

CONCEPT NOTE

70th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 70)

G77 and Emerging Partners – Ministerial Roundtable

Pathways for Accelerating Sustainable Financing for Gender Equality for All Women and Girls

Co-hosted by: The Governments of Brazil, Kazakhstan, Maldives, Timor Leste, Uruguay along with UN Women

Date: 9 March 2026

Time: 15:00–16:15

Venue: UN Headquarters, ECOSOC Chamber

Introduction

As the world approaches the 2030 deadline for the Sustainable Development Goals, the financing gap for gender equality continues to widen. Achieving SDG 5 will require investment at scale—far beyond what traditional development finance alone can provide—at a time when fiscal space is constrained and official development assistance (ODA) is under increasing pressure. Profound shifts in the global development cooperation ecosystem further underscore the urgency of embedding gender equality within macroeconomic policy, financial systems, and capital markets.

In this context, **sustainable finance has emerged as a critical enabler of gender equality**. Across the Global South, countries are strengthening domestic resource mobilization, deepening local and regional capital markets, and deploying innovative financial instruments to mobilize long-term investment for inclusive and sustainable growth. These efforts reflect a broader recalibration of the development finance landscape—away from reliance on external concessional flows and toward leveraging domestic financing, blended finance, and private capital aligned with national development priorities.

Building on the momentum of the Commemoration of the 30th Anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action (B+30) and the outcomes of the **Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4) in Seville, CSW70** provides a key accountability platform for member states to demonstrate progress in implementing commitments to scale sustainable finance, strengthen domestic financial systems and align capital flows with sustainable development and gender equality objectives. As reaffirmed in the Compromiso de Sevilla, advancing the SDGs requires more inclusive, resilient and gender-responsive financial architecture at national, regional, and global levels.

Scaling up financing for gender equality will therefore require **collective action** by governments, development finance institutions (DFIs), regulators, the private sector, civil society and development partners. Strengthening market infrastructure, enabling regulatory frameworks, risk-sharing mechanisms and aligned standards is essential to crowding in private investment and ensuring that capital markets contribute meaningfully to gender equality outcomes.

Building on the success of the first G77 Ministerial Roundtable held during CSW69, this year's Roundtable will focus on advancing practical, system-level pathways to operationalize the FfD4 commitments through gender-responsive sustainable finance.

Purpose of the Roundtable

The Roundtable will:

- **Demonstrate G77 leadership** in advancing sustainable finance as a system-level enabler of gender equality, including through gender-responsive fiscal and financial policies, capital-market instruments, and investment frameworks aligned with SDG 5.
- **Convene Ministers of Finance, Ministers responsible for Gender and Social Development, DFIs, regulators, and capital-market actors** to reinforce partnerships, share practical innovations, and strengthen political commitment to investing in gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE) as a driver of inclusive economic transformation.
- **Elevate high-impact investment priorities**, including care infrastructure, digital inclusion, and women's economic empowerment, as integral to sustainable growth and financial system resilience.

Expected Outcomes

- Sharing good practices on effective sustainable finance approaches for advancing gender equality in the Global South among G77 members and DFIs.
- Strengthened political commitment to gender-responsive sustainable finance as part of national financing strategies and development plans.
- Increased visibility of national reforms and investment initiatives, particularly in care infrastructure and digital inclusion.

Co-hosts

The Governments of Brazil, Kazakhstan, Maldives, Timor Leste and Uruguay will co-host, reflecting their regional leadership in sustainable finance and capital-market development.

Proposed Agenda:

**G77 and Emerging Partners – Ministerial Roundtable
Sustainable Finance for Gender Equality: Leadership in Action**

UN Headquarters | CSW70 | 9 March 2026: Duration: 15:00-16:15

Draft Agenda

Master of Ceremonies: Ms. Bibiana Aido, UN Women Regional Director, Latin America and the Caribbean Region

Time	Topics & Participants
15:00–15:05	Opening Remarks (5 min) H.E. Ms. Sima Bahous Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director, UN Women
15:05–15:30	Ministerial Leadership Dialogue (25 min) From Political Commitment to Action: Advancing Gender-Responsive Sustainable Finance Moderator: Ms. Megan Gilgan , Director a.i., Strategic Partnerships Division, UN Women Ministerial interventions (4 minutes each): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• H.E. Márcia Lopes, Minister of Women, Government of Brazil (tbc)• H.E. Dr. Hala Hameed, Head of Europe, Americas, Oceania, Middle East and Africa Divisions, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Maldives• H.E Ms. Elvina Sousa Carvalho, Secretary of State for Equality, Government of Timor Leste• H.E. Ms. Noelia Martinez, Deputy Director General for Political Affairs, Ministry of External Affairs, Uruguay• Senior Representative, Government of Kazakhstan
15:30–15:35	Transition / Change of Speakers (5 min)
15:35–15:55	High-Level Panel (20 min) Strengthening Financial Systems for Gender Equality: From Policy Frameworks to Instruments at Scale Moderator: Ms. Robyn Oates , Head of Sustainable Finance, UN Women Panel will focus on <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Policy and regulatory frameworks that enable gender-responsive finance

	<p>2. Market infrastructure, risk-sharing mechanisms, and public–private partnerships</p> <p>3. Financial instruments at scale, including taxonomies, gender bonds, blended finance, and macro-policy tools</p> <p>Panelists (5 minutes each):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Soraya Munyana Hakuziyaremye, Governor, Central Bank, Rwanda • Ms. Fatou Sow Sarr, Commissioner for Human Development and Social Affairs of West African States (ECOWAS) • Ms. Carmen Correa, Chief Executive Officer, Pro Mujer
15:55–16:10	<p>Ministerial Commitment Round (15 min)</p> <p>Scaling What Works: National Actions and Partnerships <i>Facilitated by:</i> Ms. Megan Gilgan, Director a.i., Strategic Partnerships Division, UN Women</p>
16:10–16:15	<p>Closing Reflections and Forward Path (5 min)</p> <p>Ms. Kirsi Madi, UN Assistant Secretary General and UN Women Deputy Executive Director</p>