



Pioneering advocacy for gender equality: Philanthropy at the frontline of policy and social norms change

OECD netFWD Gender Working Group 2022 Online Meeting

23 February 2022 | 15-16h30 CET

About the meeting

In recent years, foundations have broadened their ambitions, moving from narrowly-defined interventions to bolder objectives aimed at dismantling the discriminatory social systems, norms and practices that perpetuate gender inequalities. Foundations increasingly collaborate to shape the informal rules, norms, and dynamics that hold a system in place. They also strive to inform the public policy agenda and promote policy alternatives.

Gender equality is a core development objective that requires bold efforts from different perspectives. While some foundations primarily focus on the provision of data and research to inform social change, others predominantly support grassroots organisations and rely on local movements.¹

The OECD netFWD Gender Working Group meeting will bring together global leaders in philanthropy and advocacy experts to explore **how can philanthropy pioneer new ways to advocate for gender equality**. The meeting will draw on the latest [data](#) and [report on Private Philanthropy for Development](#) and foundations' experience.

The discussion will explore:

1. **Evidence:** What is the role of evidence and data in advocating for policies that support gender equality? What role do foundations play in tailoring evidence to policy makers' needs?
2. **Movement-building:** Why is it important for foundations step up support to grassroots organisations and help strengthen their capacity? What are the main obstacles and possible solutions for philanthropy to engage with actors at the frontline?
3. **Obstacles to advocacy:** What are the main barriers for foundations to be openly involved in advocacy for gender equality? How can foundations not directly working on gender equality be included in these efforts?

¹ The OECD flagship report Private Philanthropy for Development Volume 2 analysed foundations' engagement in advocacy. Out of 103 foundations surveyed, 84 engage in advocacy. While 73 of them always, often, or occasionally engage in advocacy through research and dissemination, 57 support grassroots movements (OECD, 2021_[2]).

Draft agenda

15h-15h05 Welcome and opening remarks

- **Valérie Meunier**, Managing Director, Fondation CHANEL UK

15h05- 15h15 Opening presentation: Unpacking foundations' engagement in gender advocacy

- **Bathylle Missika**, Head of Division, Networks, Partnerships and Gender, OECD Development Centre

15h15 – 15h20: Q&A

15h20 - 15h35: Keynote contributions:

- **Sara Patuliano**, Chief Executive, ODI

15h35 - 16h25: Discussion: Philanthropy at the frontline of policy and social norms change for gender equality

- **Moderator: Nicolette Naylor**, International Program Director, Gender, Racial and Ethnic Justice, Ford Foundation

Panellists will include:

- **Sarah Iqbal**, Program Officer, Gender Equity and Governance, William & Flora Hewlett Foundation
- **Shloka Nath**, Head Sustainability, Policy and Advocacy, Tata Trusts
- **Silvia Ursu**, Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Programme Manager, Laudes Foundation

16h25- 16h30 Closing

Bathylle Missika, Head of Division, Networks, Partnerships and Gender, OECD Development Centre