



**INTER-AGENCY EXPERT GROUP MEETING ON IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE THIRD UNITED NATIONS DECADE FOR THE ERADICATION OF
POVERTY (2018-2027): ACCELERATING GLOBAL ACTIONS FOR A
WORLD WITHOUT POVERTY**

**PROGRESS, GAPS AND CHALLENGES IN
ACHIEVING GENDER EQUALITY AND THE
EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN AND GIRLS**

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BACKGROUND



Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action



- As clearly laid out in the **Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action** and reaffirmed in the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**, eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, and achieving gender equality are two of the greatest global challenges that are intertwined and indispensable requirements for sustainable development.
- As the eradication of poverty in all its forms is a central commitment in the 2030 Agenda, full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men must take on heightened importance. However, a **trio of interlocking crises systematically undermines gender equality and** threaten lives, livelihoods and the survival of people and the planet: **jobs, care and climate**.

CONTEXT

SYSTEMIC INEQUALITY

Manifested as:

- Structural discrimination
- Adverse social norms
- Gendered division of care labour
- Crisis, conflict and climate change
- Shrinking fiscal space for public goods
- Gender-blind policies and frameworks

INEQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY

Affects:

- Distribution of resources
- Livelihoods and incomes
- Labour force participation
- Business growth
- Asset ownership
- Representation
- Leadership

INEQUALITY OF OUTCOMES

Resulting in:

- Vulnerability to shocks and crises
- Exploitation
- Poverty
- Injustice
- Limited voice, agency and decision-making



PROGRESS, GAPS AND CHALLENGES

- 1. Gendered inequalities of poverty:** In 2022, 388 million women and girls were living in extreme poverty (compared with 372 million men and boys).
- 2. Unequal gender division of unpaid care and domestic work:** Women do at least **3 times** more **unpaid care work** than men on average--the equivalent of **9 per cent** of GDP
- 3. Women's unequal access to and benefits from decent work and entrepreneurship:** predominance of women in **informal work**; the global **gender pay gap** is stuck at **20%**, with women paid up to **35%** less than men in some countries
- 4. Women's greater dependence on and unequal access to natural resources, public services and infrastructure**

UN WOMEN'S SOLUTIONS TO TACKLE WOMEN'S POVERTY

Transforming the care economy

Decent work and entrepreneurship

Sustainable Finance

Women's climate action and green/blue economies



Transforming the Care Economy

Addressing deficits in care services:

- To address the gendered inequalities of poverty, we must transform the care economy by investing in quality, affordable, and accessible care services and infrastructure.
- Investing in care can have major economic and social payoffs for families, individuals, and societies. through what is called the triple dividend:
 1. One, investing in childcare services contributes to enhancing children’s capabilities, particularly children from poorer households.
 2. Two, investing in care services facilitates women’s labour force participation.
 3. And three, investment in social care service expansion has the potential to generate thousands of decent jobs both in the care sector itself as well as in other sectors through backward linkages.
- ILO and UN Women’s [“A Guide to Public Investments in the Care Economy Policy Support Tool for Estimating Care Deficits, Investment Costs and Economic Returns”](#) helps strengthen the capacity of policy makers to address the care economy, by linking social protection and women’s employment in the context of COVID-19.



Decent Work and Entrepreneurship

- UN Women's **Decent Work and Entrepreneurship Gender Equality Accelerator (GEA)** centers on a combination of capacity development for individuals and institutions, policy support and financing to promote entrepreneurship and decent work.
- It seeks to **build enabling environments for women to secure decent work, generate and gain agency over income and/or wealth, and access social protection**, in line with SDG targets 1.3, 4.4, 5.b, 8.b and 8.3.
- **Approach:** Gender-responsive procurement (GRP) can create opportunities for entrepreneurs and decent work
- **Results:** More than 40 countries supported more than 1000 organizations to practice GRP from 2018-2021



Women's Climate Action & Green/Blue Economies

- The climate and environment crises are **threatening jobs, livelihoods, and a range of human rights** particularly for women and groups in vulnerable situations, working in informal and precarious jobs. Such crises intensify women's and girls' already unequal share of unpaid care and domestic work – which in turn impedes women's resilience and rights.
- Women's unequal access to land and natural resources, finance, technology, decent work, social protection and infrastructure **constrains their resilience and ability to cope threatening to deepen/perpetuate poverty.**
- In UN Women's Strategic Plan (2022-2025), the **Women's Climate Action & Green/Blue Economies Gender Equality Accelerator** aims to **foster gender-responsive just transitions to sustainable green/blue economies** that protect people and the planet for present and future generations, ensuring women's equal participation, leadership, and benefits.

SUSTAINABLE FINANCE



The global bond market represents the largest asset class in the global financial markets: US\$20.1 trillion in annual bond issuances (2021). Roughly 5% (US\$1 Trillion) of these issuances were classified as Green, Social, Sustainable, or Sustainability-linked (GSSS). The gender bond market is small and fragmented. Depending on the definition, less 100 gender bonds issued since 2013 (compared to 9,000+ Green Bonds).

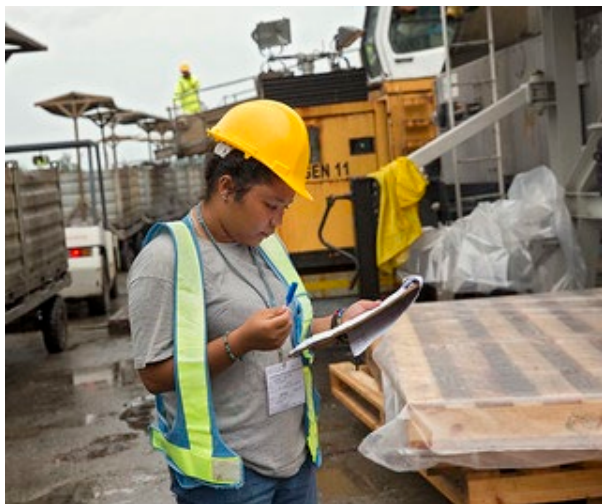
Objective: Increase the number of gender responsive financial instruments in the market and increase the quality and volume of financing for GEWE

Approach: Leverage credible gender bonds and sustainable debt for gender equality, including development of frameworks, guidelines and standards

Results: Sustainable Finance Program launched and secured the first-ever donor contribution from the Government of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

CONCLUSION AND WAY FORWARD

- Address the gendered inequalities of poverty to prevent further reversal of gains made and accelerate progress towards achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- Expand public and private investment in the care economy using the [5R framework](#) to **recognize, reduce, and redistribute unpaid care work**, and **reward and represent paid care work** by promoting decent work for care workers and guaranteeing their representation, social dialogue, and collective bargaining.
- Take holistic approaches to promoting **women's livelihoods, rights and resilience** through promoting decent work and entrepreneurship and gender-responsive just transitions to sustainable green/blue economies that protect people and planet
- Promote **universal and gender-responsive social protection system**, including social protection floors, to extend coverage to not only poor and vulnerable women, but also those in the informal sectors who very often lack basic rights and benefits such as health insurance and pensions.



THANK YOU

