



# UNGA CONFERENCE 2020

[unga-conference.org](http://unga-conference.org)

## TRANSFORMING OUR WORLD: FIVE YEARS OF ACTION TOWARDS THE SDGs

Wednesday  
23 September 2020

 **hopin**

VIRTUAL 



**JOURNALISTS AND  
WRITERS FOUNDATION**

# ORGANIZER



## JOURNALISTS AND WRITERS FOUNDATION

### JOURNALISTS AND WRITERS FOUNDATION

The Journalists and Writers Foundation (JWF) is an international civil society organization dedicated to culture of peace, human rights, and sustainable development. The JWF promotes diversity and inclusion by creating forums for intellectual and social engagement: generates and shares knowledge with stakeholders, builds partnerships worldwide and develops policy recommendations for positive social change.

NEW YORK - Headquarters

[www.jwf.org](http://www.jwf.org)

56 W 45 Street 4th Floor  
New York, NY 10036

## GLOBAL PARTNERS



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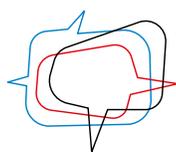
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# UNGA CONFERENCE 2020

## TRANSFORMING OUR WORLD FIVE YEARS OF ACTION TOWARDS THE SDGs

Wednesday, 23 September 2020 | [www.unga-conference.org](http://www.unga-conference.org)



**Date:** 23 September 2020 (Wednesday)

**Time:** 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM (New York EST)

**Venue:** VIRTUAL <https://hopin.to/events/unga-conference-2020>

**Organizer:** The Journalists and Writers Foundation, in collaboration with Global Partners

**Participants:** High-Level Representatives of UN Member States, the United Nations and other International Organizations, the Private Sector, Civil Society Organizations, Human Rights Defenders, Journalists, Academics, Researchers, and Practitioners

**Working Language:** English

### Goals and Objectives:

- (1) Create a platform to debate on the UN Global Agenda 2030 and analyze the “Five Years of Action Towards the SDGs”
- (2) Share inclusive and gender responsive policies for the empowerment of women and girls, through the critical areas of action outlined in the Beijing Declaration
- (3) Develop local, national and global strategies, policy recommendations for implementing SDG # 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions
- (4) Ensure human rights and rule of law for social and economic development for all
- (5) Propose a framework for an action plan on the evolving social and economic development for sustainability in the aftermath of the COVID-19 Pandemic

### Expected Outcomes:

- (1) Adoption of a final conference statement
- (2) Development of an action plan framework
- (3) Follow-up action items
- (4) Establish and foster new partnerships in implementing field projects



UNGA CONFERENCE 2020

#JwfUngaConference #UN75

The UNGA Conference 2020 will be held virtually, on Wednesday, September 23, 2020, in the margins of the 75th session of the UN General Assembly. The UNGA Conference 2020 is organized by the Journalists and Writers Foundation (JWF), in partnership with the JWF's Global Partners, Member States of the United Nations, UN organs and agencies, and civil society organizations from around the world.

The UNGA Conference is the flagship event of the JWF, creating a platform for diverse stakeholders to discuss the Global Agenda 2030 and offer innovative solutions, strategies, and policy recommendations, with the view of further advancing the culture of peace, human rights and sustainable development. The conference gathers a group of distinguished panelists and high-level speakers in three subsequent panel sessions, to discuss a particular agenda and propose a framework for action.

Since 2014, the JWF has proudly provided a platform for discussion for hundreds of high-level dignitaries and experts from all over the world, including Heads of States and Delegates to the UN General Assembly, UN High-Level Dignitaries (ASG, USG, PGA), UN accredited diplomats, experts, and prominent civil society actors. Last year, the UNGA Conference 2019 contributed to the SDG #17 in the revitalization of Global Partnerships by mobilizing 36 CSOs and NGOs from 24 countries.

## Background

Five Years of Action Towards the SDGs: The successful implementation of SDG #17 remains at the center of the UNGA Conference 2020, as the SDGs can only be implemented with strong global partnerships and cooperation. The JWF contributes to this goal by mobilizing its Global Partners in sharing best-practices and people-centered policy suggestions on the achievement of the UN Development Agenda 2030.

In 2015, UN Member States committed to a new path of inclusive, transformative and achievable development strategy for humanity and the planet with the mission of "Leaving No One Behind". The action-oriented 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development encourages all stakeholders, including UN Agencies, Member States, private sector, civil society actors and experts to bridge the gap between policy and knowledge, create interlinkages between the goals and accelerate the implementation progress of the SDGs.

This year represents a strategic turning point for our global community, as the international community is still fighting the worldwide spread of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Amid this unprecedented global threat, the UNGA Conference 2020 is expected to strengthen the response of the international communication and facilitate collaboration between UN Member States, intergovernmental organizations, and civil society organizations, towards a common objective of creating peaceful and inclusive societies, where everyone is entitled to inalienable rights, without discrimination.

Following a diligent consideration of policy outcomes from relevant sessions of UN WOMEN, ECOSOC and CSW-64 / Beijing+25, the UNGA Conference 2020 will cover the topics outlined below.

UNGA Conference 2020: Five Years of Action towards the SDGs will include a comprehensive debate, taking stock of the past 5-years of actions towards the SDGs in three major areas: (1) Women Empowerment and Gender Equality, (2) SDG #16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, and (3) Lessons



learned from COVID-19 Pandemic: Evolving Social and Economic Development for Sustainability. Finally, the UNGA Conference will also provide a civil society perspective and assessment of major United Nations Conferences and Summits' progress since 2015.

## Goals and Objectives

In the Global Sustainable Report 2019 issued by UN DESA, the UN Secretary-General António Guterres indicated that "Despite considerable efforts these past four years, we are not on track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals 2030. We must dramatically step up the pace of implementation as we enter a decisive decade for people and the planet". As the 75th Session of the UNGA in September 2020 will also mark the first five years of action towards the SDGs, SDG #17 remains of utmost importance to address the challenges of accelerating the successful implementation of the SDGs, at local, national and global levels.

