



# » OECD Policy Dialogue on Women's Economic Empowerment: Recognising, Reducing and Redistributing unpaid care and domestic work

## First Policy Dialogue Meeting

**25 January 2018 | 9:00-17:30**

**OECD Conference Centre | Room 13**

**2 rue André Pascal, Paris, France**

### CONTEXT

The case for countries to invest in women's economic empowerment has never been stronger. A growing body of evidence is demonstrating that economies are more resilient, productive and inclusive when they reduce gender inequalities and actively support women's equal participation in all spheres of life. Further impetus for action has been provided in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which places the empowerment of women at the centre of many initiatives required to deliver on these commitments.

Recent reports – including the UN Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment, UN Women's Progress Report on Women and the OECD's *Pursuit of Gender Equality: an Uphill Battle* – have contributed to advancing understanding of the persistent gaps and challenges in achieving women's economic empowerment, with growing recognition of the constraints imposed by the uneven share of unpaid care and domestic work.<sup>1</sup> Indeed, women around the world spend more time than men on unpaid care and domestic work, irrespective of their country's level of development, income or socio-cultural factors. The inequalities between women and men reflect not only the time-intensive nature of some tasks performed around the home, such as caring for other household members, but also the uneven distribution of caring activities between household members, driven by discriminatory social norms and practices, and intra-household decision-making.

The need to address the burden of unpaid care work for achieving gender equality and women's economic empowerment was recognised explicitly in the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Target 5.4, which identifies "the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection and the promotion of shared responsibility" as policy enablers for women's economic empowerment. Moving from the "why this is important" to the "how can we drive change" is the question confronting both governments and the development community. To help answer this question, the OECD has launched an inclusive Policy Dialogue on Women's Economic Empowerment.

---

<sup>1</sup> Unpaid care work refers to non-remunerated activities performed within the household for its maintenance and well-being such as childcare and housework. These activities are considered work, because theoretically one could pay a third person to perform them. Elson, D (2000), *Progress of the World's Women 2000*, UNIFEM Biennial Report, New York: United Nations Development Fund for Women.



The Policy Dialogue is co-ordinated by the OECD Development Co-operation Directorate, the Development Centre, and the Statistics Directorate.

### **OVERALL OBJECTIVE OF THE POLICY DIALOGUE**

Generate data, evidence and inclusive policy guidance for policy makers and development partners on “what works” to achieve SDG target 5.4 – Recognise and value unpaid care and domestic work – as an entry point for promoting women’s economic empowerment and well-being in low- and middle-income countries.

### **OBJECTIVES OF THE DIALOGUE MEETING**

This initial Dialogue with a number of countries and development partners will offer a forum to share experiences among Dialogue members in addressing unpaid care and domestic work in the four policy domains. Participants will also be invited to discuss challenges and knowledge gaps.

Expected outputs include the identification of priorities for the OECD Policy Dialogue’s future analytical work. The outcomes from the discussion will contribute to defining the scope and possible case studies for a series of analytical notes. The notes will explore “what works” to reduce women’s unpaid care and domestic work in developing countries in each of the four policy domains outlined in SDG 5.4, namely, public services, social protection, infrastructure and redistribution of responsibility within the household. The analytical notes will provide context-specific policy recommendations for governments and development partners working to recognise, reduce and redistribute women’s unpaid care and domestic work.

Participants to this meeting will include representatives from developing countries, OECD countries, regional and multilateral organisations and civil society.



