



The simple fact that gender equality issues occupy only one of the eight enumerated Millennium Development Goals speaks to their peripheral position. MDG Three seeks to “[p]romote gender equality

equality”<sup>5</sup> and the goal proposed for the IIN’s post-2015 agenda seeks to “[a]chieve

gender equality and empower all women and girls.”<sup>5</sup> This includes more powerful targets but suffers from the same marginalization of the issue<sup>6</sup>—it is only one of seventeen enumerated goals. Some of the other SDGs incorporate gender equality targets. Even so, the SDGs





3. The exclusion of women *stifles development and imperils political stability*.<sup>22</sup>

Clearly, the promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women are themselves drivers of health and prosperity for all.

Consequently, gender equality should be embodied in some measure in all development goals, including those dealing with poverty, education, health, protection against violence, and environmental sus-

tainability. The way to accomplish this is to ensure that development goals in each area include rule of law indicators that measure gender equality in relevant legislative initiatives and enforcement tools. Particular attention must be paid to gender-neutral measures that ensure equal access to legal and equitable remedies, knowledge of legal rights, and non-discriminatory enforcement of those rights in each substantive area.

In addition, special attention must be paid to the most powerful ways in which women themselves can drive development. The three pillars of women's transformative empowerment are: (1) education; (2) employment and land rights; and (3) political participation.

Studies show that affording women increasingly better education has dramatic trickle-down social and economic effects. An increase in women's education by three years can lower birthrates on average by one child; longer education for women raises farm yields more than increased access to land or fertilizer; and educated women provide