Under the main focus of SDG #17 and the 3 main topics of the Panel Sessions, the UNGA Conference 2020 will address the following targets:

# PARTNERSHIPS: WHY THEY MATTER

**Target (17.09)** Enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the sustainable development goals;



**Target (17.14)** Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development;

**Target (17.16)** Enhance the global partnership for sustainable development; complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology, and financial resources, to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in all countries, in particular developing countries;

**Target (17.17)** Encourage and promote effective public, public-private, and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships.

**17** PARTNERSHIPS  
FOR THE GOALS



**Strong  
international  
cooperation**  
is needed now  
more than ever  
to ensure  
that  
countries have  
the means  
to achieve  
the SDGs



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## PROGRAM



### 10:00 – 10:30 AM - OPENING AND WELCOME REMARKS

#### Welcome Remarks

**Mehmet Kilic**, President, Journalists and Writers Foundation (USA)

#### Keynote Speech

**Under-Secretary-General Ms. Pramila Patten**, Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict (UNITED NATIONS)

**Dr. Wayne Henry**, JP, Director-General of the Planning Institute of Jamaica, Ministry of Finance and the Public Service (JAMAICA)

### 10:30 – 12:00 AM PANEL 1

#### WOMEN EMPOWERMENT AND GENDER EQUALITY: 25 YEARS AFTER THE BEIJING DECLARATION

#### Moderator:

**Donna Orender**, Founder and CEO of Orender Unlimited and Generation W, Former President of The Women's National Basketball Association (USA)

#### Panelists

**Houry Geudelekian**, Chair, NGO CSW (USA)

*Review of the Beijing Declaration: 1995 to 2020*

**Mohna Ansari**, Member Commissioner, National Human Rights Commission (NEPAL)

*Gender Perspectives and Women's Leadership in Policy Making*

**Prof. Diane Elson**, Emeritus Professor, University of Essex - Department of Sociology (U.K.)

*Inclusive Economies for Women's Empowerment*

**Diya K. Wynn**, AI/ML Ethicist, Emerging Technologies & Intelligent Platforms GSP, Amazon Web Services (USA)

*Technological Advancements for Women's Empowerment: Opportunities & Challenges*

#### Discussant

**Dr. Marina Sorokina**, Head of the Department of History, Alexander Solzhenitsyn Center for the Study of the Russian Diaspora (RUSSIA)

*Russia's best practices on implementing the SDG #5: Achieving Gender Equality and Empowering all Women and Girls*

12:00 – 12:15 AM – Break



## 12:15 – 1:45 PM PANEL 2

### IMPLEMENTING SDG #16: PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

#### Keynote

**Hon. Prof. Bob Carr**, Former Foreign Minister of Australia (AUSTRALIA)

#### Moderator

**Paula Boland**, President, UNA-NCA (USA)

#### Panelists

**Natalia Marcela Molina**, Member IAWJ (ARGENTINA)

*Promotion and Protection of Human Rights*

**Michael Collins**, Executive Director, Institute for Economics and Peace (USA)

*Decline of Democratic Values and Rise of Autocracy Globally*

**Waqar Gillani**, Senior Correspondent, The News on Sunday (PAKISTAN)

*Rise of Violence against Journalists and Right to Access Information for Strong Institutions*

**Dr. Shekh M. Altafur Rahman**, School of Global Studies, Thammasat University (THAILAND)

*Access to Justice for Transparency and Accountability in Governance*

**VIDEO PRESENTATION “Grade A Human: Too Viral”**, Cage Free Voices Youth, USA

1:45 – 2:00 PM Break

**VIDEO PRESENTATION “Smile Beneath Your Mask”**, A Song About Love & Hope

IFLC Youth Response to COVID-19 by Paradise College, Papua New Guinea

## 2:00 – 3:30 PM PANEL 3

### LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC: EVOLVING SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR SUSTAINABILITY

#### Keynote

**Anton Morozov**, Deputy of the State Duma, Member of the High Council of the LDPR (RUSSIA)

#### Moderator

**JJ Green**, National Security Correspondent at WTOP Radio (USA)

#### Panelists

**Jeff Schlegelmich**, Director, National Center for Disaster Preparedness, The Earth Institute, Columbia University (USA)

*Responding to Global Emergencies and Best Practices from COVID-19*



**Shiv Vikram Khemka**, Vice-Chairman, SUN Group Global, Executive Chairman, The Global Education & Leadership Foundation (INDIA)

*The New Era of Online Engagement: Evolving Economic Development and Private Sector Refugee Rights during the Pandemic*

**Burak Haylamaz**, Human Rights Solidarity (U.K.)

*COVID-19 and Right to Life in Prisons: Turkey Case*

3:30 – 3:45 PM – Closing Remarks

#### **PIONEERS IN SDGS AWARDS CEREMONY**

- Presentation of successful local and national projects by the Global Partners
- 24 September 2020 (Thursday)
- 12:00 – 1:30 PM



# PANEL 1 – WOMEN EMPOWERMENT AND GENDER EQUALITY: 25 YEARS AFTER THE BEIJING DECLARATION

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing in 1995. The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted at this landmark gathering continues to guide the work of UN Agencies, Member States, and women’s rights organizations in addressing the current challenges and constraints in the empowerment of women and girls all around the world under its 12 critical areas of concern. Panel Session 1 aims to address SDG #5 (Gender Equality) and SDG #10 (Reduced Inequalities). The panelists will discuss diverse topics focusing on women’s and girls’ empowerment, achieving gender equality in policymaking and decision-making mechanisms, and address the challenges and opportunities created by today’s technology for advancing the contributions of women to social and economic development.

## 1.1: Gender Perspectives and Women’s Leadership in Policy Making

Good governance and accountability with the inclusion of women and youth, both in the public and private sectors, are key to transforming social and economic development. According to UN Women, “the most recent data indicates that 44.2 percent of professional and higher-level staff are women, up from 32.6 percent reported in 1995. The number of women parliamentarians around the world has more than doubled to 25%.” However, there are missing grounds in many developing countries to have a gender-balanced government cabinet, considering and prioritizing women’s rights in policymaking, strategy and research areas, ensuring commitments for women to participate equally in decision-making at all levels in government and workforce; and lastly in facilitating a gender-responsive implementation of the Global Goals 2030.

