

Keeping the Sustainable Development Goals on Track

Global equity in achieving the SDGs

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Authors:

Nadia Saracini (lead author), with Karol Balfe, Marcos Lopes Filho, Matti Kohonen and Katherine Kramer.

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Christian Aid exists to create a world where everyone can live a full life, free from poverty. We are a global movement of people, churches and local organisations who passionately champion dignity, equality and justice worldwide. We are the changemakers, the peacemakers, the mighty of heart.

christianaid.org.uk

Contact us

Christian Aid
35 Lower Marsh
Waterloo
London
SE1 7RL
T: +44 (0) 20 7620 4444
E: info@christian-aid.org
W: christianaid.org.uk

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Cover: When Oluchukwu Ikwune’s husband died in 2015, she feared she would be subjected to the age-old inhuman practices often meted out to widows in Urum, Anambra State, Nigeria. With support from Christian Aid’s Voice to the People project and members of her community, Oluchukwu was spared further dehumanising treatment

Photograph: Christian Aid

List of acronyms

| | |
|-------------|--|
| AAAA | Addis Ababa Action Agenda |
| CBDR | common but differentiated responsibilities |
| CSO | civil society organisation |
| HLPF | High Level Political Forum |
| LNOB | leave no one behind |
| SDGs | Sustainable Development Goals |
| UHC | Universal Health Coverage |
| UN | United Nations |

Introduction

The world is not on track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Instead, it faces a triple emergency of poverty, climate and nature, driven by an economic system that places profit before the planet, widens inequality and encourages high levels of unsustainable consumption by a privileged few.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development encapsulates this emergency. States have reaffirmed their commitments to addressing inequality and to the '5 Ps' – the critical and interdependent elements of 'people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership'. Yet inequality, both within and among countries and calculated by a variety of measures, is a growing problem.¹

Christian Aid has previously highlighted the differential responsibilities of wealthier countries in addressing inequalities and progressing sustainable development.²

Agenda 2030 is under the remit of the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development. In 2019, a process is being launched to review how the HLPF oversees Agenda 2030. This offers an important opportunity to reset the Agenda on a more justice-oriented, rights-based and accountable trajectory. The need for this is urgent in order to achieve the SDGs.

This briefing discusses the importance of the principles and commitments on which the Agenda is based, how these can be understood and acted upon to keep the SDGs on track, and what this could mean for future accountability mechanisms under the HLPF.

'Our Governments have the primary responsibility for follow-up and review, at the national, regional and global levels, in relation to the progress made in implementing the Goals and targets over the coming 15 years. To support accountability to our citizens, we will provide for systematic follow-up and review at the various levels, as set out in this Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. The High Level Political Forum under the auspices of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council will have the central role in overseeing follow-up and review at the global level'

Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, paragraph 47.

Principles and commitments of Agenda 2030

Agenda 2030 is more than the sum of its goals and targets. It aims to achieve human rights for all, gender equality and 'leave no one behind'. It reconfirms commitments to 'all major United Nations conferences and summits' and acknowledges the interconnectedness and indivisibility of the goals and targets.³ For Agenda 2030 to really transform our world, its principles and commitments must guide the actions and priorities of governments and intergovernmental institutions in delivering the SDGs.

Human rights and other frameworks

The Agenda is founded on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other human rights treaties.⁴ Paragraph 19 of the Agenda emphasises the need for states to be accountable to all citizens for human rights.

Other cornerstones include the Rio Declaration and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which enshrine a principle of common but differentiated responsibilities (CBDR), conferring on wealthier countries a fair share of responsibility in accordance with their greater wealth, capacities and historic advantages. The Agenda also reflects commitments to Universal Health Coverage, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Beijing Platform for Action, the Cairo Programme of Action and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.⁵

Progress human rights for all

HLPF reform could ensure that progress towards human rights and other commitments on which the SDGs were founded are taken into consideration in Voluntary National Reviews and other mechanisms to review progress.

Common but differentiated responsibilities

Agenda 2030 reaffirms the CBDR principle (paragraph 12) and acknowledges that the SDGs are integrated and indivisible (paragraph 55). The global South has asked for this principle to apply broadly in all SDGs, while the global North has so far only accepted a differentiated responsibility for climate change due to historical emissions.

