Evaluating Transformative Change

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Outline

1	Overview of Transformative Change
2	Evaluation Approaches & Methods
3	UN Women Corporate Evaluations
4	Lessons Learned
5	Implications for Evaluating SDGs

Transformative Change in the 2030 Agenda

"Transformation requires attacking the root causes that generate and reproduce economic, social, political and environmental problems and inequities, not merely their symptoms". UNRISD 2015

A closer look

- changes in economic, political and social structures; • sustainable production and consumption; • power re-configurations; • greater gender equality in all spheres.
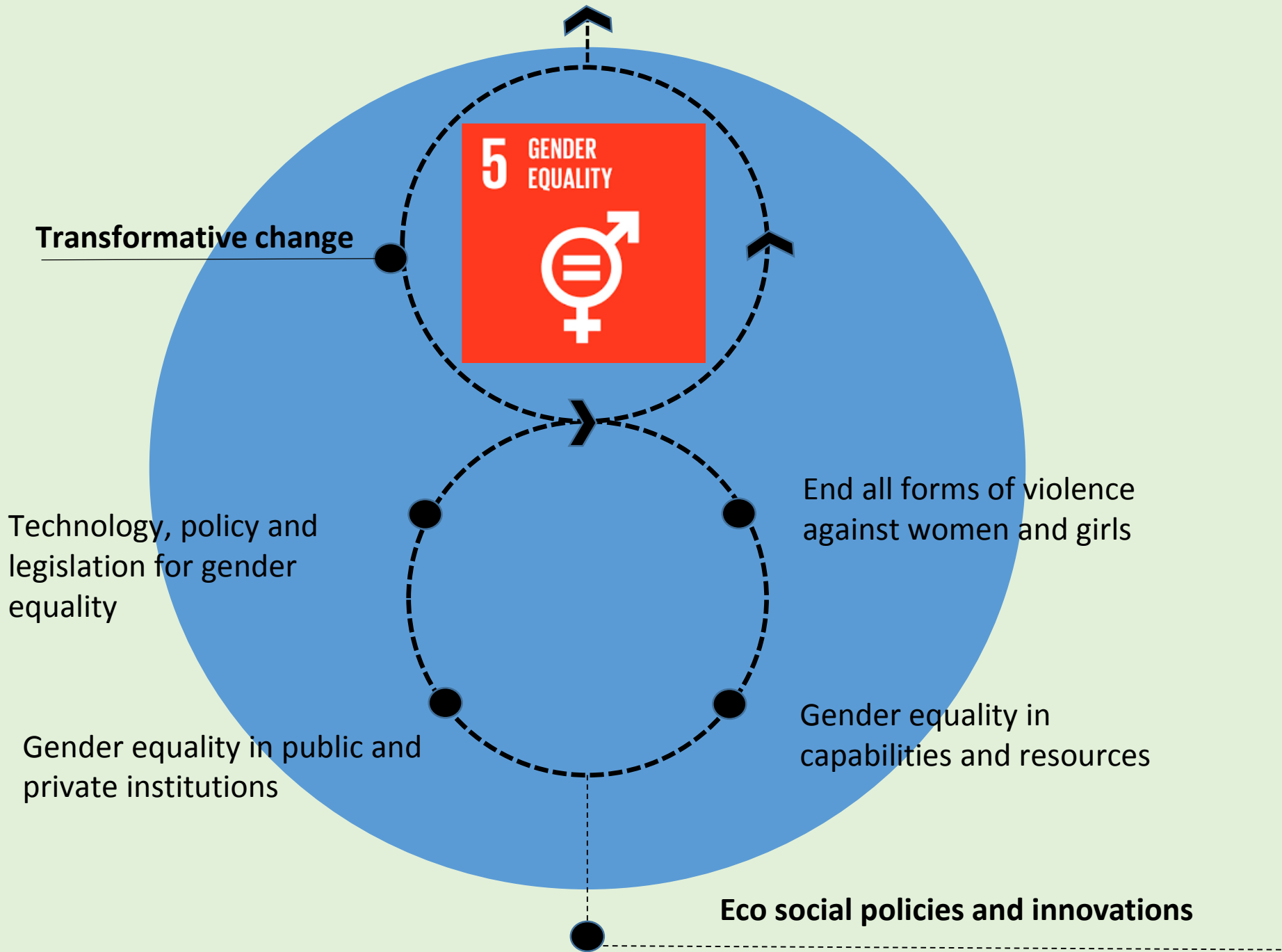
Gender-Transformative Change

