**“Human rights are core to the**[**2030 Agenda**](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld)**, and sustainable development is a powerful vehicle for the realization of all human rights,” the UN’s Deputy Secretary-General, Amina Mohammed, said in a speech to the Human Rights Council, on Thursday.**

**Human rights ‘core to sustainable development’: deputy UN chief**

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2019/03/1034261>

The **2030 Agenda, the UN’s “plan of action for people, planet and prosperity**,” contains a commitment to “realize the human rights of all and to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls,” through the implementation of the Agenda’s 17 [Sustainable Development Goals](https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/) ([SDGs](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs)).

“Realizing the objectives of the SDGs means that people are able to **fulfil their rights to adequate housing, clean water, health care, education and food as well as their right to participate in the decisions that affect their lives,”** continued Ms. Mohammed, who assured the Council of the UN’s “rock-solid commitment to delivering on people’s rights and well-being through implementing the Sustainable Development Goals.”

**I want to reinforce our rock-solid commitment to delivering on people’s rights through the Sustainable Development Goals**

**Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed**

The deputy UN chief reminded delegates that the Agenda is “a promise to secure peace and prosperity, founded in the respect for people’s rights and their dignity,” and a pledge to go beyond “business as usual” and address emerging global challenges.

However, Ms. Mohammed warned the Council that the world is off track to achieving the 2030 Agenda. “We are falling behind in achieving the promise to ‘leave no one behind’. We say that youth are the future, and yet youth unemployment is at record highs. And where is the leap forward we promised women and girls?”

Other targets are not being hit, she added, due to low investment in the poorest countries, unregulated migration and insufficient climate action. This is often, she said, a result of “entrenched patterns of inequalities and discrimination, and policy choices at both the national and global levels.”

The way to address the problem and “stop the slide and reset the ambition with urgency,” is for global cooperation to bring about human rights for all, said Ms. Mohammed, using all parts of the UN system to help countries to implement the 2030 Agenda at a national level.

Despite the many challenges, she expressed her conviction that the international community will bring about a world that leaves no one behind, and respects human rights for all: “let’s keep hope alive for the millions who live a life of hunger, fear, and atrocities beyond our imagination. It is our job to be their voice, so they may all know peace, prosperity and a life of dignity.”

### **U.N. Says Violence and Harassment is Keeping Women Out of Power Around the World**

### **“It is brutal,” Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, the executive director of UN Women, said of the current environment for women.**

*March 13, 2019* Edith M. Lederer  [HUFFPOST/AP](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/un-says-violence-and-harassment-is-keeping-women-out-of-power-around-the-world_n_5c890946e4b0fbd7661fb2f3)

<https://portside.org/2019-03-13/un-says-violence-and-harassment-keeping-women-out-power-around-world>

U.N. General Assembly President María Fernanda Espinosa told delegates to the Commission on the Status of Women on Tuesday that there has been a “serious regression” in the political power of women across the world in recent years.,

When it comes to political power, women are totally outnumbered by men, accounting for less than 7 percent of the world’s leaders and only 24 percent of lawmakers, according to the latest statistics.

U.N. General Assembly President María Fernanda Espinosa told delegates to the Commission on the Status of Women on Tuesday that there has been a “serious regression” in the political power of women across the world in recent years.

According to statistics from the Inter-Parliamentary Union released last week, the percentage of female elected heads of state dropped from 7.2 percent to 6.6 percent — 10 out of 153 — from 2017 to 2018. The percentage of female heads of government dropped from 5.7 percent to 5.2 percent — 10 out of 193 — in the same period.

“Despite some positive movement, the overwhelming majority of government leaders remain male,” said Gabriela Cuevas Barron, head of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

In parliaments, the global share of women increased by nearly one percentage point from 2017 to 2018, to 24.3 percent. But Cuevas said at a news conference that it took 25 year to get to that figure, from 11 percent in 1995.

“That’s why we believe we need to encourage parliaments to have affirmative action,” she said.

Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, the executive director of UN Women, called the current environment “not the most enabling for women to rise.”

“We also have pushback right now, which contributes to the slowing down of women wanting to contest for office, because it is brutal,” she said, citing political violence, verbal abuse, and abuse on social media that female candidates and politicians face in many countries.

Mlambo-Ngcuka said U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres “called on us to push back against the pushback — so we just have to be stronger in pushing back against the pushback ourselves.”

Women must be “change-makers,” she said, because national and global institutions were “made for men and by men.”