

Women's Major Group

Women's Major Group's Intervention to

High Level Political Forum 2021

“(MGoS session) Vision and priorities of civil society, the private sector and other major groups and stakeholders: realizing the SDGs during the COVID-19 recovery” Session

Friday 9th July 2021, 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM EDT

Delivered by Oluwatoyin Chukwudozie

Across the world, women, girls and gender non-conforming people have experienced unprecedented impacts of a pandemic that has driven us further into poverty, loss of livelihoods, poorer health and wellbeing, disruption of education for girls due to increased care work, and increased vulnerability to gender based violence (the pandemic within the pandemic). The inequality gap is further widened by COVID 19 and yet we remain aspirational towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. In addition to the already glaring issues, civil society groups and human rights activists are constantly under attack, closing up the space and making it an arduous task to hold the government to account on their commitments towards the preservation of our existence and the achievement of the SDGs.

We must make progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda as we recover from this devastating pandemic, so we recommend the following:

(While working on states recovery plans,) design and implement gender -responsive budget reforms and gender-specific stimulus packages

- Put in place effective funding mechanisms to guarantee vaccines for all and critical services for women including SRH&Rs and safe abortion
- Include CSO-s and private sector to discussions about states budgeting *(at all times)*
- Provide innovative and designated financing for women-led businesses including unconditional cash transfers

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- Permanently extend and increase funds for social protection programs for women especially those who have been excluded from such programs in the past
- Create and resource action plans to respond to the increase in GBV and designate all GBV services as essential services and adapt these services to the COVID-19 crisis, bearing in mind that effects of the pandemic last up to 24 months after it has ended.
- Build, strengthen and fund public health systems that deliver UHC that works for women, girls and gender non-conforming people, without discrimination, regardless of age, ability or documentation
- Create, implement and resource human rights based responsive COVID-19 recovery plans that target the most marginalized groups and are designed to eradicate inequalities.

2030 is almost here and in spite of the COVID 19 pandemic we have to ensure that our pathway to recovery is inclusive, guarantees and protects the rights of people especially women, girls and non-conforming people as well as create the space for civil society to monitor the implementation and hold governments accountable to their commitments for a sustainable future.