



OECD Asian Public Governance Forum on Gender Equality and Mainstreaming
National University of Malaysia (UKM)
Bandar Baru Bangi, Selangor, Malaysia
12-13 December 2019

Thursday, 12 December 2019

08:30 – 09:00 Registration

09:00 – 09:30 Opening Remarks

09:30 – 10:45 Session 1: Country Priorities and Initiatives for Gender Equality

The Forum will commence with an open roundtable session in which government officials from participating countries will discuss the gender equality priorities of their governments more broadly, and their respective institutions in particular. This session will also provide an opportunity for participants to share any relevant experiences, practices or tools from their countries or to pose questions or challenges for consideration. The discussions resulting from this roundtable will help guide the remaining sessions of the Forum.

10:45 – 11:15 Coffee Break

11:15 – 12:30 Session 2: Strategic Planning and Institutional Strengthening for Gender Equality

Making progress in gender equality – a goal that affects all government policy – is much easier with a whole-of-government strategic plan. Implementing such a strategy requires a strong institutional framework, one made up of institutions equipped for promoting gender equality in an effective and coordinated manner. It requires clear institutional roles and responsibilities as well as sound accountability and oversight mechanisms. When governments fully integrate gender into their work, they produce better and more equitable policies for men and women, contributing to good governance. This session will cover strategic planning, including formulating priorities, objectives and timelines, as well as instruments for crafting, implementing, monitoring and evaluating public policies from a gender equality perspective.

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch

14:00 – 14:45 Session 3: Evidence-based Decision-making through Indicators and Monitoring

Evidence-based decision-making is a fundamental component of sound public governance, and evidence should be used to inform decisions throughout the entire policy cycle. During the policy formulation stage, the availability of high quality gender-disaggregated data is key to designing evidence-based gender equality policies and strategies. Throughout policy implementation, robust monitoring and evaluation (M&E) systems – built upon gender-sensitive indicators – are essential, as they allow policymakers to track progress, assess decision-making and adjust programmes for greater impact. They also help policymakers understand where resources are needed as well as identify lessons learned to guide subsequent policy interventions. In light of this, the session will cover important principles, practices and tools for M&E, with a particular focus on gender indicators and gender-disaggregated data.

14:45 – 15:15 Coffee Break

15:15 – 16:30 Session 4: Good Governance as a Means to Strengthen Gender Equality as a SDG Catalyst

Advancing gender equality is one of the aspirations of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In fact, achieving SDG 5 (Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment) will help promote the 2030 Agenda as a whole. However, leaders have expressed concerns that progress is slow in many areas, including in promoting women's empowerment, fighting poverty and addressing climate change. The Political Declaration, adopted

by leaders during the 2019 UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, further commits heads of state and government to “equip domestic institutions to better address interlinkages, synergies and trade-offs between Goals and targets through a whole-of-government approach...and ensure policy coherence for sustainable development,” as a means to accelerate action and progress. Through a roundtable discussion, this session will seek the views of participants on the main challenges and opportunities in their countries in achieving the SDGs, including SDG 5. Possible topics of discussion will focus on the leadership skills and policy coherence mechanisms needed to promote the SDGs as well as the actions needed to strengthen governance mechanisms in the regional context. Overall, this session will help to shape the OECD-UNDP’s Global Hub on the Governance for the SDGs.

Friday, 13 December 2019

09:30 – 10:45 Session 5: Gender Mainstreaming and Gender Budgeting

Gender mainstreaming ensures public policies take into account their impacts on gender equality and is one of the most effective ways for governments to ensure their actions support higher-level gender objectives. Increasingly, gender budgeting is seen as one of the most powerful tools of gender mainstreaming. Although a number of countries have introduced gender budgeting, there remains a general lack of understanding of how to best implement the practice so that it achieves impact. This session will highlight gender mainstreaming and the key tools of implementation, with a focus on gender budgeting. It will identify options for designing and implementing gender budgeting through highlighting good country practices and lessons learned.

10:45 – 11:15 Coffee Break

11:15 – 12:30 Session 6: Women’s Leadership in Political and Public Life

There is a low representation of women across all branches of power around the world. In OECD and ASEAN countries, on average, women represent less than one-third of all members of parliament. Even when progress is made in overall representation, women still face a “glass ceiling.” For example, while parity exists, on average, in the judiciary across OECD countries, high-level courts remain predominately male, with women holding only one-third of Supreme Court seats. This session will consider the reasons why progress in women’s leadership in government is slow and what measures can be taken to accelerate it.

12:30 – 14:30 Lunch

14:30 – 15:45 Session 7: Gender Equality in Public Administration

In many countries, the public service is the largest single employer, with women representing more than half of all public employees. As a result, the public service is often expected to serve as a role model and set the standard for normative behaviour, which all employers are encouraged to follow. It is therefore crucial that the public sector embed and exemplify gender equality and diversity in its own policies, practices and leadership structures. This session will cover different practices and systems for fostering gender-sensitive and inclusive workplaces within public institutions. Possible topics of discussion include measures for women’s leadership and professional development, work-life balance policies, recruitment and promotion practices, gender pay gaps, and gender equality and diversity strategies and action plans

15:45 – 16:00 Closing Remarks