The CBDR principle is crosscutting and applies across the SDGs and all United Nations (UN) frameworks as a principle of global justice. This is reflected in the means of implementation under each goal, in SDG 17 and the revitalised Global Partnership for Development (which is mainly between states). These set out some of what is needed.

Wealthier nations must ensure policy coherence for sustainable development domestically and globally. They must support developing countries to achieve the SDGs through aid, capacity building, financing (including tackling illicit financial flows and tax practices that are a drain on resources) and technology transfer.

'We reaffirm the importance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as well as other international instruments relating to human rights and international law. We emphasize the responsibilities of all States, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations, to respect, protect and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction of any kind as to race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, disability or other status'

Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, paragraph 19.

'We reaffirm all the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, including, inter alia, the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, as set out in principle 7 thereof'

Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, paragraph 12.

The spirit and intention of Agenda 2030 points to an end to privileges and power imbalances that perpetuate inequalities, and a greater focus on global justice and promoting the interests of regions and countries in the global South. This is reflected in regional agendas, such as Africa 2063, which emphasises the need to overcome colonial and economic subjugation; the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, which emphasises participatory and South-South approaches; and Asia-Pacific civil society calls for development justice.⁶

Justice in Global Partnership

HLPF reform could ensure wealthier nations fulfil their responsibilities for the means of implementation based on CBDR, and enable a stronger voice for regional intergovernmental forums, human rights bodies and civil society to support this.

Financing for Development

The Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development is integral to Agenda 2030 and essential for the transformation towards global justice.⁷

Countries in the global South agreed to Agenda 2030 on the condition of the member states of the UN having passed the resolution on the means of implementation in the context of the AAAA. Without commitments by wealthier nations on the means of implementation, particularly to Financing for Development, the global South would not have agreed to Agenda 2030.

AAAA workstreams in areas such as aid, trade, taxation, debt and investment for resourcing the SDGs are reflected in SDG 17 – particularly domestic resource mobilisation (17.1), aid (17.2) and tackling debt issues (17.3), which should have the greatest emphasis. Illicit financial flows (16.4) are also a major loss of financing. However, the emphasis has shifted substantially to targets on multi-stakeholder (17.16) and public–private partnerships (17.17), but these are not a replacement for the Global Partnership and they should not be interpreted as prioritising a role for big business in delivering the SDGs.

Civil society organisations (CSOs) in the global South have long raised concerns about undue influence of the private sector on public policy and called for accountability to citizens to be retained through a focus on public financing and multilateral cooperation.⁸

Christian Aid has also warned of the risks of private (especially international) financing. Public financing is more easily aligned to sustainable development priorities, while efforts by governments to attract international private investment, such as through tax incentives and public–private partnerships, are often a drain on revenues that could be used for development. They may also encourage governments to compensate through more regressive forms of taxation, such as value added tax, that often place a disproportionate burden on women and individuals who are marginalised.

‘The spirit and intention of Agenda 2030 points to an end to privileges and power imbalances that perpetuate inequalities, and a greater focus on global justice and promoting the interests of regions and countries in the global South’

‘The Agenda, including the Sustainable Development Goals, can be met within the framework of a revitalized Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, supported by the concrete policies and actions as outlined in the outcome document of the third International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Addis Ababa from 13 to 16 July 2015’

Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, paragraph 40.

In line with CBDR, we believe wealthier countries should focus on maintaining aid commitments, tackling tax dodging by multinationals and supporting multilateral cooperation, including reform of the global financial system towards more representative, equitable and rights-based decision-making so that countries in the global South have more say in global governance.⁹

Financing must be transparent, accountable to citizens and sustainable

HLPF reform could support greater availability, accountability and transparency of financing arrangements and partnerships, and alignment with the AAAA, for example, by encouraging governments to report on progressivity and transparency in tax arrangements.

