



WEST AFRICA

Virtual High-Level Policy Dialogue on Gender Equality in West Africa

From Data to Policy Action: Tackling Gender-Based Discrimination in Social Institutions

12 July 2021

2:00 PM – 4:30 PM (GMT)

[Please kindly register here](#)

BACKGROUND

The OECD Development Centre's Social Institutions and Gender Index ([SIGI](#)) sheds light on the formal and informal laws, social norms and practices which constitute structural barriers that women and girls face throughout their lifetime, while the Africa Gender Index ([AGI](#)) jointly produced by the African Development Bank Group and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa offers a comprehensive picture of gender equality in Africa today.

In order to address the challenges faced by women and girls, this policy dialogue, organised by the [OECD Development Centre](#), the [Sahel and West Africa Club Secretariat](#), the [African Development Bank Group](#) and the [United Nations Economic Commission for Africa](#), in collaboration with the Austrian Development Agency, will bring key stakeholders to discuss innovative policy actions and good practices. The main aim will be to build a shared consensus for an action-oriented roadmap to address gender-based discrimination in social institutions in West Africa.

This policy dialogue builds on two previous workshops that were recently organised, the first one on 27 April with grassroots organisations, civil society and research organisations, think tanks, gender experts and advocates, as well as foundations; and the second one on 29 April with national and regional policy makers, and development practitioners. Participants during both workshops identified concrete policy options to address structural barriers to gender equality based on the SIGI 2019 results.

The global outcomes of these workshops, including concrete policy recommendations and actions to enhance gender equality and women's empowerment, will feed into the SIGI policy brief for West Africa, the forthcoming [SIGI 2021 Regional Report for Africa](#) (December 2021) and the [Africa Gender Index 2022 Regional Report](#).

OBJECTIVES OF THE POLICY DIALOGUE

1. Present the outcomes of the previous workshops, which include a set of identified challenges that constrain women's empowerment, as well as priority policy options;
2. Discuss successful policies and programmes to overcome these challenges;
3. Build a shared consensus on a roadmap for action.

FORMAT

The **High-Level Policy Dialogue** will be virtual and include two sessions:

- The first session will focus on ways to overcome challenges in implementing policies that address gender-based discrimination in social institutions. Participants will share successful policies or good practices in various areas pertaining to women's human development.
- The second session will provide an opportunity for participants to discuss and agree on a roadmap for action, based on the previously identified policy options.

Each session will include interventions from a range of speakers from West Africa on their experiences and perspectives on successful policies addressing gender-based discrimination in social institutions and improve women's lives in relation to their health, economic and political empowerment.

Interpretation in English, French and Portuguese will be provided.

DRAFT AGENDA

1:30 - 2:00	Sign in to the virtual meeting
2:00 - 2:15	Opening remarks: setting the scene and objectives of the policy dialogue
2:15 - 2:25	Lessons learned: challenges and constraints faced by women in West Africa and roadmap for action
2:25-3:25	Session 1: What works? Examples of promising and innovative policies and practices that improved women's lives in terms of their health, economic and political empowerment Panel discussion (30 min) This session will focus on discussing some of the good practices that have worked based on policy options identified to address the social norms and practices hampering women's health, as well as their economic and political empowerment. It will shed light on key success factors in various countries, including better collaboration between grassroots organisations and policymakers. Participants will share entry points that made such policies or practices a success, and how they could be replicated in other contexts. Q&A Session (30 min)
3:25-4:25	Session 2: Towards a shared consensus and implementation of a roadmap for action to address gender-based discrimination in social institutions in West Africa Panel discussion (50 min) This session will discuss and aim to build a consensus on a roadmap for action based on the policy options identified in the previous workshops and engage a range of diverse stakeholders, to share their perspectives on the way forward. Participants will propose concrete ways of taking this roadmap forward, in their respective capacity, and highlight the most important aspects that need to be taken into account for its success. Q&A Session (10 min)
4.25 – 4.30	The way forward: what's next for the roadmap?