

## CSW69 Side Event

### *From Restrictive Masculinities to Positive Change: Tools and Strategies for Gender Equality*

**14 March 2025 10.30 am – 12.00pm EDT (New York time)  
Permanent Mission of Austria to the United Nations**

Please [click here](#) to register in person by 12<sup>th</sup> March at the latest. The event will also be [livestreamed](#).

*Kindly note that registration is on a first come, first served basis, due to the limited capacity of the meeting room.*

The OECD Development Centre, together with Austria and the UNESCO Chair “Water, Women and Decision-making” of Côte d’Ivoire as well as the Compendium of Women’s Competences of Côte d’Ivoire, are co-organising a CSW69 Side Event focusing on Gender-Transformative Approaches (GTA) and how the Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI) can serve as a tool for fostering long-lasting gender equality, including reshaping restrictive masculinities and promoting gender-equal social norms.

#### The event will address three key questions:

- **HOW CAN COUNTRIES USE SIGI AS A TOOL FOR CHANGE?** Participants will explore how SIGI supports the design and implementation of effective gender policies and reforms at the national level. This includes insights from SIGI’s country-level work and its focus on masculinities and social norms.
- **WHAT GTA ARE MOST EFFECTIVE AND WHY?** Partner countries will share their experiences in integrating gender approaches into development policies, highlighting success factors and lessons learned.
- **HOW CAN WE RESHAPE MASCULINITIES AND SOCIAL NORMS TO FOSTER GENDER EQUALITY?** The event will highlight strategies for engaging men and boys in challenging harmful norms, fostering shared responsibility in caregiving and decision-making, and promoting positive masculinities that support women’s empowerment.

Gender-Transformative Approaches (GTA) address the fundamental causes of gender inequality by targeting discriminatory laws, restrictive norms, and systemic biases that perpetuate rigid roles for men and women. They aim to reshape norms and power structures that hinder progress toward lasting gender equality.

As global progress on gender equality faces increasing resistance, including backlash against women’s rights and persistent structural barriers, addressing the role of masculinities has become essential. We need to engage men as allies for gender equality. Yet there are “Restrictive” masculinities<sup>1</sup> that often perpetuate male dominance, tend to limit men’s engagement in reproductive health and caregiving, and reinforce rigid power dynamics that undermine women’s autonomy.

For over 15 years, the OECD Development Centre’s [Social Institutions and Gender Index](#) (SIGI) has been at the forefront of this effort, measuring gender-based discrimination in social institutions—laws, norms, and practices—across 179 countries. SIGI’s country-level work has increasingly

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<sup>1</sup> For more information on OECD’s work on masculinities, see: OECD (2021), Man Enough? Measuring Masculine Norms to Promote Women’s Empowerment, Social Institutions and Gender Index, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/6ffd1936-en>.

emphasised the role of masculinities in shaping social norms and their impact on gender equality. By addressing restrictive masculinities and promoting positive models, SIGI provides critical insights for sustainable change.

The event will provide a platform for partner countries to share their expertise and engage in a conversation about how transforming masculinities and reshaping gender norms can accelerate progress, dismantle systemic barriers, and ensure inclusive, lasting change.

## DRAFT AGENDA

10.30 – 10.40

### Welcoming remarks

- **Stefan Pretterhofer**, Deputy Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations
- **Christina Stummer**, Senior Expert for Gender and Development, Austria Development Agency

10.40 – 10.50

### Introduction: The Social Institutions & Gender Index as a tool for gender-transformative approaches: lessons learned for a strong post-2030 framework

- **Marinella Cirillo**, Economist, Gender programme, OECD Development Centre

10.50 – 11.50

### Panel discussion

- **Moderator: Bathylle Missika**, Head of Inclusive Development and Partnerships Division, OECD Development Centre

### *Panellists:*

- **Euphrasie Kouassi Yao**, Special Advisor on to the President of Côte d'Ivoire on gender issues
- **Mikateko Joyce Maluleke**, Director-General of the Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities, South Africa
- **Jane Ann Duffy**, Principal Officer, Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, Ireland
- **Cody Ragonese**, Associated Director of Programs, Equipundo

### Open discussion / Q&A

11.50 – 12.00

### Closing remarks

- **Christina Stummer**, Senior Expert for Gender and Development, Austria Development Agency