



# **Morning Hearing on Sustained and Inclusive Economic Growth**

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# Economic growth and macroeconomic policies are not gender-neutral

- Gender-based power relations explain an aspect of distribution of opportunities and resources existing in economies.
- Women and men experience the impacts of international trade and financial liberalization differently as:
  - **workforce**
  - **consumers**
  - **producers**
  - **responsible for the activities of the care economy**

# SDG framework

- SDGs must be rooted much more in the goal of the sustainability of life, rather than on the sustainability of growth, however inclusive it might be.
- A strong call for the reorientation of economic dynamics **from corporatization and financialisation towards sustainable and equality-oriented production, consumption and reproduction patterns.**

# SDG framework

- The SDG must be focused on **transformative redistribution of resources**, promoting productive diversification in sustainable and employment-intensive sectors, linking finance to real economy, and tackling structural discrimination based on gender, age and race.
- Regulation on:
  - financial markets
  - markets structure and competition
  - redistributing mechanisms
  - labour markets
  - social protection systems (including care and sexual and reproductive health services).

# 1. Trade asymmetries and policy space

- A target on
  - guaranteeing the Special and Differential Treatment principle
  - the removal of subsidies in developed countries, especially in agriculture
  - flexibilization of Intellectual Property Rights rules in order to protect public health, environment, natural resources, etc.
- A target to:
  - Review investment protection treaties and FTA signed by countries which erodes national laws and policy space to fulfill their obligations regarding human rights and environmental sustainability including women's access to quality education, healthcare including access to medicines and sexual and reproductive health services, to safe and accessible drinking water; and to sustainable and affordable energy sources.
  - Trade and investment policies should be subject to *ex ante* and *ex post facto* gender, human rights and environmental impact assessments.

## 2. Revert race to the bottom

A target on:

Adopting a mechanism for global cooperation to reverse the “race to the bottom” which is based on lowering of taxes, human rights, environmental and labour standards to attract Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).

- FDI should have performance requirements in order to create decent work, by eliminating the gender pay gap, provide technology transfer and skills, promote links with small and medium enterprises and foster territorial decentralization.
- This mechanism should include a binding multilateral code of conduct for transnational corporations to control and monitor their compliance with human rights obligations and environmental standards and ensure accountability.

# 3. Redistribute care work

A target on:

- Provide universal access to public care services, ensuring the quality of the services and the working conditions of care workers, increasing public investment in infrastructure including water and energy, transport.

## **4. Progressive taxation for productive diversification and tackling inequalities**

A target on:

- Create incentives to redirect tax exemptions from unsustainable activities, such as industrial fisheries, chemicals and extractives, towards sustainable, knowledge and employment-intensive sectors and small and medium producer and social and solidarity economy initiatives.
- Progressive tax systems that include taxes on wealth concentration, financial speculation and correct gender biases implicit in tax policy.



## 5. Role of states

- In an age of austerity but as the recent Latin-American experience demonstrates: **States can and should take proactive role in the economy**
- SDG cannot promote a framework where state is limited to providing an enabling environment for business to prosper or taking over the risks of private investment in strategic sectors.
- Instead SDG provide strong guidance to states to reorient economic dynamics toward sustainability of life and the planet and to protect, respect and fulfill human rights for all.