Gender equality and ‘leave no one behind’

Agenda 2030 promises to achieve gender equality and leave no one behind. However, the world is furthest behind in achieving SDG 5 on gender equality.¹⁰ Although some gender equality indicators show improvements, lack of headway in areas such as legal discrimination, patriarchal social norms and power imbalances are undermining overall progress. Public finance, the need for better gender data, and climate change also remain key challenges.¹¹

The implications of this are clear – gender inequality must be addressed across all relevant goals and targets, with a focus on how it is compounded by other intersecting inequalities.¹² Furthermore, the most marginalised individuals and communities must be identified and prioritised, and their specific challenges and vulnerabilities better understood and acted upon. The UN recommends the use of a wide range of data to support this, including human rights statistics, to make inequalities visible, monitor progress in reducing disparities and inform effective responses.¹³

Attention to SDG targets on participatory and representative decision making (16.7) and accountable and transparent institutions (16.6) is also essential, so that individuals and groups who are marginalised, particularly women and girls, have equal and meaningful representation in decision making at all levels.

With respect to CBDR, the leave no one behind (LNOB) principle implies a need for more participatory, gender-sensitive, accountable and inclusive approaches in aid, for more targeted and contextualised interventions to address context-specific challenges, and for wealthier nations to ensure their policies (such as for trade, investment or tax) bring real benefits to the global South and do not further entrench inequalities, including outside their borders.¹⁴

While eradicating extreme poverty is the priority, LNOB can also be understood as demanding the progressive reduction of inequalities by ensuring all those living in poverty progress at a faster rate than those who are better off.¹⁵ As such, LNOB can be understood as essential for the progressive realisation of human rights for all.

‘Gender inequality must be addressed across all relevant goals and targets, with a focus on how it is compounded by other intersecting inequalities’

More commitment and accountability to gender equality and the most left behind are needed

HLPF reform should better assess progress from gender and LNOB perspectives, particularly through greater scrutiny of aid effectiveness and policy coherence and by encouraging governments to report specifically on their progress in these areas.

Interconnectedness and indivisibility

Paragraph 55 of Agenda 2030 highlights the principles of integration and indivisibility. These can be understood as a need for approaches that address intersecting barriers to development and justice, are holistic, and support synergies and co-benefits. For example, the recent report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change on limiting global warming to 1.5°C demonstrated that climate action and achieving other SDGs were synergistic in many cases, meaning that co-benefits across Agenda 2030 can be realised.¹⁶

Integration and indivisibility should also be understood as a call to accountability – governments should not be selective in their reporting or avoid reflecting on challenging areas. At the intergovernmental level, they should encourage greater attention to trade-offs and contradictions. Progress towards any specific goal or target should not undermine progress in others, not should the actions of one country be allowed to impede progress in another.

These are complex challenges, but there is a responsibility for wealthier countries to take a lead in ensuring that as they make progress on the SDGs domestically they do not make it harder for countries in the global South to achieve their targets.

More comprehensive follow up and review is needed

The HLPF system should encourage governments to be more thorough in their reporting, so that in-country challenges are not overlooked, and facilitate more international cooperation to address trade-offs, contradictions and cross-border issues.

Applying the principles across the '5 Ps'

What can be learned from Christian Aid's work in sustainable development that can be applied to reforming HLPF in line with the core principles and commitments?

People: citizen participation is essential for delivering rights and accountability

Mechanisms for meaningful participation of diverse social movements, civil society and human rights organisations are essential at all levels if the SDGs are to be delivered in line with the underlying principles and commitments. Participation is a key human rights principle, and shrinking space for civil society participation impacts on marginalised individuals and groups disproportionately, especially women and girls.¹⁷

Enabling their self-empowerment, so that they are able to claim their rights and participate in development, is central to Christian Aid's work. In relation to the SDGs, we have found civil society engagement mechanisms, including with the regional intergovernmental forums and for specific sectors such as universal health coverage, to be very valuable in supporting their inclusion and strengthening social accountability.¹⁸

In addition to helping influence policy design and implementation, the participation of women and marginalised individuals and groups in policy making and development should be prioritised to overcome structural barriers (patriarchy, social exclusion, discrimination, and political marginalisation), which are a major cause of entrenched and intergenerational poverty. People are kept behind as much as they are left behind, often as a result of persistent gender and identity-based inequalities. We believe that future generations should not be held back by social injustice any more than they should have to suffer a legacy of environmental degradation. Affected people and their organisations must drive the change.

