



Federal Government of Somalia
Ministry of women and human rights development



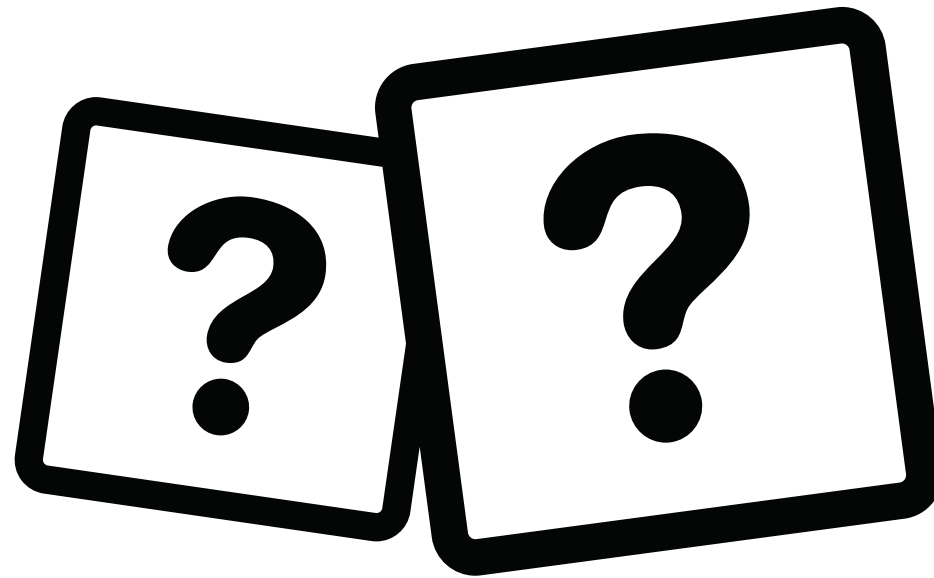
International and Regional Frameworks to Advance Gender Equality

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Regional Advisor for Gender Equality

Mogadishu, Somalia
January 24-25, 2023

<https://www.unescwa.org>
<https://www.unescwa.org/ar>





Gender equality only benefits women

Violence against women is a form of discrimination

Some countries have achieved gender equality



"Achieving gender equality and empowering women and girls is the unfinished business of our time, and the greatest human rights challenge in our world."

-UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres

PART I

Gender Equality and Human Rights



Gender Equality and Human Rights

- Gender equality is a fundamental human right.
- It fosters peace and it is essential to achieve peaceful societies.
- It allows everyone to reach their full human potential.
- Societies that empower women spur productivity and economic growth.
- It is fundamental for sustainable development.

How can we promote gender equality?

Gender equality will only be achieved when women and men enjoy the same opportunities, rights and obligations in all spheres of life.

End all forms of GBV

Equal access and opportunities to education

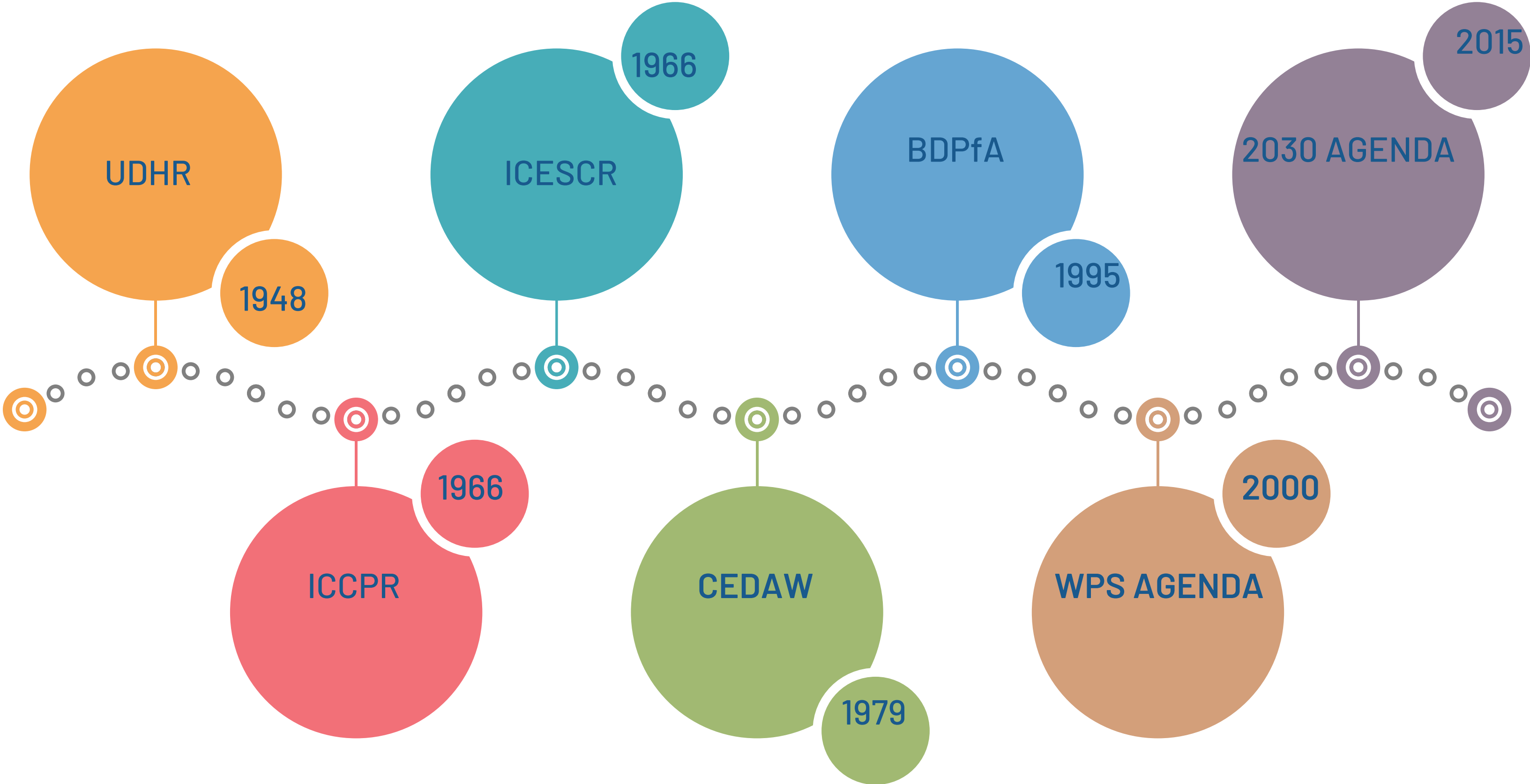
Access to health and reproductive health

