

GENDER EQUALITY AS A DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGE AND A DEAR PRIORITY

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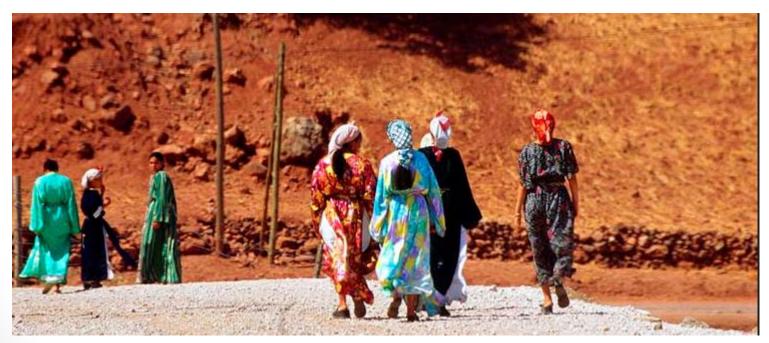
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Some initial ideas:

- Progress on women's rights is progress on human rights
- Societies that give women an equal chance are more peaceful and prosperous.







International Agenda:

The DEAR should not ignore gender equality as a problem to be solved by a global society.

The international agenda is placing gender equality at the forefront.











Progress towards achieving gender equality

 All developing regions have or have almost achieved gender parity in primary education

But: gender disparity widens at the secondary and tertiary school levels (70 girls per 100 boys in Sub-Saharan Africa)

45% fewer maternal deaths worldwide than in 1990

But: 800 women still die every day from preventable pregnancy-related causes (99% occur in developing countries)

 The average proportion of women in parliament has nearly doubled over the past 20 years.

But: still only one in five members is female.





Challenges to face

- Women typically experience higher levels of poverty than men do.
- Violations of women's rights occur on a daily basis.
- 1 in 3 women still experience physical or sexual violence mostly by an intimate partner.
- Rape is used as a weapon of war.
- Women and girls are being trafficked, enslaved and even sold as merchandise
- Harmful practices such as Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) continue to exist.





Challenges to face

- Women still do not earn the same wages as men and do not have the same access to, or control over, productive resources such as land (globally women earn 24% less than men)
- Social norms lock girls and women into unequal power relations.
- Discriminatory laws, practices or norms often limit girls' and women's social, economic and political participation.







Conclusions:

 The assessments revealed important gains in some areas. But advances were unacceptably slow and uneven among regions and within countries.

No country has achieved gender equality.

- There has been a critical gap between those who draw up the commitments and those who carry them out.
- Lets close this gap and challenge this problematic with our action in DEAR





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