



## **Interactive dialogue with youth representatives**

**Accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective**

**Thursday, 14 March 2024, 3.00 – 6.00 p.m.**

### ***Background***

Poverty is exacerbated by many dimensions of inequality, which influence how youth and in particular young women and girls experience poverty, with varying depths, effects and limitations on opportunities and resources.<sup>1</sup> Examining poverty from a gender perspective with a holistic lens ensures a more complete understanding of hierarchies of economic, political, and social power, and actions required to remove barriers.

There is an urgent need for institutions to evolve and become more responsive to the unique challenges faced by women and girls living in poverty. This involves not only revising existing policies but also innovating new frameworks that prioritize gender-responsive approaches in poverty reduction. It is also critical to explore how public institutions can adopt more progressive socio-economic policies and alternative development models to eradicate poverty. This includes enacting laws, policies, and regulations that not only support and empower women and girls economically but also protect them from the multifaceted aspects of poverty.

### ***Objective***

The interactive dialogue with youth representatives will focus on the exchange of experiences, sharing knowledge, lessons learned and good practices on the role of young people in addressing poverty, strengthening institutions and financing from a gender perspective.

### ***Format and participation***

The interactive dialogue will provide youth representatives from Member States an opportunity to engage in dialogue and discussion with a broad range of stakeholders that will include Government representatives, Parliamentarians, national human rights institutions, where they exist, as well as NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC, including women's and youth organizations,

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<sup>1</sup> Siddiqui R. 2023. An Intersectional Approach to Poverty and Inequality

representatives of relevant United Nations bodies and the media. Member States will participate in the interactive dialogue on a voluntary basis. No speakers' list will be kept.

The moderator will direct the dialogue to ensure its interactive nature using a set of guiding questions. Member States will be encouraged to ask questions and comment on interventions made during the dialogue. Written statements will be strongly discouraged.

### ***Guiding Questions***

Youth representatives and Member States are invited to consider the following questions to help to focus the interactive dialogue:

- In the current context of fragile economies and a fiscal space with many competing priorities, what are the key economic priorities that young people would want policy makers to focus on to address women's and girls' poverty and achieve gender equality?
- How do restrictive policies impact women's and girls' poverty, access to social services, and employment opportunities for women? What strategies can be adopted to shift towards a society with strengthened social protection systems as a means to combat women's and girls' poverty and promote gender equality?
- What are good practices of policies, programmes, and gender-responsive budget allocations that Member States have implemented to expand the availability and affordability of services in addressing poverty? What lessons can be learned from these and how can they be replicated?
- What collaborative efforts are needed across sectors – governments, international financing institutions, donors, civil society and youth-led organizations, women's organizations, collectives, and associations at both macro and micro levels – to foster decent work conditions, social and economic security, equal pay for work of equal value, and an inclusive and empowering environment for women?
- What reforms are needed in the international financial architecture to promote gender responsive fiscal policies and programmes?

### ***Outcome***

The outcome of the interactive dialogue will be in the form of a summary by the Chair of the Commission, prepared in consultation with the regional groups, through the members of the Bureau.