Women's Major Group's Intervention to

High Level Political Forum 2021
“SDGs in focus: SDGs 1, 2, 8, 17 and interlinkages among those goals and with other SDGs" Session

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Delivered by Kalpana Rai

The COVID 19 pandemic has exacerbated already existing wealth inequalities and poverty with global unemployment and increasing food insecurity and injustice. As a result, hundreds of millions, many of them women, were pushed into extreme poverty; the number of undernourished people globally between 83 to 132 million people. Employment losses in 2020 were higher for women than for men, and young women were more than twice as likely as young men to be jobless and not in education or training globally in 2019. Due to pandemic, violence against women and unpaid care work has been increasing.

This inequity is the result of patriarchal policy choices that dictate the terms of our economies and societies, undervaluing women’s care work, and taking instead a market-based and pro-corporations approach to development ; Without system change, structural inequalities will continue to marginalize women and distort our pandemic responses., Moreover, women and girls continue to face a multitude of challenges in accessing justice and achieve equality due to gender stereotypes and biases, structural barriers, inequalities and discrimination. SDG will only be achieved with a holistic approach of goals and understanding that gender inequality intersects with other forms of identities such as age, (dis)ability, rural/urban, ethnicity, religion, income, sexual orientation and others.

There is a need to strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development. We call for:

· Developing and resourcing gender transformative comprehensive social protection systems including women and girls of all their diversities.
· Promote and fulfil the human rights by ratifying, domesticating and implementing the conventions and treaties related to ILO conventions 189 and 190.

· In accordance with core instruments, Incorporate care work as formal work, including by expanding social protection coverage to care workers.

· Increase Investments on the public health, education, skills and human rights rather than militarism.

. Work policies especially for women should be revised because they are the most affected ones