The purpose of today is to discuss the future of Programme Action and to consider the relationship between it, membership and the growth of SIGBI. We can't have one without the others.
Chevonne will speak about membership issues and Dishi on her experience as Ambassador for the Growth Plan;
I am going to try to sketch out the breadth of PA whilst recognising that the depth depends on the work clubs do across the federation.

Our work extends from local to global, after all we have international in our name and worldwide in our charitable objects;

We cannot deliver the 3 Es of Educate, Enable, Empower without the 3 As of Awareness, Advocacy and Action.
A comment made by some is 'we need to focus' - but on what?

Can the focus on women and girls across all Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) be too wide so that we need to narrow it to a few SDGs?
Can we do so without being irrelevant to the current situations - e.g. Covid-19, the volcanic eruption in St Vincent, floods across the UK/elsewhere, woodland and heathland fires, and the danger to small island states from the rise of sea levels and the effects of climate change on all of us?

Our response to Covid has stretched from local to global - helping at food banks, supporting women's Aid, making PPE, donating to Covax, for example;
Given COP26 in Glasgow in November, should we focus on climate change - our day of action on 17 July will have this focus; so, from personal to people, population and planet maybe?

SIGBI, in collaboration with SI Director of Advocacy, Bev Bucur, has applied for an exhibition place in Glasgow but we will not know the outcome until late May;

Other opportunities include:

- Youth for climate - our schools clubs and links via STEM projects perhaps?
- Use the hash tag '#allforclimate' on social media;
- Youth Climate Summit - Milan 28-30 Sept;
- pre-cop meeting in Milan 30/9-2/10 - where we might be able to have a display; would this be doable?
- Youth conference in October.
With CSW being virtual this year - and probably until at least 2024 - more of our members could take part;

128 registered this year instead of our usual limit of 16;

the post-event evaluation has underlined how much delegates gained from the experience and, in particular, learning about issues and solutions to help in their work for SIGBI;

• **Priority theme**: Women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls;

• **Review theme**: Women's empowerment and the link to sustainable development ([agreed conclusions of the sixtieth session](#))
Our consultative status with the UN's Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is up for review this year; this happens every 4 years and there is a form to complete; without it we cannot link in to CSW, for example;

The reapplication form covers:
1 Aims and purpose of our organisation;
2 Any changes; such as loss through the formation of the SI Africa Federation;
3 Contribution of SIGBI to the UN - from Millennium DGs to Sustainable DGs; through SI's UN reps; raising awareness through our web site, UN days and other blogs, magazine articles and social media;
4 Participation in meetings of relevance to the UN; CSW, Committee on Social Development (CSocD), North America & Europe Caucus, Women's Major Group, collaboration in the UK with NGO CSW Alliance and thus with the Government Equalities Office and the UK Mission to the UN in New York, statements to the UN for the High Level Political Forum and the Voluntary National Reviews which seek to monitor implementation of the SDGs in each country; The last Report from the UK was in 2019 and there is a listing and access to the reports for all countries on the UN web site for sustainable development;

5 Cooperation with UN bodies; CSW, UN Women, International Organisation for Migration, the Economic Commission for Europe and the Committee for Social Development;

6 Sustainable Development Goal links; this is where PFRFs come in - there were over 9000 in the last 4 years (2017-2020) with 2300 reports in 2020 despite Covid;

PFRFs - do we conduct programmes or projects or, maybe, both - what is the difference or is there a difference?
When filling in forms, which SDG is correct?

There is no one answer to this since it depends on the main purpose of the project. For example, toilet installation could be SDG 6 (WatSan), 5 (Gender Equality), 3 (Health), 9 (infrastructure), 10 (Reduced inequalities) and can it (whatever it is) be done without SDGs 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) and 17 (Partnership)?

Without the database entries filled in accurately, with forethought and full explanations we cannot award the Best Practice Awards fairly, contribute to submissions for example to the High Level Political Forum in partnership with SI and others such as Associated Country Women of the World, provide information to SI’s UN reps in Paris, Vienna, Geneva, Rome, New York, Bangkok and Nairobi; [https://www.soroptimistinternational.org/advocacy/si-at-the-united-nations/](https://www.soroptimistinternational.org/advocacy/si-at-the-united-nations/)

SDGs 1 (No poverty), 3 (Health), 4 (Education), and 5 (Gender Equality) are the most popular but many reports are not recording SDG 17 for Partnership but what is a partnership? Is it a donation to a charity or actually engaging in action?
Whether we call it a project or a programme it needs structure - the form asks for what you did, why, how and the outcome;

- **What** – Discussing and agreeing a topic;
- **Why** – what are the choices and why?
- **How** – What are you going to do?
- **Outcome** – What outcome do you expect?

**Reporting your project.**
A balance of local to global and personal to people, population and planet is important if we are to achieve equality.

Let us play our part in achieving:
- the goal of “leaving no one behind”;
- and achieving gender equality by 2030 at the latest.