Equal opportunities in the economy

Full and equal participation in politics and all decision-making processes



Evolution of International Frameworks

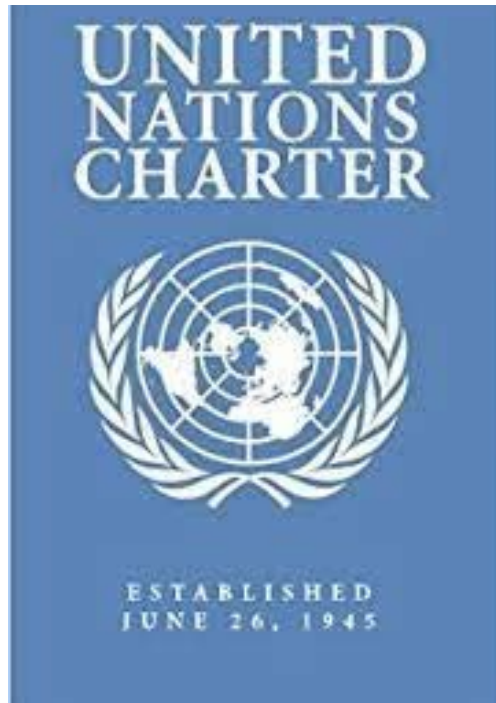


PART II

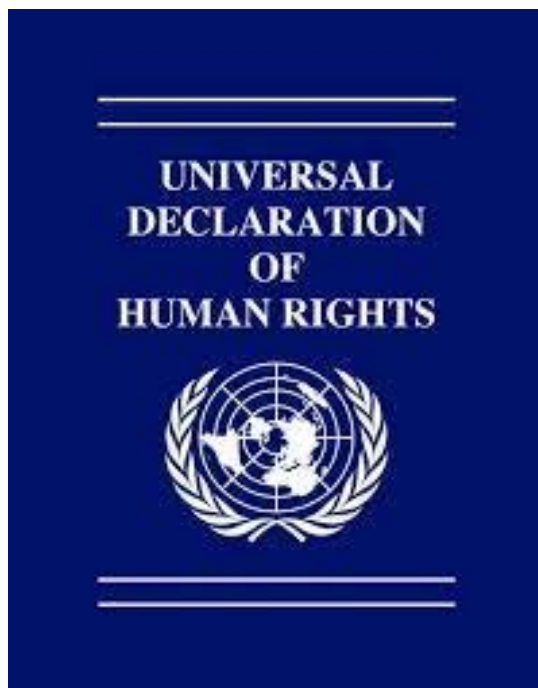
International Human Rights Law



The UN Charter and the UDHR

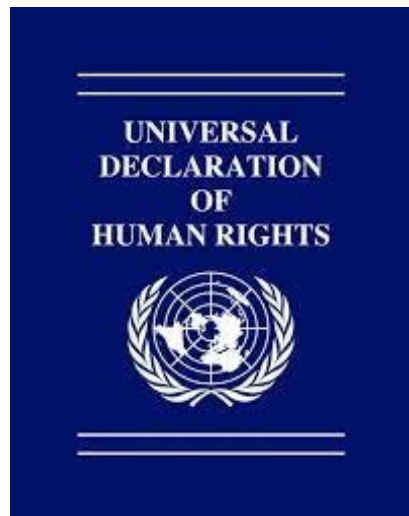


- The signing of the Charter of the United Nations (UN) on 26 June 1945 brought human rights within the sphere of international law.
- Article 1 of the Charter stipulates that one of the purposes of the UN is to promote respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms "without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion".



- Gender Equality was made part of international human rights law by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which was adopted by the UN General Assembly on 10 December 1948.
- The UDHR proclaimed the equal entitlements of women and men to the rights contained in it, "without distinction of any kind, such as ... sex."
- Spells out basic civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights that all human beings should enjoy.

International Bill of Human Rights



International Covenant on
Civil and Political Rights



International Covenant on
Economic Social and Cultural Rights

Right to life

Freedom from torture

Rights relating to family life

Equality before the law

Rights to citizenship

Right to work and membership in trade unions

Rights related to marriage

Rights related to maternity and child protection

Rights to health

Rights to adequate standard of living

Rights to education

Rights to culture

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

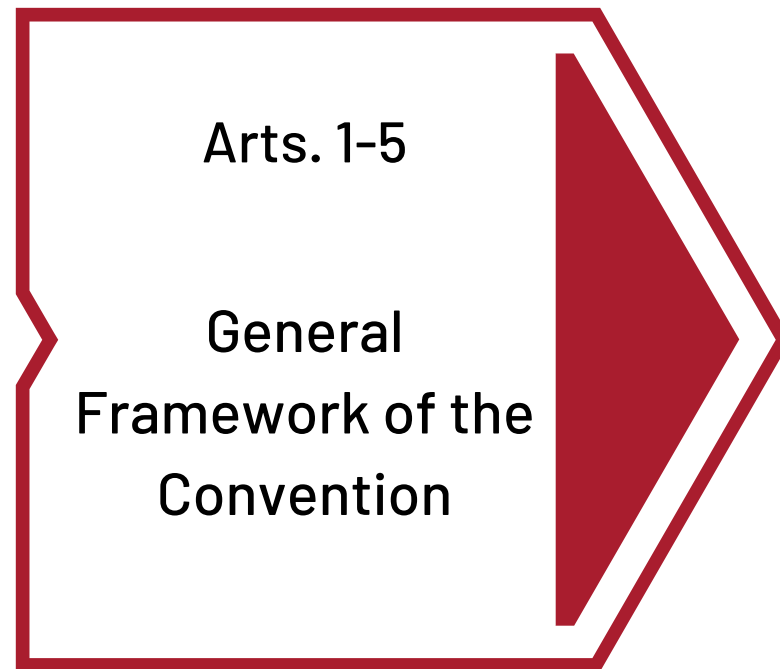
- Adopted in 1979 to address discrimination against women on the basis of sex.
- CEDAW sets out in more detail what is meant by sex discrimination from the perspective of equality between women and men.
- It is the first and only international treaty that comprehensively addresses women's rights, not only within civil and political spheres, but also within economic, social, cultural and family life.
- It calls on States to “abolish existing laws, customs, regulations and practices which are discriminatory against women, and to establish adequate legal protection for equal rights of men and women.”



Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

- It call on States Parties to Respect, Protect and Fulfil women's rights.
- States are legally obligated to undertake the following measures:
 1. Repeal all discriminatory laws and policies
 2. Enact anti-discrimination policies and provide effective mechanisms and remedies where women can seek redress for rights violations
 3. Promote equality through all appropriate means
 4. Report to the CEDAW Committee every four years on measures they have taken to comply with treaty obligations

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

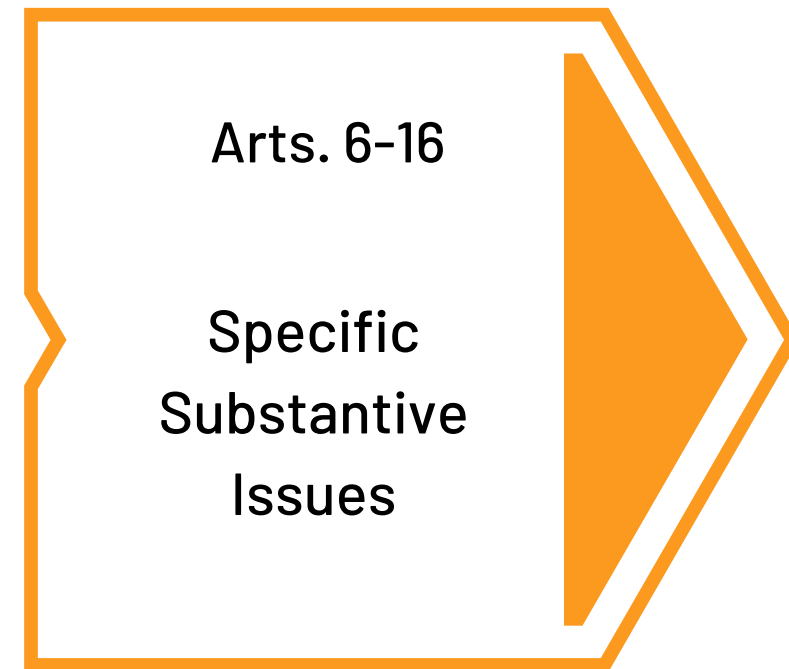


Definition of Discrimination

Policy measures

Equality

Temporary Special Measures



Trafficking

Nationality

Political Participation

Marriage and Family

Equality before the Law

Education

Employment

Health



CEDAW Committee reviews quarterly reports of State Parties.

Made up of 23 independent experts.

Issues concluding observations with recommendations.

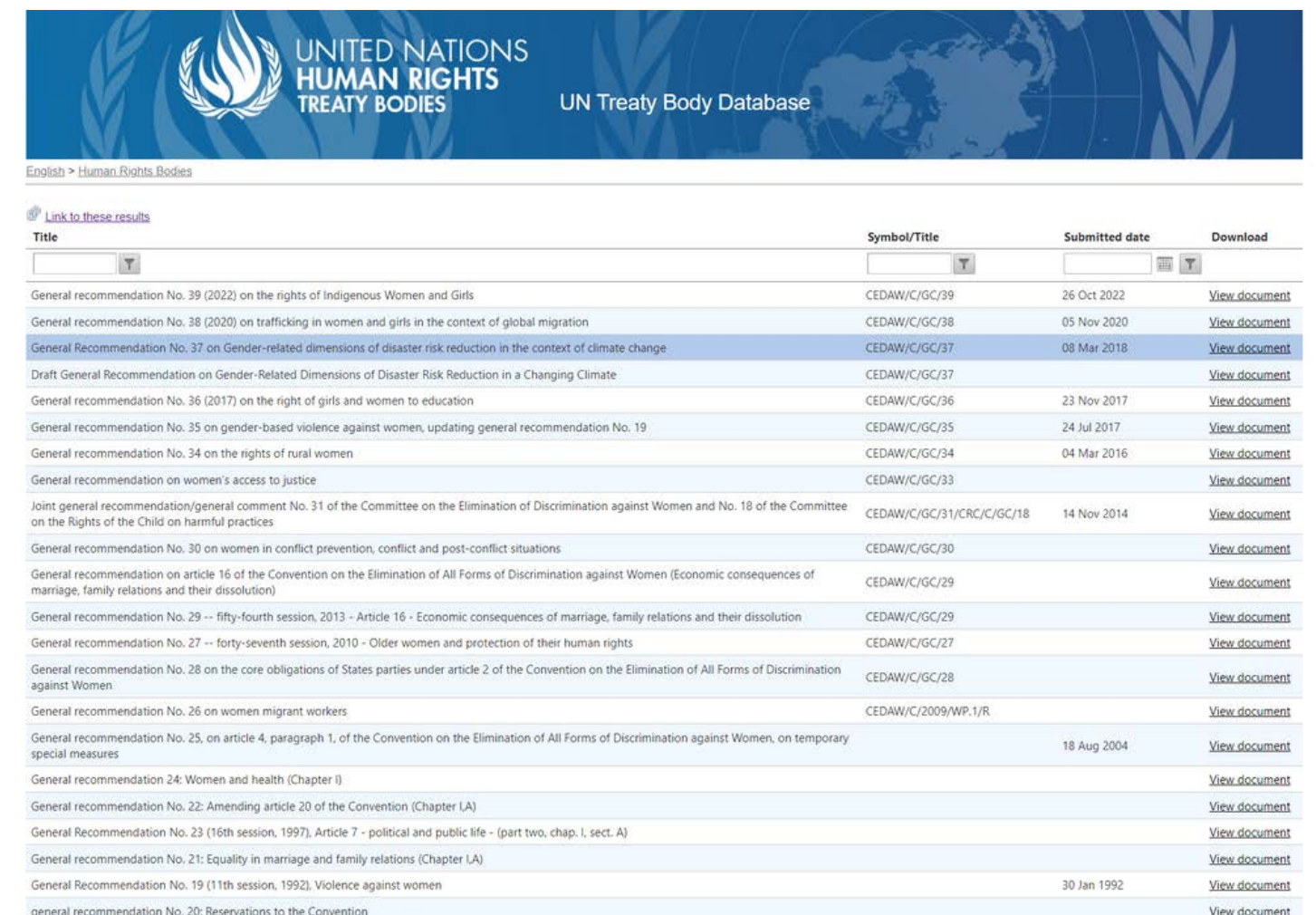


Reservations

Settling disputes over the interpretation of the Convention.

