

PARTICIPACION DEL EMBAJADOR DE ESPAÑA ANTE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS EN EL
MULTISTAKEHOLDER FORUM DE LA 63ª CSW.

Nueva York, 1 de febrero de 2019.

PANEL 3:
SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE FOR GENDER EQUALITY AND THE EMPOWERMENT
OF WOMEN AND GIRLS.

Duración: 5 minutos (máximo).

Idioma: Inglés sin traducción.

Escaleta del acto:

El panel estará moderado por el Vicepresidente de la CSW63, Sr. Mohammed S. Marzooq (Iraq).

Tras una presentación y contextualización del tema por parte de Senior Researcher, Research and Data, UN de ONU-Mujeres, Sra. Silke Staab, comenzarán las intervenciones de los EEMM:

1. Mr. Agustin Santos, PR de España
2. Mr. Dian Triansyah, PR de Indonesia
3. Ms. Ivana Pajevic, DPR de Montenegro

Por último, intervendrán participantes de la sociedad civil:

1. Ms. Caroline Kihato, Director of Urban Policies, Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing
2. Ms. Anna Bray Sharpin, Urban Planner/Transportation Associate, World Resources Institute Ross Center for Sustainable Cities

Propuesta de intervención:

INTRODUCTION:

Spain attaches great importance to investing in gender-responsive and quality, reliable and sustainable infrastructure.

We do so because we are convinced of the **impact it may have in gender equality and empowerment:**

- It improves **safety conditions** of women and girls
- It can result in higher **standards of education**
- It affects positively on the **economic development** of families and communities.

But not only that, gender responsive infrastructure is **critical for the consolidation and enlargement of the Welfare State**. Let me draw your attention to a very simple fact that affects women and girls across the world: the **use of their productive time for non-paid work**.

According to **ILO women carry out 76.2% of all unpaid work in the world, and they devote 3.2 times more than men to this unpaid activity**.

Women in Spain use twice as much time as men to family and house chores. We can therefore say that time runs in favor of men. While a man in Spain would use an average of 1h50min a day for family responsibilities, a woman would use 4h04min. This **uneven distribution of responsibilities between men and women** has a clear impact in the women's access to employment, pensions and retirement benefits, not to mention other aspects related to equality.

Gender responsive infrastructure contributes to put an end to this inequality and can be critical in the areas of health care, maternal school, safe drinking water and sanitation, energy, transport, as well as information and communications technology.

We are fully committed to continue to **include gender elements in the development of sustainable infrastructures**. However, this can only be achieved if women and girls are fully integrated in science, technology, engineering. Having their knowledge and personal experience incorporated in the design of infrastructures is the only genuine way to make them gender responsive.

In interest of time, I would like to focus only on four fields where infrastructure can play a major role in enabling equality between women and girls:

- **Welfare state infrastructure** and more specifically **maternal schools**.
- Our **gender approach to the use of Information Technologies** as a new way of infrastructure with unlimited access information and knowledge.
- Some good practices on the **participation of women and girls in the planning, design and implementation of sustainable infrastructure**.
- A few details on how we are working in cooperation with other countries to make **safe water and sanitation** a reality for women and girls.

WELFARE STATE INFRASTRUCTURES

The consolidation of the welfare state requires a number of infrastructures that have an intimate connection to gender equality. I would like to focus on maternal schools and access to such infrastructure in my country.

Right to **education is a universal right in Spain and it is free and mandatory** for all children up until the age of 16 years old. Nevertheless, **maternal school is not mandatory** and this has clear implications in the distribution of family responsibilities between women and men.

I was mentioning earlier women in Spain devote twice as much time as men to unpaid work at home, which includes day care, education, taking care of dependents and other family responsibilities that are unequally shared with their partners.

The situation can be more uneven in the case of a family who does not have access to day care facilities. This kind of infrastructure proves to be extremely relevant for equal access to work and professional development of women and men.