'As we embark on this great collective journey, we pledge that no one will be left behind. Recognizing that the dignity of the human person is fundamental, we wish to see the Goals and targets met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society. And we will endeavour to reach the furthest behind first'

Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, paragraph 4.

Universal Health Coverage

The Universal Health Coverage (UHC) agenda, reflected in SDG 3.8, aims to ensure access to quality healthcare for all and to reduce the financial risks of health costs that so often plunge people into poverty.

In part, UHC is a global equity concern because realising UHC by 2030 will require international cooperation. UHC also requires much greater financing from public resources, both national and international. Tackling the financial loopholes that cause revenue leakages from the global South and regulation of private health providers, especially transnational corporations, are important aspects.

The UHC agenda illustrates how citizens' participation can be facilitated at all levels. UHC2030 promotes collaborative working within countries, and globally on strengthening health systems. It also advocates for increased political commitment globally, and supports a more integrated approach to accountability for SDG 3.

The Civil Society Engagement Mechanism (Christian Aid is a member of its Advisory Group) helps ensure a focus on inclusive and equitable policies and draws attention to the most marginalised and vulnerable populations and ensures that civil society voices are heard within UHC2030.

Dalit action for social justice

Caste discrimination reproduces poverty in ways that cut across SDG goals and targets. While laws against it exist in most affected countries, it has been social movements, especially Dalit organisations, which have been most effective in ensuring these are implemented and shaping other effective responses.

For example, Dalit groups in India have promoted special provisions to fast-track justice for survivors of violence, and affirmative action and social protection schemes that have helped many Dalits and other marginalised groups to find paid employment and reduce their risk of hunger, distress migration and exploitation.

These initiatives have been particularly important for Dalit women, who face intersecting barriers of caste and gender contributing to their exploitation and risk of violence.

As Dalit movements have grown in strength, they have reached out to other organisations and movements fighting work and descent-based discrimination. They are calling for more inclusive data, targets and indicators and opening space for their voice and participation in regional and international mechanisms for follow-up and review of the SDGs.¹⁹

Prosperity and planet: we must address interconnections for synergy and co-benefits

Agenda 2030 emphasises ‘sustained’ growth, but there is little sign that perpetual growth can be environmentally sustainable.²⁰ Nor have patterns of growth necessarily contributed to meeting the needs and human rights of all. Wealth concentration, widening economic and power inequalities and displacement of the most marginalised from land and livelihoods have frequently been features of growth that lead to vulnerable people being trapped in poverty and bearing the brunt of undesirable environmental impacts.²¹ These and other contradictions are not adequately addressed in the Agenda.

The world faces a triple emergency of poverty, climate and nature, driven by an economic system that places profit before the planet and encourages high levels of unsustainable consumption by a privileged few. A new paradigm is needed, which measures prosperity not by GDP, but in terms of resilient and inclusive societies, sustainable economies and an environment that can survive the current period. The link between ecological boundaries and economic systems discussed in the Global Sustainable Development Report should guide our thinking towards approaches that contribute to synergies and co-benefits across these areas.²²

While national circumstances may necessitate some further growth, a shift to a different approach to economic development is needed – one that is more focused on redistribution, addressing inequalities and meeting real needs.²⁴

Christian Aid has highlighted a role for ‘good’ investment, which builds resilience and supports diversification, reduces inequalities (for example, by creating decent jobs for people who most need them), is environmentally sustainable, transparent and accountable.²⁵ We have also called for a more proactive role for states, especially to support gender justice in macroeconomic policy. Progressive taxation and fiscal policies (such as investment in physical and social infrastructure and public services) are the key to redistribute women and girls’ responsibility for unpaid care, raise living and health standards, and guarantee opportunities for decent work (including in times of slow economic growth), which will benefit society as a whole.²⁶

Community- and nature-based solutions for climate resilience

Climate change vulnerability is very high in geographically remote and fragile areas, such as small island archipelagos, where natural resources are limited, and people are economically isolated, very dependent on ecosystem services, and face uncertainty due to extreme weather and risks, such as landslides and earthquakes. In these contexts, extraction of minerals and other natural resources increase vulnerability.

