



Gender-Equitable Public Policy: Best Practices & New Options

Co-sponsored by: Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN)
Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES)
International Association for Feminist Economics (IAFFE)
Women's Working Group on Financing for Development

Date & location: November 30, 2008, 8:15 – 9:45 am at Sheraton Hotel, Doha (room TBA)
Financing for Development Doha Review Conference, 29 Nov.-2 Dec.

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- Introduction: **Mr. Werner Puschra**, Director, FES New York
- Speakers: **Ms. Christa Randzio-Plath**, Vice-Chairperson VENRO, (Association of German Development NGOs)
- Ms. Marina B. Durano**, Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era, and Women's Working Group on Financing for Development
- Ms. Jennet Kem**, Adviser, Women and Economic Empowerment (Public Finance Management), Gender Section, Social Transformation Programmes Division, Commonwealth Secretariat
- Ms. Yana van der Meulen Rodgers**, Associate Professor, Rutgers University, and Representative for the International Association for Feminist Economics
- Discussant: **Mr. Manuel Montes**, Chief of Policy Analysis & Development, FfD Office, UN-DESA
- Moderator: **Ms. Josefa Francisco**, General Coordinator, DAWN

This panel identifies the pathways by which macro outcomes and gender relations interact, and it considers policies that are more gender equitable in their impact. These pathways include the feminization of foreign exchange earnings in many developing countries, the stimulus effects of gender equality in education on GDP growth, the repercussions of public sector deficits for women's time use and family provisioning, and the differential effects of inflation targeting on male and female employment. Not only do the presentations examine best practice in gender-equitable policy making, they also point to alternative rights-informed and socially-oriented macroeconomic policies. This panel explores specific cases in which attention to gender in public policy has improved macroeconomic outcomes. It also revisits macroeconomic policy options that have fallen out of market-oriented development discourse yet are more congruent with feminist concerns over care and redistribution.

The session begins with a presentation on gender-sensitive budgeting. Analyzing fiscal budgets from a gender perspective constitutes an important analytical and political tool to transform the deflationary nature of fiscal and monetary policies in many developing countries and to encourage governments to be more accountable for their commitment to gender equality. Thereafter comes an overview from a south-based women's organization (DAWN) that provokes a direction toward alternative macroeconomic assumptions, strategies and policies. The next presenter is from an inter-governmental institution (Commonwealth Secretariat) that engages with partners in work on economic development through a human-rights based approach to their work, using CEDAW and other related instruments as normative frameworks. The fourth contributor presents new research findings on specific gender-equitable policies with demonstrated links to macroeconomic outcomes, including trade, investment, and growth. Examples include programs that link positive trade incentives to labor standards enforcement – such as the Better Factories Cambodia program; public sector investments, in the form of infrastructure expenditures on roads and clean water, that reduce women's unpaid labor burdens and yield more time to work at remunerative activities; and public support programs that offer conditional cash transfers to women.