Gender Accountability in 2030 Agenda: Expectations and Opportunities at Global Level for Nigeria

By

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Introduction

Thirteen months after the implementation clock began ticking for the realisation of 2030 Agenda, governments are held accountable on goals addressing key gender equality issues not to leave any woman or girl behind. From

- women’s sexual and reproductive health,
- violence against women,
- harmful practices,
- unpaid care work gender pay gap,
- low number of women in decision making,
- women access to water and sanitation
- safe transport,

Gender equality and the human rights of women and girls must be recognized as a cross-cutting issue critical for the success of the 2030 agenda.

Women and girls comprise the majority of people living in poverty, experience persistent and multidimensional inequalities, and bear a disproportionate burden of the impacts of financial and environmental crises, natural disasters and climate change.
Nigerian since SDGs Adoption

Government Activities

- The following have been visible efforts by the government of Nigeria on the SDGs to kick-start the process to 2030.
- The transition from MDGs to SDGs with collaboration with the UN Millennium office.
- Establishment of an office of an SDG office with appointment of a woman to head it as Special Adviser to the President on SDGs (OSSAP), to relate with the 36 states, develop action plan and raising funds for the SDGs.
- Appointments of Special advisers to state governors.
- Formation of a house of assembly committee on SDGs at national parliament.
- Inclusion of SDG in 2017 National budget (though a little percentage)
- Launch of 20 member multi-stakeholders ‘Advisory Group Initiative’ for partnership to achieve the SDGs by the office of the vice president on February 28, 2017.

CSO’s Engagements

Before the adoption of the SDGs, CSOs began sensitisation from national to local levels with governments, private sector and communities.

- Establishments of networks and coalitions on SDGs with objectives of working with government institutions, monitoring implementation, assessing impact and reporting.
- Creation of Steering committees on civil societies in Nigeria to monitor SDGs.
- Ensuring the integration the SDGs into national development plans and visions of the country.
- Ensuring SDGs are included in the state and national budgets.
- Monitoring the implementation of the SDGs from local to national.
- Assessing the impact of the implementation for accountability.
- WMG members started a ‘Women 2030 Coalition’ with 11 women groups (for both WMG members and non members) coordinated by WEP.
- Women 2030 started engagements with MDA’s such as gender ministry, health, education, at national/state, private sector on the proposed adoption with focus on gender equality issues in the 17 goals.
Activities of Women2030

National Level

- ‘Women 2030’ made up of 11 women organisations was founded to mobilize grassroots women in Nigeria to monitor and assess the SDG implementation on gender equality for accountability from Local, national, regional and to global levels.
- Women 2030 is coordinated by WEP and made up of WMG members/none members in Nigeria to engagement with government, ministries and private sectors, monitor implementation, assess the impact from grassroots and for accountability.
- Membership is drawn evenly from the 6 geopolitical zones in Nigeria: North East, North West, North Central, South South, South East and South West. Echoes of Women in Africa coordinates the south West with 6 states including Lagos.
- Grassroots women are being mobilised, sensitized and trained to assess the impact of the implementation of gender equality issues.
- Capacity building for members to monitor implementation and assessments on governments commitment (Two members were sent to Marrakesh during the COP for a TOT)
- A national training for 30 grassroots from the six geopolitical zones is slated for March 8, to mark the international women’s day to do an assessment of goals 5, 6, 7, 13 and 14 from grassroots to state and national.
- Pre 2017 VNR Trainings on Shadow reporting in preparation HLPF

Regional/Global Levels

- Regionally Women 2030 is planning collaboration with 20 countries in Africa to replicate and encourage grassroots women to track the implementation and hold their governments accountable on 2030 Agenda.
- ‘Women 2030’ is in partnership with regional organisations such as Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Women Law and Development, Global Forest Coalition(GFC), Gender Water Alliance and Women in Europe for Common Future(WECF).
- Global Processes
- Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)
  Collaboration with the ministry of gender at 2017 CSW in NY, to address following themes at global levels.
  ‘Enhancing Nigeria’s participation in politics, peace and security’, Accelerating the eradication of gender based violence with particular emphasis on elimination of FGM in line with SDG goal 3. ‘Social investment interventions in Nigeria. Boosting women’s empowerment in a changing economy.’

