

EXPERT GROUP MEETING

Macroeconomic Policy and Women's Economic Empowerment

Berlin: Novotel Mitte Hotel

February 5-6, 2018

Objective of EGM:

- To take stock of conceptual frameworks and empirical evidence examining the relationship between macroeconomic policy and women's economic empowerment.
- To identify critical gaps in the literature for policy research.

Sessions will be structured around 4 key questions:

- 1) How do we create productive employment and decent work for women?
- 2) How do we value care work?
- 3) How do we maximize fiscal resources for women's economic empowerment?
- 4) How do we create political space for advocacy and public policy on macroeconomic policy and women's economic empowerment?

Day One: Morning

How do we create productive employment and decent work for women?

- What are the conceptual/analytical links between economic growth and labor market outcomes for women? (Role of structural change; globalization).
- Are certain patterns of economic growth more conducive to increasing female employment rates? (ex: export-oriented growth).
- How should we address informal employment in the context of economic growth strategies?
- What are the implications of excluding informal employment from measurements of economic growth?
- How can macroeconomic policies (fiscal/monetary) create more productive employment/decent work for women?

Day One: Afternoon

How do we value unpaid care and domestic work?

- How does the omission of unpaid care and domestic work bias macroeconomic policy?
- What are the links between women's unpaid and paid work and why does this matter? (is unpaid care work a causal factor in determining women's paid employment opportunities?).
- How can macroeconomic policies support the reduction of unpaid care and domestic work while creating more decent work opportunities for women? (ex: increasing public investment for social care and physical infrastructure, providing finance to SME's).

Day 2: Morning

How do we maximize fiscal resources for women's economic empowerment?

- What is the relationship between fiscal policy and women's economic empowerment? (3 fold role of fiscal policy: growth/employment; (re)-distribution; counter-cyclical)
- How can additional domestic revenues be mobilized to invest in women's economic empowerment? (fiscal space diamond as an analytical tool).
- Are current fiscal rules and fiscal frameworks adequate for a substantial and sustained investment in women's economic empowerment? (current fiscal frameworks focus on the short-run imperative of macroeconomic stability so do not account for the longer-term fiduciary and development paybacks of public investment (hence do not see that public investments in social care infrastructure, for instance, can be self-sustaining over the longer-term); fiscal rules governing the deficit do not distinguish between current expenditure and current investment (fiscal deficit is defined as current revenues – current expenditures + current investment). Further, it is unclear why certain types of public spending are classified as expenditures but not as investments given the longer term paybacks (ex: spending on nurses and teachers)
- Can tax policies be designed to enhance domestic revenues and promote women's economic empowerment?
- What is the role of innovative sources of finance (ex taxes on financial flows) in expanding fiscal space?

Day 2: Afternoon

Policy-makers Perceptions: How can we strengthen policy advocacy on macroeconomic policy and women's economic empowerment?

- Are there key substantive issues around which policy advocacy (policy messages) should be focused?

- What platforms and partnerships are needed to inform decision-makers and civil society on gender-responsive economic planning?
- How can women's organizations (national and global) mobilize communities of practice to strengthen knowledge-exchanges on effective practices and policies in macroeconomic policy and women's economic empowerment?

PARTICIPANTS

Last Name	First Name	Title	Organization	Location
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