



On the Path to Economic Justice and Rights: Working towards Women's Economic Empowerment

Date: Wednesday, 17 March
Time: 1 pm EST

Overview

- Date:** 17 March, 1 pm EST
- Format:** The event will be carried out virtually combining welcome remarks, keynote, statement by youth organisation, panel discussion, discussion with the audience and closing remarks.
- Number of participants:** Tbc
- Language:** The event will be held in English.
- Hosted by** Germany, Mexico, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, United Nations Capital Development Fund, UN Women, Bill and Melinda Gate Foundation, Care International, Huairou Commission, International Trade Union Confederation, Manki Marouja, Paypal

Registration link:

<https://avodaggroup.webex.com/avodaggroup/onstage/g.php?MTID=ecb6f4bb3f67d879107187522e835176f>

Background

In joint efforts with the Leadership Structure of the Action Coalition on Economic Justice and Rights of the Generation Equality Forum, and as Chair of the Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative (We-Fi), Germany is organizing a high-level side event at the sixty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) on the women's economic rights agenda in the context of the Generation Equality Forum.

To mark the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, UN Women convened the Generation Equality Forum, a civil-society centered, global process for gender equality, co-hosted by Mexico and France. The multi-stakeholder process is a strong statement for making transformative, groundbreaking progress toward accelerating progress and achieving gender equality by 2030 in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In light of this year's CSW priority theme on women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in all their diversities, the high-level side event seeks to discuss women's participation and decision-making in economic life: It will foster an exchange on cross-regional experiences and best practices to strengthen commitments on women's full and equal participation in the labour market and women's entrepreneurship within the Generation Equality Forum and the Action Coalition on Economic Justice and Rights.

Workplace changes resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic have disproportionately impacted women through job and market losses and greater burdens of domestic care work. Women are highly represented in the sectors that are hard hit by the COVID-19 pandemic and in informal work. Incorporating a gender perspective and co-leadership from diverse groups of women in COVID-19 economic recovery plans is therefore critical to retaining the hard-won progress made on gender parity. Governments and social partners can contribute by expanding gender transformative job creation and social protection systems and re-employment strategies as well as gender equal public and corporate training opportunities. Governments can facilitate this change through reforms, such as individual taxation and childcare. Investment in decent, jobs in the care sectors can have a transformative impact on women's economic participation, resilience and autonomy. Women's and girls' full and effective participation, decision-making and leadership at all levels in the economic sector is key. More women must be represented on boards, in business, in trade and as trade union representatives. The international community should therefore use this opportunity of economic recovery to rebuild equal and shock resilient societies and economies with women and girls in all their diversities at the centre - to finally achieve the promises made in Beijing.

Female entrepreneurship will be one of the important focus areas of the Action Coalition on Economic Justice and Rights as a key element of achieving women's economic empowerment through women's access to and control over economic resources. The We-Fi Initiative supports women entrepreneurs throughout the world to get access to financial products and services, build capacities and expand networks and gain opportunities to link to domestic and global markets. This involves working with governments as well as the private sector. The target group is small- and medium-sized enterprises that are founded/managed or owned by women. We-Fi presents a strong case for women's economic empowerment from which lessons can be leveraged to inform the Action Coalition's global work on achieving economic justice and rights for women and girls in all their diversities.

Objectives and key messages

- In light of this year's CSW priority theme, manifest the work of the Action Coalition on Economic Justice and Rights towards women's full participation in the labour market and women's entrepreneurship. Inform and showcase the work of the Action Coalition on Economic Justice and Rights within the Generation Equality Forum to ensure just,

multi-sectoral, intersectional and youth-focused investments in women's economic empowerment.

- Inform, engage and inspire states, feminist, grassroots and women's rights organizations, youth-led organizations, philanthropic entities, UN agencies, other international organizations and the private sector to participate in the Action Coalition on Economic Justice and Rights.
- Showcase the We-Fi Initiative as a best-practice for women's economic empowerment, including its unique value proposition.

Format

Part 1: Welcome Remarks

- Dr. Gerd Müller, Minister, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany
- Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, Minister of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities, South Africa
- Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director of UN Women

Part 2: Keynote (Ted Talk Format)

- Renae Bluitt, Filmmaker, tbc

Part 3: Statement by Youth Organisation

- Diane Ndarbawa, Manki Maroua

Part 4: Panel discussion on economic justice and rights: how to remove barriers for women's economic empowerment?

Panelists:

1. Angela Titzrath, Chief Executive Officer Hamburger Hafen und Logistik AG, German We Fi Champion
2. Sharan Burrow, General Secretary, International Trade Union Confederation
3. Violet Shivutse, Board Chair, Huairou Commission: Women, Homes and Communities
4. Dr. Nadine Gasman, President, National Women's Institute, Mexico
5. Preeti Sinha, Executive Secretary, United Nations Capital Development Fund
6. Gargee Gosh, President for Global Policy and Advocacy, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

Part 5: Closing Remarks: Calls for Action

- Anna Hallberg, Minister for Foreign Trade and Nordic Affairs, Sweden
- Arancha González, Minister of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation, Spain

Moderator: Sasha Rubel, Programme Specialist, Digital Innovation and Transformation, Communication and Innovation Sector, at UNESCO

Questions for discussion:

- a) How can we achieve **transformative, groundbreaking progress** toward women’s economic empowerment by 2025?
- b) How can **women's active participation and decision-making in public life** regarding economic participation be ensured? What are positive examples from member states, Civil Society and other stakeholders to level out setbacks and support women’s full participation in the labor market, women’s entrepreneurship and their access to productive resources?
- c) The **COVID-19 pandemic** has far-reaching implications in all aspects of personal, social, political and economic life. Which areas of women’s participation in public and especially economic life have been particularly affected by the pandemic and how can we overcome women’s setbacks? What are best-practice examples already implemented? What role does the gender digital divide and ecommerce play in the barriers or enablers, especially to advancing women’s entrepreneurship?
- d) Which **successful initiatives** from member states, civil society and women entrepreneurs have helped boost or better yet, accelerate women’s access to productive resources such as financial products and services?

Followed by:

Invitation to an informal virtual get-together providing a forum for questions, comments and exchange on the AC EJR, with attendance of representatives of AC EJR and UN Women.

Timeline		
Start Time	Duration	Topic
1.00 pm	15 min	Welcome remarks
1.15 pm	10 min	Keynote
1.25 pm	5 min	Statement by Youth Organisation
1.30 pm	55 min	Panel Discussion by AC EJR Partners
2.25 pm	10 min	Closing Remarks
Total	95 min	
2.35	60 min	<i>Informal virtual get-together</i>