

2014 Development Cooperation Forum

Side Event: What Women Get: Promoting Transparency and Accountability in Financing for Gender Equality and Women's Rights (10 July 2014, 1:15 pm - 2:45 pm).

Organisers: the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), UN Women, and the Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID).

Chair: Ms. Begoña Lasagabaster, Chief Leadership and Governance, UN Women.

Speakers:

- **Mr. Anthony Smith**, Director for International Cooperation, Department for International Development, United Kingdom.
- **Mr. John Hendra**, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy and Programme, 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.

Summary of the main discussions:

Anthony Smith:

- Adequate legislation that requires institutions to track and report on expenditures for gender equality and women's rights is a useful tool to strengthen accountability and transparency in financing for gender equality. In the UK, the recently-adopted International Development Act (Gender Equality) 2014, places a duty on the Secretary of State for International Development to systematically consider the impact of overseas aid spending on gender equality. As a result, DFID is required to take gender equality into consideration in all its development and humanitarian interventions.
- The availability of gender-disaggregated data and statistics is critical to improve the lives of women and girls and to increase resource allocations in support of gender equality. DFID has been providing technical support to partner countries to strengthen their national statistical capacity and to improve data collection.

John Hendra:

- The underinvestment in gender equality has created a huge gap between political rhetoric and practice which needs to be filled.
- Strong political will is key to achieving results in the field of gender equality and women's rights. There is a need to match commitments with robust resources to translate promises into meaningful results for women and girls.
- The post-Busan global indicator on gender equality stimulates efforts to address gender gaps by promoting transparency and making governments accountable for resource allocations in favour of gender equality.

Nerea Craviotto:

- Funding for gender equality is involving a growing number of stakeholders. New actors, especially from the private sector, are playing an increasingly important role in financing for gender equality and women's rights alongside traditional donors.
- This changing landscape requires strong accountability mechanisms to ensure that *all* actors are held accountable. It is also critical that women's organizations stay on the radar of the new donors and fully benefit from these innovative financing partnerships.
- The FundHer Scorecard developed by AWID is an attempt to complement the existing tools to track funding for gender equality and women's rights. The Scorecard will help assess the quantity and quality of financing for gender equality and women's rights, including support to women's organisations, and will help donors identify effective funding models.

Patti O'Neill:

- Robust financial tracking systems are key to leverage more and better financing for gender equality.
- Data collected through the gender equality marker shows that MDG3 has proved catalytic in galvanising new resources for gender equality and women's rights.
- The post-2015 development agenda should retain a standalone goal on gender equality backed by strong targets in priority areas, which will be essential for mobilising the investments needed to address the "unfinished business" of the MDGs.
- Nonetheless, significant funding gaps remain in a number of priority areas, including: family planning, women's economic empowerment, women peace and security, and women's participation and leadership.
- The post-Busan global gender equality indicator – which measures the "Proportion of developing countries with systems to track and make public allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment" – is an important entry point to encourage partner governments to increase gender-responsive investments. The strong take-up and interest in the post-Busan global indicator suggests a growing commitment from governments to tracking allocations in support of gender equality.

Key messages:

- Mobilising domestic resources and exploring innovative funding models will be crucial to leverage more and sustainable financing in support of gender equality and women's rights.
- Partnerships with non-traditional donors, in particular with the private sector, should be encouraged but must be backed by strong accountability mechanisms
- Tracking financing for gender equality is essential to ensure that policy objectives and commitments are matched by adequate financing.