



Building forward resilient and sustainable economies and societies Side event in CSW65

CONCEPT NOTE

Conference room date/time: 25 March, 11.00-12.30 EDT

Number of participants: Around 80

Duration: 90 minutes

Short Title: Equal and resilience economies and societies

Long Title: Building forward resilient and sustainable economies and societies

Organizers: Permanent Mission of Sweden to the UN and UN Women

BACKGROUND

COVID-19 has brought new and unforeseen challenges with great human costs, and it continues to deeply disrupt various aspects of people's lives with repercussions on employment and livelihoods. For governments and partners, there were huge implications to timely and effectively respond to and recover from the pandemic's significant disruptions and compounded social, economic and security ramifications. At the same time, the OSCE-region continues to witness crises and conflicts as well as societal tension.

COVID-19 has affected nations and regions differently and has further exacerbated the impact on women and girls, not least when it comes to increased gender-based violence. Women and girls are experiencing increased inequalities and globally the COVID-19 is estimated to push 47 million more women and girls into poverty. Women are a highly represented in the sectors that are hard hit by the COVID-19 pandemic and in informal work resulting in job losses and greater burdens of domestic care work. This could further fuel COVID-19's already gender disproportionate socio-economic impact.

Incorporating a gender perspective in economic recovery plans is therefore critical. Governments and social partners can contribute by expanding gender transformative job creation and social protection systems and reemployment strategies as well as gender equal public and corporate training opportunities. Governments can facilitate this change through reforms, such as individual taxation and childcare. Investment in decent jobs in the care sectors can have a transformative impact on women's economic participation, resilience and autonomy. The

international community should therefore use this opportunity of economic recovery to rebuild equal, gender equal and shock resilient societies and economies.

There is strong evidence suggesting that women's participation in peace processes contributes to longer, more resilient peace after crisis and conflict. Yet despite this, twenty years after the adoption of UN Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security, and twenty-five years after the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in 1995, women continue to be significantly excluded from formal peace processes and negotiations. The unrelenting impact of COVID-19, a development emergency, reminds us that the empowerment of women and girls within a safe and secure environment is a critical driver for building back better, accelerating progress on sustainable development and gender equality.

It is apparent that economic and social development has an intersecting role with the women, peace and security agenda, and plays a central role in building resilient and sustainable economies and societies. In light of this year's CSW priority theme on women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, the chairpersonship of the OSCE and UN Women, will use the opportunity to bring together actors to discuss women's participation and decision-making in economic life and the labour market, as well as women's full and equal participation in peace processes.

OBJECTIVES

- Discuss how we can build more resilient, gender equal, inclusive and sustainable economies and societies through bridging the Women, Peace and Security Agenda with efforts on women's economic empowerment and economic resilience efforts.
- Raise awareness and promote exchange, best practice models and knowledge to facilitate a recovery that enables women's economic empowerment.
- Addressing governments' leadership and level of commitment from the perspectives of women's economic justice and rights, and intersections with women, peace and security.
- Enhancing partners' collaboration: To invite more partners, donor community, and interested actors to support and collaborate through joint initiatives and future actions, including in a frame of the new Generation Equality Action Coalition on economic justice and rights and the Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action Global Compact.

PROPOSED SCENARIO

The side event will last **90 minutes** and will focus on the following topics:

- Intersections of women's economic justice and rights with the women, peace, and security agenda
- COVID-recovery and priority policy reforms for women and girls
- Financial instruments for better investments and women's economic empowerment and entrepreneurship

PANELISTS AND AGENDA

Moderator: Alia El-Yassir, UN Women Europe and Central Asia Regional Director

Opening and welcome speeches by:

- *Ann Linde, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sweden and Chairperson-in-Office of the OSCE*
- *Asa Regner, Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations, Deputy Executive Director for Normative Support, UN System Coordination and Programme Results, UN Women*

Followed by a keynote address and panel discussion.