Christian Aid’s partners in the Philippines promote resilience among small island communities. They have highlighted the importance of equitable, decentralised community and nature-based solutions, such as restoration of forest and marine ecosystems, which can have multiple benefits; decentralised technologies such as local weather stations and renewable energy; and agrarian reform to free up land for ‘safe zones’ where shelters, food storage and other community facilities can be built. Most importantly, building social capital through community organising has been key to disaster preparedness and resilience.²³

Wealthier countries must pull their weight in domestic action on climate change and in their contributions to international action towards the achievement of SDG 13, the Paris Agreement and its Gender Action Plan. They also need to take the lead on reaching targets for sustainable consumption and production (8.4), improving waste management (12.4) and reducing pollution (3.9), and manage this internally without passing on the waste, costs and impacts to the global South.²⁷

At the intergovernmental level, much more needs to be done to hold businesses accountable for environmental and social impacts, and ensure appropriate remedies for rights violations.²⁸ Marginalised individuals and groups need to be an integral part of accountability frameworks because they are usually unable to access proper and effective remedies.²⁹ It is essential that national policies, including the regulation of the private sector, are coherent with building resilience and addressing environmental threats.

The need for integrated solutions is clear. As we approach the 2020 deadline for achieving many of the environmental targets, we must work together to better address the interdependencies and to support benefits for people, the planet, prosperity and peace.

Partnership: must be inclusive and accountable to citizens

Accountability to citizens is a central principle that must be upheld in any partnerships formed by governments for delivering the SDGs. Partnerships between governments and civil society can be very beneficial, supporting both accountability and effectiveness, particularly where these involve human rights groups or marginalised citizens.

Faith-based organisations as development partners

Most of the world's people identify as members of a faith group, yet faith-based organisations are often overlooked by governments as potential development partners.

As moral authorities, progressive faith actors can play an important role in social change, for example, to challenge stigma, discrimination and harmful traditional practices. Often strongly rooted in very marginalised communities, they can ensure local priorities are understood and acted upon, and be 'first responders' when conflicts and disasters strike.

In Latin America, Christian Aid and its partner Centro Regional EcuMénico de Asesoría y Servicio (CREAS), in collaboration with the ACT Alliance regional forum, are supporting training for faith leaders in how the 2030 Agenda can be an instrument for advocacy,

bringing people together and challenging power structures to tackle intersecting inequalities. CREAS also promotes ethical underpinnings to economies and alternative models of development.

Also in the region, organisations, such as Centro de Estudios y Documentación Latinoamericanos (CEDLA) in Bolivia, the National Council of Churches in Brazil, and Centro Montalvo in the Dominican Republic, are working to strengthen feminist theologians to counter regressive thinking on women's rights.

Side by Side, the global faith movement for gender justice, is particularly strong in Africa; and in Asia, the Asia-Pacific Faith-based Coalition is engaging in regional development discourses to promote sustainable development and particularly disaster resilience.³⁰

Unfortunately, civil society engagement in planning, monitoring and review is often less than optimal. This is a missed opportunity. CSOs have much to offer in areas that are difficult for government programmes to address, such as challenging discrimination, preventing harmful traditional practices, building peace and working with hard-to-reach communities, and they can contribute to delivering human rights for all.

Peace: human rights and participation are prerequisites

Agenda 2030 identifies peace as an essential prerequisite for sustainable development. SDG 16 targets for peaceful and inclusive societies are widely seen as essential to achieving other goals.³¹ The interconnectedness with human rights was acknowledged by the UN in 2015.³² The World Bank has highlighted how principles of LNOB, participation and partnership should guide efforts towards peacebuilding processes rooted in local communities.³³

Christian Aid's experience has shown that an explicit focus on peacebuilding is essential. To reduce violence, development interventions must mitigate against harm, be held accountable for causing any harm, uphold human rights, and target excluded groups.³⁴

Governments and their development partners must support CSOs and develop mechanisms for their participation in peacebuilding and delivery of the SDGs more broadly, for example, to hold institutions accountable for delivery of services. Without these, injustices may simmer and turn into violence.

Women, participation and peace

Women are frequently marginalised in peacebuilding. Their participation has been promoted under UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000), but discrimination, patriarchy and gender-based violence often exclude women (particularly women from marginalised communities) from meaningful participation in peacebuilding and broader development initiatives.

