



Mechanisms for the Advancement of Women Fundamental actor for Gender mainstreaming

Concept Note

March 29th, 2021

11:30 - 13:30 (GMT-6 Mexico City Time)

20:30 - 22:30 (GMT-6 Mexico City Time)

Background

In 2020, the global community marks the 25th anniversary of the 4th World Conference on Women and the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. This is also a milestone with the 20th anniversary of Security Council resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security and the 5th anniversary of the Agenda 2030 and its Sustainable Development Goals, making it a pivotal year for the realization of gender equality, the empowerment of women and the full exercise of the human rights of women and girls everywhere. But the world is also currently facing a historic pandemic, forcing a reassessment of the effectiveness of many current socio-economic systems and reemphasizing the need to move gender equality and women's leadership forward. The current COVID-19 crisis is deepening pre-existing inequalities and exposing vulnerabilities, which are in turn amplifying the devastating impacts of the pandemic over women and girls. Therefore, it is now more critical than ever to drive for irreversible and measurable progress towards gender equality everywhere.

Within this framing, The Generation Equality Forum (is set for urgent action and accountability. The GEF is a joint effort convened by UN Women and co-chaired by the governments of Mexico and France with the leadership and active collaboration of civil society, will celebrate the power of women's rights activism, feminist solidarity, women's leadership and youth participation to achieve transformative change and set an agenda of concrete action to realize gender equality before 2030.

In this context, Institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women are playing a vital role for women and girls in all their diversity. Since their creation these Mechanisms have played an important part in informing laws, policies and programmes and advancing gender equality. Robust laws and policies coupled with stronger mechanisms to coordinate various actors and ensure their effective enforcement and implementation can push the agenda.

The Beijing Platform for Action, in the critical area of concern H, establishes 3 strategic objectives:

1. Strategic objective H.1. Create or strengthen national machineries and other governmental bodies. Actions to be taken.
2. Strategic objective H.2. Integrate gender perspectives in legislation, public policies, programmes and projects. Actions to be taken.
3. Strategic objective H.3. Generate and disseminate gender-disaggregated data and information for planning and evaluation Actions to be taken.

As the Beijing Platform recognizes: the National machineries for the advancement of women have been established in almost every Member State to design, promote the implementation of, execute, monitor, evaluate, advocate and mobilize support for policies that promote the advancement of women.

But, even now, twenty-five years later these machineries are diverse in form and uneven in their effectiveness, and in some cases, they lack the budget to advance their objectives. Often marginalized in national government structures, these mechanisms are frequently hampered by unclear mandates, lack of adequate staff, training, data and enough resources, and insufficient support from national political leadership.

General Objective

The GEF in Mexico is promoting a plenary meeting on “Institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women. Fundamental actor for Gender mainstreaming” with the main objective of creating a relevant, current and creative virtual dialogue on National machineries for the advancement of women regarded as appropriate institutional mechanisms for ensuring that gender main-streaming agendas are implemented and issues of gender equality remain central in public policy.

This plenary meeting in the GEF presents a unique opportunity to share experiences and exchange good practices between the heads of national machineries and to detect standards for effective policies and actions to strengthen these governmental bodies, emphasizing that national institutions for the advancement of women are central policy-coordinating units inside government with the main task of supporting government-wide mainstreaming of a gender equality perspective in all policy areas.

Also, the plenary meeting aims to highlight the important role of Institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women as advocates for the centrality of gender equality in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Participants

Livestream virtual dialogue with the participation of 10-12 Ministers or Heads of Institutional mechanism for the advancement of women in conversation with each other

Format

The event will take the form of an interactive moderated roundtable dialogue. Interpretation will be provided into English, Spanish, French, Arabic, and International Sign Language. Ensure disability access.

Suggested time	Proposed activity
10 minutes	Welcome and panelists' presentation.
85minutes	<p>Moderated discussion around guiding questions. Participants have between 3 4 minutes to answer each question.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share the current institutional, budgetary and political situation of the Institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women. • What could be th e recommendations and lessons learned for expanding the capacity, decision making power and visibility of Institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women? • Which are the main problems to enhancing national institutional arrangements for gender equality mainstreaming and women's empowerment? • What is the role of a National mechanism for the advancement of women in guarantying intersectionality in the efforts to promote the advance for women's lives and achieve gender mainstreaming? • Participants are encouraged to provide examples from their countries of national institutional arrangements across



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	branches and sectors of government for decision-making, policy action and budgeting on gender equality and women's empowerment. • What is the role of the National Mechanisms in the economic recovery plans from COVID19?
20minutes	Q&A session. Moderator reads selected questions from the chat.
5minutes	Closing: moderator thanks participants and audience.