



Responding to the Coronavirus (Covid-19) crisis

Working Party on Gender Mainstreaming & Governance

29 April – 14h30 CEST
Virtual meeting

Responding to the Coronavirus (Covid-19) crisis

Extra-ordinary meeting of the Working Party on Gender Mainstreaming and Governance

29 April 2020 | 14:00-17:30 hrs | Via Zoom

BACKGROUND

In light of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis, governments around the globe are taking bold measures to ensure public health and tackle an emerging economic crisis. Several countries have declared national emergencies to contain further spreading of COVID-19 as well as short-term measures to buffer shocks to the health system, the economy and financial markets. The burden of the crisis is likely to hit women and men differently. Therefore it is crucial to integrating a gender equality perspective and consistently underlining the consequences for men and women from diverse backgrounds in the COVID-19 response – both in short and long terms. The extra-ordinary meeting of the Working Party on Gender Mainstreaming and Governance will aim map the gender dimensions of the crisis in the short and medium term, its implications on the existing governance infrastructures and capacities for the gender equality policy, as well as the policy options going forward.

DRAFT AGENDA

14:30 – 14:45 Welcome and Introductory Remarks

Lina Nilsson, Chair, Deputy Director, Division for Gender Equality, Ministry of Employment, Government Offices of Sweden

Gabriela Ramos, Chief of Staff and G20 Sherpa, OECD

14:45 – 16:00 Session 1. Mapping the impact of Coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis on gender equality and emergency responses across the OECD

The COVID-19 pandemic is wreaking havoc on our systems, with different implications for men and women. Women face compounding burdens: they are over-represented working in health systems, continue to do the majority of unpaid care work in households, face high risks of economic insecurity and face increased risks of violence, exploitation, abuse or harassment during times of confinement.

The session will focus on the country updates and exchange about the various country responses to the emerging gender equality needs in the context of the crisis. The discussions will aim to support the emergency preparedness in the face of subsequent potential waves of Covid-19 pandemic. To kick-off and support the discussion, OECD, UNWOMEN and EIGE will present the initial mapping of the gender dimensions of Covid-19 crisis in the short and medium term as well as the policy options going forward.

Kick off speakers (15-20 mins):

- Willem Adema, Senior Economist, Social Policy Division, **OECD**
- Tatyana Teplova, Head of Division, Policy Coherence for SDGs, Senior Counsellor for Gender Equality, Justice and Inclusiveness, **OECD**
- Sarah Hendriks, Director of Policy, Programme and Intergovernmental Division, **UN WOMEN**
- Marusa Gortnar, Head of Operations, **EIGE**

Tour de table - Issues for discussion (all participant countries are encouraged to provide two minutes updates):

- What are the critical issues that gender equality institutions are currently managing in response to Covid-19 crisis? For example,
 - Gender-based violence;
 - Care responsibilities;
 - Risk job and income loss;
 - Women entrepreneurs and small business owners;
 - Women in decision-making positions;
 - Digital gender divide
- What are the examples of targeted and gender mainstreaming measures, and leveraging new technologies and behavioural approaches?
- What are the mechanisms to ensure that gender priorities remain on the agenda and are not side-lined during emergency responses?
- What are the examples of communicating safety measures through an intersectional lens?

16:40 –
16:45

Session 2. Ensuring resilience and antifragility of national gender machineries to support recovery

Drawing parallels to the Global Financial Crisis of 2008, and subsequent austerity measures implemented by some countries, it can be expected that the emerging economic downturn may have an impact on the resources and capacities of national gender institutions. Going forward, ensuring resilience of the gender equality machineries will be essential but not sufficient to exit the crisis and support inclusive recovery. There is a need for gender machineries to become more robust and antifragile in the face of similar shocks so as to effectively respond to aggravating gender inequalities. It is critical to anticipate short and medium term needs of gender machineries, and the priorities to support inclusive and sustainable recovery. The session will identify governance related

bottlenecks and possible solutions to provide an effective response to gender equality needs in the short and medium term. It will discuss the potential implications for the governance structures and strategy setting for the gender policy.

Kick-off speakers:

- Sylvie Durrer, Director, Federal Office for Gender Equality, **Switzerland**
- Carol Baxter, Head of Civil Justice and Equality Policy, Department of Justice and Equality, **Ireland**

Tour de table - Issues for discussion :

- What did the Coronavirus (Covid-19) crisis reveal in terms of capabilities of whole-of-government gender machineries? What challenges and opportunities have it presented? How to ensure resilience, agility and abilities to anticipate and effectively respond to the recurrent crises as the “new normal”?
- How to ensure ability to embed gender equality lens in the urgent decision-making processes (e.g., to ensure gender-sensitive delivery of various support packages)?
- What were the existing mechanisms (e.g., gender impact assessments, existing consultation structures, data analysis tools, etc.) that helped make gender-informed decisions during emergency responses? What can be the lessons learned for the future?
- What are the means to ensure that the exit strategy of governments are gender-responsive and inclusive? What is the role of national gender equality machineries in this regard (i.e., central gender institutions, centre of government, inter-ministerial bodies, line ministries, statistics agencies, etc.)?

16:45– 17:15 Wrap up and next steps

Closing by Tatyana Teplova, Head of Division, Policy Coherence for SDGs, Senior Counsellor for Gender Equality, Justice and Inclusiveness, **OECD**

Issues for consideration:

- What could be the opportunities that you see on the horizon to bounce forward on gender equality as a result of COVID-19?
- What are the most outstanding questions that you want the Working Party to address in response to the crisis and to support inclusive recovery?

-
- How can we continue strengthening the business case for gender equality issues to remain at the forefront of short term responses and pathways for the recovery?
 - How can we ensure the application of gender impact assessment tools across policy and governance related tools during times of crisis and post-crisis?



Contact

Tatyana.teplova@oecd.org

Pinar.guven@oecd.org