

The 9th session of the Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development
Item 4 of the Provisional Agenda
Implementation of the mandate and programme of work - Focused thematic discussion
Conference Room 5, UNHQ, New York

Roundtable with key stakeholders on cross-cutting issues
Thursday 2 May 2024, 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM

Introduction

Presented by Liliana VALIÑA

The right to development is a fundamental human right that in turn actively interrelates with several other basic rights. This broad interaction is connected to a multiplicity of public policies, programs and actions that, from different spheres and levels, have an impact on the environment, potential and prospects, both local and global, for achieving sustainable and inclusive development for all individuals and peoples.

For this panel, the EMRTD proposes the analysis of cross-cutting issues related to the conditions necessary for active, free and meaningful participation in development, the removal of obstacles and the creation of opportunities needed to translate both the 2030 Agenda and the Declaration on the Right to Development into concrete changes and realities for all individuals and communities.

We must acknowledge the progress made in raising awareness of the importance of greater diversity, gender equality, the role and increasing prominence of women, youth and girls, and the consideration of future generations in building our societies and setting national and international goals and priorities. Nevertheless, the gap that still persists and the timeliness and urgency of continuing to build bridges, consensus, commitments and actions in this direction is undeniable.

Among the many issues, we note, for example, the importance of finding appropriate and innovative responses to the challenges that the care economy represents for all countries and communities, and in particular for women, who bear a disproportionate burden of these tasks. Women's active, free and meaningful participation in development, and especially in decision-making - the analysis of which I am addressing in a thematic study of the EMRTD - requires conditions that, among other factors, are influenced by the requirements of care burden women. It is about responding to the paradigm of receiving and providing quality care for the well-being of the whole population while reducing social and gender inequalities.

Current debates have been focusing on the parameters to be taken into account in order to respond urgently to these challenges, as evidenced by the recent deliberations around the sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), which met in New York just a few weeks ago, or the broad debate and construction of tools for an inclusive care economy, within the framework of the World Economic Forum's Global Future Council on the Future of the Care Economy. In addition to public policies, the active involvement of companies and the entire private sector as well as innovative experiences that communities can encourage and generate is key in this area.

On the other hand, in terms of inequalities, the digital economy, access to technologies and artificial intelligence are exponents of the aforementioned gaps, but at the same time represent opportunities to accelerate and diversify development processes, especially if their inherent risks are adequately addressed. Effectively addressing these gaps implies in several cases the need for cooperation and a global commitment to equal opportunities and innovative partnerships to close the digital divide and

move towards the SDGs and the realization of the right to development. In this regard, the Secretary General, through the Global Digital Compact for the Future Summit, emphasized the importance of an open, free and secure digital future, human-centered, as well as the urgency of exploring ways to harness digital technologies for the benefit of all.

The EMRTD invites the panellists to share their reflections on the basis of the guiding questions for the panel, highlighting in particular any experiences that can serve as examples of good practice, as well as the lessons learned that different processes have been able to contribute.
