



## Global Policy Dialogue Series “Progress towards gender equality from the Beijing Declaration to #SDG5 (and beyond) a data and policy dialogue” 2, November 2020- 3.30 a/m/ 051

### #once\* t Note

#### Background

As we mark the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995, the latest data show that hard-earned gains in gender equality achieved over a quarter century are being challenged by the COVID-19 pandemic, a crisis that affects women and men in different ways. While significant progress has been made in advancing women’s rights at the global level, no country can claim to have fully achieved the commitments made in 1995 and reaffirmed in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015. Indeed, the 5th Sustainable Development Goal that gender equality is central to the achievement of sustainable development for all by 2030.

The United Nations Secretary-General’s newly launched flagship report, The World’s Women 2020: Trends and Statistics, and the accompanying data available on the report’s online platform produced by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), analyse the latest situation of women compared to men worldwide and provide statistical evidence to the extent possible on how the COVID-19 pandemic has exposed underlying gender inequalities in various critical areas including health and economic empowerment. The study shows that women’s gains in entering the workforce have stalled and that they continue to spend more time on domestic work than men. Gender inequalities in all spheres of life are compounded by other inequalities based on factors including age, ethnicity and wealth. While the pandemic continues to threaten the global community, women make up more than 90 per cent of health care workers. Available data from 187 countries and territories reveal that women above age 65 appear to be more likely to be diagnosed with COVID-19, while men in all age groups under age 65 are more likely to die from it. As highlighted by the Secretary-General, the response to the pandemic and to the widespread inequalities that preceded it must be based on a new social contract and a new

Global Deal that respect the rights and freedoms of all and ensure that women have the same prospects and opportunities as men<sup>1</sup>

In this challenging moment, UN Women is holding a global data and policy online dialogue to discuss how much the world has risen to fulfill the strategic objectives of the Beijing Platform for Action and address policy actions needed to build a new social contract in light of the latest assessment. Panelists will be internationally renowned experts in gender data and policy, government and civil society as well as data journalists or communication professionals who will bridge the gap with the wide audience. At the core of Sustainable Development Goal 5, the dialogue will be held in the context of the Decade of Action to support the 2020-2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the UN Women discussions will be accompanied by strong evidence and data reported in The World's Women: Trends and Statistics.

Participants will be invited to submit questions online at the time of registration and in the Zoom chat during the event. The results of the discussion will be shared with UN Women leadership and will inform future UN Women policy briefs on the economic and social impacts of the pandemic and the Department's support to the Decade of Action.

## Date and time

The dialogue will take place on Tuesday, 23 November 2020, from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. GMT+1.

## Location

The event will be held on Zoom and streamed to UN Women. As a [Facebook channel](#).

## Moderator

Ms. Bingqian Li, Senior Policy Officer

Ms. Li is a journalist from Phoenix TV. She recently moderated several UN Women events including the UN Women Media Zone during the 99th UN General Assembly in September 2020.

## Event format

- 1. Welcome
- 42 minutes
- 2. Moderator

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<sup>1</sup> Secretary-General António Guterres, 'Tackling the Inequality Pandemic: A New Social Contract for a New World', 22 July 2020, <https://www.un.org/en/content/secretary-general/antónio-guterres/lecture-2020-07-22-tackling-the-inequality-pandemic-new-social-contract-for-a-new-world>



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Introductory remarks

4: minutes- 3 minutes for each

Ms Sara Hendriks# Director of our Policy# Programme and Intergovernmental Division# 23 Women

Ms Natalia Vali# Senior Gender Adviser# Executive Office of the Secretary General

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Discussion: Women's health and economic empowerment in the new normal

4, 0 minutes) 30 minute discussion > 10 minute Q&A

In the first session# the moderator will drive a conversation with experts on how the COVID-19 pandemic impacted women's and men's health and engagement in the labour market in different and meaningful ways# as well as on which type of gender-sensitive policy interventions are needed to ameliorate women's and men's health and economic stability in the new normal\* The discussion will be based on key figures and findings of The World's Women 2020: Trends and Statistics\*

Guiding questions on data:

Pre-COVID# what do data tell us about women's economic empowerment? Are we making progress on this critical area of concern?

How are women in the labour force being affected & why?



## How should policy and statistics work together?

### Speakers (tbc):

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### 2/ Discussion 2) Regional analyses and \*ers\*ectives on \*rogress towards gender equality since ' (E

430 minutes6

The second discussion will draw on some of the country or regional stories from The World's Women 2020: Trends and Statistics# highlighting &oth successful cases over the years# the uni%ue o&stacles to the regions and countries to achieve the promises of the Beijing Declaration and the 2, -, Agenda# and the policy responses implemented or needed\*

### Guiding questions on data:

What would &e a salient instance of gender ine%uality in your country or region that is supported &y availa&le dataE

How can regional organi7ations help strengthen national capacities to ensure &etter statistical monitoring of gender e%uality progress at the country levelE

### Guiding questions on policy:

What are some of the uni%ue challenges in the region to address gender e%uality# especially in terms of economic empowermentE 5e\*g\* legal rights# social norms6

Are there any country\$level success stories in overcoming these challengesE What have &een some of the defining factors and practices that led to this successE

How should policy and statistics work togetherE



Speakers (tbc):

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2s/ Aurelia S\*ataru- Deputy Oeneral Director of the 3ational Bureau of  
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2niversity# mem&er of the 23 Figh\$level Advisory# Board on 4conomic and .ocial  
Affairs# and .DO Advocate

