



## Virtual Policy Workshop in West Africa

### From Data to Policy Action: Tackling Gender-Based Discrimination in Social Institutions

**29 April 2021**

**10:00 AM – 1:00 PM (CET)**

**[Please kindly register here](#)**

#### BACKGROUND

The [Social Institutions and Gender Index \(SIGI\)](#) sheds light on the structural barriers to gender equality facing women and girls. This workshop will focus on identifying concrete policy options to address such barriers based on the SIGI 2019 results for West Africa. It will bring together regional and national policy makers as well as development partners from across the region. The workshop follows a separate policy workshop that was held two days before with grassroots, civil society and research organisations, think tanks, gender experts and advocates and foundations on the same topic.

All stakeholders will then come together in a Policy Dialogue on **7<sup>th</sup> July 2021** to discuss and agree on the priority policy options identified in both workshops. The outcomes will feed into the SIGI policy brief for West Africa as well as the forthcoming SIGI 2021 Regional Report for Africa to be launched in December 2021.

#### OBJECTIVES

1. Identify key challenges and opportunities, including through the exchange of good practices on addressing gender discrimination and promoting women's rights;
2. Prioritise a set of context-specific policy options to advance gender equality and women's empowerment in West Africa.

#### FORMAT

The Policy Workshop will be virtual and participatory and will focus on policy options in three specific areas:

- Women's economic empowerment and access to productive and financial resources
- Women's health deprivation and restricted reproductive autonomy
- Women's political voice, leadership and agency

Each session will be facilitated and there will be interventions from a range of speakers from West Africa on their experiences and perspectives in implementing various policies, and suggested strategic directions in addressing the key issues and obstacles for women in each thematic area.

**Interpretation** in English and French will be provided.

## DRAFT AGENDA

- 09:45 - 10:00 | **Sign in to the virtual meeting**
- 10:00 - 10:10 | **Opening remarks: setting the scene and objectives of the workshop**
- **Ms. Bathylle Missika**, Head of the Networks, Partnerships and Gender Division, OECD Development Centre
  - **Mr. Laurent Bossard**, Director, Sahel and West Africa Club Secretariat, OECD
- 10:10 - 10:40 | **Key SIGI findings for West Africa**
- **Mr. Pierre de Boisséson**, Economist, OECD Development Centre
  - **Live poll** to rank the top 3 priority policy options identified by civil society organisations
  - **Q&A session**
- 10:40 - 11:20 | **Session 1: Women's economic empowerment and access to productive and financial resources**  
This session will focus on i) how social norms limit women's economic empowerment and access to productive and financial resources and ii) 2-3 policy options that should be prioritised to improve women's lives in this area.
- Facilitator:** **Ms. Nathalie Gahunga**, Chief Gender Officer for West and Central Africa, African Development Bank
- Discussant:**
- **Dr. Paul Ouédraogo**, Deputy Executive Secretary, CILSS
- Open discussion**
- 11:20-11:30 | **Break**
- 11:30-12:10 | **Session 2: Women's health deprivation and restricted reproductive autonomy**  
This session will focus on i) how restrictive social norms and practices have a negative impact on women's health and their reproductive autonomy, and ii) 2-3 policy options that should be prioritised to improve women's lives in this area.
- Facilitator:** **Mr. Jean Zoundi**, Deputy Director, Sahel and West Africa Club Secretariat, OECD
- Discussant:**
- **Ms. Diene Keita**, Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
- Open discussion**
- 12:10-12:50 | **Session 3: Women's political voice, leadership and agency**  
This session will focus on i) how gender stereotypes and social norms limit women's participation in policymaking and engaging in leadership roles and ii) 2-3 policy options that should be prioritised to improve women's lives in this area.
- Facilitator:** **Ms. Estelle Loiseau**, Policy Analyst, OECD Development Centre
- Discussants:**
- **Ms. Euphrasie Yao**, Special Advisor on gender to the President of the Republic, Côte d'Ivoire
  - **Dr. Sintiki Tarfa Ugbe**, Director, Humanitarian and Social Affairs and former Director of Gender, ECOWAS
- Open discussion**
- 12.50 – 13.00 | **Closing Remarks and looking forward**
- **Ms. Bathylle Missika**, Head of the Networks, Partnerships and Gender Division, OECD Development Centre