

Concept - note

68th Session

of the Commission on the Status of Women - New York

“Economic empowerment of women and girls: a lever for achieving inclusion and confronting poverty”

Side-event

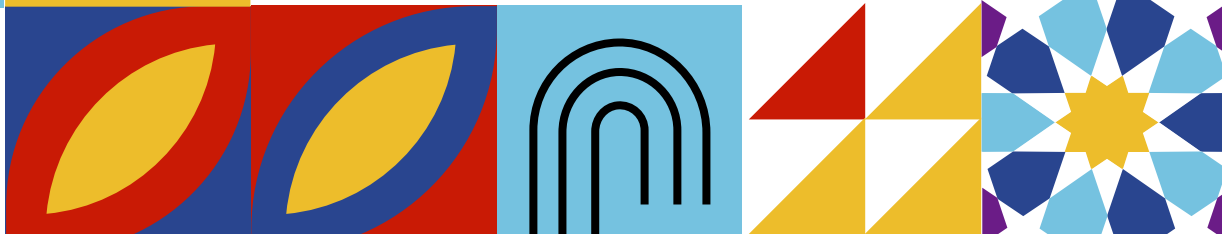
Organized and moderated by Kingdom of Morocco with the support of UNFPA



📅 Wednesday March **13th**, **2024**

🕒 starting from **13:15** to **14:30**

📍 CR12





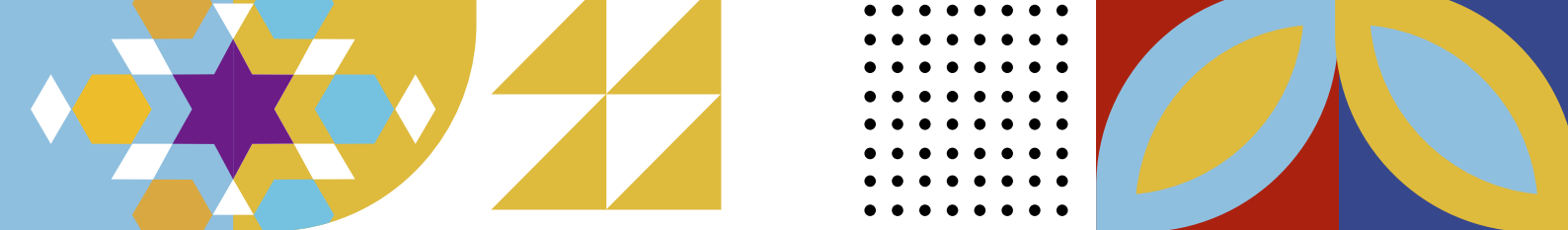
Introduction

During the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) In 1994, the international community has acknowledged gender equality as an issue which is closely linked to sustainable development, and recognized that reproductive health and women's empowerment are fundamental pillars in this sense. This commitment, was initiated at the ICPD, and reaffirmed by the Beijing declaration and Platform for Action which was renewed in 2000 by the Millennium Development Goals then in 2015 with the adoption of the Development Goals of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly the fifth goal which aims at achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.

Besides that, The International Conference on Population and Development, represented a qualitative shift in approaching issues of Population and development, including equality and women's empowerment. The Declaration and Program of Action of the Conference have emphasized the fundamental links and interrelated aspects of population and the various dimensions of sustainable development within a comprehensive and integrated framework. And specify a number of priorities for action in all fields, including gender equality, the importance of the family, and the role of individuals, population growth, reproductive health and related rights, urbanization, migration and the Sustainable environment.

Women's economic empowerment is also increasingly recognized as an essential element of comprehensive and sustainable development. However, women and girls still face many challenges that hinder their economic empowerment and prevent them from fully achieving their ambitions. This particularly affects women and girls living in rural areas because of various obstacles such as , stereotypes, limited access to resources, and weaknesses of the market systems which directly affect and limit their economic participation.





In this context, the Kingdom of Morocco has ratified a group of international human rights conventions, The most important of which is the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, which, through its preamble, expressed its concern about poverty, especially women in situation of poverty have less access to food, health, education, training, job opportunities and other needs.”

Moreover “Women and Poverty” issue was considered as a major area of concern in the Beijing Platform for Action (1995), Which recognizes multidimensional poverty, its structural causes, and the overrepresentation of women among the poor, and affirms that poverty and Women is associated with a lack of economic opportunities, access to economic resources, education, support services and Low levels of participation in decision-making.

Morocco has also integrated a strong societal dynamism and economic development policies at a very early stage, under the enlightened leadership of his majesty King Mohamed the sixth may god assist him.In addition to that , the strong dynamism of the 2011 Constitution, which integrates various actors and efforts to advance the rights of vulnerable groups, and fragile areas, while adopting the values of democracy and good governance, and laying the foundations of a solidarity state in which everyone can enjoy, dignity, equality, and equal opportunities.

In implementation of the High Royal directives of his majesty , may god bless him which aimed at the necessity of the full participation of Moroccan women in every aspect of life , and updating national mechanisms and legislation, to advance its status, and to fulfill the Kingdom’s international obligations , in the field of promoting the rights of women and girls, including women’s economic rights, as well as Sustainable development goals by 2030, and in, a full harmony with the outcomes and recommendations of the new development model.

The Moroccan government took the initiative to launch a group of projects and initiatives aimed at economic empowerment For women and girls, as well as working to raise the women’s activity rate by 2026.





The government program aims also to promote equal opportunities for women to obtain decent work, and to promote the creation of Professional opportunities, by establishing an enabling and sustainable framework aiming at women's economic empowerment, and paying special attention to enhance the entrepreneurial spirit and entrepreneurial sense of women.