## AGENDA

---

8:30 –	Welcome coffee and registration
9:00	
9:00 –	<b>1.1 OPENING SESSION</b>
9:45	<b>Welcome participants</b> on behalf of the OECD Policy Dialogue on Women's Economic Empowerment ( <b>Mario Pezzini</b> , Director of the OECD Development Centre)  <b>Introduction to the Policy Dialogue Initiative</b> ( <b>Jorge Moreira da Silva</b> , Director, OECD Development Co-operation Directorate)  <b>Applying the OECD's tools and expertise to measure unpaid care and domestic work</b> ( <b>Martine Durand</b> , OECD Chief Statistician and Director of Statistics Directorate)  <b>Progress on SDG 5.4:</b> Update from UN Women on the implementation and monitoring of SDG target 5.4, and collaboration with the OECD Policy Dialogue ( <b>Papa Seck</b> , Chief Statistician, UN Women)
9:45-	<b>1.2 PRESENTATION OF OECD POLICY DIALOGUE AND PLANNED OUTPUTS</b>
10:30	<b>Overview of the Policy Dialogue:</b> Proposed outputs and working modalities ( <b>Jenny Hedman</b> , Policy Advisor Gender Equality and Development, OECD Development Co-operation Directorate)  <b>OECD Development Centre meetings:</b> Meeting of the Government Focal Points for the Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI), and netFWD's Gender Working Group on 24 January ( <b>Bathylle Missika</b> , Senior Counsellor to the Director (acting) and Head of Unit, Partnerships and Networks, OECD Development Centre)  <b>OECD Time Use Survey Database:</b> The Statistics Directorate of the OECD will introduce their work to expand the OECD Time Use Survey Database to selected low- and middle-income economies and how this can facilitate cross-country analysis and reporting to SDG 5.4 ( <b>OECD Statistics Directorate</b> )  <b>Organisation of Policy Dialogue meeting:</b> Instructions concerning breakout groups sessions, lunch and closing session ( <b>Annelise Thim</b> , Co-ordinator of the OECD Policy Dialogue on Women's Economic Empowerment)  <b>Discussion:</b> Questions and clarification  <b>Documentation:</b> <i>Concept Note for the Policy Dialogue on Women's Economic Empowerment</i>
10:30 –	Coffee break
11:00	

---



---

11:00 – **2. PARALLEL THEMATIC BREAK OUT GROUPS: SOCIAL PROTECTION (A) AND PUBLIC SERVICES (B)**

Participants will have the opportunity to join one of the working groups to explore in depth one of two policy domains in relation to the **principal research question** underpinning this work: *How can public policies reduce unpaid care and domestic work, tailored to the specific needs of different groups of women?*

**GROUP A: Social protection**

**Room 18**

The design of social protection programmes has tended to be gender blind, reinforcing patriarchal family structures and being based on gender stereotypes of women as the primary caregiver, thereby increasing rather than reducing their time poverty. This session will aim to identify: good practices in social protection that reduce unpaid care and domestic work; knowledge and data gaps to understand the impact of social protection policies on women's time use; and key actors to catalyse more gender-responsive social protection systems.

**Facilitator:** Alessandra Heinemann (Co-ordinator, Social Protection Project, OECD Development Centre)

**Contributors:**

- Reaching informal women workers (**Rachel Moussié**, Social Protection Advisor, WIEGO)
- Gender equality in family policy in Finland (**Anneli Miettinen**, Kela Social Insurance Institution, Finland)
- Brazil's experience with cash transfers (**Joana Mostafa**, Social policy and economics researcher at the Research Institute of Applied Economics (IPEA), Federal Government of Brazil)

**GROUP B: Public services**

**Room 13 (with French and Spanish translation)**

Public services to address unpaid care and domestic work include child care and health care services, among others. They can alleviate women's time spent on unpaid care activities as well as help generate employment opportunities for them. The public provision of care services for children through crèches or services for the elderly, sick and disabled can redistribute care work that may traditionally fall to women. Access to basic health services can cut down on the amount of time women spend travelling and waiting to receive health care for themselves or their dependents. This session will also be an opportunity to explore new actors in service delivery including the private sector. This session will aim to identify: existing public services that reduce and redistribute unpaid care and domestic work;



---

knowledge and data gaps to understand the impact of services on women's time use; and keys actors to catalyse more gender-responsive service delivery.

