

# Women's Major Group

Women's Major Group's Intervention to

*High Level Political Forum 2021*  
*"Investing in SDGs" Session*

Monday 12th July 2021, 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM EDT  
*Delivered by Monica Jasis*

Driven by the demands of austerity, neoliberal economic policy, and unfair trade agreements, governments have been reducing funding for and privatizing public services, including through public-private partnerships. This has disastrous effects on the lives of women and girls, especially in poor and marginalized communities who must fill in the gaps left by the state's retreat from the public sector and its human rights obligations. Meanwhile, Debt service costs in developing countries have risen steadily over the past decade. And as of April 2021, approximately 1 in 4 people in high-income countries have received a COVID-19 vaccine, while in low-income countries only approximately 1 in 500 people have received a COVID-19 vaccine.

Our concrete recommendations are as follow:

- **Do not enact austerity measures**, including cuts to social protection programs and public services. Instead, guarantee and allocate public financing for social protection systems and public social infrastructure through gender responsive and progressive budgets for gender equality, health, and education programs
- IFIs and donor countries should cancel, restructure, suspend, and lower rates on existing debt, and any new debt issued should not include austerity conditionalities.
- Abolish the unfair bilateral and multilateral trade rules such as Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) which compromises states' regulatory capacities and ability to mobilize domestic resources. Treat COVID-19 vaccines and medicines as a global public good. support the TRIPS COVID-19 waiver and abandon the stockpiling of vaccines.
- Redirect funds from military budgets for social protection and essential public services that would improve the lives of women and girls.

WE WANT SYSTEMS CHANGE: INVEST IN WOMEN AND GIRLS INVEST IN SDG'S!!!