



Interactive dialogue

Inclusive development, shared prosperity, and decent work

Monday, 17 March 2025, 3.00 – 4.30 p.m.

Concept Note

Overview

The past five years have presented a series of global emergencies, which have disproportionately impacted women's economic well-being. Progress towards increasing women's participation in the workforce has stagnated, and advancements in other areas of women's economic empowerment have slowed or even reversed. Responses have not adequately protected and preserved the gender equality gains made in recent decades, and these trends are alarming in low-income countries, which continue to face challenges such as high debt levels, lack of fiscal space, declining foreign aid, and stagnating economies.

Against this backdrop, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action envisions a world where women are empowered in all aspects of life, including the economy. Achieving the vision of the Beijing Platform for Action requires continued efforts to improve the quality and conditions of women's work, greater attention to gender equality in economic policies, and a concerted focus on women's jobs in all aspects of the economy and an emphasis on addressing the rising demand for care and addressing structural inequalities in the economy, including the gender pay gap.

The objective of the interactive dialogue is to discuss innovative approaches to gender inclusive economic policies, comprehensive national care systems and recent trends in the digitalization of the economy and adoption of artificial intelligence and their impact on women's jobs and the gender digital divide.

The dialogue will bring together stakeholders engaged in inclusive development, shared prosperity, and decent work, including government officials, ECOSOC functional commissions, representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with ECOSOC, the United Nations system and international economic and care institutions. The dialogue will begin with short introductory presentations by a group of expert panelists, followed by an interactive dialogue and comments from the floor.

Format and participation

The interactive dialogue will be chaired by H.E. Ms. Maritza Chan Valverde (Costa Rica), Vice-Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women. A moderator will support the Chair.

The interactive dialogue will start with introductory remarks by expert panelists to share experiences and good practices. The floor will then be open for comments and questions from Member States and other stakeholders in an interactive dialogue. Panelists would respond to any questions posed and make short concluding comments, time permitting. The Chair will wrap up and close the meeting.

Member States will participate in the dialogue on a voluntary basis. No speakers' list will be kept. UN-Women will facilitate an online application process for representatives of NGOs in consultative status

with ECOSOC. The list of NGOs proposed for participation in the event will be distributed to Member States through respective Bureau members.

Leading questions

Participating stakeholders in the interactive dialogue are invited to address the following questions:

1. What systemic barriers prevent women from accessing decent work and participating fully in the economy? How can we design and implement inclusive development policies that ensure women have equal opportunities to enhance their employment prospect and livelihoods?
2. How can we effectively integrate a gender perspective into macroeconomic policies to promote shared prosperity and enhance fiscal space to enable sufficient financing for gender equality including the growing demand for caregiving? What are some good practices of innovative financing measures that have been leveraged to support such policies?
3. How can we adequately protect and preserve the gains made in women's economic empowerment, particularly in low-income countries facing challenges like high debt and declining aid? What strategies can be implemented to address the lasting impact of economic crises on women's livelihoods, including job losses, income insecurity, increase in unpaid care work and persistent vulnerability?
4. What are the emerging opportunities and challenges posed by AI and digitalization on women's employment prospects, and how can we ensure that these technological advancements do not exacerbate existing inequalities? What are the most promising innovations and strategies for advancing women's economic empowerment and achieving gender equality in the future of work?

Outcome

The outcome of the discussion will be in the form of a summary by the Chair of the Commission, prepared in consultation with the regional groups, through the members of the Bureau.