



## **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.



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### **Speaker bios**

**Dr. Anita Kemi DaSilva - Ibru MD; MPH;** is a specialist healthcare physician who is dedicated to improving the lives of women and girls through medical practice, social activism and wider public advocacy against gender-based violence. Professionally, Dr DaSilva-Ibru is a consultant specialist in obstetrics and gynecology, as well as a public health physician, with over 30 years' experience in medical practice spanning three continents. She is also the founder of the Women at Risk International Foundation (WARIF), a leading non-profit organization that addresses the prevalence of sexual violence, rape and the trafficking of young girls and women across Nigeria and Africa. Dr. DaSilva-Ibru is a recognized thought leader in the gender space and in the field of women's health internationally. She is a founding member of the Women in Healthcare Network (WIHCN) – the first female healthcare platform in Nigeria; Dr DaSilva-Ibru also serves as a board member on the Health Committee at the Institute of Directors; Nigeria.

**Ms. Diane Elson:** is Emeritus Professor of Sociology at the University of Essex, England and Visiting Professor at the WiSE Centre for Economic Justice, Glasgow Caledonian University, Scotland. She was Chair of the UK Women's Budget Group (2010-16) and continues to be an active member of their Policy Advisory Group. She has also served as a member of the UN Committee for Development Policy (2013-2021), adviser to UN Women and UNDP, and to several international development NGOs. She was Vice President of the International Association for Feminist Economics (2004-6). She has published widely on gender equality, human rights and economic justice. She was awarded the 2016 Leontief Prize for Advancing Frontiers of Economic Thought by the Global Development and Environment Institute at Tufts University.

**Ms. Corina Rodriguez:** is a researcher at the National Council of Research (CONICET) and the Interdisciplinary Centre for the Study of Public Policy (CIEPP) in Buenos Aires, Argentina. She is co-director of the PhD Program on Political Economy, Interdisciplinary School of Social Studies at the University of San Martin (IDAES-UNSAM). She is also an Executive Committee Member at Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN). She works from the feminist economics perspective on fiscal issues, debt and social organization of care. She is currently coordinating a Feminist Macroeconomics project at DAWN. She holds an MA in Public Policy (Institute of Social Studies, The Hague, The Netherlands), and a PhD in Social Sciences (Flacso, Argentina).

**Ms. Lekha S. Chakraborty:** is a Professor at NIPFP and an elected Member of the Governing Board of Management at the International Institute of Public Finance (IIPF) Munich, the world association of public finance economists. She is a pioneer economist in institutionalizing gender budgeting in India, with Chief Economic Advisor, Ministry of Finance, Govt. of India, in 2004. She is also a research affiliate at the Levy Economics Institute of Bard College, New York. Her areas of interest are macroeconomics of public finance, fiscal federalism, climate financing, extractive sector economics, financing human development, and gender budgeting.

**Ms. Barbara KY:** is a Macroeconomist, researcher and specialist in the fields of design and analysis of time-budget statistical surveys, poverty, gender issues and gender-sensitive macroeconomic modeling. She has 20 years of experience in the field of Gender. Before WAEMU, she was an associate researcher at the Research Institute for Development in France and she was an expert for the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, UN Women, USAID. she is the author of a book entitled "Unpaid Work: Issues for Development"; published by l'Harmattan, in 2018. She has contributed to several think tanks and foundations, including recently: (i) the development of a chapter on the challenges of accounting for GDP in The Oxford Handbook of the Economy, the next version of which, currently in progress, is devoted to Burkina Faso. She was an elected member of the Executive Committee of the following scientific research associations: (i) Human Development and Capabilities Association in Boston, Massachusetts, USA, founded and chaired until 2006 by economist and Nobel Prize winner in Economics Amartya Sen; and (ii) International Association for Time Use Research, which is the International Association for Time Use Research, based in Oxford. She holds a Ph.D. degree in economics from the University of Paris V.

**Ms. Marija Babovic:** has over 25 years of experience as a social researcher and has dedicated more than 15 years to activism in the area of gender equality and empowerment of women. She is full professor affiliated with the University of Belgrade – Faculty of Philosophy, Department for Sociology in Serbia, and serves as the Director of Programmes at the association of citizens SeConS – Development Initiative Group. She is a member of Executive Committee of the European Anti-Poverty Network, the largest European civil society network combating poverty and social exclusion. Professor Babovic has extensive expertise in research, active participation, and advisory roles within international development organizations, with a specific focus on women's human rights and empowerment in the Southeast, Eastern Europe, and Central Asia regions. She collaborates closely with UN Women Europe and Central Asia, contributing to both country-level and regional research and advocacy initiatives with focus on Women's Economic Empowerment and Elimination of Violence against Women.