

Learning Workshop on Gender Equality and International Development Cooperation

5th December 2023 Seoul, Republic of Korea

Hotel President 31st Floor Schubert Hall

Concept Note

I. Background and rationale

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development aims for a world with full gender equality. Without the empowerment of all women and girls and achieving gender equality, the agenda cannot be achieved. International Development Cooperation (IDC) is an overarching terminology used to capture multiple international efforts and actions to advance development agendas. It includes efforts to reduce inequalities between developed and developing countries, between different developing countries¹, or to achieve a world with full gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. IDC includes Official Development Assistance (ODA) that comes from members of the Development Assistance Committee of the OECD, as well as private financing from multilateral development banks and other international development banks.

While ODA remains an essential source of financing for gender equality and women's empowerment, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development commits development actors to a new way of thinking about financing for sustainable development. Official flows beyond ODA are becoming increasingly important. In other words, additional financing has to complement ODA, and the full "toolbox" of development financing needs to support gender equality to implement the 2030 Agenda.

UN Women works to increase financing for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, with an emphasis on Goal 5: achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. Alongside the UN system, financial institutions, governments and private sector actors develop and promote relevant tools and strategies to support this. Gender responsive budgeting, national investment and financing frameworks with gender targets, gender financing assessments and innovative financing instruments are some of the efforts to leverage resources for gender equality. UN Women also supports governments in analysing public and private financing flows to inform national financing policies to better prioritise gender equality in financing decisions.

However, the share of ODA for gender equality has been stagnating². About 40% of ODA designates women's economic empowerment and gender equality as a *significant* objective, and just 4% as a *principal* objective. Funds tend to focus on short-term projects, and there is a gap between self-reported funding for gender-related projects and high-quality projects that aim for gender equality. Thus, there is a need to understand how to maximise not just the quantity but also the quality of development financing for gender equality. This can only be done through the collective effort of development partners and gender stakeholders in order to achieve a meaningful advancement in women's economic empowerment and gender equality.

The UN Women Centre of Excellence for Gender Equality, based in Seoul, the Republic of Korea is organising a Learning Workshop on Gender Equality and International Development Cooperation to bring together experts and stakeholders to discuss promising practices and strategic intervention points to advancing gender equality through IDC and ODA. It will be an opportunity for the development practitioners and IDC stakeholders in ROK to strengthen their understanding of gender mainstreaming in a practical manner, including tracking the budget allocation for gender equality.

¹ ODA Korea, https://www.odakorea.go.kr/ODAPage_2022/eng/cate01/L01_S01_01.jsp

² Official development assistance for gender equality and women's empowerment in 2020-21: A snapshot, OECD

II. Objectives

- Strengthen the stakeholders' understanding on advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women through IDC;
- Facilitate the exchange of promising practices, lessons learned, and findings on gender mainstreaming in IDC projects; and
- Foster exchange and networking between stakeholders working on gender equality, ODA and IDC in the Korean society to work towards identifying a specific area of cooperation to advance gender equality.

III. Target audience

The event will bring together the stakeholders working on IDC, ODA and gender equality; development partners, representatives from the public sector as well as students interested in gender and IDC.

IV. Agenda

Opening	
09.30-10.00	Welcome coffee
10.00-10.10	Opening remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jeongshim Lee, Director, UN Women Centre of Excellence for Gender Equality Welcoming remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minah Kang, Professor, Department of Public Administration, Ewha Womans University
10.10-10.20	Group Photo
10.20-10.40	[Keynote Presentation] <i>*video message</i> ODA, Sustainable Development Goals and Gender Equality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zohra Khan, Senior Policy Advisor on Governance, UN Women Headquarters
Advancing gender equality and the Sustainable Development Goals in ODA	
10.40-11.40	[Presentation] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Janelle Weissman, Head of External Relations, UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific • Sam Gendreau-Belanger, Political & Economic Secretary at the Embassy of Canada to the Republic of Korea • Gee Young Oh, Associate Research Fellow, Korea Institute for International Economic Policy • Eun Kyung Kim, Research Fellow, Korean Women's Development Institute
11.40-12.30	[Panel discussion with speakers] Moderator: Janelle Weissman, Head of External Relations, UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
Closing	
12.30-13.30	Closing and networking lunch

* Simultaneous interpretation from English to Korean, and vice versa will be available.