**Facilitator:** Nikki van der Gaag (Director of Gender Justice and Women's Rights, Oxfam Great Britain)

**Contributors:**

- The Business Case for Employer-Supported Childcare in Developing Countries (**Henriette Kolb**, Head, Gender Secretariat, International Finance Corporation)
- Care systems for promoting social justice (**Luiza Carvalho**, Regional Director, Regional Office for the Americas and Caribbean, UN Women)
- Uruguay's experience in implementing the Care Act (**Patricia Cossani**, Deputy Director, National Care System, Uruguay)
- Linking Domestic Workers Organizing with Macroeconomic Planning (**Marina Durano**, Programme Officer, Open Society Foundation)

---

13:00 – **Lunch** *Lunchboxes will be provided in room 13.*

14:00

14:00 – **3. PARALLEL THEMATIC BREAK OUT GROUPS: INFRASTRUCTURE (A) AND SHARED RESPONSIBILITY WITHIN THE HOUSEHOLD (B)**

**Coffee will be available in rooms 13 and 18 at 15:00** Members have the opportunity to join one of the working groups to explore in depth one of two policy domains in relation to the principal research question underpinning this work:  
*How can public policies reduce unpaid care and domestic work, tailored to the specific needs of different groups of women?*

**GROUP A: Infrastructure**

**Room 13 (with French and Spanish translation)**

Infrastructure is often considered to be gender-neutral yet women are disproportionately affected by a lack of water or electricity, by poor local roads and inadequate transport – all of which increase their time spent on domestic tasks. By applying a gender lens to the design of public investment in infrastructure, including information and communications technology (ICTs), infrastructure can both save time and be a source of decent work for women. This session will aim to identify: gender-responsive infrastructure projects and investments that can reduce unpaid care and domestic work; knowledge and data gaps to understand the impact of gender-blind infrastructure on women's time use; and keys actors to catalyse more gender-responsive investments in infrastructure.

**Facilitator:** Molly Walton (Energy Analyst, International Energy Agency)



---

#### Contributors:

- Women's Economic Empowerment from the KC-NCDDP experience (**Joanne Barriga Quintana**, Gender Specialist, KALAHI-CIDSS Community-Driven Development Program, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Philippines)
- Integrating gender equality into private sector investments (**Martine Vullierme**, SVP Veolia Africa / Middle East in charge of Operations)
- Applying a gender lens to infrastructure investment (**Vanessa Moungar**, Director for Gender, African Development Bank)
- Care economy, public infrastructure and social norms: emerging findings from the GrOW program (**Arjan de Haan**, Program Leader, Employment and Growth, International Development Research Center)

### GROUP B: Shared responsibility within the household

#### Room 18

Redistributing tasks within households addresses social norms and expectations about women's roles, which constitute some of the underlying causes of gender inequality. The unequal share of unpaid care and domestic work has an adverse impact on women's time use and their and ability to seek economic opportunities outside the home and restricts their voice and agency within the home. This session will aim to identify policies and initiatives to transform negative social norms in the household and key entry points to address the unequal distribution of care and domestic work in policy design and implementation.

**Facilitator:** Ursula Keller (Gender Policy Advisor, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, and Co-Chair DAC Network on Gender Equality (GENDERNET))

#### Contributors:

- Getting Men in the Kitchen in Mozambique (**Julio Langa**, Research and Network Programme Manager, HOPEM, and **Elisa Mutisse**, Head of the Gender Equality Promotion Department, Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Action, Mozambique)
- Lessons on social norm change from DFID's Voices for Change Programme (**Caroline Enye**, Team Leader, Voices for Change programme, Nigeria)
- Challenging stereotypes in rural households (**Azzurra Chiarini**, Global Coordinator, Joint Programme on Rural Women's Economic Empowerment, FAO/IFAD/UN Women and WFP)

---

16:00 – Break

16:10

---



---

16:10 –	<b>4. CLOSING SESSION</b>
17:00	<b>Reporting of the thematic working groups</b> ( <b>Group Facilitators</b> , 5 mins per group) <b>Discussion on next steps and validation of the way forward</b>
	<b>Closing Remarks</b> ( <b>Martine Durand</b> , Chief Statistician and Director of Statistics Directorate; <b>Jorge Moreira da Silva</b> , Director, OECD Development Co-operation Directorate; <b>Mario Pezzini</b> , Director of the OECD Development Centre)
17:30	<b>Cocktail Reception</b> <i>Participants are invited to a cocktail reception held in the Roger Ockrent Room of the Château.</i>

---