



Side event at the 69<sup>th</sup> session of the  
United Nations Commission on Status of Women (CSW68)

## Gender Equality in the Platform Economy: Evolving a Policy Agenda for Beijing+30

Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> March 2025, 13:15 PM - 14:30 PM

Conference Room A, UN Conference Building

### Programme

#### **Open remarks**

Inken Denker, Head of Division Feminist Development Policy, German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development

#### **Panel Discussion**

Anita Gurumurthy, Executive Director, IT for Change

Siobhan Vipond, Vice Chair of Women's Committee, International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)

Cai Yiping, Executive Committee member, Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN)

Moderated by: Katia Schnellecke, Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation (FES)

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Platformisation has not opened up empowering flexi-work opportunities that address traditional constraints to women's effective participation in the economy. On the contrary, as the UN Commission on the Status of Women noted in the agreed conclusions of its 67<sup>th</sup> session, the *"new jobs generated by the rise of the platform economy often upend traditional employment models without improving the overall labour market position of women, replicating the same biases found in traditional employment, including lower pay, harassment, instability and a lack of labour protection and entitlements, such as social security, child and long-term care services and care leave policies and the right to collective bargaining."*

Evidence from across the world suggests that digital labour platforms have ended up reinforcing gender-based discrimination, gendered occupational segregation, gender pay gaps, and the risk of workplace harassment. The techno-design of platform work environments, the terms of employment offered by digital labour platforms, and the macroeconomic policy imaginary of social protection all fall short in addressing the unique challenges that women workers face in realizing their right to decent work in the platform economy.

At the Beijing+30 conjuncture, it is evident that the transformative vision of Beijing – of women's empowerment and their full participation on the basis of equality – cannot be addressed unless there is a concerted, multi-scalar policy response to addressing the intensification of gendered precarity in the digital transition. We need to urgently reclaim the potential of platformisation for an economy-wide re-organisation of employment and social institutions that guarantees a feminist future of work.

This side event will explore the following specific questions starting with key findings from Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) and IT for Change's policy report for CSW 2025 on *Pathways to Gender Equality in the Platform Economy* based on desk research and a synthesis of key demands from feminist scholars, practitioners, trade union representatives, and activists from Africa, Asia-Pacific, Latin America, and the EU consolidated through online roundtables in early 2025:

1. What are the unique challenges that women workers face in platform work environments?
2. What techno-design reforms do we need in platform work environments to address gender discrimination and exclusion and how can we achieve them in cross-border platform transnational cooperation operations?
3. In national level policy responses, how can we think out of the box when designing for feminist futures of work in the platform economy, particularly:
  - a. Innovative gender-inclusive social protection schemes
  - b. Promotion of platform cooperatives led by women workers and their organisations (institutional support and gender-inclusive digital public infrastructure (DPI) strategies, for example)
  - c. Structural inequalities impeding gender-just futures of work, particularly in the majority world with a high degree of informalisation
4. In international standard setting on decent work in the platform economy, how can we be attentive to unique gendered challenges in the platform workplace?

**Target Group:** Government representatives, representatives of International Organisations and NGOs, civil society, trade unionists

**Sponsors:** The Permanent Mission of Germany is sponsoring the event. Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES), IT for Change, the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) and Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN) are co-sponsors.