



UN Human Rights Council 36th Session
Oral Statement on Annual Discussion on Integration of a Gender Perspective
15 September 2017

Thank you, Mr. President.

This statement is delivered by Terre des Hommes International Federation, in collaboration with Defence for Children International, Plan International, ECPAT International and Global March, who are working together in the Girls Advocacy Alliance to affect policy change for girls' rights and gender equality.

We welcome the work carried out by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on integrating a gender perspective in the Universal Periodic Review for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Human rights are at the core of the 2030 Agenda. The UPR in particular is key to track progress of States not only in implementing Goal 5, but also in promoting gender equality as a cross-cutting issue.

However, progress must be made in order to adequately mainstream gender in the UPR; evidence¹ indicates that gender-related recommendations are the least specific. What's more, nearly all UPR recommendations that mention girls group them together with either women or all children, neglecting the age-and gender-specific barriers girls face.

We would therefore recommend States, within the context of the UPR, to:

1. Refrain from using gender-neutral language;
2. Ensure that a gender perspective addresses root causes of discrimination against women and girls, including unequal power relations. In this sense, recognise that men and boys are key actors in shifting the dominant social norms and attitudes about gender;
3. Differentiate girls' from women's human rights, particularly taking into account the age-related structural barriers that girls face in accessing their human rights;
4. Emphasize the main gaps in implementation of Goal 5 identified by the High-Level Political Forum, notably:

¹ Summary : Annual discussion on the integration of a gender perspective throughout the work of the Human Rights Council and that of its mechanisms. 33rd session of the Human Rights Council. September 2015.

- The need for more comprehensive data on national legal frameworks on equality and non-discrimination based on sex;
- The need to remove barriers that limit the access of women and girls to sexual and reproductive health;
- High rates of child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation.

Thank you.