## 1.2: Gaining Grounds on Girls Empowerment

The report “Women’s Rights in Review after 25 Years Beijing,” published by UN Women, indicates that, in 2020, “an estimated 32 million girls of primary age are out of school.” The elimination of barriers to access quality education, training, and skills development promote girls’ participation in all sectors of society. Fulfilling her education creates lifelong opportunities for the girl child in her transition to be a young adult and professional. Discrimination in girls’ access to education is directly linked with the gender-biased traditional norms, early marriages, heavy domestic work, and lack of reinforcement of girls’ self-esteem, especially in underdeveloped countries. Civil society and mass media have a critical responsibility to raise awareness, combat the stereotypes in society, and provide an informal education on the importance of girls’ access to STEM and higher education. Governments are also expected to allocate sufficient resources to promote girls to go to school.

## 1.3: Inclusive Economies for Women’s Empowerment

Women play a critical role in the labor force, however, there are still inadmissible differences in women’s access to occupational training and financial resources. They lack representation in higher-level decision-making positions in the private sector. While women’s share in the economy continues to rise



due to the modern era's changing gender norms, there are still many barriers for women to achieve their full economic potential. The gender pay gap is one of the critical issues discouraging women from participating in the economy. The report "Women's Rights in Review after 25 Years Beijing" underlines that "the gender gap in labor force participation among adults aged 25 to 54 has stagnated over the past 20 years, standing at 31 percent" and that "women are paid 16% less than men". Ending occupational segregation, tackling violence and harassment at the workplace, and work-family reconciliation policies are the priority areas that need improvement to boost women's active participation in the economy.

#### 1.4: Technological Advancements for Women's Empowerment: Opportunities and Challenges

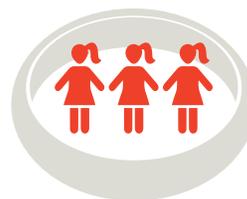
New technologies and the emergence of innovative occupational structures are leading the global economy to be more inclusive for women and girls. However, technological advancements carry with them both, opportunities and challenges. Increasing women's access to technical resources encourages them to be entrepreneurs and thus contribute to the economy through remunerative work rather than the domestic economy only. On the other hand, the rising trendline of cyber violence against women should also be addressed. There is in addition, a globally growing harassment cutting across national borders, cultures, and races, increasing online hate crimes.

5 GENDER EQUALITY

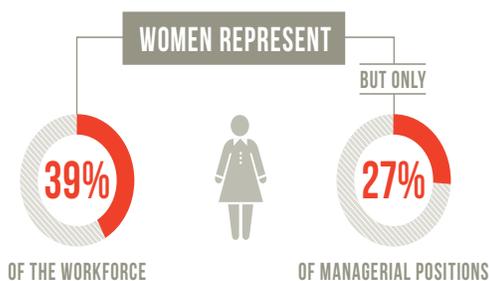
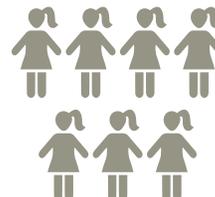


## ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS

**24%** OF NATIONAL PARLIAMENTARIANS ARE WOMEN AN INCREASE FROM 19% (2010)



STILL, **30%** OF WOMEN AGED 20 TO 24 YEARS WERE MARRIED BEFORE AGE 18 (2018)



## PANEL 2 - IMPLEMENTING SDG #16: PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

Panel Session 2 will focus on the review of five years of actions in implementing SDG #16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions. SDG #16 is an intersectional enabler for the implementation of the Global Agenda 2030. Despite its vital role, there are many global threats against establishing peaceful and just institutions, including: shrinking space of the civil society, severe human rights violations, particularly against women, immigrants, and people of color, increasing conflicts, and violence. The HLPF 2019 SDG 16 Conference organized by UN DESA indicates that the “SDG #16 is considered one of the most difficult SDGs to monitor,” due to data collection’s political sensitivities and related complexities.

The panelists will discuss the SDG #16 with a particular focus on promoting and protecting human rights, the decline of democratic values and the rise of autocracies globally, the increase in violence against human rights defenders and journalists, and the right to access information for better transparency and accountability in governance. While identifying these issues, the panel also aims at providing a framework of collaboration between the development stakeholders, to tackle the challenges of implementing SDG #16.



16 PEACE, JUSTICE  
AND STRONG  
INSTITUTIONS



Promote Peaceful and Inclusive Societies for Sustainable Development, Provide Access to Justice for all and Build Effective, Accountable and Inclusive Institutions at all Levels.

### 2.1: Promotion and Protection of Human Rights

Agenda 2030 declared the objective to leave no one behind; therefore, advancing sustainable development through human rights is an essential process. Promotion and protection of civil, cultural, economic, political, and social rights are essential to mitigate national and international crisis. The Member States, national human rights organizations, and civil society should prioritize the integration of human rights, in order to create peaceful, just, and strong institutions.

### 2.2: Decline of Democratic Values and Rise of Autocracies Globally

Promoting democratic values is directly linked with the SDG #16. Public confidence in the judiciary mechanisms, morality, and ethics in public institutions are of utmost importance. According to Freedom House, there are 14 consecutive years of decline in global freedom. This negative trend inevitably affects building strong institutions to create inclusive societies. The freedom in the World 2020 indicates that “The unchecked brutality of autocratic regimes and the ethical decay of democratic powers are combining to make the world increasingly hostile to fresh demands for better governance.” Recently, rising calls for democratic values show that ethnic, religious, minority, and racial groups are combating autocracies globally.



### **2.3: Rise of Violence Against Human Rights Defenders and Journalists**

Threats against human rights defenders and journalists worldwide are an alarming setback of the failing democracies and unjust institutions. The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2019 underlines that “United Nations recorded and verified 397 additional killings of human rights defenders, journalists and trade unionists across 41 countries.” The civic space for human rights defenders and journalists is shrinking more than ever. UN Member States and other inter-governmental organizations are obligated to protect the defenders and journalists’ fundamental rights, who are standing up to create peaceful and just societies for all, leaving no one behind.