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

A closer look

- Freedom from violence against women and girls; • gender equality in the distribution of capabilities and resources; • gender equality in decision-making power in public and private institutions; • enabling technology; • policies and legislation for gender equality.
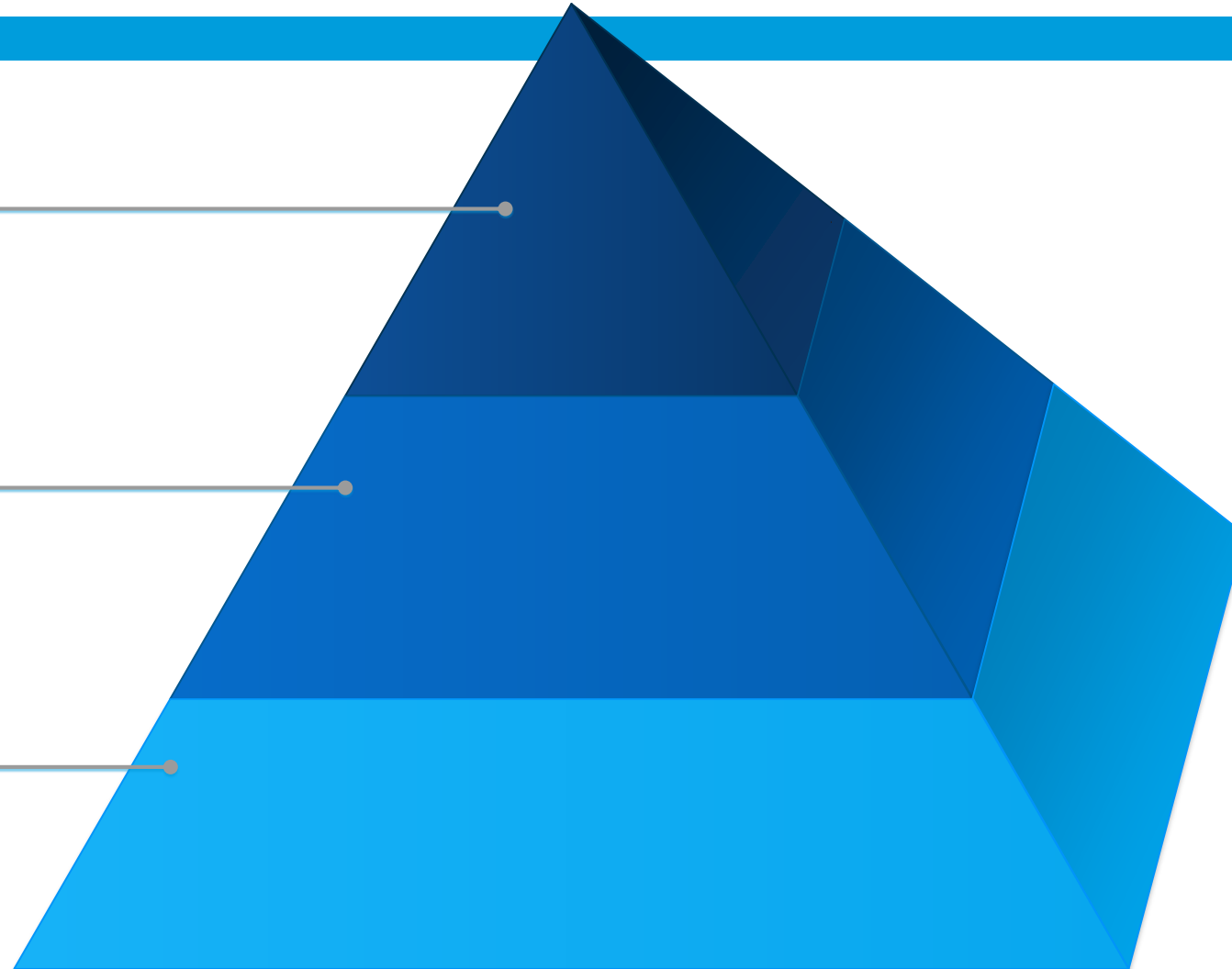
Transformative change

