**2023 SDG 5 Partners position paper-annual multi-stakeholders conference.** ”

**At mid-point, the nexus between Financing for Gender Equality, GEF commitments and accelerating full implementation of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.**

# Brief background on SDG 5-Gender Equality, GEF Commitments and Gender responsive budgeting (half-page max)

Kenya is committed to international and regional instruments on gender equality and empowerment of women and girls. These include the Convention on Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Sustainable Development Goals 2030, the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD Cairo), the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD), and its gender component the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality, the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People’s Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa. Kenya in fulfilment of its International and Regional obligations has successfully submitted reports to the monitoring bodies established to monitor progress including submitting itself to the evaluation under the United Nations Economic Commission (UNECA) under its framework, the African Gender Development Index (AGDI). The AGDI provides tools for both quantitative and qualitative measure of progress made at country level. Kenya has also submitted two (2) voluntary reports to the SDGs.

The year 2023 marked the midpoint for implementation of both the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development (SDGs) and the Generation equality Forum (GEF) commitments globally. With less than seven years remaining until the 2030 target, the world is not on track to achieve SDGs. This is due to insurmountable and interconnected multiple crisis -lingering effects of post COVID 19 pandemic, conflict, war and instability, inflation and rise in cost of living, climate change and reduced fiscal space- challenges. According to the 2023 Sustainable Development Goals Progress Report Special Edition, progress on about 50% of the SDG targets is weak and insufficient, with almost a third having stalled or gone into reverse. Inequality gaps continue to increase, with the number of people facing hunger and food shortages rising to 2005 levels, gender inequalities persisting as well as rising gas emissions.

The Generation Equality Forum generated USD 40 billion in financial commitments as well as multiple policy and programme commitments. The Forum’s ambitious action agenda will be driven by multi-stakeholder Action Coalitions. With Kenya as a co-leader in the Action Coalition on Gender Based Violence, **H.E. President Uhuru Kenyatta made 12 concrete Commitments** at the Generation Equality Forum aimed at increasing the momentum to ending all forms of Gender Based Violence (GBV) and Female Genital Mutilation 3 (FGM) in Kenya by 2026. A five-year road map (2021-2026) was developed through a consultative process with State and non-State actors in the gender space. In the same spirit, **H.E. President Dr. William Ruto recommitted to take forward the government's commitment** to ensure it meets all its international obligations, a resolution which was adopted by the Cabinet as the new administration’s transformative legislative and policy frameworks on the gender agenda.

# 2. Progress towards Achieving SDG 5 and GEF commitments targets & Indicators (1 page max)

Globally, with only seven years remaining, a mere 15.4 percent of Goal 5 indicators with data are “on track”, 61.5 per cent are at a moderate distance and 23.1 percent are far or very far off track from 2030 targets. In many areas, **progress has been too slow**.

* Progress has been sluggish on upping women’s share in management and political representation

#### Nearly half of married women lack decision-making power over their sexual and reproductive health and rights

#### Insufficient progress has been made in reducing intimate partner violence over the past two Discriminatory laws and gaps in legal protection persist in critical aspects, denying women their human rights worldwide

#### Recent gains are under threat in efforts to end child marriage

**At the current rate**, it will take an estimated 300 years to end child marriage, 286 years to close gaps in legal protection and remove discriminatory laws, 140 years for women to be represented equally in positions of power and leadership in the workplace, and 47 years to achieve equal representation in national parliaments. Political leadership, investments and comprehensive policy reforms are needed to dismantle systemic barriers to achieving Goal 5. Gender equality is a cross-cutting objective and must be a key focus of national policies, budgets and institutions.

**Kenya’s midpoint repor**t presented at the 78th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in September 2023 in New York indicated that although Kenya has made significant strides towards increasing equality, stakeholders still need to commit more resources and actions if we are to end GBV and other harmful practices by 2026. Highlights of some of the current government’s achievements towards the realization of Kenya’s commitments include: A double budgetary allocation to the FGM Fund; establishment of the Women Enterprise Fund and an increase to the National Government Affirmative Action Fund.

The achievements that Kenya has made toward meeting its commitments are as follows:

* **Financing:** The government has increased budgetary allocation to support anti-GBV initiatives and the eradication of FGM. The government has, over the years, leveraged on support from UN Women, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Government of Finland among other donors to advance this pillar.
* **Leadership & Accountability**: The government is fully implementing the women agenda in the National Development Plan through the Ministry of Public Service, Gender and Affirmative Action. The inclusion of the gender mainstreaming indicator in the performance contracts of public service aims to ensure accountability of duty bearers in the fight against GBV and FGM.
* **Laws and Policies:** The review of the National Policy on Prevention and Response to Gender-Based Violence (2014) is about to be finalized. Government ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs) and County Governments have developed GBV policies. The government, through Parliament, is also looking to strengthen the existing GBV laws and policies.
* **Data & research**: During the period, the government generated adequate data for evidence-based decision-making. The 2022 Kenya Demographic Health Survey (KDHS) has enough modules on GBV, FGM and women empowerment with data distinguished by distinctive parameters. The national GBV prevalence reduced from 45% in 2014 to 34% in 2022 while FGM reduced from 21% to 15% in the same period. The government is in the process of fully operationalizing the GBV Information System.
* **Service Delivery:** The government is revamping the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) with a view to cover all citizens. GBV Recovery Centres (GBVRCs) have been established in Level V hospitals in the counties. The government has also established Policare centers and strengthened gender desks at police stations to improve GBV reporting.

