



Special Session on Gender Equality,

Fourth High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness
Busan, Republic of Korea- BEXCO Centre
30 November 2011

I. Objectives and panellists

Achieving our internationally agreed development goals will require accelerated progress on gender equality and women's empowerment, as well as integrating gender equality dimensions into all aspects of development co-operation. This necessitates strong political support from partner countries, donors and other stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector. The special session on gender equality served as a platform to build political commitment to gender equality and women's empowerment – essential to aid and development effectiveness.

II. Moderator and panellists

Moderator: Michelle Bachelet, Executive Director of UN Women

Panellists:

- Hillary Clinton, Secretary of State, United States of America (opening remarks)
- Hans Wijayasuriya, CEO, Dialog Axiata, Sri Lanka
- Sri Mulyani Indrawati, Managing Director, World Bank
- Esther Mwaure-Muiru, Founder and Co-ordinator, Groots, Kenya
- Kim Kum-lae, Minister of Gender Equality and Family, Korea (closing remarks)

III. Key issues discussed

Implementing policies and commitments: For development to be effective, gender equality needs to be addressed effectively. Helpful tools such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Beijing Platform for Action already exist. It is time to take action and ensure implementation of commitments and policies on gender equality. This implies taking a critical look at the allocation of resources – existing gender equality commitments and policies need to be matched with the appropriate resources.

Accountability and evidence-based decision making: Transparency and accountability can be strengthened by using data disaggregated by sex and gender equality outcome indicators. The lack of adequate data, on the other hand, impedes informed and effective policy-making.

The World Bank, through the Sixteenth Replenishment of the International Development Association (IDA 16), will prioritise and mainstream gender equality – and track the results of these operations.

Inclusiveness: Both women and men need to have the opportunity to engage in designing, implementing and evaluating development policies and plans. Women, including local women's groups, are key contributors to effective development. Innovation and technology from the private sector can help advance women's participation and gender equality. For example, helping women to use mobile technology can have a catalytic effect on their access to banking, insurance and trade.



IV. Main conclusions and next steps

- Participants expressed their support for the *Busan Joint Action Plan on Gender Equality and Development*. The Plan captures commitments to gender equality, women’s rights and women’s empowerment made at HLF4. Its intent is to build momentum for implementing these commitments throughout post-Busan activities, as appropriate, and in a co-ordinated way.
- The “Evidence and Data for Gender Equality” (EDGE) initiative is addressed as one part of the Busan Joint Action Plan on Gender Equality and Development. This initiative builds on the decision in the OECD Ministerial Council Meeting in May 2011 that the OECD, the World Bank and the UN would work to define a harmonised list of gender equality outcome indicators in the sectors of Education, Employment, and Entrepreneurship. EDGE is intended to create a flexible mechanism to respond to a growing demand by countries for financial and technical support to improve the availability and use of gender equality indicators.