### **2.4: Right to Access to Information for Transparency and Accountability in Governance**

The right to access information is essential in establishing accountable institutions. Transparency, accountability, and access to information are the key to building sustainable and strong institutions. Uninformed citizens cannot hold their government accountable for violations of human rights and public sector corruption. HLPF 2019 SDG 16 Conference, held in Rome, recommends that “Governments should connect human rights data collectors and the central SDG monitoring/collection bodies at the national level. SDG monitoring bodies should request data from human rights institutions and information commissioners.” There is, therefore, a clear linkage between right to access information, transparency, and accountability.

## **PANEL 3 – LESSONS LEARNED FROM COVID-19 PANDEMIC: EVOLVING SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR SUSTAINABILITY**

Panel Session 3 will discuss the lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic, with a particular focus on SDG #3 (Good Health and Well-Being) and SDG #17: Partnerships for the Goals. This ongoing pandemic continues to pose an unprecedented threat to the global community without sparing any country or region. Implementation of the Global Agenda 2030 is now more challenging than ever as this historical situation has evolved the social and economic development for sustainability. Extraordinary circumstances redefined governments and societies’ essential functions as the global community is going through difficult and challenging times, since the emergence of the coronavirus.

The panelists will discuss the COVID-19 pandemic by focusing on the response until now to this global health crisis emergency and best practices, the new era of online engagement, refugee rights during the pandemic, and the right to life in prisons for journalists, political prisoners, women, and children.

### **3.1: Responding to Global Emergencies and Best Practices from COVID-19**

Some of the highlights that the global community had experienced and excelled during the COVID-19 include the importance of data collection and its analysis, global information, and communication systems, civil society contributions to facilitate solidarity, compassion, unity, and the assessment of public health readiness for health crises. While the pandemic has inevitably strained national finances, civil society organizations significantly contributed to assisting governments in combating the crisis.



The COVID-19 is not a health crisis by itself. The UN Report “COVID-19 and Human Rights” indicates that, “[Pandemic] is highlighting deep economic and social inequalities and inadequate health and social protection systems that require urgent attention as part of the public health response.” Therefore, the global response to the pandemic has put human rights at the center to achieve the best results in combating the spread of the coronavirus.

### **3.2: The New Era of Online Engagement**

The right to health care services has been at the center of the pandemic crisis management. However, months of lockdowns throughout the world have created additional needs and requirements to assist elderly citizens, immigrants and other individuals in need, and restrained children’s right to access quality education in schools. The civil society organizations and the private sector have been incredibly creative in their online engagement to alleviate the governments’ recovery policies. Mental health service centers have also carried out an essential mission of supporting individuals during their isolation in the quarantine process. Educators have developed innovative distance learning tools and implemented online schooling programs. This new era of online engagement has seemingly made limited resources more accessible for many individuals.

### **3.3: Refugee Rights during the Pandemic**

Refugees, the people on the move, are disproportionately affected by the Pandemic because of their limited access to social and health services, restrictions of their freedom of movement, and resettlement efforts. Unsanitary and crowded living conditions in refugee camps have put the refugees even more in danger of getting infected. The UN Policy Brief, “COVID-19 and People on the Move”, rightly states that “all of the above risks are compounded by the difficulty of delivering humanitarian assistance to the world’s most vulnerable people on the move in light of canceled flights, closed borders, lockdown, and some countries placing export controls on medical supplies and equipment.” Despite the severe constraints, there are also countless examples of refugees contributing to their new countries: youth immigrants mobilizing resources for elderly, qualified immigrant doctors getting their licenses, and serving on the front line in hospitals. Many other such contributions once again showed how valuable immigrants are for their new homelands.

### **3.4: COVID-19 and Right to Life in Prisons**

Given the conditions of limited space, overcrowding, and limited access to health services, the right to life in prisons has been another critical issue during the Pandemic. Human rights and intergovernmental organizations have therefore repeatedly urged governments to take urgent action in addressing the full range of infection risks faced by persons deprived of their liberty. In closed settings, in particular prisons, UN Member States must respect human rights of those deprived of liberty. Michelle Bachelet, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, has in addition warned UN Member States to comply with the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (also known as the Nelson Mandela Rules) to protect individuals under detention, vulnerable prisoners and prison officers.



# PIONEERS IN SDGS AWARDS: CALL FOR PROJECTS

Pioneers in SDGs Awards pay tribute to outstanding individuals and organizations who contribute to sustainable peace and development while promoting and protecting the culture of peace, diversity, inclusive society, human rights, women and youth empowerment, at the local, national, and global levels. The Journalists and Writers Foundation and its Global Partners recognize Pioneers in SDGs that help achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), by implementing innovative and creative projects benefiting their societies. The altruism, philanthropy, dedication, and commitment of the Pioneers in SDGs are worthwhile in making our world a better place for all.

Our international jury will evaluate the contributions to the projects on the basis of community service, philanthropy, and their dedication to society. After reviewing the projects, the international jury will select the first, second, and third place winners from among the projects submitted from countries around the world. The awards will be presented to the winners during the UNGA Conference on 23 September 2020 in New York.

## Submission & Evaluation

The Selection Committee will evaluate each project considering four criteria: innovation, stakeholders, scope, and impact. The projects are expected to serve as an exemplary model that can inspire other individuals and organizations to make a positive social change and contribute to the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Projects can be submitted at the UNGA Conference website and/or by e-mail ([info@jwf.org](mailto:info@jwf.org)), and must include the name of the project, a three-minute video, contact information, and a description of the project. Details about the Call for Projects are available at [www.unga-conference.org](http://www.unga-conference.org)

**The deadline for submission of projects is September 10, 2020.**

## Selection Criteria

- 1. Innovation** refers to the project's approach to finding creative solutions to global challenges. The project will be assessed on a scale from 0 to 25 for innovative contribution to social, economic, and environmental development.
- 2. Stakeholders** refers to key players involved in the decision-making processes. The project will be assessed on a scale from 0 to 25 for inclusiveness in the decision-making processes without discriminating on basis of race, ethnicity, gender, etc.
- 3. Scope** refers to planning, implementation, and evaluation processes. The project will be assessed on a scale from 0 to 25 for goals, objectives, indicators, and outcomes with tangible results.
- 4. Impact** refers to the contributions of the project on individuals, organizations, and the society at large. The project will be assessed on a scale from 0 to 25 for impact in society in regard to social, economic, and environmental development.