5 GENDER EQUALITY

End all forms of violence against women and girls

Technology, policy and legislation for gender equality

Gender equality in capabilities and resources

Gender equality in public and private institutions

Eco social policies and innovations

Gender-transformative change

Agency

Relational

Structural

UN Women Corporate Evaluations (2015-2017)
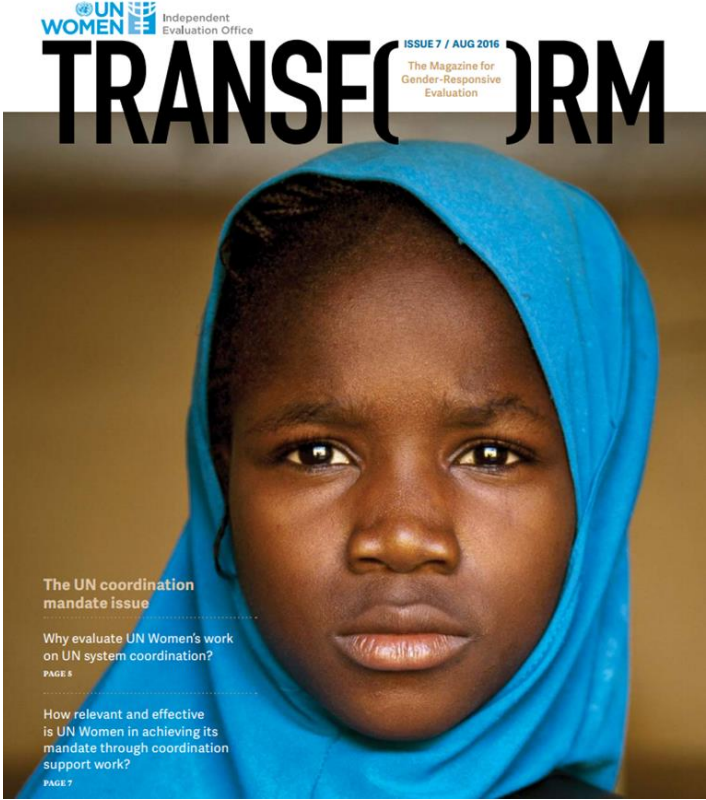
Evaluation Approaches and Methods

