

ACCELERATORS OF GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT IN THE CONTEXT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC



THURSDAY, 7 APRIL 2022 • 10:00 – 12:00 CET • HYBRID: GENEVA/ONLINE
GENEVA, PALAIS DES NATIONS - TEMPUS ROOM 1

BACKGROUND

Progress on gender equality and women's empowerment remains uneven across the region and the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated pre-existing inequalities and widened gender gaps across various spheres. More than ever, building "forward" better requires acceleration of efforts that bring clear measurable results across all SDGs. Inclusivity needs to be at the heart of efforts to build back better and more equal and extra attention is also needed to avoid reproducing the gender inequalities that predated the pandemic.

This round table aims to discuss how governments and development partners can promote gender equality and women's empowerment as part of the COVID-19 recovery process, considering gender-differentiated impacts of the pandemic. Policy makers and experts from member States will present proven "accelerator" practices towards progress in specific SDG 5 targets that are contributing to meeting the 2030 deadline.

A **maximum of five illustrative "accelerator" practices** will be presented during the round table, including examples of policy actions, measures and plans for COVID-19 recovery that are inclusive and gender-responsive and focused on social, economic and political empowerment.

GUIDING QUESTIONS FOR ROUND TABLE

Question 1

What are the priority policy actions to accelerate the achievement of gender equality targets by 2030, addressing both long-standing and emerging challenges?

Question 2

What are effective, game-changing practices to improve the lives of women and girls considering new challenges and setbacks resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic?

Question 3

What are key opportunities for governments in the region to promote SDG5 achievement through LNOB and inter-generational approaches?

AGENDA

Time	Activity
Opening and brief overview of progress and key challenges on SDG5 implementation and the role of institutional gender equality mechanisms	
10:00 - 10:07	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Samra Filipović-Hadžiabdić, Director of the Agency for Gender Equality, Bosnia and Herzegovina <p>Moderator – Ms. Sylvie Durrer, Federal Office for Gender Equality, Switzerland</p>
THEME 1 – How action plans to develop, introduce and implement gender responsive standards (GRS) contribute to achieving SDG5 targets	
10:07 - 10:20	<p>Moderated discussions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Stephanie Eynon, British Standards Institution, UK, GRS Initiative's Chair • Ms. Amira Ramhorst, Team leader, Economic and Social Affairs Platform, Regional Cooperation Council • Youth representative (to be nominated by Youth Forum)
THEME 2 – Towards a new generation of policies, actions and investments for overcoming inequality and violence in the frame of COVID-19 recovery	
10:20 - 10:35	<p>Moderated discussions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HE Ms. Tanzila Narbaeva, Speaker of the Senate, Uzbekistan • Ms. Monika Kocaqi, Expert to the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, Albania • Ms. Ana Pelaez Narvaez, CEDAW Committee's Vice-Chairperson, Spain
THEME 3 - Addressing sexual and reproductive health and rights of women: policy and actions	
10:35 - 10:45	<p>Moderated discussions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Tamar Gabunia, Deputy Minister, Ministry of IDPs from Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs, Georgia • Ms. Lyubov Vorontsova, Eurasian Women's Network on AIDS (CSO)
10:45 - 11:05	Question & Answers. Short interventions from the floor.
THEME 4 – Equal and effective participation and opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making	
11:05 - 11:20	<p>Moderated discussions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Eirini Dourou (Greece), Spokesperson on Gender Equality, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, Council of Europe • Ms. Alia El-Yassir, Regional Director, UN Women Europe and Central Asia
THEME 5 – Reforms in labour market and rethinking care economy for women's economic empowerment	
11:20 - 11:35	<p>Moderated panel discussions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Sandra Ribeiro, President of the Commission for Citizenship and Gender Equality, Portugal • Ms. Felicia Bechtoldt, Secretary of State for labour at the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, Moldova • Ms. Nihan Alhan, Executive Vice President, People, Corporate Development, Environment and Sustainability, BORUSAN Mannesmann, Turkey (private company) <p>Key messages from CSO Forum by CSO representative</p>
11:35 - 12:00	<p>Overall discussions. Interventions from the floor.</p> <p>Wrap-up by the moderator.</p>