## Awards

*1st Place: \$1000 + Pioneers in SDGs Award*

*2nd Place: \$750 + Pioneers in SDGs Award*

*3rd Place: \$500 + Pioneers in SDGs Award*



# TRANSFORMING OUR WORLD FIVE YEARS OF ACTION TOWARDS THE SDGs

## PANELIST BIOGRAPHIES

10:00 – 10:30 AM - OPENING AND WELCOME REMARKS

### KEYNOTE:

**H.E. Ms. Pramila Patten**, Under-Secretary-General, Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict | United Nations



H.E. Ms. Pramila Patten was appointed as the United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict on 12 April 2017. Prior to this appointment and since 2003, Ms. Patten served as a member of the Committee on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). She was the Chairperson of the Working Group on General Recommendation No. 30 on “Women in Conflict Prevention, Conflict and Post-Conflict situations”. USG Ms. Patten has been a member of several High-Level Panels and Projects, including the High-Level Advisory Group for the Global Study on the Implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and Security, and the

Advisory Panel for the African Women’s Rights Observatory (AWRO) within the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). She previously was a Commissioner of the International Commission of Inquiry into the massacre in Guinea Conakry on 28 September 2009. A national of Mauritius, USG Ms. Patten has been a practicing lawyer since 1982 and a member of the Honorable Society of Gray’s Inn.

### KEYNOTE:

**Dr. Wayne Henry, JP**, Director-General of the Planning Institute of Jamaica, Ministry of Finance and the Public Service | Jamaica



Dr. Wayne Henry is the Director-General of the Planning Institute of Jamaica. Dr. Wayne holds a PhD in Agricultural and Development Economics as well as an MA in Economics from the Ohio State University, an MBA in Finance from Howard University, and a BSc in Economics and Management from the University of the West Indies. Prior to joining PIOJ, he spent five years as Vice President of Government Affairs at the Scotiabank Group. Dr. Henry served as Chief Technical Advisor to the Minister of Finance, as well as Special Advisor to the Minister of Agriculture. He previously worked as the World Bank Representative in Jamaica and spent several years as a lecturer in Economics at the University of the West Indies.



**10:30 – 12:00 AM - PANEL 1**

**WOMEN EMPOWERMENT AND GENDER EQUALITY: 25 YEARS AFTER THE BEIJING DECLARATION**

**MODERATOR:**

**Donna Orender**, Founder and CEO of Orender Unlimited and Generation W, Former President of The Women's National Basketball Association | USA



Donna Orender is a highly respected corporate business leader having led growth and innovation in several high-profile companies. Her passionate pursuit of working on behalf of women and girls is a result of her personal journey as a professional athlete, a corporate executive, a leader of an iconic women's business the WNBA, a board member and founder of Generation W. She has been recognized as one of the top 10 Most Powerful Women in sports and one of Newsweek's 100 most Influential people in the business of sports and is a best-selling author with her 2018 release of *Wowsdom!* the girl's guide to the Positive and the Possible.

Now in its 10th year, Generation W's focus on educating, inspiring and connecting women and girls in the service of building community has changed the trajectory of thousands of lives who have become part of this inclusive and energetic community. Leveraging intergenerational connectivity and mentorship, Generation W and Generation WOW have positively impacted skills and opportunities while broadening perspectives on women's equality and equity. This year's virtual thought leadership event is being praised as a breakout experience and is currently available at [www.genwnow.com](http://www.genwnow.com).

Donna served 6 years as the President/Commissioner of the league, during which time she solidified its base and led double digit growth in all key business metrics. Prior to the WNBA, Donna spent 17 years at the PGA TOUR serving in the Office of the Commissioner. She developed and led global production, programming and digital businesses for the TOUR. As the CEO of Orender Unlimited she works with companies on strategic and growth initiatives.

Her board work includes the V Foundation for Cancer Research, Co-Chair of the UJA Sports for Youth Initiative and a founding member of the board of W.O.M.E.N, a mentoring organization for young women capable of reaching the C-suite. She has also been a Global Ambassador for Vital Voices, a Hall of Fame collegiate and professional athlete and a recipient of the March of Dimes Sports Leadership Award. She is a sought-after speaker on leadership, change and gender diversity.

**PANELIST 1:**

**Houry Geudelekian**, NGO CSW, Chair | USA

Review of the Beijing Declaration: 1995 to 2020



Houry Geudelekian was the previous Gender Program Coordinator at NGO Committee on the Status of Women, NY and the UN Coordinator of Unchained At Last, an ECOSOC accredited US based organization that fights to stop early marriage in the US. She recently ended her term as Co-Chair of the Working Group on Girls and Co-Chair of NYC4 CEDAW. Born in Beirut, Lebanon into an Armenian family, she moved to New York City in the late 70's with her husband and together they started a business that grew to over 30 employees and 2000 clientele in the



competitive market of Manhattan. Her professional expertise is in Project Management, Marketing and Public Relations with a passion for Human Rights.

In her capacity as UN Coordinator for Armenian Relief Society (2011-2016), she served as Executive Committee member of NGO CSW NY for two terms, Co-Chaired NGO CSW Forum Planning Committee, MC'd two Consultation Days and Chaired Women of Distinction Award for CSW57/58. As a board member of NGO CSW NY, she was a founding member of the Cities for CEDAW campaign as well as Beijing Platform for Action+20, working closely with UN Women. She is always actively looking to partner with international organizations to bring gender equality to global attention while mentoring young adults to be inspired and care about Human Rights. She has also facilitated and partnered with UN Member States, UN Women, UNDP to bring about positive change globally through panel discussions and projects.

