Global Policy Dialogue Series
"Progress towards gender equality from t e ! ei"ing Declaration to #$V%D&' (and beyond) a data and *olicy dialogue+
2, November 2020- .)00&()30 a/m/ 0S1

#once*t Note

Background

As we mark the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World onference on Women in !""5# the latest data show that hard$earned gains in gender e%uality achieved over a %uarter century are &eing challenged &y the ' ()D$!" pandemic# a crisis that affects women and men in different ways* While significant progress has &een made in advancing women∔s rights at the glo&al level# no country can claim to have fully achieved the commitments made in !""5 and reaffirmed in the 2, -, Agenda for . ustaina&le Development in 2,!5*)ndeed# ∕ em&er . tates recognised# in . ustaina&le Development Ooal 5# that gender e%uality is central to the achievement of sustaina&le development for all &y 2, -,*

1he 2nited 3ations . ecretary$Oeneral∔s newly launched flagship report# The World's Women 2020: Trends and Statistics# and the accompanying data availa&le on the report∔s online platform produced &y the 23 Department of 4conomic and . ocial Affairs 523 D4. A6# analy7e the latest situation of women compared to men worldwide and provide statistical evidence# to the e8tent possi&le# on how the ' ()D$!" pandemic has e8posed underlying gender ine%ualities in various critical areas including health and economic empowerment* 1he study shows that women∔s gains in entering the workforce have stalled and that they continue to spend more time on domestic work than men* Oender ine%ualities in all spheres of life are compounded &y other ine%ualities &ased on factors including age# ethnicity and wealth* While the pandemic continues to threaten the glo&al community# women make up more than 9, per cent of health care workers* Availa&le data from -: countries and territories reveal that women a&ove age 2, appear to &e more likely to &e diagnosed with ' ()D$!"# while men in all age groups under age :, are more likely to die from it* As highlighted &y the . ecretary$Oeneral# the response to the pandemic# and to the widespread ine%ualities that preceded it# must &e &ased on a 3ew . ocial ontract and a 3ew

Global Deal that respect the rights and freedoms of all and ensure that women have the same prospects and opportunities as men.[1]

In this challenging moment, UN DESA is holding a global data and policy online dialogue to discuss how much the world has risen to fulfill the strategic objectives of the Beijing Platform for Action, and address policy actions needed to build a New Social Contract in light of the latest assessment. Panelists will be internationally renowned experts in gender data and policy (government and NGOs), as well as data journalists or communication professionals who will bridge the gap with the wide audience. At the core of Sustainable Development Goal 5, the dialogue will be held in the context of the Decade of Action to support the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs, discussions will be accompanied by strong evidence and data reported in The World's Women: Trends and Statistics.

Participants will be invited to submit questions online at the time of registration and in the Zoom chat during the event. The results of the discussion will be shared with UN leadership and will inform future UN DESA policy briefs on the economic and social impacts of the pandemic and the Department's support to the Decade of Action.

Date and time

The dialogue will take place on Tuesday, 24 November 2020, from 10:00-11:30 a.m. EST

Location

The event will be held on Zoom and streamed to UN DESA's [Facebook channel](#).

Moderator

Ms. Ningqian (Emily) Shen - Phoenix TV
Ms. Shen is a journalist from Phoenix TV, China. She recently moderated several UN events, including the SDG Media Zone during the 75th UN General Assembly in September 2020.

Event format

%   Welcome (I)
     10 minutes (6)
     Moderator

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[1] Secretary-General's Nelson Mandela Lecture: "Tackling the Inequality Pandemic: A New Social Contract for a New Era", 18 July 2020.
https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statement/2020-07-18/secretary-generals-nelson-mandela-lecture-%E2%80%9C-tackling-the-inequality-pandemic-new-social-contract-for-new-era%E2%80%9D-delivered

II.   Introductory remarks

40 minutes- 3 minutes for each

Ms/ Sarah Hendriks, Director of our Policy, Programme and Intergovernmental Division, UN Women

Ms/ Nahla Valji, Senior Gender Adviser, Executive Office of the Secretary-General

III.   Discussion 1: Women's health and economic empowerment in the "new normal"

(40 minutes: 30 minute discussion + 10 minute Q&A)

In the first session, the moderator will drive a conversation with experts on how the COVID-19 pandemic impacted women's and men's health and engagement in the labour market in different and meaningful ways, as well as on which type of gender-sensitive policy interventions are needed to ameliorate women's and men's health and economic stability in the "new normal". The discussion will be based on key figures and findings of The World's Women 2020: Trends and Statistics.

Guiding questions on data:

Pre-COVID, what do data tell us about women's economic empowerment? Are we making progress on this critical area of concern?

How are women in the labour force being affected by

How should policy and statistics work together?

Speakers (tbc):

Ms/ Martha Chen (US): Lecturer in Public Policy at the Harvard Kennedy School: Senior Advisor of the global research/policy/action network Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO)

Ms/ Jayati Ghos (India): Professor of Economics at the Centre for Economic Studies and Planning: School of Social Sciences: Jawaharlal Nehru University

Ms/ Francesca Grum: Chief of the Social and Gender Statistics Section: UN DESA Statistics Division and lead author of The World's Women 2020: Trends and Statistics

Ms/ Manuela Tomei- Director of Work Quality Department: International Labour Organization

2/1 Discussion 2: Regional analyses and perspectives on progress towards gender equality since 1995?
(30 minutes)

The second discussion will draw on some of the country or regional stories from The World's Women 2020: Trends and Statistics: highlighting both successful cases over the years: the unique obstacles to the regions and countries to achieve the promises of the Beijing Declaration and the 2030 Agenda: and the policy responses implemented or needed.

Guiding questions on data:

What would be a salient instance of gender inequality in your country or region that is supported by available data?

How can regional organizations help strengthen national capacities to ensure better statistical monitoring of gender equality progress at the country level?

Guiding questions on policy:

What are some of the unique challenges in the region to address gender equality: especially in terms of economic empowerment? (e.g. legal rights: social norms)

Are there any country-level success stories in overcoming these challenges? What have been some of the defining factors and practices that led to this success?

How should policy and statistics work together?

Speakers (tbc):

    Ms/ Ana GFeGmes García- Director, Division for Gender Affairs, ECLA >A

    Ms/ Tomoko ; ayashi, Director-General, Gender 4%uality Bureau Ca&inet 'ffice, Japan

    Ms/ Aurelia S*ataru- Deputy General Director of the National Bureau of Statistics, Moldova

V/   <u>Concluding remarks</u>

    4E minutes6

    Mr/ Jeffrey Sacks- Director of the Center for Sustaina&le Development at Colum&ia University, mem&er of the 23 High-level Advisory Board on Economic and Social Affairs, and SDG Advocate