



ECONOMIC JUSTICE AND RIGHTS

25 YEARS AFTER BEIJING

75th session of the United Nations General Assembly
High-Level Side Event

28 September 2020 | 10:00 EST, 16:00 Spain

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The event will be co-organized by Spain and the leaders of the Action Coalition for Economic Justice and Rights of the Generation Equality Forum in close collaboration with civil society.

Background notes

In the year 2020 we celebrate a milestone moment for accelerating the implementation of global commitments to gender equality. It is the **25th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women** and the adoption of the **Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action**, a visionary agenda that thrived women’s rights and set out a roadmap to achieve important advancement of women and equal participation in all spheres of society.

The **Generation Equality Forum** (GEF) co-convened by UN Women, France and Mexico is a unique initiative to renew and foster further commitments in this critical moment for the achievement of global gender equality. COVID-19 has highlighted the urgent need to act decisively to avoid a backlash in women’s and girl’s rights. The **Action Coalitions** created by the GEF constitute a valuable instrument for transformative change and constructive dialogue on this matter. Action coalitions are innovative partnerships between civil society, Member States and private sector, with a shared vision for gender equality to accelerate action on critical issues of interest.

In this context, strong partners have come together in the co-leadership of the Action Coalition on **Economic Justice and Rights**. The partners sharing this commitment include Spain, Sweden, Mexico, Germany and South Africa, the OECD, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation as private sector partner and strong civil society actors (FEMMNET, Care International, UNCDF, Women's Working Group on Financing for Development, Huairou Commission, International Trade Union Confederation, ANYAR).

Side event objectives:

Spain organizes, in the margins of the 75° General Assembly in joint effort with the co-leaders of the Action Coalition, a public side event that aims to thrive the Generation Equality Forum and its discussion among the partners of the coalition and participants.

Co-leaders have initiated discussion on their priorities and efforts to thrive transformative change and on how to ensure that Action Coalitions are real catalysts for change in the following 5 years. COVID -19 has directly impacted economical and societal structures, which has had a negative consequence for women and girls' full enjoyment of human rights. This further underlines the importance of the AC contribution, giving mutual reinforcement of a gender integrated global economic response and recovery.

Throughout this discussion, States, CSO's, international organizations and private sector and the participants will discuss a topic that is critical to the advancement of economic justice and rights of women: The effect on women's and girls' economic conditions under the COVID-19 with a focus on the care economy.

Women and girls are being hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic. In the economic sector, women are often in lower-paid jobs, more often in the informal sector and have less access to social protection systems. The focus of this discussion will be on the care economy and the care work that women provide in professional capacity, as well as the need to achieve equal distribution of unpaid housework and provision of care between women and men. COVID has highlighted the importance of care for the sustainability of life and the low visibility of this sector and has increased the demand for care work. Women constitute a majority of workers in the health and social sectors. Women carry out 3 times the amount of unpaid care work and school and care facilities closure, among other consequences of COVID-19 has increased this unbalanced distribution. Initiating economic and social reforms for Gender Equality to design and implement measures to redistribute unpaid care work equally between women and men and to ensure and promote active public policies (fiscal measures and social protection instruments) must be part of the global response.

Format and participants:

The event will be carried out virtually (Webex) and will enhance open discussion with participants following the panellists' remarks and discussion.

High level segment (1 hour)

Welcome and opening Remarks (3'):

- **Ms. Arancha González Laya**, Minister of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation. Spain

Presentation of the Gender Equality Forum (8')

- UN Women (Executive Director, Ms. **Phumzille Mlambo – Ngcuka**), France (Secretary General, Ms. **Delphine O**) and Mexico (Undersecretary, Ms. **Martha Delgado**):

HL Segment members of AC coalition (3'):

- **Ms. Ann Linde**, Minister of Foreign Affairs. Sweden
- **Mr. Angel Gurría**. Secretary-General OECD
- **Ms. Dr. Nadine Gasman**, President of the National Institute for Women, Mexico
- **Ms. Maite Nkoana-Maschabane**, Minister in the Presidency responsible for Women. Youth and Persons with Disabilities, South Africa
- **Ms. Juliane Seifert**, State Secretary, Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth. Germany
- **Ms. Judith Karl**, Executive Director. UNCDF
- **Ms. Laura Huertas**, Youth Activist and President of AYNAR.
- **Gates Foundation** Representative TBC

Participation of Ministers and high-level representatives:

- **Ms. Helena Dalli**, European Commissioner for Equality, European Union.
- Ministers and high-level representatives non-members of the action Coalition.

Conclusion of the HL Segment (3'):

- **Ms. Arancha González Laya**, Minister of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation. Spain

Moderated open discussion (1 hour)

Moderation by Ms. Hannah Kristjansdottir, UN Women

Presentation by experts (20'):

- **Ms. Maria Ángeles Durán**, expert economist on care economy
- **Ms. Nandini Harihareswara**. United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF Technology and care economy)

Debate and discussion

Conclusions:

- The way forward for the Action Coalition