### **PANELIST 2:**

**Mohna Ansari**, National Human Rights Commission, Member Commissioner | Nepal  
Gender Perspectives and Women's Leadership in Policy Making



Mohna Ansari is a renowned right activist of Nepal and currently serving as member of the National Human Rights Commission. Ms. Ansari started her career as a journalist and subsequently graduated as a lawyer, becoming the first and only Nepal's female attorney from the Muslim community. She worked with Amnesty International Nepal, Action Aid Nepal, UNDP, IDEA International and other national organizations. Her work has been in the field of women empowerment, social inclusion, access to justice, gender, social justice, peacebuilding and, protection of the rights of the marginalized groups.

In 2010, Ms Ansari was appointed as member of the National Women Commission (NWC) of Nepal. Working at the NWC, Ms Ansari effectively worked with the stakeholders in advancing the women's agenda in the constitution writing process. She was instrumental in introducing several policy and legal reforms including provision of the women cell in police units, provision of shelter homes for women victims and establishing the helpline for women affected by violence. She was reappointed as member of the NHRC in 2014 for a six-year term. She also served as spokesperson of the NWC and the NHRC. In addition to advancing the women's agenda of equality and gender justice through formal channels, she took up advocacy work through media and public forums, by writing in national dailies and appearing in TV debates.

### **PANELIST 3:**

**Prof. Diane Elson**, University of Essex, Department of Sociology, Emeritus Professor | UK  
Inclusive Economies for Women's Empowerment



Diane Elson, from the United Kingdom, is Emeritus Professor in the Department of Sociology at Essex University, Visiting Professor at the WiSE Research Centre, Glasgow Caledonian University and Research Associate at the Center for Women's Global Leadership, Rutgers University. She is a member of the UN Committee for Development Policy and is a consultant to UN Women. In 2016, Dr. Elson was awarded the Leontief Prize for Advancing the Frontiers of Economic Thought. She has served as chair of the UK Women's Budget Group and as Vice-President of the



International Association for Feminist Economics. She is the author of many publications and articles on gender equality and economic policy.

**PANELIST 4:**

**Diya K. Wynn**, Amazon Web Services, AI/ML Ethicist  
Emerging Technologies & Intelligent Platforms GSP | USA  
Technological Advancements for Women’s Empowerment: Opportunities and Challenges



Diya K. Wynn has worked in technology for 25 years building, operating, delivering and leading in early and growth-stage companies. She has a passion for developing current and emerging leaders; promoting STEM to the underrepresented; and driving diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI). In this capacity as the Artificial Intelligence Ethicist at Amazon Web Services, she is responsible for defining strategy and standards to guide consultants and customers in responsible use of AI, and elevate potential areas of algorithmic bias and lack of transparency in development and deployment work, which often adversely impacts marginalized communities.

Diya is an Ambassador for Inclusion & Diversity and a pioneer in the company leading the Women in Professional Services, an affinity group focused on gender diversity. Diya has led several inclusion & diversity initiatives across the business globally. For her model of leadership in this space, she was awarded an Inclusion Ambassador Award in February 2020 from her company and is a 2020 finalist for the Women in IT Awards Advocate of the Year.

Diya is a leader in her local church and as a mayoral appointee in Environmental Affairs in the city of Laurel for 6 consecutive years. She currently serves as a Class Agent for Suffield Academy (HS), is a lifetime member of National Alumnae Association of Spelman College and is the President of the National Alumnae Association of Spelman College Southern MD chapter. She studied Computer Science at Spelman College, the Management of Technology at New York University, Ethical Leadership at Harvard University. She was awarded an Inclusion Ambassador Award in February 2020 from her company and is a 2020 finalist for the Women in IT Awards Advocate of the Year.

**DISCUSSANT:**

**Dr. Marina Sorokina**, The Alexander Solzhenitsyn Center for the Study of the Russian Diaspora, Head of the Department of History | Russia  
Russia’s best practices on implementing the SDG #5: Achieving Gender Equality and Empowering all Women and Girls



Dr. Marina Sorokina is the Head of the Department of History at the Alexander Solzhenitsyn Center for the Study of the Russian Diaspora. Prior to this position, Dr. Sorokina was a Senior Research Fellow at the Institute for the Advanced Studies in Humanities at the Russian State University for the Humanities. She has also served at the Russian Academy of Sciences Archive in Moscow.

Dr. Sorokina received her PhD in Historical Archives from the Russian State Research Institute for Archives in 2001. Russian Academy of Natural Sciences awarded her with a Vernadsky Silver Medal for her academic studies. She is a member at The Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration, Association For the Study



of the Asian and Pacific Ocean Region and Russian Society For the History of Medicine. Dr. Sorokina has also been a visiting fellow and a lecturer at several distinguished universities in Germany, France, Canada, Austria and Brazil.

## 12:15 – 1:45 PM - PANEL 2

### IMPLEMENTING SDG #16: PEACE, JUSTICE and STRONG INSTITUTIONS

#### KEYNOTE:

**The Honourable Prof. Bob Carr**, Former Foreign Minister of Australia  
Industry Professor at the University of Technology Sydney | Australia



Former Foreign Minister Bob Carr is the longest continuously serving Premier in New South Wales history. He served as Minister for Planning and Environment 1984 to 1988 and as Leader of the Opposition from 1988 until his election as Premier in March 1995. He retired from state politics in 2005. During his 10 years in the State Government, he hosted the world's best Olympics in 2000 and achieved the nation's best school literacy levels. Forbes magazine called Bob Carr a "dragon slayer" for his landmark tort law reforms.

As Premier, he received the World Conservation Union International Parks Merit Award for creating 350 new national parks. He was a member of the International Task Force on Climate Change convened by Tony Blair. Bob Carr has received the Fulbright Distinguished Fellow Award Scholarship. He has served as Honorary Scholar of the Australian American Leadership Dialogue.