Mixed methods

Feminist evaluation approaches

Theory based approaches

System thinking
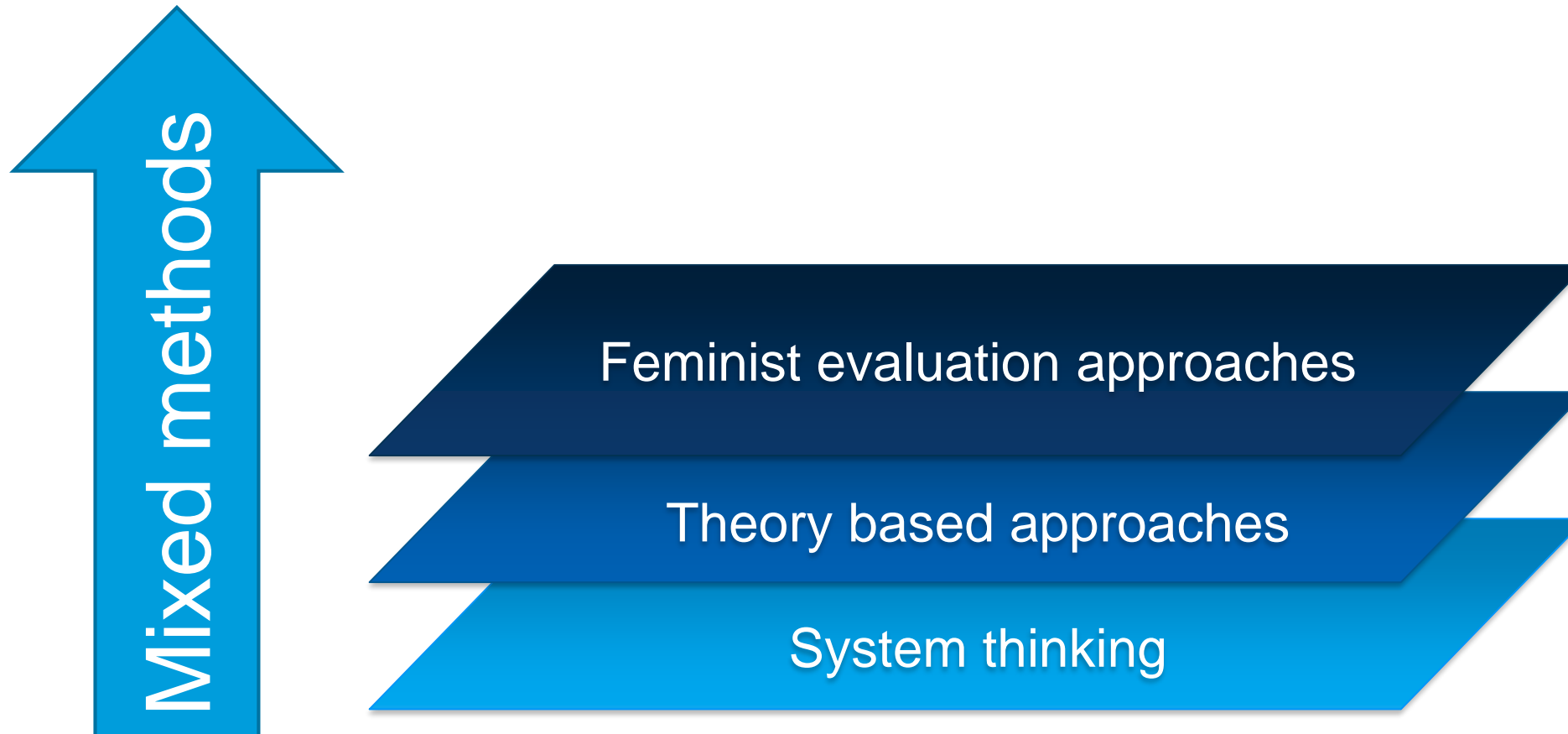
Mixed methods

Data collection

- Interviews and focus groups
- Organizational surveys
- Desk studies
- Case studies
- Collaborative outcome reporting
- Participatory video
- Social learning/twitter poles

Data analysis

- Triangulation
- Secondary data analysis (context)
- Contribution analysis
- Qualitative comparative analysis of driving factors
- Feminist/critical theory based analysis
- Network analysis

What is unique about UN Women IEO Approach?

☐ Gender Equality and Human Rights criteria/objective

☐ Integration of feminist approach to data collection &analysis

Key question: **To what extent does UN Women's approach to strategic partnerships/ WEE/UN coordination integrate human rights and gender equality principles (based on internationally agreed norms) and address the <u>underlying causes of gender inequality?</u>**

Key findings

- At the global level, there has been increased attention to understanding and unpacking the underlying causes of inequalities. Greater efforts are now needed to address the major structural causes of inequality through the Entity's operational work at a country-level. (WEE, 2014)

- The UN system does not yet consistently identify and address the underlying causes of inequality and discrimination in its external work on GEEW or within the UN system itself. (Coordination, 2016)

Key findings

☐ UN Women had been most successful in making the change in the UN system when it has taken a participatory and consultative approach to engaging other UN entities. The UN System-wide Action Plan (SWAP) on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, which represents the product of a collaborative design and ownership of a framework, inter-agency mechanisms and standardization of language. (Coordination, 2016)

☐ UN Women has set some positive examples but faces internal challenges in creating an enabling culture for gender equality. It has not yet become a model gender-responsive organization for other UN entities. (Coordination, 2016)

☐ Not all partners/stakeholders have the same understanding of or commitment to addressing the root causes of inequality. (Strategic Partnerships, 2017)

Lessons learned about evaluating transformative change

Challenges:

☐ Programming scale to enact the transformative change

☐ Availability of data/statistics to track transformative change

☐ Evaluations are inward looking, mostly concerned with the contribution of UN Women.