CEDAW General Recommendations

- The CEDAW Committee makes recommendations on issues affecting women to which it believes that States parties should devote more attention.
- As of December 2021, the Committee has adopted 38 general recommendations.
- GR 5/GR25: Temporary special measures (1988, 2004)
- GR 12/GR19/35: Violence against Women and GBV (1989, 1992, 2017)
- GR 21: Equality in marriage and family relations (1994)
- GR 24: Women and health (1999)
- GR 30: Women in conflict and conflict prevention (2013)
- GR 37: Women's and girls' education (2017)
- GR 14 : Female circumcision (1990)



The screenshot shows the UN Treaty Body Database interface. At the top, it features the United Nations Human Rights Treaty Bodies logo and the text 'UN Treaty Body Database'. Below this, there is a search bar and a table listing various general recommendations. The table has four columns: 'Title', 'Symbol/Title', 'Submitted date', and 'Download'. The table contains 20 rows of data, each representing a different general recommendation with its corresponding symbol, title, submission date, and a link to view the document.

| Title | Symbol/Title | Submitted date | Download |
|---|---------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------|
| General recommendation No. 39 (2022) on the rights of Indigenous Women and Girls | CEDAW/C/GC/39 | 26 Oct 2022 | View document |
| General recommendation No. 38 (2020) on trafficking in women and girls in the context of global migration | CEDAW/C/GC/38 | 05 Nov 2020 | View document |
| General Recommendation No. 37 on Gender-related dimensions of disaster risk reduction in the context of climate change | CEDAW/C/GC/37 | 08 Mar 2018 | View document |
| Draft General Recommendation on Gender-Related Dimensions of Disaster Risk Reduction in a Changing Climate | CEDAW/C/GC/37 | | View document |
| General recommendation No. 36 (2017) on the right of girls and women to education | CEDAW/C/GC/36 | 23 Nov 2017 | View document |
| General recommendation No. 35 on gender-based violence against women, updating general recommendation No. 19 | CEDAW/C/GC/35 | 24 Jul 2017 | View document |
| General recommendation No. 34 on the rights of rural women | CEDAW/C/GC/34 | 04 Mar 2016 | View document |
| General recommendation on women's access to justice | CEDAW/C/GC/33 | | View document |
| Joint general recommendation/general comment No. 31 of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and No. 18 of the Committee on the Rights of the Child on harmful practices | CEDAW/C/GC/31/CRC/C/GC/18 | 14 Nov 2014 | View document |
| General recommendation No. 30 on women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations | CEDAW/C/GC/30 | | View document |
| General recommendation on article 16 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Economic consequences of marriage, family relations and their dissolution) | CEDAW/C/GC/29 | | View document |
| General recommendation No. 29 -- fifty-fourth session, 2013 - Article 16 - Economic consequences of marriage, family relations and their dissolution | CEDAW/C/GC/29 | | View document |
| General recommendation No. 27 -- forty-seventh session, 2010 - Older women and protection of their human rights | CEDAW/C/GC/27 | | View document |
| General recommendation No. 28 on the core obligations of States parties under article 2 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women | CEDAW/C/GC/28 | | View document |
| General recommendation No. 26 on women migrant workers | CEDAW/C/2009/WP.1/R | | View document |
| General recommendation No. 25, on article 4, paragraph 1, of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, on temporary special measures | | 18 Aug 2004 | View document |
| General recommendation 24: Women and health (Chapter I) | | | View document |
| General recommendation No. 22: Amending article 20 of the Convention (Chapter I.A) | | | View document |
| General Recommendation No. 23 (16th session, 1997), Article 7 - political and public life - (part two, chap. I, sect. A) | | | View document |
| General recommendation No. 21: Equality in marriage and family relations (Chapter I.A) | | | View document |
| General Recommendation No. 19 (11th session, 1992), Violence against women | | 30 Jan 1992 | View document |
| general recommendation No. 20: Reservations to the Convention | | | View document |

Reservations to CEDAW

Some countries in the Arab region have placed reservations to the Convention:

- Article 2: relating to the core obligations of States parties under the Convention;
- Article 7: relating to public and political life.
- Article 9: relating to the transfer of nationality to children;
- Article 15: Equality before the law
- Article 16: relating to the equality of women and men in the context of the family and marriage.
- Article 29: On arbitration between States and recourse to the International Court of Justice.

Withdrawal of Reservations to CEDAW

- Algeria withdrew its reservation to article 9 (2) following the amendment of the Nationality Code in 2005, giving Algerian women the right to transfer their nationality to their children born to a foreign father.
- Morocco withdrew reservations to articles 9 and 16 in 2011.
- Kuwait withdrew reservations to article 7 in 2005 as it previously restricted voting rights to women.
- Tunisia is the only country to withdraw all reservations to CEDAW in 2014.

Additional International Conventions

Convention on the
Rights of the Child




**Convention on the Elimination
of all forms of Racial
Discrimination**

Valentina Della Fina · Rachele Cera
Giuseppe Palmisano *Editors*

**The United Nations
Convention on the
Rights of Persons
with Disabilities**

A Commentary

 Springer



Somalia: Status of Ratification to International Treaties

Ratification Status for Somalia

| Treaty | Signature Date | Ratification Date, Accession(a), Succession(d) Date |
|---|----------------|---|
| CAT - Convention against Torture and Other Cruel Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment | | 24 Jan 1990 (a) |
| CAT-OP - Optional Protocol of the Convention against Torture | | |
| CCPR - International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights | | 24 Jan 1990 (a) |
| CCPR-OP2-DP - Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights aiming to the abolition of the death penalty | | |
| CED - Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance | | |
| CED, Art.32 - Interstate communication procedure under the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance | | |
| CEDAW - Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women | | |
| CERD - International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination | 26 Jan 1967 | 26 Aug 1975 |
| CESCR - International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights | | 24 Jan 1990 (a) |
| CMW - International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families | | |
| CRC - Convention on the Rights of the Child | 09 May 2002 | 01 Oct 2015 |
| CRC-OP-AC - Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict | 16 Sep 2005 | |
| CRC-OP-SC - Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children child prostitution and child pornography | | |
| CRPD - Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities | 02 Oct 2018 | 06 Aug 2019 |

PART III

Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action



Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

- The United Nations has organized four world conferences on women. These took place in Mexico City in 1975, Copenhagen in 1980, Nairobi in 1985 and Beijing in 1995.
- The BDPfA was adopted in 1995 after the Fourth World Conference on Women.
- The Platform sets an agenda for governments, international organizations, civil society and the private sector to safeguard women's human rights and to ensure that gender is taken into account in all national, regional and international policies and programmes.
- It also lays out concrete ways for countries to bring about change through detailing strategic objectives and specific actions.

