is a major killer of women, and yet they are less likely than men to obtain treatment, and face especially high levels of stigma⁶⁰. Tackling gender inequality is therefore a fundamental cornerstone for achieving MDG6, including by reducing violence against women, increasing women's access to economic opportunities, and strengthening their negotiating power within sexual relationships.

**(Goal 7)
Ensure
environmental
sustainability**

Women's greater responsibility for ensuring household food security and providing water and fuel means they are particularly dependent on natural resources and are more affected than men by the loss or degradation of environmental resources. At the same time, women often lack the assets, social networks and political power that are critical to adapt to a changing environment. Women's lack of ownership and control over land also reduces their incentive to engage in environmentally sustainable farming practices and make long term investments in land rehabilitation and soil quality. By contrast, where women are involved in environmental decision-making, they are able to contribute their important insights and knowledge to adaptation and mitigation processes, increasing the relevance and effectiveness of these interventions.

**(Goal 8)
Develop a
global
partnership
for
development**

Efforts to create an environment that is conducive to poverty reduction and development through a non-discriminatory trading and financial system, debt relief and access to essential drugs and new technologies, must also be gender-responsive if they are to succeed. This must include addressing the lack of policy coherence which continues to stall the advancement of gender equality – such as the non-integration of gender equality obligations in bilateral and multilateral free trade agreement negotiations, or the exclusion of women's voices from security and reconstruction debates.

ANNEX THREE:

Using CEDAW Reporting Mechanisms⁶¹

How can NGOs ensure governments are implementing international law to protect women's rights? CEDAW is enforced through a reporting mechanism and the submission of shadow reports by NGOs which can help ensure that governments are held accountable to their own constituents as well as to the United Nations.

Below is a list of key UN events relating to CEDAW, followed by action an NGO can take.

1. Ratification of CEDAW by 'State Party' (national government)

- Urge ratification of the Optional Protocol to CEDAW
- Establish contact with the Office Of The High Commissioner For Human Rights (OHCHR) – cedaw@ohchr.org
- Monitor or participate in preparation of initial State Party report

2. Submission of State Party report to CEDAW

- Obtain a copy of the government report from your country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Check CEDAW session schedule
<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cedaw/sessions.htm>

3. CEDAW review schedule established – usually one year in advance

- Organise NGO coalition and set deadlines for the shadow report
- Prepare a list of issues, organised according to the articles of the CEDAW Convention, and write shadow report

4. Pre-sessional working group meeting (only for second and subsequent reports)

- Send shadow report or compiled materials to the pre-sessional working group – at least two weeks in advance of the pre-sessional meeting
- Make oral presentation in the first morning of the pre-sessional working group prior to the session at which the State Party is reviewed

- Make sure your organisation is registered for attendance

6. CEDAW session at which the State Party is reviewed

- Make an oral presentation at the meeting on the second day of the session
- Approach CEDAW members during the session to clarify issues; lobby during the session
- Attend official government presentation and 'constructive dialogue' session

7. Following the review and concluding comments by CEDAW

- Report on the government review to other NGOs, media, etc. in country immediately
- Disseminate the Concluding Observations as soon as possible
- Submit information to the OHCHR on implementation of concluding comments

Latest information on NGO participation can be found on the CEDAW Website

<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cedaw/index.htm>, under 'Reporting to the Committee'.

44 www.sadc.int/index/browse/page/465

45 www.un.org/ecosocdev/geninfo/populatin/icpd.htm

46 <http://www.africaunion.org/root/au/Documents/Treaties/Text/Protocol%20on%20the%20Rights%20of%20Women.pdf>

47 Adapted from IPU, <http://www.ipu.org/wmn-e/law.htm>.

48 E. Esplen, *Getting Back on Track: Putting Women at the Heart of the MDGs, One World Action*, 2010

49 UNIFEM, 'Who Answers to Women? Gender and Accountability', *Progress of the World's Women 2008/9*, New York, 2009

50 Africa Partnership Forum, 'Gender and Economic Empowerment in Africa', 8th Meeting of the Africa Partnership Forum, Berlin, Germany, 22-23 May 2007

51 World Bank, *Gender equality as smart economics: a World Bank Group Action Plan (Fiscal Years 2007–10)*, Washington DC: 2006, The World Bank

52 Ibid

53 G. Psacharopoulos & H Patrinos, "Returns to investment in education: a further update," *World Bank Policy Research working Paper Series 2882*, 2002

54 Ibid

55 DFID, *Girls' Education: Towards a Better Future for All*, London, 2005

56 Andrew Mitchell MP, UK Secretary of State for International Development, in a speech at Carnegie Endowment, Washington DC, 25 June 2010

57 BOND & CONCORD, *Towards the UN MDG Review Summit 2010: Recommendations to the EU*, 2010

58 Z. Moosa, *Destined to Fail? How Violence Against Women is Undoing Development*, ActionAid, 2010

59 UNIFEM, *Making the MDGs Work for All: Gender-Responsive Rights-Based Approaches to the MDGs*, 2008

60 IWRAP, *Producing Shadow Reports to the CEDAW Committee: A Procedural Guide 2009*, Minneapolis: IWRAP, <http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/iwraw/proceduralguide-08.html>

61 Adapted from International Women's Right Action Watch (IWRAP) *Producing Shadow Reports to the CEDAW Committee: A Procedural Guide*