High Level Political Forum (HLPF)
Women 2030 will be participating at the 2017 HLPF with Nigeria joining the 2017 VNR. 2016,

UPR, CEDAW
Women 2030 in collaboration with national coalitions will be engaging using the UPR, CEDAW and other accountability mechanisms on 2030 Agenda on gender equality in international treaties and human rights from Nigerian government.
HLPF and Nigeria Reporting

Goal 5, Focus of Nigeria

As preparations are underway for the 2017 round of VNRs on goals 1, 2, 3, 5, 9, 14 Nigeria has volunteered to present report with focus on SDGs5 with nine targets. Nigeria will be addressing issues on:

- structural causes of gender inequality
- violence against women
- women and girls unpaid care work,
- women limited control over assets and properties including land,
- women and girls unhindered access to sexual reproductive health
- unequal participation in private and public decision making

Expectations and Opportunities

- Accountability makes duty bearers (governments and others) answerable to how their decisions and actions, or lack thereof, affect the citizens. HLPF provides an opportunity to identify gaps in Nigeria’s implementation of 2030 Agenda.
- Nigeria government will be answerable to women and girls on sustained development.
- It is expected to hasten progress on implementation of goal 5 unlike goal 3 in the MDGs by the government.
- Opportunity for grassroots women voices to be heard from Nigeria at global levels. It provides room for information sharing on gender issues.
- Support from global community on issues gender equality in Nigeria.
- Harmonisation of reports with data to measure indicators.
- Support to move Women 2030 forward.
Challenges/ Recommendations

- Governments selection of issues like the gender equality bill not accented by the senate, (the President of Nigeria relegating women to belonging to the bedroom and kitchen) because they issues are contentious or not relevant to national context.

- Statistics to monitor implementation of gender equality commitments although in Nigeria, WMG members have engaged national bureau of statistics by inviting them to participate in more gender responsive data collection and reporting.

- International organisations are yet to collaborate with Women 2030 but partnering with other national coalitions who are not working strictly on gender issues. Women 2030 needs maximum support to sustain its activities as major international organisations are working broadly on the SDGs without specific focus on gender equality issues in the 17 goals.

- Funding of women groups to bring the voices of grassroots women to the global level. Given the voluntary nature of follow-up and review, the responsibility largely fall on civil society, including women’s rights advocates and organizations, to demand these spaces and processes for accountability.

- To ensure success of women group engagement, the national and regional plans of action as well as global resources for the 2030 Agenda must be committed, must be sufficient and to have dedicated resources to achieve gender equality, including resources for women’s and feminist organizations.

- Effectively influence and participate in spaces where decisions are made on gender equality at local to global levels.

- Production of accurate data: UN Women’s Flagship Programme on ‘Every Woman and Girl Count’ is on Gender statistics to address inter related challenges at national levels that limit production of gender statistics and lack of access and limited capacity.

- National priorities should be set at target level.

- Goal 5 on gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls must be included in national review reports, ratifying the commitment of fulfilling women and girls’ human rights.

- Collaboration from international organisations, UN Women, GCAP, CIVICUS to push Women 2030 Agenda.

  - Statistical capacity of many developing countries and developing countries like Nigeria needs to be expanded significantly and all countries need to be supported not to be left behind.
About Echoes of Women in Africa

Profile

Echoes of Women in Africa Initiatives (ECOWA) is a Nigerian non-profit, non-governmental, women human rights organization promoting peace security for African Women and Girls. ECOWA engages stakeholders in monitoring compliance with international, regional and national policies on the protection of women and girl’s rights in conflict. The organization was founded in 2010 and formerly registered in May 2011 with the Nigerian Corporate Affairs Commission (RC 44955).

Mission is to work non violently for peace, security of women for practical solutions to development. ECOWA also informs, mobilise, organise and engage stakeholders on issues of violence against women and girls in the home and community and working to:

- Ensure the protection of female victims/ survivors in conflict situations.
- Conflict Prevention and Conflict Resolution/ Reconciliation
- Provide practical support to victims/survivors of conflict.

Focus Areas


Echoes of Women in Africa is a member of WMG, FEMNET, Women Thrive, Group of Six (G6) and Women2030.