

GETTING SDG 5 BACK ON TRACK: LESSONS FROM COVID-19 FOR A WORLD IN TURMOIL

7 JULY 2022: 7:30AM – 9 AM

BACKGROUND

In July 2022, the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development will focus on the theme of ‘Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development’. The goals under review this year include SDG 5 on gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.

As the latest edition of [*Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals: The Gender Snapshot 2021*](#) makes clear, women and girls remain disproportionately affected by the socioeconomic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic, struggling with lost jobs and livelihoods, derailed education and increased burdens of unpaid care work. Women’s health services, already poorly funded, have faced major disruptions, undermining women’s sexual and reproductive health. And despite women’s central roles in responding to COVID-19, including as front-line health workers, they have been largely excluded from decision-making during the pandemic. As a result, progress on SDG 5 targets is lagging far behind. Out of 18 indicators/sub-indicators, only one, on women’s representation in local government, is ‘close to target’. In areas such as unpaid care work, violence against women, and discriminatory laws, the world is currently ‘moderately far’ or ‘far from target’. This lack of, or in some cases, reversal of progress threatens the achievement of the 2030 Agenda as a whole.

Getting the SDGs back on track will require Governments to implement a raft of gender-responsive policy measures, as many countries continue to grapple with the lingering effects of the pandemic, new and old conflicts continue to take a disproportionate impact on women and girls, the climate and environmental crises are escalating in severity, and democratic erosion and backlash on gender equality are becoming more widespread. A new report by UN Women and UNDP, [*Government Responses to COVID-19: Lessons on gender equality for a world in turmoil*](#) analyses the extent to which policymaking during the pandemic has taken women’s rights and needs into account. Based on a [unique dataset](#) of nearly 5,000 measures taken by Governments in 226 countries and territories in the past two years, it identifies the key lessons from the COVID-19 response and makes concrete recommendations to strengthen the gender sensitivity of crisis response and recovery efforts. Such measures will be critical to enhance resilience and preparedness for future crises, to reinvigorate commitments to gender equality, and to get the SDGs back on track.

EVENT PROPOSAL

UN Women’s official side event at the HLPF will be organized in partnership with UNDP and ILO and bring together a panel of policymakers and civil society actors to assess where the world stands on SDG 5, and to analyze governments responses to COVID-19 from a gender perspective. In doing so, the event will chart a forward-looking agenda on recovery from the pandemic and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

MODERATOR:

Manuela Tomei, Director, Conditions of Work and Employment, ILO

OPENING REMARKS

Asa Regner, Deputy Executive Director, UN Women

Senior leader, UNDP

PANELISTS

A moderated interactive discussion, based on the key messages of the two reports (on SDGs, and Government COVID-19 policies), featuring:

- Malika Kadir Khanova, Chairperson of the Committee on Women and Gender Equality of the Senate of **Uzbekistan**
- Paola Simonetti, Director of Equality, **ITUC**
- Natalia Gherardi, Executive Director, Equipo Latinoamericano de Justicia y Género (ELA), **Argentina**
- Senior government official on care (and Action Coalition Commitment Maker), **Canada**
- Senior government official on labour/social protection, **Togo**

The audience for this 90-minute event will be policymakers at national, regional and global levels; UN agencies who are working extensively on the COVID-19 response and SDG 5, such as UN Women, ILO, OHCHR, UNDESA, UNDP and UNICEF; women's organizations and feminist civil society; institutional feminists working in governments, UN Missions, UN agencies and INGOs; researchers and academics; and philanthropic organizations, especially those currently supporting the achievement of SDG 5.