

**Concept Note for a side-event at the 59<sup>th</sup> session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women,  
New York, March 2015**

***From Commitment to Action:  
Financing Gender Equality in the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda***

**Organisers:** Ethiopia, Sweden, Switzerland, Other Co-host (TBC), and the OECD-DAC Network on Gender Equality (GENDERNET).

**Date:** 10 March 2015 from 15h00 to 16h15 in the DHL Auditorium (Dag Hammarskjöld Library) in the United Nations Headquarters.

**Background:**

The scope and ambition of the post-2015 agenda offers tremendous opportunities for accelerating the achievement of gender equality. Ambitious financing will be needed to turn political aspirations into a reality.

Discussions on a new financing deal to underpin implementation of the post-2015 sustainable development agenda are well-underway ahead of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development in Addis Ababa (13-16 July). The Conference will result in an intergovernmentally negotiated outcome to support implementation of the post-2015 sustainable development agenda.

Prior to the first drafting session of the Outcome Document (27-29 January 2015), the Co-facilitators circulated an Elements Paper by way of “food-for-thought”. This identified indicative building blocks and related policy ideas in the areas of: domestic public finance; domestic and international private finance; International public finance; Trade; Technology, innovation and capacity building; sovereign debt; and systemic issues. In the first drafting session, financing for gender equality emerged as an important issue, as reflected in a [joint statement](#) made on behalf of 20 member states on gender equality in the financing for development process.

The second and third drafting sessions, scheduled for 13-17 April and 15-19 June, represent an important opportunity to augment and broaden this support, and insist on investments that are gender-responsive. A “zero draft” of the Addis Ababa Outcome Document, expected to be released before the end of February 2015, will form the basis for the discussions.

This side-event therefore comes at a timely moment and provides a crucial opportunity to strategise collectively about how to shape an Addis Ababa outcome document that is fit to deliver on commitments on gender equality and achieve sustainable development for all.

**Objectives:**

Gender equality is as an essential dimension of the financing for development agenda that will underpin implementation of the post-2015 sustainable development agenda – one that has central relevance to debates on domestic public finance, private finance, and ODA. This side-event seeks to prepare the ground for effective collaborative efforts to influence the Outcome Document of the Third Financing for Development Conference in Addis Ababa to ensure that gender equality and women’s rights is a visible priority and well-integrated throughout. It will bring together governments, donors and civil society to strategise jointly about specific priorities and recommendations on gender equality in the financing for development agenda, and about what we can do together in these final months to achieve the best possible outcomes for gender equality.

## **Speakers:**

### *Opening remarks*

- **Mr. Benno Bättig**, Head of Delegation, Switzerland

### *Panelists:*

- **Ms. Annika Molin Hellgren**, Ambassador-at-large for Global Women's Issues and Gender Equality, Coordinator of Feminist Foreign Policy, Sweden
- **Ms. Caren Grown**, Senior Director, Gender, World Bank
- **Ms. Lydia Alpizar**, Executive Director, Association for Women's Rights in Development
- **Ms. Begona Lasagabaster**, Head of Policy Division, UN Women (TBC)
- **Other Co-host** (TBC)

### *Closing remarks:*

- **Ethiopia** (speaker TBC)

### *Moderator*

- **Ms. Emily Esplen**, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development