



High-level Political Forum 2019

Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality - Perspectives of society

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Thank you Chair,

I am speaking on behalf of the WMG,

Talking about empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality is really critical BUT this needs to ensure women and girls in all their diversity are at the center.

Empowering women and girls economically, socially, politically need to address structural and systemic barriers that stem from patriarchal and neoliberal systems that inhibit power gender inequalities and discriminations.

For instance, for SDG 8 to be achieved, we need to realise that the simplistic link of decent work to economic growth has meant deregulation of labour market and policies, as well as the reduction of the role of the state, both in promoting and protecting labour rights, human dignity, as well as regulating labour relations, leaving workers both in formal and informal economy in a state of insecurity and vulnerability.

The current system pushes women into informal, low wage, and exploitative work resulting in multiple forms of exploitation on the basis of age, ability, ethnicity, caste, migration status, SOGI among others.

The Patriarchy system limit the agency and choice of women, but also place the role of women within the home, putting a disproportionate burden of unpaid care and domestic work on them, on which the neoliberal economic system is thriving.

It is imperative that public services and social protection are accessible and gender responsive, to contribute to redistribution of unpaid care and domestic work. Its crucial to increase investment in health, including sexual and reproductive health and rights, education, and childcare as investment, rather than consumption. It is also equally imperative to ensure private sector accountability.

Decent work should ensure a living wage for all, as well as other fundamental workers' rights - including the right to association and to collective bargaining and to BE FREE from GBV and sexual harassment at work place.

Development policies need to be aligned with the broader framework of just and equitable transition anchored on development justice and reforming the current predatory extractivism model of development.

I'm closing this, Chair, to firmly say that...

"For societies to be really inclusive and for women and girls in all their diversity to be truly empowered and equal, addressing the broader structure and systems is imperative". Thank you.