He is the author of Thoughtlines (2002), What Australia Means to Me (2003), My Reading Life (2008) Diary of a Foreign Minister (2014) and Run for Your Life (2018). In March 2012 he was designated by Prime Minister Julia Gillard as Australia's Foreign Minister, elected to the Australian Senate to fill a casual Senate vacancy and sworn in to the Senate and Cabinet on March 13, 2012. Following his resignation from the Senate on October 24, 2013, the University of Technology, Sydney appointed him to lead the Australia-China Relations Institute. In May 2019 he was appointed Professor of Industry in Climate and Business at the University of Technology Sydney.

#### MODERATOR:

**Paula Boland**, UNA-NCA, President | USA



Paula Boland is an attorney specializing in environmental law and international affairs. Although born in the United States, she received most of her academic and professional experience in Argentina. Paula worked for three years on regulatory and corporate compliance matters at the law firm of Klein & Franco in Buenos Aires. Her strong interest in the protection of the environment led her to the LL.M. program in Environmental Law at Vermont Law School, from which she graduated cum laude. Following a clerkship with the Environmental Enforcement Section of the US Department of Justice, Paula assisted a number of environmental nongovernmental organizations in the development of conservation projects to be



carried out in Latin America.

Paula began her journey at UNA-NCA as a volunteer where soon she was appointed Chair of the Young Professionals, providing volunteer opportunities and engaging professionals and students in dialogue on the UN and international affairs. Paula joined the UNA-NCA staff, serving first as Program Director, and then as Executive Director. Paula received the UNA-NCA Evelyn Falkowski Volunteer Service Award and the United Nations Association of the USA's 70th Anniversary Chapter Legacy Award. She has played a significant role developing and nurturing strategic partnerships, diversifying membership and expanding program activities. Paula serves as a regional representative of the UNA-USA National Council.

**PANELIST 1:**

**Natalia Marcela Molina**, Member IAWJ | Argentina  
Promotion and Protection of Human Rights



Natalia Marcela Molina is a Judge specializing in cyber-crimes against minors of the City of Buenos Aires, Argentina. She has certifications in criminal law and organized crimes. She is a Member of the International Association of Women Judges and Second Vice President of the Women Judges Association in Argentina. Judge Molina is a Professor at Universidad de San Isidro and Universidad de Ciencias

**PANELIST 2:**

**Michael Collins**, Institute for Economics and Peace, Executive Director | USA  
Decline of Democratic Values and Rise of Autocracy Globally



Michael Collins is the Executive Director of the Americas Institute for Economics and Peace based in New York. He helps manage IEP relations with the US Government and the United Nations, develops working partnerships with US-based civil society organizations, foundations, universities, businesses and think tanks and seeks new opportunities to build IEP's presence and impact throughout North, Central and South America.

Prior to working with IEP, Michael helped develop and oversee educational and job creation programs in emerging nations recovering from natural disasters, working frequently in communities affected by poverty and gang violence. Before pursuing a career in the non-profit sector, Michael worked in the construction industry. He studied electro-mechanical engineering and speaks English, Spanish and French.



**PANELIST 3:**

**Waqar Gillani**, The News on Sunday, Special Correspondent | Pakistan  
Rise of Violence Against Journalists and Right to Access Information for Strong Institutions



Waqar Gillani is Pakistan based journalist with more than 15 years of experience of chasing stories of human rights violations; freedoms of religion, expression and press; religious extremism and persecutions; rights of marginalized sections of society; security; politics and geopolitics. During the years, Mr. Gillani has contributed to a number of local and international publications - The News International, The New York Times, Agency France Press, The Guardian, and The Wall Street Journal.

Mr. Gilani was State of Minnesota based World Press Institute (WPI) Fellow in 2011 and attended the US International Visitors Leadership programme for Investigative Journalism in the past. Along with local rights groups he is a founding member of International Association of Religion Journalists and remained on its board for a term and currently works as South Asia representative of the IARJ in honorary capacity.

**PANELIST 4:**

**Dr. Shekh Mohammad Altafur Rahman**, Thammasat University, School of Global Studies | Thailand  
Access to Justice for Transparency and Accountability in Governance



Dr. Rahman is a human rights lawyer and faculty member of the School of Global Studies, Thammasat University, Thailand. He has his PhD in Human Rights and Peace Studies from Mahidol University, Thailand. Born in Bangladesh, he has begun professional career through voluntary services and community support program. Since 1999 he has been working on human rights and development in twelve Asia countries. Ford Foundation, Odhikar, Care Society, Action Aid, Forum Asia, Human Security Alliance, NDI, CIDA and ANFREL are some the organizations he has worked with. His area of expertise comprises international human rights mechanism, election and democratization, conflict transformation, emergency management, and application of human security framework. His current research includes developing human security index and development dividend for greater justice.



**2:00 – 3:30 PM - PANEL 3**

**LESSONS LEARNED FROM COVID-19 PANDEMIC: EVOLVING SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR SUSTAINABILITY**

**KEYNOTE:**

**Anton Morozov**, Member of the High Council of the LDPR, Deputy of the State Duma | Russia



Anton Morozov is the MP of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia and a Member of State Duma Committee on International Affairs. Mr. Morozov also serves at the LDPR High Council as a Member. He graduated from the Moscow State University, Faculty of Physics in 1995 and completed the Russian Academy of State Service at the President of Russian Federation in 2005.

Mr. Morozov has worked at multiple levels of Liberal Democratic Party of Russia in different capacities, from Party Leader Assistant to LDPR HQ Chairman. From 2006 to 2011, he was the Deputy of Novgorod Provincial Duma. Mr. Morozov also served at the Permanent Mission of Russia to the UN as a Counselor.

**MODERATOR:**

**JJ Green**, National Security Correspondent at WTOP Radio | USA



JJ Green is the National Security Correspondent at WTOP radio. He reports daily on international security, intelligence, foreign policy, terrorism and cyber developments and provides regular on-air analysis. He hosts the weekly podcast, Target USA, which examines the threats facing the U.S and hosts the weekly broadcast program "The Hunt," and conducts in-depth interviews with experts on ISIS, al-Qaida, the Taliban and other emerging terror threats. He is the recipient of the 2017 Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation award for Distinguished Reporting on National Defence for his series Anatomy of a Russian attack. He has also received a National Edward R. Murrow Award (2009) for "Hidden Hunter". He also won the prestigious Associated Press Douglas S. Freeman award for his investigative series,

"Dignity Denied".

