

2025 INFF Facility Partner Meeting

SESSION EIGHT

Financing Gender Equal Economies

Date and time: 23 January – 11:00-12:00

Session focal point: Manita Ray (manita.ray@undp.org)

Background

Realizing gender equality and the rights and empowerment of women and girls is essential for the full, effective, and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the 2030 Agenda and the anticipated outcomes of the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4). At the current rate of progress, it is estimated that eight (8) percent of the global female population, about 342 million and girls, will be living in extreme poverty in 2030, and it will take close to 300 years to achieve full gender equality.¹

The zero draft of the FfD4 Outcome acknowledges that achieving gender equality and empowering women and girls is essential to meeting all SDGs and are an essential prerequisite to sustainable development. Gender equality and the empowerment of women brings proven² economic benefits and has the potential to contribute to financing for development and ultimately, gender equal economies. Yet, many fiscal systems are yet to take gender considerations into account.³ In addition, that technological advances can have unintended consequences for economic and social outcomes that can worsen gender inequality.

Achieving Sustainable Development Goal 5 (SDG 5), which seeks to empower women and promote gender equality, remains a significant global challenge due to persistent financing gaps. FFD4 identifies that underinvestment in critical social sectors threatens progress towards meeting the SDGs and exacerbates inequalities

¹ UN Secretary General Report on Accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with gender perspective, CSW#68 session, March, 2024

² Zero draft: Outcome document of the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development, January 2025

³ Outcome document of the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development, 2025

including gender equality⁴. Gender equality is a fundamental human right and a critical driver of economic growth and social development. Despite global commitments, investments to achieve SDG 5 fall short, and financing is key to achieving gender equal economies.

The financing gap for gender equality is substantial. According to the IMF, women-Owned Small and Medium Enterprises (WSMEs) face an estimated credit gap of \$1.4 to \$1.7 trillion.⁵ The OECD estimates that in 2020, only 45% of bilateral aid integrated gender equality considerations, and a mere 4% targeted gender equality as the primary objective.⁶ The World Bank notes that closing gender gaps in economic participation could add \$160 trillion to global GDP, yet financing remains inadequate to unlock this potential.

Creating Gender Equal Economies requires a comprehensive set of gender-responsive policies and services, implemented by strengthened institutions and sustained financing from public, private, domestic, and international sources.

The zero draft of the FFD4 Outcome proposes several gender responsive priorities and commitments including:

- Calling for financing for sustainable development that integrates an **intersectional gender perspective**.
- A commitment to gender-responsive solutions across economic, social, environmental dimensions of sustainable development.
- A commitment to mainstreaming gender equality considerations in **fiscal policies and development financing**.
- A commitment to **increasing investment in the care economy** and recognizing value and equitable redistributing the disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work done by women.
- A commitment to **promoting gender-responsive budgeting and gender-responsive taxation** aligned with country national strategies, priorities and circumstances. In addition to developing tools and methodologies to design, monitor and evaluate tax and budget policies with a gender perspective and implement capacity development.
- A commitment to advancing the development of **responsible and inclusive investment products** in investing and **eliminating discriminative business practices**, such as gender-based price differentiation.
- A commitment to strengthening the **collection and dissemination of sex and other disaggregated data** to guide the formulation of effective trade policies.

⁴ Draft FFD Outcome Document

⁵ [Closing the Gender Finance Gap Through the Use of Blended Finance](#)

⁶ OECD, Gender equality across the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus , 2021

- A commitment to achieving **gender balance on executive boards** of all international organizations.

Aligned with the zero draft of the FfD outcome, it will be critical to consider several additional actions. Overall, there is a critical need to significantly increase and mobilize resources from all sources, including public, private, domestic, and international and scaling up of development financing through reform of the multilateral development banks. All approaches should ensure the full, equal, effective, and meaningful participation of women at all levels. Underpinning this is ensuring that the enabling environment and regulations allow for the private sector to contribute to the advancement of gender equality. It will be important also to align climate financing with global objectives on gender equality, and support women's organization leading local adaptation and mitigation efforts.

From the public finance perspective, it is important to ensure that that commitments on financing for development is aligned with governments objectives on gender equality. In addition, it is important to ensure that public institutions are fit for purpose to meet their commitments on gender equality and accountability on gender-responsive budgeting and fiscal policy. Facilitating fiscal policy reforms that leverage investments for gender equality will drive the elimination of gender-based discrimination in the economy, reduce the gender poverty gap, support women entrepreneurs and women-owned businesses to have equal access to finance. Finally, from the tax perspective, progressivity of tax policies should include a focus on taxing those with highest ability to pay, including wealth and capital taxes.

As we approach the 2030 deadline for the SDGs, dismantling the structural barriers to gender equality is increasingly urgent. Closing the gender gap in the economy is prerequisite for achieving the Goals and creating a more prosperous future for everyone.⁷

Objectives

The primary objectives of this session are:

- Hearing from policymakers on how considering gender equality in financing policy has supported the delivery of national government objectives.
- Understanding why collaboration across different stakeholders, including policymakers, academia, private sector, CSOs and more is critical to ensure effective financing for gender equal economies.

⁷ UNDP, EQUANOMICS INITIATIVE on Public financing for Gender Equality

Guiding Questions

- **Challenges:** What are the key challenges faced by governments to mobilize and unlock financing that responds to gender equality priorities?
- **Opportunities:** How are governments using the integrated national financing framework approach and other approaches to address these challenges and secure financing for gender equal economies?
- **Action:** What are some of the key actions and interventions implemented to facilitate finance towards gender equal economies?

Agenda

60 minutes

TIME	SESSION	SPEAKERS
5 mins	Welcome + introduction	Moderator
30 mins	Panel discussion 5 minutes per panelist	Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mohamed Soidiki, Tax Inspector, Ministry of Finance, Budget and Banking Sector, Comoros • Maelene Lebusa, Director a.i, Department of Aid Coordination, Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, Lesotho • Elvin Uy, Executive Director, Philippine Business for Social Progress • Lovette Ononuga, Director, Taxpayer Services Department, Federal Inland Revenue Service, Nigeria
20 mins	Questions and comments	
3 mins	Key takeaways and implications for FfD4	

**buffer time will be added to the above timetable to allow the transition between speakers*