

Women's Major Group

Women's Major Group's Intervention to

High Level Political Forum 2021

"Restoring the conditions for SDG progress in African countries, Least Developed Countries and Landlocked Developing Countries" Session

Thursday 8th July 2021, 3:00PM - 5:00 PM EDT

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COVID-19 is exacerbating inequalities, both within and between countries. As we've heard already, LDCs have only vaccinated 2 percent of their populations against COVID-19. Countries in special situations were already facing challenges in achieving the SDGs before the pandemic, and now the international community must transform the systems and structures that have long-reinforced and benefited from inequalities, stalling SDG progress.

The Women's Major Group is calling on Member States to place economic, racial, climate, and gender justice at the center of policymaking, including at the upcoming LDC5 Conference in Doha, Qatar.

The challenges these countries face are not simply case studies that require micro-level solutions, but rather symptoms of neoliberal capitalism and colonialism, a world order built on extraction, exploitation and profiteering. Member States must consider not only domestic policy measures, but also the negative externalities of international policies and actions of the so-called development partners.

Restoring the conditions for SDG progress requires that we:

- One, treat COVID-19 vaccines as a global public good. Abandon vaccine nationalism, the stockpiling of vaccines and other medical supplies, and support the TRIPS COVID-19 waiver
- Two, develop stronger and sustainable graduation support mechanisms for countries in special situations, including an extension of the TRIPS graduation period for technology transfer
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- Three, eradicate outdated austerity measures and policies that constrain the fiscal space needed to develop and fund gender-responsive social protection systems
- Four, dismantle the unjust economic systems that perpetuate and deepen inequalities —through, but not limited to:
 - Widespread debt cancellation, including private creditors
 - Establishing a fully inclusive global tax body to curb illicit financial flows
 - Fulfilling ODA commitments and align contributions with the SDGs
 - And an end to regressive taxation measures that disproportionately affect women and girls and prevent the full realization of gender equality