He was honored by the University of Maryland, University College as their commencement speaker, in recognition of his broad body of national security reporting accomplishments. He has also been recognized by top national security officials for his deep knowledge of international affairs and ability to succinctly analyze complex issues. JJ lectures regularly at universities and colleges on national security issues and speaks often to U.S. government, military and national security organizations. He is also a contributor to Jane's Intelligence Review magazine.



### PANELIST 1:

**Jeff Schlegelmilch**, National Center for Disaster Preparedness, The Earth Institute, Columbia University, Director | USA

Responding to Global Emergencies and Best Practices from COVID-19



Jeff Schlegelmilch is the Director for the National Center for Disaster Preparedness at Columbia University's Earth Institute. He was the Manager for the International and Non-Healthcare Business Sector for the Yale New Haven Health System Center for Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response. Mr. Schlegelmilch led a study to determine the requirements for a national operational epidemiological modelling process, developing and delivering a national training program focused on evacuation and sheltering of people with medical dependencies, and developing new models for community resilience with a focus on children. He is also a FEMA certified Master Exercise Practitioner and has been in a leadership role on numerous discussion and operations-based exercises, including one of the largest municipal bioterrorism response exercises ever conducted.

He has published peer reviewed articles on topics ranging from the national funding streams for public health and medical preparedness, the integration of the private sector into disaster response, and improving the integration of complex analytical information into disaster operations. He has also been published as an Opinion Contributor by The Hill and Fortune and has been used as a subject matter expert for numerous media outlets.

### PANELIST 2:

**Shiv Vikram Khemka**, Vice-Chairman, SUN Group Global, Executive Chairman, The Global Education & Leadership Foundation | India

The New Era of Online Engagement: Evolving Economic Development and Private Sector



Shiv Vikram Khemka is Vice-Chairman of SUN Group, with both operating and investment companies active in areas including Private Equity, Renewable Energy, Oil & Gas, High Technology, Gold Mining and Real Estate. Shiv has served on the Board of Overseers of The Wharton School for over a decade, and is currently on the board of the Lauder Institute and the Centre for Advanced Studies of India at the University of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Khemka also serves on the Yale University's President's Council on International Activities, the Asia Society Policy Institute's Global Council, and the advisory board of Stanford University's Philanthropy. He has also been a member of the President's Leadership Council at Brown University, the Advisory Board of the School of Oriental and African Studies, and the board of the Judge Institute at Cambridge University. Mr. Khemka was elected a "Global Leader for Tomorrow" (GLT) at the World Economic Forum in Davos in 1997. He was awarded the "Wharton India Alumni Award", the "Dr. Jean Mayer Global Citizenship Award" by Tufts University, and the "Outstanding Contribution to Education Prize" by Wharton.



**PANELIST 3:**

**Basma Alawee**, Florida Immigrant Coalition, State Refugee Organizer | USA  
Refugee Rights during the Pandemic



Basma Alawee was born and raised in Baghdad, Iraq. Ms. Alawee came to the U.S. with her husband as a refugee in 2010, leaving behind her career as an engineer with the Ministry of Oil within the Government of Iraq. As a refugee and activist, her stories and activism have been featured in the media. Most recently, she was nominated to be one of the Athena40 women in the world who are leading change and was the recipient of the 2019 OneJax Humanitarian Award. She was also elected the Florida delegate for the UNHCR Refugee Congress and is a board member of USAHello (formerly, Refugee Center Online) and many other nonprofits. Currently, she is the State Refugee Organizer with the Florida Immigrant Coalition and resides in Jacksonville.

**PANELIST 4:**

**Burak Haylamaz**, Human Rights Solidarity | UK  
COVID-19 and Right to Life in Prisons: Turkey Case



Burak Haylamaz graduated from the University of Maastricht in the Netherlands with a degree in European Law. He also earned his Master's of Law degree from University College London. Burak focuses his practice within the field of data protection and intermediary liability, fintech compliance as well as human rights law. His recent works in the field of human rights have been published by several respectful institutions, including Harvard Human Rights Journal and Warsaw University Law Review.





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Under-Secretary-General



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Minister of Information,  
Civic Education and Communications  
Technology, REPUBLIC OF MALAWI



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President, Mahatma Gandhi  
Foundation, INDIA



**CRAIG FOSTER**  
Former Athlete,  
Human Rights Activist, AUSTRALIA



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Ombudsman of the  
Mozambique, MOZAMBIQUE



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Founder and Director  
Emeritus, Texas Civil Rights  
Project, USA



**EKATERINA SHEBALINA**  
Institute for International  
Studies, Research Fellow,  
Executive Assistant to  
the Vice-Rector, RUSSIA



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DO VALE CERQUEIRA**  
Court of Ethics and Disciplinary  
at the Brazilian Bar Association -  
District Federal Section, BRAZIL



**DR. SEV OZDOWSKI**  
Director, Equity and Diversity,  
Western Sydney  
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Law Office, SPAIN



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Foreign News Editor,  
SABC TV, SOUTH AFRICA



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INDIA



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Former Editor-in-Chief  
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# UNGA HIGH-LEVEL RECEPTION - PAST HONOREES



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GHANA



# GOALS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

**5** GENDER EQUALITY



In 2018,  
**women**  
only held  
**27 per cent**  
of managerial  
positions  
worldwide

**16** PEACE, JUSTICE  
AND STRONG  
INSTITUTIONS



Today,  
**20 million**  
people are  
**refugees,**  
over **41 million**  
people have been  
internally  
**displaced,**  
and at least  
**4 million people**  
are  
**stateless**

**17** PARTNERSHIPS  
FOR THE GOALS



**Strong**  
international  
**cooperation**  
is needed now  
more than ever  
to ensure  
that  
countries have  
the means  
**to achieve**  
the SDGs



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56 W 45 Street 4th Floor  
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[www.jwf.org](http://www.jwf.org) +1(646) 838-4882