



SIDE EVENT TO REGIONAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Closing financial gaps on gender equality to accelerate SDG implementation

30 MARCH

1:00 PM – 2.30 PM (CET)

ONLINE EVENT



INTRODUCTION

Data from the gender snapshot of 2022 Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) indicates that the world is not on track to meet SDG5 by 2030. Incoming data reveals alarming indications, emphasizing the need for bold action and ambitious financing.¹

Global challenges, such as the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, violent conflict, climate change and natural disasters, are aggravating gender disparities. As a result, policies must be fast and flexible in the face of rapid change. Economic policies and public finance management systems must priorities the delivery of crucial public services to maintain a functioning society.

Well-designed gender budgets can enhance the efficiency and equity of economic and fiscal policies leading to better governance, improved democracy and optimal use of resources. By utilizing gender responsive budgeting as a strategic approach, the gap between policy formulation and implementation can be closed.

Indicator 5.c.1 is the sole measure in the SDG monitoring framework that correlates national budgeting systems with the implementation of laws and policies for gender equality and women's empowerment (Target 5.c.1). It evaluates government efforts to trace budget allocations for gender equality throughout public financial management cycle and to make such allocations accessible to public. While progress has been made, only 26% of countries have comprehensive systems in place to monitor gender budget allocations.²

¹ <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/gender-snapshot/2022/GenderSnapshot.pdf>

² <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/gender-snapshot/2022/GenderSnapshot.pdf>

In the Europe and Central Asia region, UN Women has developed a dashboard which visually presents SDG5c1 country reports and tracks progress across countries and territories in the area.

OBJECTIVE

The side event of the Regional Forum for Sustainable Development 2023 aims to bring together Government officials, international organizations and representatives of oversight bodies to discuss the cross sectoral approach in financing for gender equality.

The event will focus on:

- How can public financial management systems be used to promote the achievements of gender-related or gender-responsive policy goals across different sectors?
- What is the role of oversight bodies in enhancing transparency and accountability of SDG achievements and government spending on Gender Equality?

The event presents an excellent opportunity to exchange experiences and insights, identify challenges, and explore ways to advance gender equality and women's empowerment in the region.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- To raise awareness about the significance of public finance management systems and their potential to promote gender equality and facilitate the implementation of SDGs;
- To share best practices, experiences, and challenges encountered when establishing a policy framework with clear gender equality objectives and funding allocations for achieving gender equality commitments;
- To promote a new tool that can help governments and territories determine their current position concerning the implementation of SDG Indicator 5.c.1;
- To learn from the role played by Supreme Audit Institutions in strengthening oversight and accountability for the SDG 5 implementation

- To identify opportunities for regional cooperation and explore ways of collaborating to advance gender equality and women's empowerment.

METHODOLOGY

The side event will be structured as a panel discussion format, featuring ECA regional experts and practitioners sharing their perspectives and experiences on public finance management and gender equality. The discussion will be moderated by Moderator: Jasmina Galijašević, Head of the Department for International Cooperation and Public Relation, SAI Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Following the panel discussion, attendees will have the opportunity to engage with the practitioners through a Q&A session, enabling them to further explore the themes discussed.

AGENDA

Time	Activity
1:00 – 1:15	OPENING REMARKS
	<i>Ms. Alia El-Yassir, UN Women Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia</i> <i>Mr. Hrvoje Tvrtković, Auditor General of SAI Bosnia and Herzegovina</i>
1:15 – 02:15	PANEL DISCUSSION
	<i>Dr. Helen Forslind, Swedish National Financial Management Authority</i> <i>Anila Denaj, Chair of the Parliament Subcommittee on Sustainable Development of the Parliament of the Republic of Albania</i> <i>Keti Velkova, Advisor for promoting of medium term budget planning, Budget and Funds Department in the Ministry of Finance of North Macedonia</i> <i>Qursum Qasim, Private Sector Specialist, Finance, Competitiveness and Innovation Global Practice, World Bank</i> <i>Archana Shirsat, Deputy Director General International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions Development Initiative (INTOSAI IDI)</i>
02:15 – 02:30	Q & A <i>Plenary Discussions</i>
02:30	CLOSING REMARKS BY THE MODERATOR

Moderator: Jasmina Galijašević, Head of the Department for International Cooperation and Public Relation, SAI Bosnia and Herzegovina