

Background note

Side-event on financing for gender equality and women's rights at the 2014 Development Cooperation Forum

1. Organising partners

The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), UN Women, and the Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID).

2. Thematic focus

Gender equality and women's rights.

3. Objective

This session will strengthen political will for increasing transparency and accountability in financing for gender equality and women's rights. It will identify lessons for the post-2015 agenda, drawing in particular on the positive experience of the global gender equality indicator on implementation of Busan commitments.

4. Expected outcomes

- Strengthened political support for increasing financing for gender equality;
- Increased knowledge of effective approaches to more systematically track allocations for gender equality and address gender equality throughout the public financial management cycle;
- Increased knowledge and understanding of the purpose and importance of the post-Busan global indicator on gender equality, especially in relation to the post 2015 debate, and of the findings from the post-Busan implementation survey;
- Enhanced transparency on and accountability for gender equality financing.

5. Contribution to the 2014 DCF theme

This session will address the role of development cooperation in supporting implementation of the post-2015 development agenda, with specific focus on strengthening accountability, transparency and financing for gender equality and women's rights. It will contribute to deepening the debate in the following three areas:

- Mutual accountability and transparency;
- Aid quantity and quality;
- The engagement of the diversity of development cooperation actors.

6. Description of the session and issues to be addressed

As momentum continues to build for a post-2015 framework that has gender equality at its heart, leveraging more and better financing for gender equality will be critical for effective implementation of new global commitments. This will require robust financial tracking systems to ensure that political promises are backed up with the resources required to deliver on gender equality commitments and achieve effective and sustainable development outcomes for all.

The post-Busan global indicator on gender equality is one entry point for ensuring that resource allocations are gender-responsive and deliver lasting development results for women and men. The indicator provides data on whether governments track allocations for gender equality and how this information is made public. Drawing on the experience of the global indicator, and building on the Vienna Policy Dialogue, this session will serve as a platform to augment political commitment for promoting accountability to increase financing for gender equality. It will present lessons from national governments, civil society and donors in their efforts to track gender-responsive investments. This will be essential to making the gender equality commitments of the Busan partnership a reality.

The session will draw on:

- Commitments and key messages from the Vienna Policy Dialogue
- Findings from the monitoring of the global gender equality indicator in the post-Busan implementation survey
- Research by AWID on trends in funding for women's rights, including the role of the private sector
- Country experience in tracking allocations for gender equality
- Analysis by the OECD of donor investments in gender equality and women's rights over the course of the MDGs and implications for post-2015, based on DAC Members' reporting on the Gender Equality Policy Marker.

Speakers

- H.E. Mr. Claver Gatete, Minister of Finance, Rwanda (TBC)
- Mr. Anthony Smith, Director for International Cooperation, Department for International Development, United Kingdom.
- Mr. John Hendra Assistant Secretary General and Deputy Executive Director, UN Women.
- Ms. Nerea Craviotto, Lead Advocacy Coordinator, Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID).
- Ms. Patti O'Neill, Head of Division, Global Policies and Partnerships, Development Cooperation Directorate, OECD.

Chair: Ms. Zohra Khan, Policy Advisor - Governance and National Planning, UN Women.