12 Critical Areas of the BDPfA

Women and the environment



Violence against women



The girl child



Women and the economy



Institutional mechanisms



Women and armed conflict



Human rights of women



Education and training of women



Women and poverty



Women in power and decision-making



Women and health



Women and the media



BDPfA:

Strategic Objectives

C Women and health - Inequalities and inadequacies in and unequal access to health care and related services

C.1. Increase women's access throughout the life cycle to appropriate, affordable and quality health care, information and related services

C.2. Strengthen preventive programmes that promote women's health

C.3. Undertake gender-sensitive initiatives that address sexually transmitted diseases, HIV/AIDS, and sexual and reproductive health issues

C.4. Promote research and disseminate information on women's health

C.5. Increase resources and monitor follow-up for women's health

D Violence against women

D.1. Take integrated measures to prevent and eliminate violence against women

D.2. Study the causes and consequences of violence against women and the effectiveness of preventive measures

D.3. Eliminate trafficking in women and assist victims of violence due to prostitution and trafficking

E Women and Armed Conflict - The effects of armed and other types of conflict on women, including those living under foreign occupation

E.1. Increase the participation of women in conflict resolution at decision-making levels and protect women living in situations of armed and other conflicts or under foreign occupation

E.2. Reduce excessive military expenditures and control the availability of armaments

E.3. Promote non-violent forms of conflict resolution and reduce the incidence of human rights abuse in conflict situations

E.4. Promote women's contribution to fostering a culture of peace

E.5. Provide protection, assistance and training to refugee women, other displaced women in need of international protection and internally displaced women

E.6. Provide assistance to the women of the colonies and non-self-governing territories

BDPfA Review Process

- The BDPfA is reviewed every five years where countries submit their national reports to the Committee on the Status of Women.
- The BDPfA has gone through five review cycles in 2000, 2005, 2010, 2015, and 2020. Upcoming preparations for Beijing +30 in 2025.
- ESCWA supports countries in the region to fulfil their commitments to the BDPfA.
- It is also mandated as a regional commission to support countries with developing their national reviews and consolidating a regional report every five years.

Six Priority Areas for the Arab Region (Arab Declaration on Implementation of BDPfA (2019))

1. Enhancing women's political participation in the Arab region.
2. Promoting the economic conditions of women and combating the phenomenon of the feminization of poverty for a comprehensive and sustainable development.
3. Providing social protection schemes that are responsive to the needs of women in all stages of their lives and facilitating access to them.
4. Combating all forms of violence and discriminatory practices against women.
5. Promoting the rights of the girl child.
6. Moving forward with the implementation of Women, Peace and Security Agenda.

PART IV

AGENDA 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals



Agenda 2030 and the 17 SDGs



Agenda 2030

Preamble and Declaration

- Clear and ambitious vision
 - Places people, land, prosperity, peace and partnership at its core
 - General slogan: "Towards a development that leaves no one behind"
-

Targets and Indicators

- 17 goals, 169 targets and 231 indicators
 - Integrated and interconnected
 - Balance between the dimensions of sustainable human development
 - Suitable for all countries
-

Follow-up and Review

- Voluntary and primarily Government's responsibility
 - Participate with all parties
 - High-level political forum annually for follow-up
-

