



Open-Ended Informal Consultative Meetings

28 April 2016

Women's Partners Constituent Group GAP

Mujeres Iberoamericanas en Red por la Igualdad Presupuestal entre Mujeres y Hombres (Mexico)

Enhancing Financing and Other Means of Implementation Municipal Finance and Local Fiscal Systems (Policy Unit 5) Financing Urban Development (Mexico City Thematic Meeting)

Understanding the need to incorporate gender perspective in the budget process is very important.

The center of the explanation is in the sexual division of labor in society, whose members assigned different roles to women and men, some of these activities are clearly defined as paid and some of them not. Employment is a paid job, not necessarily childcare and others.

The structural adjustment policies, involving cuts in social spending, had greater effects on time use of women than men.

Spending cuts in health for example, meant that established policies that relatives take care of their hospitalized patients (and not the medical staff with pay) and who generally can assume that care are women. Insufficient spending on childcare is another example among many.

United Nations is the ideal space to establish guidelines for public policies to ensure compliance with human rights, in this virtuous relationship with governance to achieve Safe, Livable, Inclusive and Productive Cities.

Human Rights form part of the Charter of the United Nations. Their protection and promotion are Fundamental Objectives and Directive Principles of the Organization.

Human rights are the generic reference to be pursued by the government work, whatever the characteristics of a country's development. The level can vary, but the floor is the same for all. Everyone has the right to Food. Some will eat a simple but nutritious way, others will do it in a more sophisticated way, but both will satisfy their basic need for food.

With this in mind, the role of public spending is to ensure access for human rights. To ensure access for **all** human rights to the inhabitants of a country, in response to the principles of Universality, Integrality, Complementarity, Progressiveness, and, among the most important principles in this case.

The Principle of Progressivity is fundamental to the design of fiscal policy spending, because it is based on this principle that Governments can begin to plan for people to access their human rights, to **all** their human rights within a reasonable time.

The questions are:

- How to elaborate a coherent proposal that responds to the role that public finances should have to meet the different needs of women and men, and to eliminate inequalities between them?



- What kind of public finances do we require to achieve egalitarian, inclusive, productive, safe and livable cities for women and men?

The fiscal policy will fulfill the guaranty of the enjoyment and access of human rights for women and men on equal terms, if it is based on the mandates established by the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), 191 countries acceded to the CEDAW.

In addition, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development in 2015 indicates fundamental guidelines on the budget issue with gender perspective and macroeconomic framework. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda reads as follows:

(open quotes)

- We reaffirm that achieving gender equality, empowering all women and girls, and the full realization of their human rights are essential to achieving sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development.
- We reiterate the need for gender mainstreaming, including targeted actions and investments in the formulation and implementation of all financial, economic, environmental and social policies.
- Evidence shows that gender equality, women's empowerment and women's full and equal participation and leadership in the economy are vital to achieve sustainable development and significantly enhance economic growth and productivity.

We will increase transparency and equal participation in the budgeting process, and promote gender responsive budgeting and tracking

We will work towards harmonizing the various initiatives on sustainable business and financing, identifying gaps, including in relation to gender equality, and strengthening the mechanisms and incentives for compliance.

We urge countries to track and report resource allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment.

We welcome efforts by new development banks to develop safeguard systems ... including on human rights, gender equality and women's empowerment, that are transparent, effective, efficient and time-sensitive.

It is also critical to reinforce national efforts in capacity-building in developing countries in such areas as public finance and administration, social and gender responsive budgeting, (close quotes) Our proposal is broader and includes tools and mechanisms to do so, now we only wanted to emphasize these guidelines. We welcome the inclusion of some of these issues in the Mexico City Declaration, and we reiterate our demand to extend the gender content in Policy Unit 5 and un the inputs for the New Urban Agenda.

Thank you !