

## HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL – 53rd SESSION

### Interactive dialogue with the Working Group on Discrimination against women and girls

22 June 2023

The report of the thematic report of the Working Group on the gender inequalities of poverty was presented by the **Working Group President Ms. Dorothy Estrada-Tanck**. The report highlights that women and girls are **disproportionately represented among those living in poverty**. It demonstrates that women and girls' experiences of poverty **intersect with other factors** and conditions to produce distinct forms of discrimination and inequality. Ms. Estrada-Tanck also noted the slow progress on SDGs 1, 5, and 10 and the **recent attacks and backlash against gender equality** which “underline the urgent need to reassert the centrality of the human rights framework and intersectional feminist approaches”. The COVID-19 crisis is an opportunity to **re-evaluate mainstream economic ideologies** which perpetuate gender inequalities and do not provide the resources to guarantee universally recognized human rights.

#### Interactive dialogue

75 country delegations took the floor during the interactive dialogue, the majority agreeing with the Working Group on the **structural dimension of inequality and poverty**. An overwhelming majority of countries also acknowledged the **feminization of poverty** and shared their commitments to alleviate the suffering of women in poverty. Countries expressed their commitment to achieve **the Economic Social and Cultural Rights** of women. **Mexico<sup>1</sup> Costa Rica, Luxembourg, Spain, Albania, Maldives, Romania, and Botswana** stated that their governments adopted a **feminist approach** to tackling poverty while **Slovenia, Benin, and Nepal** enquired of the WG President about taking a feminist approach. Similarly, **Luxembourg, France, Spain and Ireland** stated they have been implementing **feminist foreign policies**; and **Japan** underscored its support to gender equality in Africa.

**Almost all countries** mentioned national strategies, action plans, national initiatives and national policies which support the alleviation of poverty for women and the full enjoyment of their human rights. Among them, **Japan** highlighted its Women Peace and Security Action Plan. Consistently, **Estonia<sup>2</sup>** underscored the essential role of women in peace. Most countries placed focus on **women's participation in decision-making processes, economic inclusion, social protection, and education**. Many countries cited their efforts toward the economic inclusion of women. **Armenia, Mauritius, Togo, Namibia, India, Bangladesh, Algeria, Saudi Arabia, and Ecuador** placed emphasizes on national initiatives for **women's entrepreneurship**. Specific attention to the needs and development of rural women was mentioned by **Kazakhstan, Timor-Leste, Togo, the United Republic of Tanzania, China, Iran and Azerbaijan**.

**Paraguay, Ecuador, the United Republic of Tanzania, Georgia, Cyprus, and Gambia** shared their advancements in collecting **disaggregated data on gender** and other factors to inform policymaking. **Burkina Faso, Pakistan and Yemen** underscored their **humanitarian and economic challenges** in spite of which they are pursuing equality between men and women. **Gender-based violence** was widely recognized as a factor and consequence of poverty for women and girls and the countries of **Peru, Togo, Namibia, Tunisia, the Gambia, and Estonia<sup>2</sup>** highlighted their commitments to combat it.

**The United States of America, Maldives and France** specifically mentioned **climate change** as a factor of poverty and disadvantage for women and girls. **Colombia, Malaysia and Mexico<sup>1</sup>** mentioned their focus on **the recognition of care work and redistribution of wealth**.

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<sup>1</sup> On behalf of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Honduras and Mexico

<sup>2</sup> On behalf of the Nordic-Baltic countries

**NGOs** also welcomed the report of the Working Group, many of them calling for the Council to consider **economic justice** and the **transformation of the international economic order** as a necessary and integral requisite for the full realization of the rights of women and their protection against intersecting forms of discrimination. They also brought attention to the necessity of **reproductive justice, bodily autonomy** and **access to justice** for the eradication of poverty.

In response to questions from States, Ms. Estrada-Tanck explained that countries can take concrete steps towards the eradication of poverty for women by **ratifying human rights treaties and their optional protocols**, as well as **eliminating reservations** to these treaties. She clarified that a number of treaties such as the **International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families** or the **International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights** are also very relevant to this objective. The report invites States to re-examine **macro-economic structure** which entails examining relationships with the **World Bank** and **IMF**, and international obligations of assistance and cooperation. It also invites considerations to **regulate business actors** and **adopt gender parity at all levels**.

Delegations that took the floor during the Interactive dialogue (75 country delegations):

Kyrgyzstan, Maldives, Mexico, European Union, Estonia, Türkiye, Burkina Faso, Portugal, Bahrain, Peru, Armenia, Costa Rica, Luxembourg, Japan, Belgium, Slovenia, Israel, Ecuador, Paraguay, France, Spain, Timor-Leste, United Arab Emirates, United States of America, Mauritius, Australia, Iraq, Colombia, Morocco, Malaysia, Malta, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Cameroon, Ireland, South Africa, Pakistan, Togo, Gabon, Namibia, Kazakhstan, India, Greece, Bangladesh, Malawi, United Republic of Tanzania, China, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Chile, Senegal, Mauritania, Sudan, Albania, Georgia, Benin, Cuba, Russian Federation, Romania, Algeria, Yemen, Botswana, Bolivia, Thailand, Cyprus, Nepal, Tunisia, Azerbaijan, Saudi Arabia, Ukraine, Panama, Croatia, Uganda, Ghana, Syrian Arab Republic, Germany, Gambia, European Union, IDLO.

UN agencies, IGOs, NHRIs and NGOs that took the floor during the Interactive dialogue (13):

UN Women, UNICEF, Commission Nationale Indépendante des Droits de l'Homme du Burundi, Comisión de Derechos Humanos de la Ciudad de México, Center for Reproductive Rights, Inc., Sikh Human Rights Group, Action Canada for Population and Development, International Lesbian and Gay Association (Joint Statement), Stichting CHOICE for Youth and Sexuality, FIAN International e.V., Society for Threatened Peoples, Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW), Asociacion HazteOir.org, Organization for Defending Victims of Violence.

To watch the full meeting refer to [UN Web TV](#).