

## FOCUS SESSION 32:

### **Title of the Session:** *Gender equality: delivering on the Busan commitments*

Montejo 2, Wednesday 16 April, 11:45-13:00

#### **Speakers/Panelists:**

- **Ms. Justine Greening**, Secretary of State for International Development, United Kingdom (Chair)
- **Ms. Hillevi Engstrom**, Minister for International Development Cooperation, Sweden
- **Mr. Shankar Prasad Koirala**, Minister of Finance, Industry, Commerce and Supplies, Nepal
- **Mr. Pekka Haavisto**, Minister for International Development, Finland
- **Ms. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala**, Minister of Finance, Nigeria
- **Mr. John Hendra**, Assistant Secretary General and Deputy Executive Director for Policy and Programme, UN Women
- **Ms. Roselynn Musa**, Co-Chair of the CSO Partnership for Effective Development and Programme Manager at FEMNET
- **Ms. Gabriela Ramos**, OECD Chief of Staff and Sherpa to the G20 (Conclusions)

#### **Conclusions and key messages:**

**Ms. Justine Greening** called for more responsible public financial management and increased financing for gender equality. She announced the UK's Leveraging Initiative which uses UK funds to pull in other donors and partners to galvanise the international community to deliver results for gender equality. Ms. Greening acknowledged the strong take-up and interest in the post-Busan global indicator on gender equality, which reveals the strength of government commitment to financing gender equality priorities. She reminded participants of the importance of continuing to work together to implement the Busan gender equality commitments.

**Ms. Hillevi Engstrom** underlined that a gender equality goal in the post-2015 framework is smart on several fronts – it reduces poverty, discrimination and exclusion, as well as being critical in realising women's rights, including their sexual and reproductive health and rights, and the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. Sweden has made good progress in including a gender equality dimension in every single bill and policy in the parliament but more work is needed.

**Mr. John Hendra** emphasised the historical underinvestment in gender equality which has created a huge gap between political rhetoric and practice. Closing this gap will require an increase in financing for gender equality, women's empowerment and women's rights; a strong gender equality goal in the post-2015 framework; and further progress on the implementation of the Busan global gender equality indicator including an increase in the number of countries engaged in future monitoring. This will be key in turning policy commitments into action.

**Mr. Shankar Prasad Koirala** affirmed the Government of Nepal's strong political commitment to achieving gender equality. In Nepal, around a third of parliamentary seats have been reserved for women. Nepal has also implemented several social protection programmes for women and increased its gender-responsive budget allocation from 11.3% to 21.7% in recent years. Nepal has made good progress in setting up aid management platforms and a tracking system for gender equality allocations, even in the midst of social upheaval and during a difficult and violent period in the history of the country. In addition, Nepal has implemented programs to reduce disparity between men and women, increased the number of property registrations for women, and tackled gender-based violence. These examples show that political will is essential for achieving positive change for women and girls.

**Ms. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala** underscored Nigeria's commitment to achieving gender equality. Half a million dollars has been devoted to reducing maternal mortality by 40% by 2015. Nigeria has implemented social transfer programmes as well as trained hundreds of midwives in rural areas. Women entrepreneurs have been encouraged to participate in a business management competition for a grant of 10 000 to 19 000 dollars per successful project. Nigeria's experience demonstrates that government programmes and specific budgets can have a significant impact on the empowerment of women.

**Mr. Pekka Haavisto** stressed Finland's role as a strong advocate for sexual and reproductive health and rights in the post-2015 agenda, including women's right to decide when, how and with whom to have children. Finland remains committed to supporting the inclusion and participation of women in political processes including peace processes, national action plans, and education throughout the world. Further efforts are needed to provide adequate support for women entrepreneurs and to close the wage gap in both developing and developed countries. The **post-2015 agenda** must serve as a catalyst to surmount remaining challenges.

**Ms. Roselynn Musa** underscored the importance of transparency and accountability for gender equality; and of inclusive development. She also highlighted the importance of documenting relevant initiatives and lessons learned. Gender equality is a crosscutting issue – it is everyone's business, not just a task for the Ministries of Women's Affairs.

**Nurgul Djanaeva** (civil society intervention from the floor) stressed the need to widen and strengthen the global gender equality indicator, as well as to mainstream a gender equality perspective into all other Busan indicators in the next round of monitoring.

**Gabriela Ramos** emphasised the need to ensure that political commitments to gender equality and women's rights are backed up by resources. Gender equality needs to be front and centre in the minds of those who allocate government money. All countries including developed countries need to strengthen national systems to track and make public allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment. Some progress has been made but much more is needed if we are to eliminate gender gaps in both developed and developing countries and end violence against women and girls. A post-2015 agenda that works well for women will be one that has gender equality at its core, as both a standalone goal and a priority in other goals.

**Participants** agreed that further political action and investments are needed to make the full and active participation of women in development processes a reality and to achieve concrete development results for women. Stopping violence against women remains a particular priority. The post-2015 agenda is a crucial opportunity to build on existing efforts to make the gender equality commitments of the Busan Global Partnership a reality.