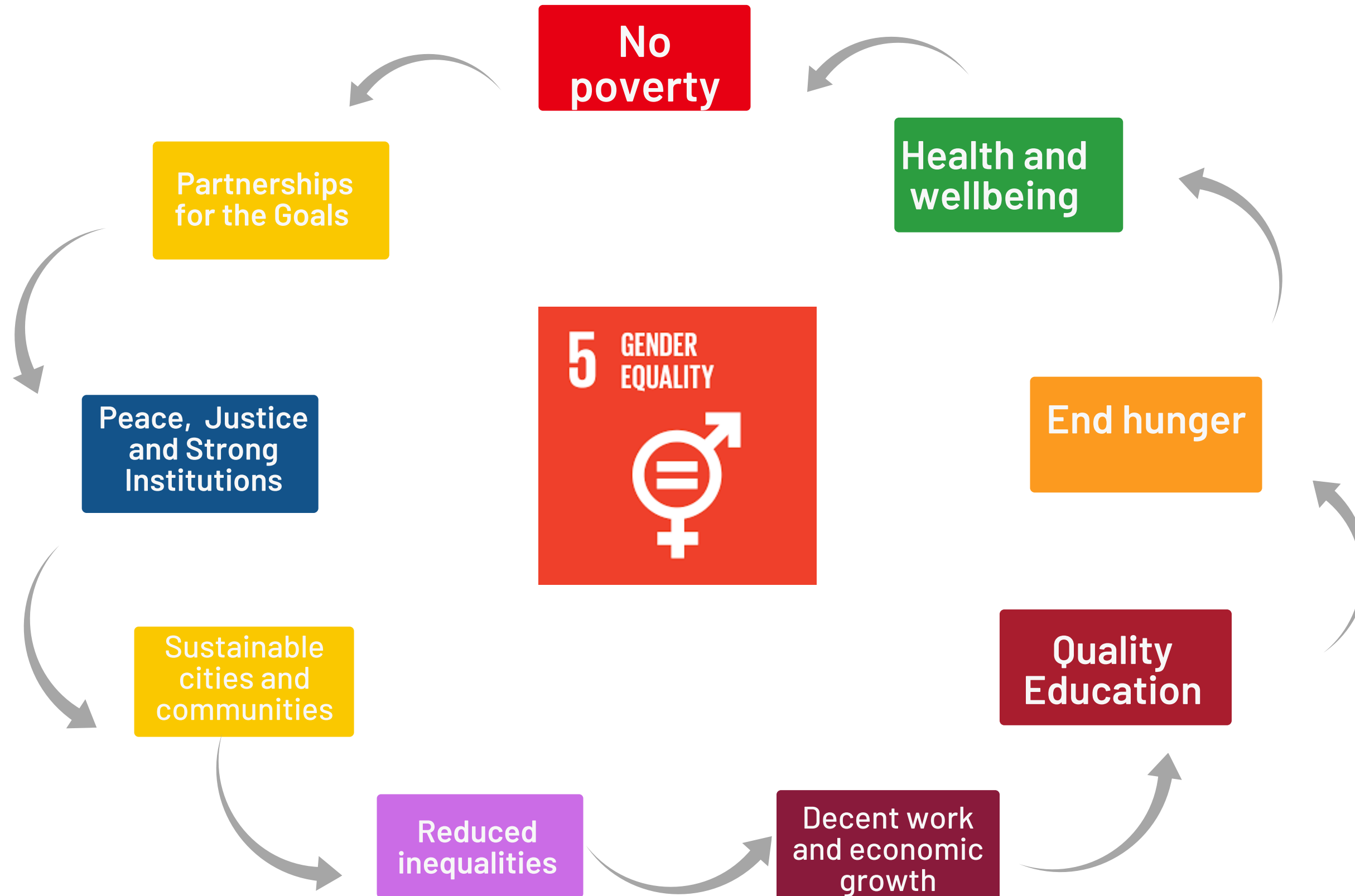
Means of Implementation

- Purposes within each objective
 - Ad hoc objective (goal 17)
 - A spirit of global solidarity with emphasis on ownership and national leadership
-

Agenda 2030 and Human Rights Law

- A strong link between Agenda 2030 and human rights as sustainable development goals are strongly based on human rights law.
- The overarching objective of the plan: To ensure that all persons enjoy their human rights fully without discrimination of any kind and to uphold the principle of "no one left behind."
- Sustainable development goals are achieved through a comprehensive and coherent human rights-based approach.

SDG 5 on Gender Equality





The UN has defined 9 Targets and 14 Indicators for SDG 5.

- 5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere
- 5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres.
- 5.3 Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation
- 5.4 Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate
- 5.5 Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life



The UN has defined 9 Targets and 14 Indicators for SDG 5.

5.6 Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights

5.a Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws

5.b Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women.

5.c Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels

Somalia SDG Dashboard



dashboards: ● SDG achieved ● Challenges remain ● Significant challenges remain ● Major challenges remain ● Information unavailable

trends: ▲ On track or maintaining SDG achievement ↗ Moderately improving → Stagnating ↓ Decreasing ● Trend information unavailable

dashboards.sdgindex.org/rankings

PART IV

The Women, Peace and Security Agenda

Axdiga Haweenka Soomaaliyeed
iyo Ajandaha Haweenka, Nabadda
iyo Amniga (HNA)

The Somali Women's Charter
and the Women, Peace and
Security Agenda

WHAT IS WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY?

WPS Agenda refers to a set of 10 UN Security Council resolutions related to the importance of gender equality to peace and security efforts.

United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325, passed in 2000, formally acknowledged the changing nature of warfare, including the disproportionate impact of war on women.

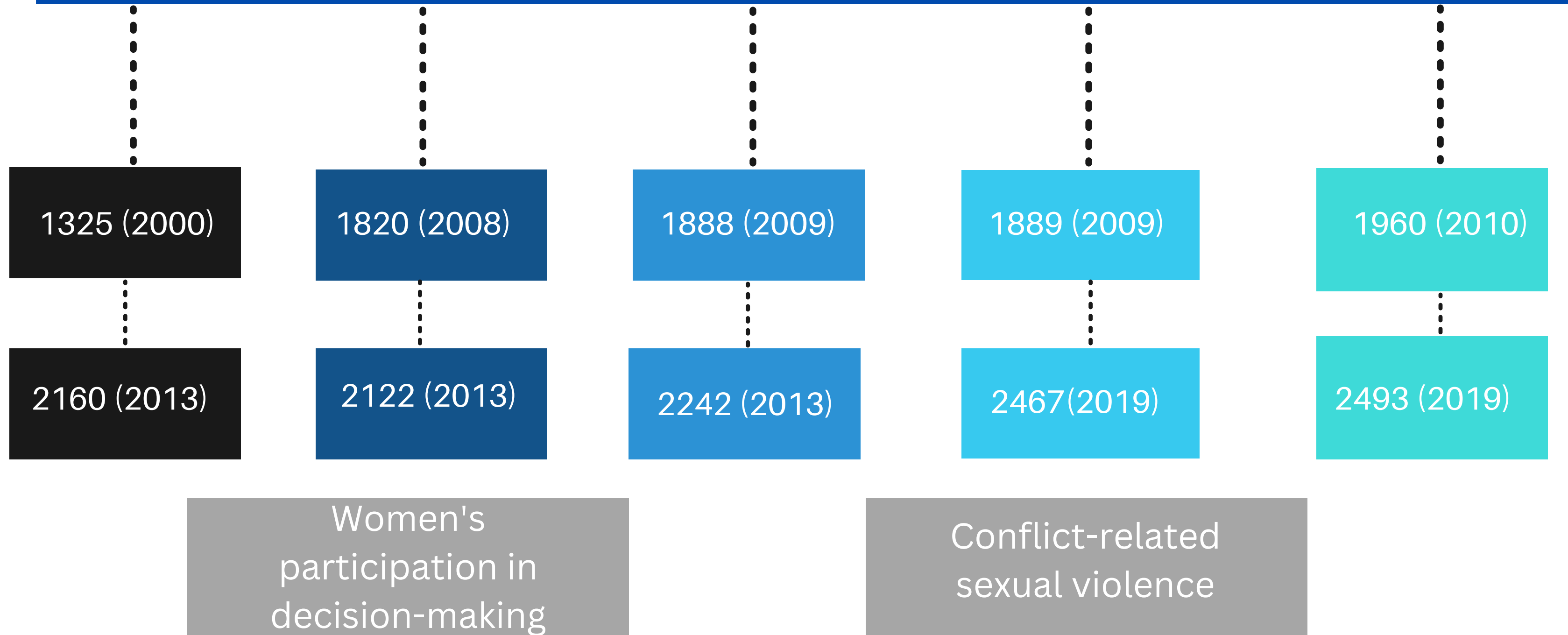
It also acknowledged women's rights to participate in all aspects of conflict prevention and resolution, post-conflict reconstruction and peacebuilding, and it recognises their right to protection, calling for an end to impunity for conflict-related violence against women.

