

The OECD Development Centre, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland and Government of Kenya invite you to a side event as part of the 56th United Nations Commission on the Status of Women:

*Empowering women through the
transformation of discriminatory social institutions*

Thursday, 1 March, 2012
1:15 – 2:30 pm
UN North Lawn Building
Conference Room B

- How do discriminatory social institutions such as early marriage, gender-based violence and the unequal land rights influence women and girls' economic and social outcomes?
- What are examples of successful approaches in transforming discriminatory social institutions?
- What actions should governments, donors, UN bodies and civil society take to transform discriminatory social institutions and empower women and girls?



Please RSVP by Friday 24th February to Estelle.Loiseau@oecd.org. Note that there are limited spaces.

PROGRAMME

1. Welcome and opening remarks

Ambassador Jorma Paukku, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland

2. How do discriminatory social institutions relate to rural women's empowerment? Evidence from the Social Institutions and Gender Index and Wikigender

Somali Cerise and Estelle Loiseau, OECD Development Centre

3. Effective approaches to transforming discriminatory social institutions

- Elisa Scalise, Director, Landesa Center for Women's Land Rights
- Teresa Barasa, Kenyan delegation to CSW
- Dr. Emily Sikazwe, Executive Director, Women for Change, Zambia

4. Questions and discussion

5. Concluding remarks

Ambassador Josephine Ojiambo, Kenya

Background

This [panel event](#) will explore how discriminatory social institutions influence outcomes for women and girls, with a particular focus on rural women. The OECD Development Centre will present the innovative [Social Institutions and Gender Index](#) and a cross-country assessment of discriminatory laws, social norms and practices that restrict women and girls' social and economic opportunities. The presentation will include new findings on the links between women's land rights and food security and the outcomes of an [online discussion on rural women's empowerment](#) from the [Wikigender](#) platform. The panel discussion will then showcase effective policy interventions for transforming discriminatory social institutions with a particular focus on rural women.

The Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI) was created to complement other existing gender indices by measuring the underlying factors that drive gender inequalities, as opposed to measuring the inequalities in outcomes. Since SIGI was launched in 2009, the index and the role of discriminatory social institutions in undermining gender equality have gained increasing attention in the eyes of policy-makers and researchers alike. By applying SIGI to issues as diverse as employment, hunger and the achievement of the MDGs, it has been shown that countries which display higher levels of discrimination against women are also performing more poorly on a range of development indicators.

In 2012, the OECD Development Centre will be releasing a new, updated version of the Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI) and Gender, Institutions and Development Database (GID-DB). The updated SIGI and GID-DB will include improved data sources and reflects recent changes in laws or practices that will enable the assessment of changes across the twelve variables of the SIGI over time and the comparison between countries and regions. Wikigender is a unique platform developed by the OECD Development Centre to facilitate the exchange and improve the knowledge on gender equality-related issues around the world. Attracting around 22,000 visitors per month, Wikigender has hosted a lively online discussion on rural women's empowerment to inform this side event. The OECD Development Centre will be releasing a short issues paper linking discriminatory social institutions to the theme of CSW 2012, with a focus on land rights, food security and women's role in agriculture.

For more information please visit:

www.oecd.org/dev/gender

www.genderindex.org

www.wikigender.org