



## CSW68 Side-event

### *Launch of the SIGI 2024 SIGI Regional Report for Southeast Asia: Time to care*

**18 March 2024**

**11.30-12.45 EST**

**UN General Assembly Building, Room CR-8**

Please click [here](#) to register.

*Registration is on a first come, first served basis, due to the limited capacity of the meeting room.  
Virtual participation will be possible (more information to follow).*

Hosted by Korea, the OECD Development Centre is organising a CSW68 Side-event to launch the SIGI 2024 SIGI Regional Report for Southeast Asia:

- **WHAT ARE THE MAIN OBSTACLES AND OPPORTUNITIES?** We will identify main areas of progress and bottlenecks related to persisting discriminatory formal and informal laws, social norms and practices, especially in light of the region's diverse legal systems – with a focus on the care sector, and how formalising it could yield substantial benefits for all.
- **WHAT SEEMS TO WORK?** The event will allow the sharing of insights from partner countries' initiatives to promote a transformative shift away from traditionally upheld gender norms and innovative programmes in the care sector.
- **HOW CAN WE USE THE REPORT FINDINGS TO MAKE PROGRESS?** We will discuss how policy makers, lawmakers, the development community and other key stakeholders can leverage the report findings into their laws, policies and interventions to accelerate transformative social and economic change for the region.

In Southeast Asia, the level of gender-based discrimination in social institutions exhibits significant variation, impacting the lives of 340 million women in countries with persistently high levels of discrimination. Drawing on data from the 5th edition of the [Social Institutions and Gender Index](#)<sup>1</sup> (SIGI), the SIGI 2024 Regional Report for Southeast Asia underscores that discrimination remains most pronounced within the family. Traditional gender roles continue to confine women to caregiving responsibilities, while men are expected to assume the roles of family providers and decision-makers.

The report highlights that personal status laws are central to severe legal restrictions on women and girls in private spheres. These laws weaken women's household status, curtail their inheritance and divorce rights, and contribute to early marriages. Furthermore, entrenched gender norms translate into Southeast Asian women dedicating 3.1 times more time to unpaid care and domestic work than men, limiting their participation in the labour market. Against the backdrop of an aging society, the report advocates for formalising the care sector to address persistent challenges, benefitting not only

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<sup>1</sup> The SIGI is a unique cross-country measure of discriminatory social institutions, defined as formal and informal laws, social norms, and practices that restrict the rights, empowerment opportunities and resources for women and girls in 179 countries. The 5th edition of the SIGI was released March 2023 at the CSW67.

women but entire societies and enhancing regional resilience, given the formal sectors' reduced vulnerability to external shocks.

Our proposed side-event aims to delve into the root causes of gender inequality in Southeast Asia and explore potential solutions, particularly in formalising the care sector. This event will feature a panel discussion where speakers will share insights on how gender-transformative policies and innovative programmes in the care sector can challenge established gender norms, promote women's rights, foster gender equality, and drive sustainable development. The event will also explore pathways for collective action, involving policy makers, lawmakers, grassroots organisations, philanthropy, and the wider development community. Together, these stakeholders can accelerate progress toward realising Sustainable Development Goal 5 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Southeast Asian region.

## DRAFT AGENDA

11:30 – 11:37 AM (EST)	<p><b>Opening remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>H.E. Kim Sangjin</b>, Ambassador, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations</li><li>• <b>Ulrik Vestergaard Knudsen</b>, OECD Deputy Secretary General and Gender &amp; Diversity Champion</li></ul>
11:37 -11:47 AM (EST)	<p><b>What does the SIGI 2024 Regional Report for Southeast Asia reveal? Presentation of the main findings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Hyeshin Park</b>, Gender Programme Co-ordinator, OECD Development Centre</li></ul>
11:47-12:42 AM (EST)	<p><b>Panel discussion: “Time to care: How can gender-transformative policies and innovative programmes challenge established gender norms and promote women’s empowerment?”</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Ragnheiður Elín Árnadóttir, Director, OECD Development Centre</p> <p><b>Panellists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Representative from Indonesia / Malaysia / the Philippines / Thailand / Viet Nam (tbc)</li><li>• Representative from ASEAN (tbc)</li><li>• Representative from ADB (tbc)</li><li>• <b>Ankita Panda</b>, Senior Program Officer, Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality, The Asia Foundation</li><li>• <b>Vivi Restuviani</b>, Programme Officer, International Women's Rights Action Watch-Asia Pacific (IWRAW-AP)</li></ul> <p><b>Open discussion / Q&amp;A</b></p>
12:42-12:45 PM (EST)	<p><b>Closing remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Ragnheiður Elín Árnadóttir</b>, Director, OECD Development Centre</li></ul>

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