UNSCR 1325 introduced a framework for countries, based on four main pillars (participation, prevention, protection and relief and recovery) and urged UN member States to adopt and operationalize National Action Plans (NAPs).

98 UN Member States have adopted NAPs; some countries developing their second and third NAPs.

WPS Agenda

10 UN Security Council resolutions





**Axdiga Haweenka Soomaaliyeed
iyo Ajandaha Haweenka, Nabadda
iyo Amniga (HNA)**

**The Somali Women's Charter
and the Women, Peace and
Security Agenda**

Participation

Realize equal participation in all political and peacebuilding processes.

50% quota for women across government, independent commissions and across all federal member states at all levels of governance (elected/appointed)

Participation in constitutional review process

Protection

Reference unconditional commitment to gender equality, human rights and empowerment of women and protection from gender-based violence in the Constitution.

Carry-out legal reforms; adopt and enact laws to promote women's rights.



**Axdiga Haweenka Soomaaliyeed
iyo Ajandaha Haweenka, Nabadda
iyo Amniga (HNA)**

**The Somali Women's Charter
and the Women, Peace and
Security Agenda**

Prevention

Immediate passing and enforcement of the Sexual Offences Bill and anti-FGM legislation.

Relief and Recovery

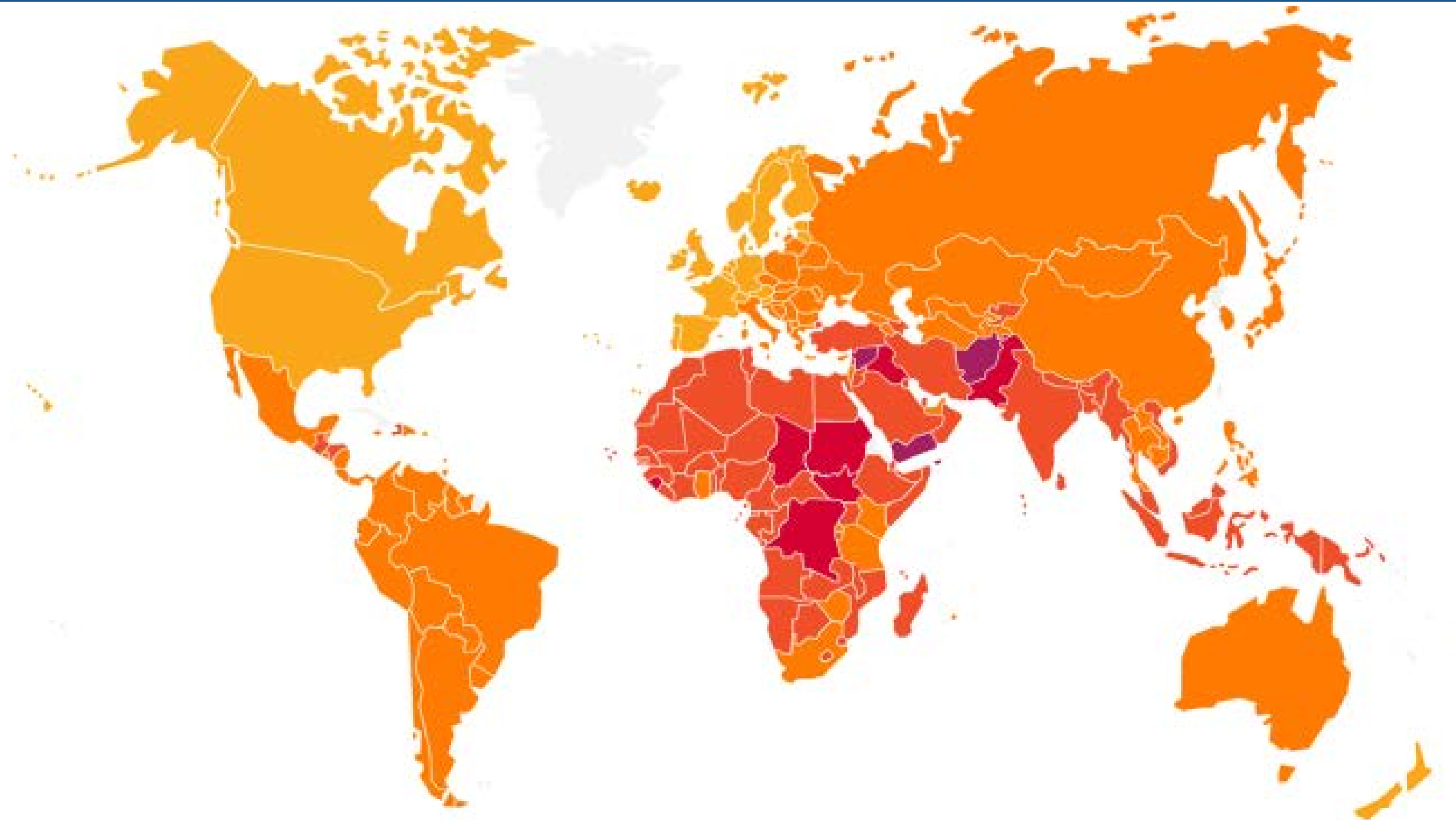
Equal access, ownership and control over property, natural resources, technology and financial services.

All foreign investment and development assistance is assessed through a gender lens.

strengthen women's rights and access to education, health, housing, employment and food.