# 3. Status of Budget allocations to SDG 5 and GEF commitments (1-page max)

The [national budget analysis study for 2022/2023](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1BRO_KyKTxwFWGiciyocH9iB-04i6lUI5/edit?usp=drive_link&ouid=115207344050237471584&rtpof=true&sd=true) established that county plans (Siaya,Nandi, Kisumu) are exhaustive and encompassing gender equality programmes and projects. **However, this is lost at the budgeting stage,** pointing to inconsistency in programming, at planning and budgeting levels. Further to this, the plans are ambitious in terms of the proposed programmes as well as adequacy in budgeting. At implementation stage, the Cost Performance Index (CPI) is way below one (1), an indication that gender programmes and projects receive less allocation than had been planned for. Additionally, the county budgets (as espoused in the Annual Development Plans) have no specifics (budget items), making it difficult to pinpoint what has been spent on gender-equality and women empowerment programmes and projects.

The [study analysis on county and national budgets (2023)](https://docs.google.com/document/u/0/d/1D5OEXSskHMI47DNOiqfUedFOkSUC-N1i/edit) on prevention and response to SGBV at the national level and the counties of Makueni, Kajiado, Narok, Kisumu, Busia and Kwale, found out that Budget allocation to gender specific programmes increased during the Kenya Kwanza regime as compared to the Jubilee 2017-2022 Jubilee administration. However, budget allocation to NGEC was reduced with the Kenya Kwanza regime. Sub nationally, the six selected counties had plans to address SGBV as harmful practice, and gender mainstreaming is prominent in the CIDPs, the number of GBV programmes increased significantly in CIDP III compared to CIDP II,

# 4. Emerging issues and Challenges

* Both national and county level governments are yet to adhere to key gender-responsive principles in the budget-making processes, including inadequate meaningful engagement and inclusion of persons with disabilities, the youth, and vulnerable women, in the budget-making process, developing specific gender indicators and targets, and aligning the budgets to key commitments and instruments on budgeting, including the Public Finance Management Act, 2012. Budgets for gender issues, including gender-based violence, are not just about resources for the gender department, they transcend key ministries and departments, including gender, education, entrepreneurship and public governance, development, health, and public works, among others.
* None of the counties demonstrated investments in exploring and strengthening GBV-data and evidence ecosystem, considering how critical it is in decision making. Achieving progress for girls and women is dependent on gender-sensitive, accurate data, disaggregated data, and relevant data to fuel advocacy, guide interventions, and hold governments accountable. In most cases, data is lacking or is not disaggregated to assess inequities and underserved and marginalized communities such as; persons living with disabilities, rural communities, etc. This challenge is a result of a lack of a robust national statistical system to collect data. When the data is available it is at times difficult for the public and civil society organizations to access. This makes it difficult to advocate for accountability. It is important to note that access to data increases citizen participation, improves governance, ensures fair allocation of resources, promotes accountability and helps in assessing the impacts of policies and programs.
* Noting with concern, from the published KDHS 2023 data, **the high rate of intimate partner violence in Keny**a, there is a need to understand the factors behind these statistics and work towards resolving them.
* Noting with concern **the issue of corruption** and its impact on access to justice and on ending GBV and other harmful practices, this topic is often overlooked, there is need to do analysis of GBV cases that are riddled with corruption.

# 5. What are the lessons learnt? What is working? What is not working? **Panelists to speak to this question**

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 6. Key recommended Interventions (1 pages max) for Policy, Planning & GR-Budgeting.

To effectively achieve the GEF commitments by 2026: recommendations should ensure sustainable investment in the SGBV and GBV sub-sectors, adequate coverage, and sustainably financed social protection systems at both the national and county levels. This will positively impact the lives of 16,926 women and girls SGBV survivors nationally (Kenya Demographic Health Survey 2022 Report).

**Our key recommendations are therefore as follows:**

1. The need to ensure **effective gender-responsive budgeting** and inclusivity of persons with disability, youth, and vulnerable women and girls in programmes planning, budgeting through to execution.
2. **Implement existing** Policies and the national and county levels geared towards gender mainstreaming and protection of women and children should be fully implemented. They are the primary tools for finally eliminating SGBV in all its forms in Kenya, which include budget allocation for SGBV.
3. **Coordinated approaches:** Noting that most counties do not have a supportive gender legal and policy implementation framework, there is need for a more coordinated and collaborative approach that brings together actors supporting counties, to develop/review gender policies and emend an implementation
4. **Establishment of stand-alone gender Directorates** & departments at the county: Frameworks and a national Act to actualize the policies, for proper anchoring of the Gender Directorates and department funding, as opposed to being hosted in other social sectors.
5. **Investments in improved data real time (MIS)**: Recognising that cases of GBV are still under-reported, there is a need to invest in the data system on GBV; focus on integrated services for survivors to offer comprehensive survivor-centered responses and relook at the structure for driving GEF for the remaining years of implementation.

**Concluding remarks (Panelists to speak to this)**

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