

WOMEN'S MAJOR GROUP – INTERVENTION FROM THE FLOOR – MORNING HEARINGS
NOVEMBER 26TH ON GROWTH AND MACROECONOMIC POLICIES

My name is Corina Rodriguez Enriquez, I come from Argentina and speak on behalf of the Women's Major Group. We would like to emphasize that gender inequality is not an unintended consequence of macroeconomic policies and development patterns, but instead a result of economic dynamics that are rooted on unequal gender relations. Macroeconomic policies are not gender neutral, but often gender blind. For example, austerity policies that cutback health budget (this is a fiscal measure), impose extra care work on women, who has then to take care of sick people at home. This extra care burden restricts their opportunities for economic participation.

Therefore, if SDGs are to become a framework for real transformation in an egalitarian and just way, they should address this issue. In this regard, we want to make few suggestions in the specific terrain of fiscal policies:

1. National policy space should be guaranteed in order for governments to implement fiscal counter-cyclical policies, increase their tax base through progressive taxation and enable them to address gendered labor market segregation while ensuring decent work and living wage for all, fostering policies that will enable women's economic rights and opportunities, promoting the equal distribution of unpaid care work among state, market and diverse forms of families.
2. There is an urgent need to counteract austerity policies that increase women's unpaid and care work, as well as to reorient public budgets in order for public policies to support human rights and socially just social reproduction. Public Budget priorities should include the provision of social infrastructure and social services, including access to clean water, fuel, transport, quality education and health services, including sexual and reproductive health.
3. Progressive tax reforms are urgent in order to tackle inequalities, promote productive diversification and revert financialization:
 - They should take into consideration, and modify, gender bias of tax codes and taxing structures.
 - Redirect tax exemption from unsustainable activities towards sustainable, knowledge and employment-intensive sectors.
 - We finally endorse the development and implementation of international financial transactions taxes which collections should be oriented to fulfill human rights commitments.