



HLPF Side Event

Roadmap to address the interlocking crises of care, jobs and the environment to achieve the promise of the SDGs

6 July 2021, 1:00–2:30 pm (EDT)

[Register here](#) (to receive meeting link)

Objective: To mobilize political commitment and partnerships for policies and financing to strengthen the care economy, create decent work and ensure environmental sustainability towards gender-responsive recovery and resilience.

COVID-19 and its impacts have intensified deep-seated structural inequalities, stemming from the interlocking crises of care, livelihoods and the environment. Paid and unpaid care, which is disproportionately borne by women and girls, have increased in intensity and significance, exposing the extent to which the care economy relies on women's labour. Due to gendered economic impacts of the pandemic, women have experienced higher employment losses than men, threatening to further widen gender poverty gaps in the coming decade. With only 24% of members of COVID-19 Task Forces being women, the response of governments has not matched the size of the challenge. In fact, only 13% and 11% of governmental socio-economic measures targeted women's economic security and the crisis of care, respectively¹. Women also bear the brunt of increasing climate-related disasters, yet they are often excluded from decision-making on climate issues.

As the world grapples with the COVID-19 crisis and recovers from its impacts, the global community must act in solidarity and invest in inclusive, resilient and sustainable economic recovery. The systematic mainstreaming of a gender perspective into policymaking is essential for both the achievement of all Sustainable Development Goals and long-lasting recovery from COVID-19 and other crises. As UN Women's forthcoming Feminist Plan for Sustainability and Social Justice Plan outlines, the roadmap for reconstruction and recovery must put gender equality, social justice and sustainability at the centre. New policies – centered on the care economy, decent jobs and adequate living standards for all, and gender just transitions to sustainable production and consumption – must underpin recovery efforts. Transformative macroeconomic policies and a new feminist politics will be needed to implement the Plan, which will spell out the financing, partnerships, accountability and metrics needed to ensure gender equality, sustainability and social justice for all.

Financing is a critical enabler for translating the Feminist Plan into change on the ground and to accelerate structural transformation of economies and build more inclusive societies. This requires understanding financing needs for gender responsive policies, sustained political commitment and new partnerships to direct financing from all sources to tackle the gender impacts of the pandemic and redress long-standing inequalities. Integrated national financing frameworks aim to redirect public and private finance towards the SDGs. As such, they can support countries to better align their commitments and policies towards gender equality with financing for implementation. Featuring Member States, UN Women, UNDP and the

¹ UNDP / UN Women COVID-19 Global Gender Response Tracker. Available at: <https://data.undp.org/gendertracker/>

ILO, this side event will showcase optimal policies, financing strategies and partnerships that lay the foundation for recovery and achieving Agenda 2030.

Questions for discussion

1. How are the current crises of care, the economy and the environment related? How do these individual and interlocking crises jeopardize progress on gender equality and the empowerment of women?
2. What investments are necessary to support the care economy and strengthen social protection systems? What actions can Governments and other stakeholders take to address the challenges and gaps that are impeding countries from developing and improving social infrastructure?
3. How can green technology and infrastructure and sustainable consumption and production contribute to creating sustainable livelihoods and the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women, and vice versa?
4. What financing strategies and partnerships can provide the resources necessary to address the three interlinked crises and ensure that policies are translated into action?
5. How can Governments, UN entities, civil society and other stakeholders start taking steps to lay the foundation for new feminist politics to implement the Feminist Plan for Sustainability and Social Justice?