



SAVE THE DATE

What women bring to sustainable development: building on MDGs achievements and gaps to create new opportunities and face common challenges?

Focus on women's economic empowerment and women's economic independence

Side event organized by the EU with Denmark, Peru, the Philippines and UN women on the occasion of the 58th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women

Tuesday, 11th March 2014

11.30am -12.45 pm

Speakers:

Mr Manu Sareen, Minister for Gender Equality, Denmark

Ms Marcela Huaita Alegre, Deputy Minister for Women's affairs, Peru

Head of Delegation to CSW, Philippines

Ms Yassine Fall, Director of our Women's Economic Empowerment Team, UN Women

Moderated by Mr Stavros Lambrinidis, EU Special Representative for Human Rights

Venue: Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations
666 Third Avenue, 31st floor, between 42nd and 43rd Streets

RSVP: Jelena.Vujic @eas.europa.eu

Background:

Women's economic empowerment and women's economic independence are at the core of the concept of gender equality.

The possibility for women to participate and progress in the labour market in equal terms with men is first of all a **right**. In this respect, the EU has a tradition of equal treatment legislation in the labour market and has developed policies and funding to support this principle, internally but also in its development cooperation policies, through a strong focus on policies to empower women.

At the same time, guaranteeing the equal right to women and men to participate in the labour market and the economic life and eliminating all obstacles hindering this participation, has also proved to be **key for socio-economic development**. The history of the EU and its partner countries provides a good example in this respect.

In 2010, the UN member States set gender equality as a specific Millennium Development Goal. Improvements have been made but much remains to be done: gender equality remains still a universal and global challenge. In all continents, in all regions: no country in the world can say to have achieved it. Despite their key role in creating an equal and just society and ensuring sustainable development, women's economic empowerment and labour market participation are still underestimated or overlooked in the on-going sock-taking exercise on the MDGs implementation but also in the on-going post-2015 debate. The discussion on a possible stand-alone goal for gender equality and women empowerment and its content is of course an important part of this broader discussion.

This side event will thus provide an opportunity:

- to exchange experiences on successful policies to promote women's economic empowerment and independence, both at national level and in development cooperation policies, with a focus on their contribution to the creation of a just and equal society and to socio-economic development.
- To focus on shortages of the current MDGs in order to create new opportunities for the future.
- To exchange views on the best ways to catalyse activities and resources in the post-2015 period in order to achieve gender equality but also to maximise the contribution of gender equality to sustainable and inclusive development.

Programme:

- **Mr Manu Sareen, Minister for Gender Equality of Denmark** will share with us the Danish national experience on promoting women's empowerment and independence and its linkages with rights and economic development.
- **Ms Marcela Huaita Alegre, Deputy Minister for Women's affairs, Peru** will share the experience of the country in the period of MDGs implementation, highlighting the main challenges for Peru but also in the region.
- **Head of Delegation to CSW of Philippines** will share the experience of the country in the period of MDGs implementation, highlighting the main challenges for the country but also for the continent.
- **Ms Yassine Fall, Director of our Women's Economic Empowerment Team, UN Women**, will provide an overview of the UN-women activity to support women's economic empowerment

world-wide, highlighting the main successes and remaining challenges and providing a vision for the future.

- **Mr Stavros Lambrinidis, EU Special Representative for Human Rights**, will moderate the debate and close the event providing an overview of the EU action to promote women's rights and women's economic empowerment through EU development cooperation policies. He will also provide a global overview of women's contribution to the EU economy.

All the panellists will also debate the shortcoming of the current MDGs and share with us their views on a possible stand-alone goal on gender equality.

Followed by questions and answers