
Thank you, Mme. Moderator,

On behalf of the European Union and its Member States, I would like to thank the panelists for this valuable discussion.

Economic policy is crucial for shaping conditions for women and men, girls and boys. Resource distribution policy priorities have a major effect on the quality of lives women and men. Economic policy should support the advancement of gender equality through such policies. The budget and budget process are of key importance in realising Governments’ policy objectives and gender equality mainstreaming therein, influences policy direction or distribution of resources. Economic policy is a powerful tool to increase economic equality and support advancement of gender equality in society.

Mainstreaming gender perspectives in the budget is “smart economics” – it makes for more efficient policy and better use of resources. Economic policies promoting gender equality in the labour market will at the same time promote flexibility in the labour market and economic growth.

At European Union level, gender is mainstreamed in all policies. Gender equality is a key element to be considered in a macroeconomic policies framework. Funding is available through the European Structural Funds at assist Member States in this regard.

Integration of gender equality considerations is also a key part of the European Commission’s proposals for the 2021-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework, which is currently being negotiated.

Also, specific funding is foreseen for actions related to economic empowerment of women and for combating violence against women through the Rights and Values Programme.

Financial resources dedicated to gender equality are key to ensuring that policy is designed and implemented with a gender perspective.

Thank you very much.

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