Justice and reconciliation commission remain in the constitution and that members of the commission reflect a 50/50 gender divide

WPS Global Index



Index Score ⓘ

<https://giwps.georgetown.edu/the-index/>

0 - 0.43

0.43 - 0.57

0.57 - 0.71

0.71 - 0.86

0.86 - 1

Rankings of Arab States on WPS Index



United Arab Emirates



Qatar



Bahrain



Saudi Arabia



Oman



Tunisia



Kuwait



Jordan



Lebanon



Egypt



Morocco



Algeria



Libya



Djibouti



Global Score: 159/170

14/19 in the Arab Region



State of Palestine



Sudan



Iraq

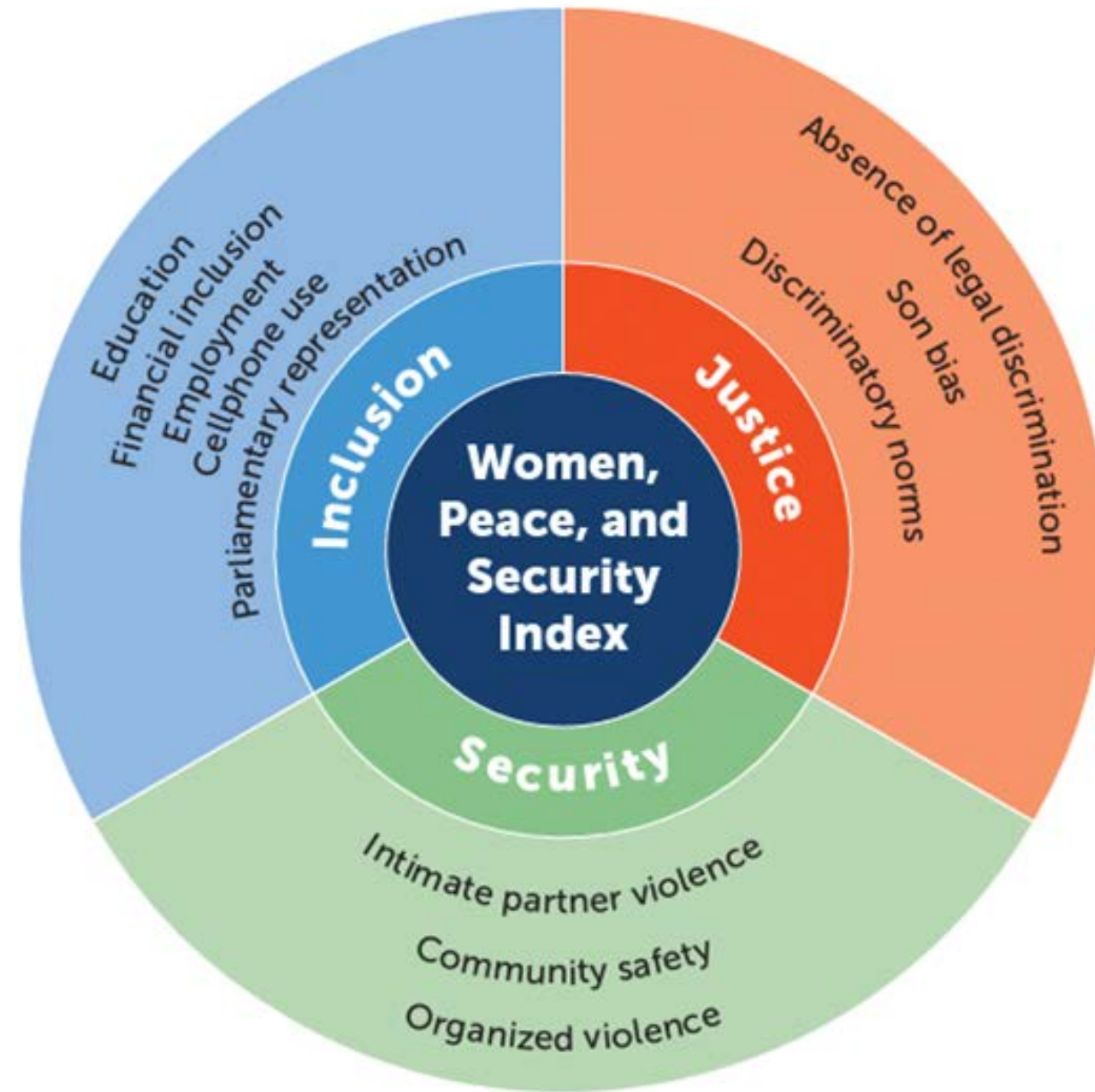


Syria Arab Republic



Yemen

FIGURE 1 The WPS Index captures three dimensions of women's status in 11 indicators



Somalia: WPS Index Scores



Inclusion

| | |
|---------------------|---------|
| Years of schooling | no data |
| Employment | 23.1 % |
| Cellphone use | 63.5 % |
| Financial inclusion | 33.7 % |
| Parliamentary seats | 24.3 % |



Justice

| | |
|---------------------------------|------|
| Discriminatory norms | 28 % |
| Absence of legal discrimination | 47 % |



Security

| | |
|--|--------|
| Organized violence (deaths per 100,00) | 14.8 % |
| Perception of community safety | 85.9 % |
| Domestic violence | 21.2 % |

PART V

The Maputo Protocol

PROTOCOL TO
THE AFRICAN
CHARTER ON
HUMAN AND
PEOPLES'
RIGHTS ON
THE RIGHTS
OF WOMEN
IN AFRICA



The Maputo Protocol

- The Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, entered into force in 2005.
- One of the world's most comprehensive and progressive women's human rights instruments.
- 49 countries signed and 42 have ratified the Protocol.
- "Discrimination against women" means any distinction, exclusion or restriction or any differential treatment based on sex and whose objectives or effects compromise or destroy the recognition, enjoyment or the exercise by women, regardless of their marital status, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in all spheres of life.
- Includes 31 articles (substantive issues Articles 2-24)

The Maputo Protocol

The Protocol guarantees extensive rights to African women and girls and includes progressive provisions on:

- Elimination of discrimination against women (Art. 2)
- Ending violence against women (Article 4)
- Harmful traditional practices (Art. 5)
- Marriage (Art. 6)
- Right to participation in politics and decision-making (Art. 9)
- Protection of Women in Armed Conflict (Art. 11)
- Health and reproductive rights (Art. 14)
- Right to sustainable development (Art. 19)

Reporting on The Maputo Protocol

- States are required to submit periodic state reports (every 2 years), indicating their progress, good practices and challenges in the implementation of the Maputo Protocol.
- The African Commission has the mandate to examine these reports and to issue states with concluding observations.



Thank you for your participation!