

The 8th session of the Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development
Item 5 of the Provisional Agenda
Implementation of the mandate and programme of work - Focused thematic discussion
Palais des Nations, Room XX, Geneva

Women's participation in Development. Promoting gender equality: good practices, opportunities and challenges

Tuesday 31 October 2023, 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Concept Note

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Introduction

The UN Declaration on the Right to Development reaffirms that the right to development must be realized without any distinction, including by sex (Article 4) and promotes women's participation by requiring that effective measures should be undertaken to ensure that women have an active role in the development process (Article 8).

Equal opportunities for women's active and meaningful participation in the development process, at social, economic, cultural, political and environmental, including in decision-making, remains a transformation to be achieved worldwide. In accordance with the 2030 Agenda, gender equality is not only a fundamental human right, but also a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous, and sustainable world. As several studies have shown, including those by global and regional economic and financial institutions, gender diversity and women's empowerment are good business and bring social and macroeconomic benefits.

Purpose:

The purpose of the panel is to address the issue of gender equality, by promoting equal opportunities and analyzing the relevance of women's participation in development; the impact of discrimination against women and gender gaps on the realization of the right to development for all; and how the good practices and relevant changes have affected indicators related to the realization of the right to development of women at the country level.

The Expert Mechanism's objectives for the discussion include exchanging relevant information and experiences to identify key challenges, opportunities, and good practices for empowering women, in their diversity, including youth, to ensure their active and meaningful participation in the development process, as well as in decision-making processes, promoting their leadership.

Guiding questions

1. What are the key challenges and opportunities to ensure women's active and meaningful participation in development, including in decision-making processes, at local, national and international levels, and how can the right to development provide perspectives and contribute to progress on these issues?

2. Are there programmes, policies, indicators, and/or good practices that can be shared to promote equal opportunities and the full participation of women, in their diversity, at all stages of the development process, including strategies to address discrimination, violence and key gender gaps?
3. From a right to development perspective, how can concerted and renewed efforts and reforms, including through regional and international cooperation and the 2030 Agenda, contribute to women's active and meaningful participation and empowerment in development processes?

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