



SIDE EVENT

Gender-sensitive budgeting: a strategic instrument for economic transformation and inclusive development in Africa

Context

Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls are principles enshrined in a number of important regional and international normative frameworks. Governments in Africa are committed to eliminating gender inequalities through the ratification of international and regional conventions and through legal, political and social reforms at the national level. Despite that commitment and the significant progress that has been made, gender inequalities persist in Africa, and African women and girls still do not always have the same access as men to employment and to basic services, including education and healthcare. Indeed, in terms of human development, African women continue to lag behind men by some 13 points. Furthermore, the female literacy rate in more than a dozen countries in sub-Saharan Africa is less than 50 per cent and, according to data provided by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the participation of women in the formal economy remains low, with some 80 per cent of women in sub-Saharan Africa employed in insecure jobs. The adoption by African countries of effective public policies to combat inequality, and particularly inequality between men and women, is therefore of crucial importance. A number of African countries have successfully bucked the trend in that area, however, and perform extremely well in global rankings in

the area of gender equality. Those countries include Rwanda and South Africa, which were ranked fifth and fifteenth, respectively, in the world, according to the World Economic Forum 2016 Global Gender Gap Index. Furthermore, Morocco and Tunisia are pioneers in the development and implementation of laws and public strategies to achieve gender equality, including in the area of socioeconomic planning and in the elaboration of national budgets. The side event is aimed at assessing efforts to promote gender-sensitive budgeting and determining whether those efforts have facilitated the adoption of inclusive and gender-sensitive development policies.

Objectives

The main objective of the meeting, which will be organized jointly by UN-Women and the Moroccan Ministry of Economy and Finance, is to conduct an in-depth and pragmatic review of gender-sensitive budgeting – a strategic instrument for the promotion of gender equality – in the context of ongoing development efforts in Africa.

Expected results

1. An analysis of experiences of gender-sensitive budgeting in Africa that will deepen understanding of outcomes, successes, challenges and opportunities in that area;

2. An analysis of opportunities for using gender-sensitive budgeting as an innovative public sector financing tool to help achieve development priorities in Africa;
3. The establishment of an African exchange platform to facilitate knowledge generation and the development of instruments to enhance decision-making and foster innovation in the area of gender-sensitive budgeting with a view to combating inequality in Africa;

Target audience

- Heads of ministries of finance, economy, planning, trade and industry.
- Private sector and civil society stakeholders.
- Central bank governors.
- United Nations entities.

Venue, date and time

Palmeraie Palace Hotel, Marrakech, Morocco
Saturday 23 March 2019 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

For more information, please contact

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