According to EUROSTAT, only 4% of Spanish children below 12 have access to public day care schools compared to the European average of 39%. This lack of infrastructure leaves Spanish women behind and even more when intersectionality applies, especially in rural areas. This is becoming a major debate in my country and will be very relevant during the upcoming regional and local elections.

GENDER APPROACH TO ACCESS TO INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES

In relation to the inclusion of women and girls in the digital society, Spain has enacted an **Action Plan for Equal Opportunities in Information Technology** with a range of 124 actions and indicators that not only aim to increase participation of women in TIC; it is designed to raise the profile of female entrepreneurs online and to update the content available in internet to make them safer and more reliable to women.

This plan has been implemented by **7 different ministries** under the coordination of the Ministry for Equality and is divided into several clusters of activities focused on women and girls' access to ITC, such as "information and awareness raising", "training", "development of digital content of interest of women and girls", "promotion and access to digital devices".

This action plan is complemented with a number of sectorial programs targeting specific populations:

- Program CERES for digital training and empowerment of rural women;
- Program REA for trainers' training of women;
- Program ADA to encourage girls to pursue their studies in technological sciences;
- Program DIANA to increase interest of young girls in ITC,
- Program ATENEA to improve access of women to online services in a safe, responsible and confident way.

PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN AND GIRLS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE.

When we discuss about the **participation of women and girls in planning, designing and implementing infrastructure** we need to think about decision making institutions (political power) and access to knowledge (higher education, especially in science and technology).

We cannot forget that the best way to ensure this participation is providing women and girls with **equal access to education, training and work** so that they can become engineers, architects and other infrastructure-related jobs. According to the World Economic Forum, only 26% of women in workforce work in the field of science, engineering or mathematics. In Spain these figures are also unbalanced: only 28% of science students are women, but it is especially critical in the field of engineering, where only 20% of students are women.

Spanish women are suffering from a digital gap in their access to ITC positions in all areas and categories of work, and it has not improved over the past 20 years. In 1999 only 33% of workers in the ITC sector were women. Nowadays, only 37,8% are women.

Integrating women and girls in science, engineering and technology is critical to inject a gender approach to the planning, design and implementation of infrastructure. In this sense, I would like to share with you a few actions that my Government is carrying out:

- Program “**Campus Engineering Girl**”, focused on young girls who are in middle school, where they will meet female engineer who can inspire them to choose engineering studies.
- Program “**Innovatia 8.3**” to support women empowerment in technology and research sectors.
- Program “**Rural Women Challenge**” to improve access of rural women to technology and innovation.

In addition, **access of women to political power at all levels is critical to ensure a gender approach to planning, designing and implementing infrastructure**. It is in the political sphere where all infrastructure projects are decided upon. In Spain we have the Government with the highest number of female Ministers in the world (65% of cabinet members are women) and this will be reflected in all the policies undertaken at the State level.

However, other levels of policy making are not as equally distributed in Spain. Only 2 out of 17 regional governments are chaired by women and only 30% of mayors are women.

SAFE WATER AND SANITATION

I would like to conclude by mentioning probably one of the most relevant infrastructures for gender equality: water and sanitation infrastructure. Whereas in Spain access to water and sanitation is a universally attained right, we cannot turn a blind eye to the fact that insufficient access to water and sanitation can prevent girls from attending school when they start to menstruate, it will result in women having to devote more time to home and family responsibilities and will affect environmental sustainability of their communities.

For these reasons, Spain attaches great importance to infrastructures related to water and sanitation both domestically and internationally:

- Development of infrastructures related to water and sanitation with a gender approach are considered a strategic and priority sector in the Spanish Master Plan for International Cooperation.
- We have created the Water and Sanitation Fund for Latin America with more than 1.6 billion Euros in the last 9 years.
- We are part of two regional strategies for Water and Sanitation in which we inject the gender approach when it comes to the development of infrastructures: Water Strategy 5+5 for the Western Mediterranean and the Conference for Water in Iberian-America (CODIA).