

Side event co-sponsored by Austria, Canada, Tanzania, Ireland and the OECD

## ***The role of development partners in promoting and funding gender equality in the digital age***

**8.15-9.30, Friday 10 March 2023, Room A, UN Conference Building**

Side event to CSW67

Please note that participants need to have access to the UN Conference building during CSW to be able to attend. Please [register here](#)

Development partners have an important role to play in supporting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls to drive both social and economic development<sup>1</sup>. Accelerating action on gender equality stands to be a key driver toward the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Yet this can only happen with a digital transformation that provides new avenues for development partners to support the empowerment of women and girls. At the same time, hurdles to access of technology, as well as inherent biases and norms, curtail women and girls' ability to benefit from the opportunities offered.<sup>2</sup>

This event will explore how development partners support and fund gender equality against the backdrop of innovation, technological change, and education in the digital age. It will be set in the framework of the [OECD Guidance on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls](#), a practical handbook for development partners that aims to help drive up the quality and quantity of policies, practices and investments in gender equality for development. The Guidance was developed with inputs from members of the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) Network on Gender Equality (GENDERNET), Chaired by Canada and with Austria and Ireland as Bureau members. The event will also explore the [just-released OECD 2023 data on financing for gender equality](#) which show that today, 44% of official development assistance from members of the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) has gender equality policy objectives. The discussion will include newly released data on development investments in gender equality and technological change designed to stem challenges like the digital gender divide or financial exclusion.

### **The event aims to unpack:**

- What is missing to effectively integrate gender equality in development policies and programmes in the digital age, and what more can be done to harness the benefits of the digital transformation via development co-operation, diplomacy, and partnerships.
- What the latest OECD data tell us about financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls overall.

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2018/05/30/globally-countries-lose-160-trillion-in-wealth-due-to-earnings-gaps-between-women-and-men>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Documents/facts/FactsFigures2021.pdf>

**Speakers will be invited to focus on:**

- What are some of the main good practices and challenges to promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in development co-operation, including via technological innovations?
- How can development partners best respond to the compounding dimensions of vulnerability and discrimination in the digital age? What technological innovations can governments and partners implement to help address problems women face of poverty or financial exclusion?
- How can we strengthen partnerships, including with local movements and organisations, to tackle the root causes of gender inequalities to create a virtuous cycle of where gender equality equals smart development?

**Welcome remarks:** Hans Almoslechner, Deputy Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations

**Keynote speaker:** Honourable Riziki Pembe Juma, Minister for Community Development, Gender, Elderly, and Children of Zanzibar

**Facilitation and scene setting presentation:** Lisa Williams and Jenny Hedman, Gender Equality Team, Development Co-operation Directorate, OECD

**Panel:**

- Linda Baltuonis-Buaquina, Deputy Director Gender Equality, Global Affairs Canada and Chair of the DAC Network on Gender Equality (GENDERNET)
- Jammie Bigio, Senior Coordinator for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, USAID
- Sarah Hendriks, Director Programme, Policy & Intergovernmental Division, UN Women
- Mary Ellen Iskenderian, President and CEO, Women's World Banking
- Gerda Binder, Senior Advisor Gender and Technology, UNICEF

*Side event developed by the OECD Development Co-operation Directorate Gender Equality Team, Secretariat to the DAC Network on Gender Equality (GENDERNET)*