Christian Aid's partners were instrumental in pressing for women's participation in the Colombia peace process, which helped further other gains in women's rights.³⁵

In South Sudan, our work has highlighted that local-level peacebuilding is as necessary as it is at other levels.

Even if peace is broken every day by many actors, women and men play many roles in sustaining peace. These include enabling dialogue and building trust across ethnic or political divides; faith leaders seeking reconciliation and peaceful coexistence; and young people demanding a more inclusive future.

In South Sudan, the inclusion of women in peace processes was found to increase the duration of ceasefires and the chances of sustained peace.³⁶

The end of conflict is a transformative moment when the most vulnerable should have an opportunity to assert their rights and needs. Approaches to economic reconstruction should focus on the aspirations and means of livelihood of people living in poverty and depending on informal jobs, rather than just rebuilding formal economies.

Our work has highlighted how, in protracted conflicts, vulnerable people often depend on illicit economies, such as cultivation of drugs, for survival.³⁷ It is important that they are not marginalised, criminalised or left behind in peacebuilding efforts, but rather, that ways are found to integrate development and law enforcement policy so that they are complementary rather than antagonistic.

Wealthier countries and intergovernmental bodies can support peacebuilding by providing more funding to strengthen justice institutions and support access to justice and protection of human rights defenders, and prioritise this over spending on defence and militarisation. They should also provide a gender lens to conflict responsiveness and resist profiting from the arms trade.³⁸

Keeping the SDGs on track: how the principles and commitments can guide HLPF reform

‘The SDGs must transform our world by delivering rights, justice, equity, sustainability and peace’

The SDGs must transform our world by delivering rights, justice, equity, sustainability and peace. The review of the HLPF is an opportunity to ensure this happens. We outline how the following priorities could be supported by a reformed HLPF.

Human rights and accountability to citizens

Agenda 2030 must progress human rights for all. Measures needed include:

- An assessment of progress on delivering human rights and other international commitments should be incorporated into follow-up and review, through more comprehensive Voluntary National Reviews or other mechanisms.
- More meaningful and institutionalised participation of CSOs and citizens' groups, particularly women's rights groups, through stronger civil society engagement mechanisms, at all levels, with stronger voice and representation for human rights organisations representing marginalised individuals and groups, especially women and girls.
- Greater transparency and accountability of partnerships with the private sector. These should be open to scrutiny by civil society, and in line with the UN's Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and the UN's Gender Guidance for the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

Financing and Global Partnership based on CBDR

The financing of Agenda 2030 must be transparent, accountable to citizens and sustainable. A reformed HLPF could support this through:

- A much stronger focus on SDG 17 and contributions of wealthier nations. For example, to assess the quality and impact of official development assistance and other means of implementation on peace, human rights, gender equality and LNOB.
- Promoting reform of international financial institutions so that global economic governance becomes more inclusive and prioritises sustainable development and human rights objectives.
- Ensure that follow-up is joined up with the conclusions of the annual Financing for Development Forum and the AAAA in terms of international tax co-operation, improved debt mechanisms, and better standards for all types of financial flows including private sector flows.

Gender equality and leave no one behind

More commitment to gender equality and greater voice and visibility of women, girls and other groups who are at greater risk of being left behind are needed in follow up and review. A reformed HLPF could support this by:

- Strengthening guidance for Voluntary National Review, ensuring countries better assess progress from gender equality and LNOB perspective, with appropriate gender analysis and indicators monitored in a transparent, inclusive and democratic way.
- Requiring wealthier nations to ensure they assess their actions and policy coherence with LNOB and human rights (including women's rights), both domestically and extraterritorially.
- Supporting countries to improve the quality of monitoring data through disaggregation by sex and all other characteristics relevant in a national context, to ensure a focus on gender equality and the most marginalised groups.

Interconnectedness and indivisibility

Follow up and review must ensure greater consideration of challenges in delivering the Agenda. A reformed HLPF could support this by:

- Facilitating more international cooperation to address trade-offs, contradictions and cross-border issues.
- Progressing urgent action on inequality and the triple emergencies of poverty, natural destruction and climate change recognising the interconnections
- Ensuring more comprehensive and in-depth Voluntary National Review processes.

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