

Women's Rights and Gender Equality in Development Finance

**Side event during the ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development Follow-up
Wednesday, May 24, 2017 | 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. | Conference Room 12**

**Organised by
The Civil Society FfD Group including the Women's Working Group on FfD**

Concept Note

Gender equality and women's human rights have been identified as key cross-cutting issue to the entire FfD process. In 2015, a series of international instruments were agreed to promote sustainable development and advance a paradigm shift in the social, economic and environmental dimensions. However, it was only in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda that women's human rights were highlighted as a critical component in tackling structural challenges to transformation. The side event will explore how to possibly operationalize this recognition in active interplay with all other elements of the FfD framework and in the context of a possible proposal for a multi-year program of work for the FfD follow-up process that could enhance the achievement of the FfD commitments.

The human rights framework, gender equality and sustainability criteria have been established as cross-cutting elements to the operationalization of the FFD agenda within the IATF Report. The full realization of women's human rights and gender equality should be achieved through macro economic and systemic measures and all matters related to the financing for development agenda. Addressing the differentiated needs of diverse groups of population to achieve the wellbeing of people is of crucial importance.

Gender equality cannot be achieved without comprehensive fiscal measures with a gender perspective, including progressive taxation and gender-responsive budgets (GRBs) at the national and local level. This side-event will explore avenues for the fulfilment of women's human rights and gender equality, including progressive taxation measure and GRB initiatives. It will also address why the notion of achieving "women's empowerment" alone is not sufficient to the women's rights agenda.

Because of the need to ensure the reduction, recognition, sharing and redistribution of unpaid domestic and care work between and among the State, private sector, communities, families, women and men, the women's human rights agenda must be addressed in a comprehensive way. The centrality played by the provision of technology, infrastructure, social protection policies, and public services such as education, health- including sexual and reproductive health and rights-, water and sanitation, renewable energy, transport, information technologies, as well as accessible, affordable and quality childcare and care facilities for older persons, persons with disabilities, persons living with HIV and AIDS, and all others in need of care, provides a framework for implementation. The Latin American and the Caribbean recognition of the right to care as a point of entry will be explored further as a subject in the side event.

Moreover, governments need to effectively address the negative impacts of illicit financial flows, including tax avoidance and evasion, on gender equality, because, as the CEDAW Committee stated in December 2016, they have “a negative impact on the ability of other States, particularly those already short of revenue, to mobilise the maximum available resources for the fulfilment of women’s rights.”

Civil society has proposed that the IATF include within its mandate the preparation of a comprehensive inventory of guidelines, principles and other policy interventions on how to mainstream women’s human rights into the implementation of the Financing for Development Agenda to be discussed in the 2018 session of the ECOSOC FfD Forum. The intention is that this could also be placed as a consideration into a possible multi-year program of work for the FfD follow-up process that could enhance the achievement of the FfD commitments. The side-event will explore these proposals as options to enhance the potential in the path towards implementing the Financing for Development Agenda.

Speakers:

- Mr. Bruno Rios Sanchez, Permanent Mission of Mexico to the United Nations
- Ms. Shanchita Haque, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh to the United Nations*
- Dr. Matti Kohonen, Principal Adviser-Private Sector, Christian Aid
- Mr. Diego Padilla Duran, Minister Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the United Nations*
- Permanent Mission of Norway to the United Nations*

Moderator:

Rosa Lizarde, Global Director, Feminist Task Force
Co-Convenor, Women’s Working Group on FfD

*Invited

Date: 24 May 2017, 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

Location: United Nations Headquarters, Conference Room 12

Contact:

Mr. Stefano Prato, Managing Director, Society for International Development,
stefanop@sidint.org

Emilia Reyes, Program Director of Policies and Budgets for Equality and Sustainable Development in Gender Equity, Citizenship, Work and Family, Equidad de Genero
emilia@equidad.org.mx

Rosa Lizarde, Global Director, Feminist Task Force
rosa.lizarde@feministtaskforce.org