☐ Limitations of data collection methods to assess changes in root causes

Solutions/filling the gap:

☐ Complementing root causes analysis with data from academic research and literature.
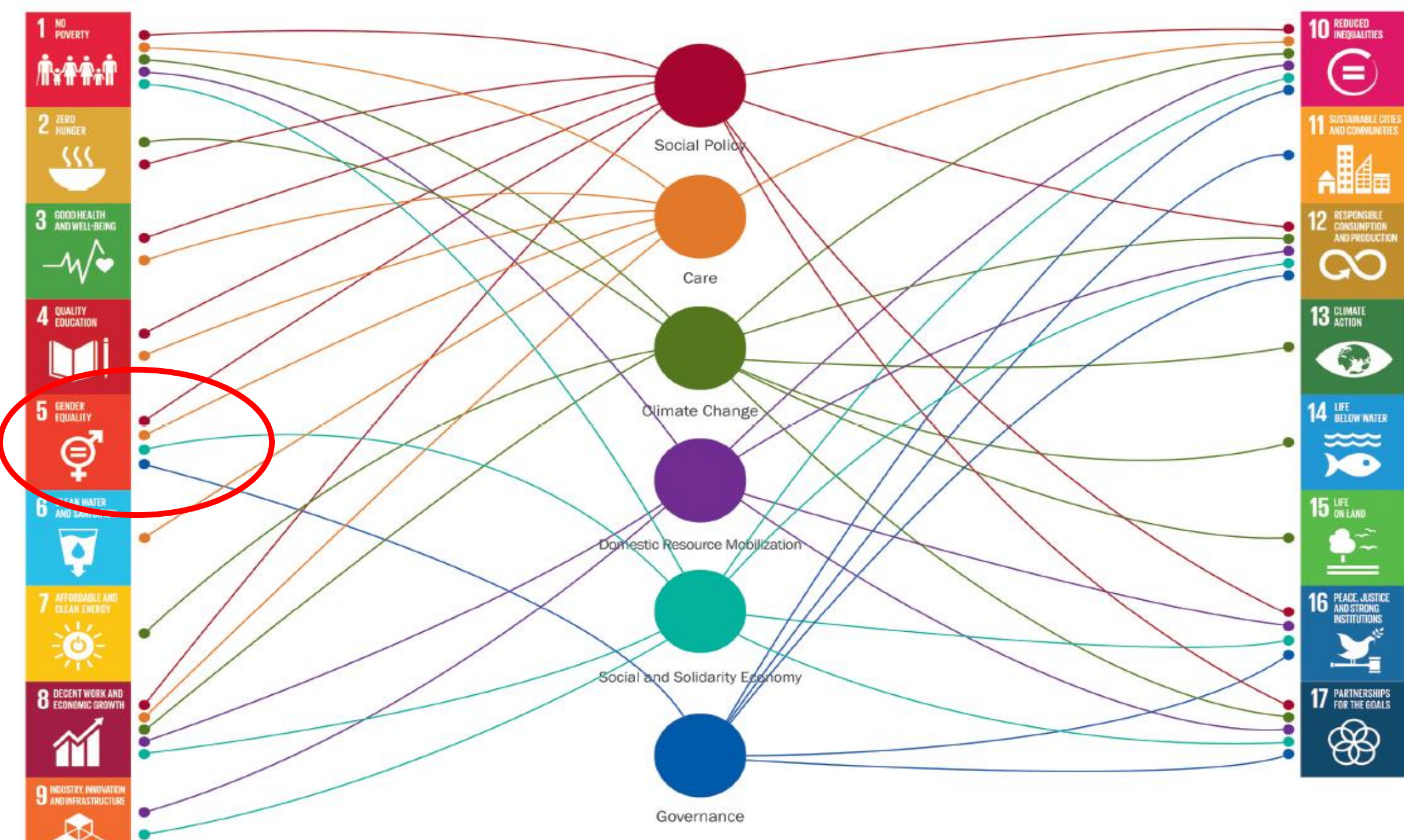
What are implications for evaluating gender transformative change in the SDGs ?

- Need for the joint efforts of UN and national actors to assess transformative change

- Understanding the scale of programming and time needed for gender transformative change to happen

- Methodological innovation, particularly use of new technologies, big data, social learning

- Multi-disciplinary, holistic and multi-level social policy evaluations

Conclusion

- Gender transformative change spans agency, relations and structure
- Focus on root causes of gender inequality in evaluations reveals not only interesting findings but also methodological challenges
- SDG challenge - multi-disciplinary, holistic and multi-level social policy evaluations

Thank you

UN Women | Gustavo Stephan