Many countries face a number of challenges and constraints in combating poverty and fragility, especially among women and girls, the global community has begun to talk about the phenomenon of the feminization of poverty, due to the high Rates of poverty and fragility among women than men.

The Kingdom of Morocco also stated Its efforts to improve the situation of women and girls, who face multiple challenges, such as the limited access to job opportunities, education and economic resources, by enhancing the economic empowerment of these category of people, and harnessing all means to achieve integration into the labor market and access to education and training, by strengthening the economic empowerment of these women through the mobilization of necessary resources for their integration into the labor market and by improving their access to appropriate education and training, the Kingdom of Morocco was able to achieve the objectives linked to the promotion of the condition of Moroccan women and the improvement of their socio-economic status , without forgetting all the efforts made to establish a legal arsenal to the economic empowerment of women and girls, by guaranteeing fair access to employment opportunities, and fighting against all forms of gender-related discrimination.

The Moroccan government has crystallized policies and programs supporting the empowerment of women and reducing the gap between Both genders, most notably the third governmental plan for equality 2023-2026, which is considered as a public policy Integrated Equality, that aims to unify the efforts of all concerned parties from government sectors, national institutions, territorial actors, the private sector and civil society. This governmental plan established economic empowerment for women as

One of its priorities, as the first axis dedicated to empowerment is activated through the "Economic Empowerment And leadership".





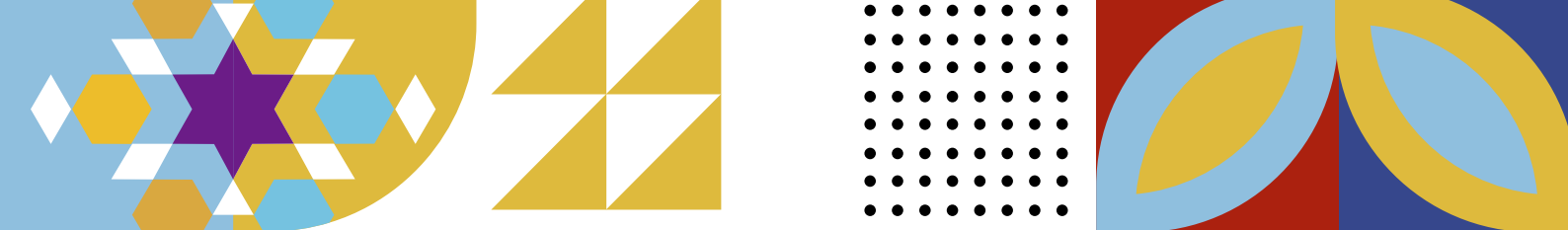
In parallel, the Kingdom of Morocco adopts multiple and diverse institutional mechanisms that contribute to enhancing the economic empowerment of women and fighting poverty among them. These mechanisms work to monitor the social reality of women in Morocco, then track and implement public policies and programs to combat women's poverty and fragility and enhance women's economic empowerment. and girls, which contributes to achieving sustainable development. In this regard, some of these programs and mechanisms, which are represented by the National Initiative for Human Development, the Empowerment and Entrepreneurship Bridge Program, and some institutions such as the Economic, Social and Environmental Council, the High Commission for Planning, and the creation of a group of governance committees and coordination of public policies centrally and territorially, such as the National Committee for Gender Equality and Empowerment. Women and the National Committee for Women Victims of Violence.

Being Aware of the importance of equality and economic empowerment for women and girls, the 68th Commission on the Status of Women has taken up the theme of:

“Accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective”. it is a special moment for awareness-raising on governments' commitments to eradicating poverty and promoting the economic rights of women and girls. In this regard, this side-event revolves around, “Economic Empowerment of Women and Girls, a lever to achieve inclusion and confront forms of poverty”, which aims to open discussion and exchange experiences.

Many delegates will take part at the side event discussions in order to highlight the importance of investing in the economic empowerment of women Girls, and how to confront poverty, through developing policies and programs to integrate and empower women, and establishing mechanisms institutions that aim to achieve this. The organization of this event also comes within the framework of the 30th anniversary of the International Population and Development Organization conference , which played an important role in promoting gender equality and women's empowerment.





side event

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Axes of the side event

- Economic Empowerment as an essential lever to fight against poverty;
- International Conference contributions on Population and Development (ICPD) to promote gender equality and women's empowerment;
- Promoting women's integration and girl and improve their conditions particularly in rural areas;
- Feminization of poverty: Evolution of the poverty “women and girls situation”;
- Policies and programs for women's economic empowerment and struggling against poverty;
- Institutional mechanisms to combat poverty among women and girls;
- Sharing experiences and good practices to promote economic empowerment of women and girls.
- Financial inclusion as a mechanism to strengthen the empowerment of women and girls in difficult situations;
- Exchange experiences and best practices to promote economic progress and empowerment of women and girls;





- Improve employment opportunities for women and promote a sustainable and a favorable environment by improving working conditions;
- Prevention, protection and care for women and girls victims of violence.

Speakers

- Ms. Aawatif Hayar, Minister of Solidarity, Social Inclusion and Family, Kingdom of Morocco;
- M. Abdelilah Yaakoubd, the Assistant Representative of the United Nations Fund and Program Coordinator in Morocco;
- Ms./M. Representative of the Embassy of Spain in Morocco;
- Ms. Fadia Kiwan, General director of the Arab Weman Organization;
- Ms. Amina Oufroukhi, Vice-President of the National Union of Wemen of Morocco.

