

Speaking notes

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The 2030 Agenda includes a stand-alone goal to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls (SDG 5), but there are also specific targets under 11 other goals that link women's rights to the three dimensions of sustainable development (social, economic and environmental).

I would like to highlight the usefulness of data such as those that are going to be collected in Uganda about unpaid work of women as well as the regulation in Jordan about providing benefits to people engaged in care of children, the elderly or persons with disabilities.

Both are addressing a key aspect of inequalities, which is the particular responsibility of women in care.

In my own country, Uruguay, a law creating a National Care System was created in November 2015, establishing a coordination of the ministries and agencies of social development, social security, labour, health, education and the ministry of finances and the planning office to coordinate social policies from the perspective of care, and it establishes THE RIGHT TO BE CARED. Which means that persons in need of care (children, the elderly, persons with the permanent or temporary disabilities) will receive from the state financial support to pay for the person caring for them, which could be a family member. (90% of the persons providing care are women). This means that care work will be paid. It is the result of campaigning by the women groups supported by the trade unions. It is an expansion of rights and places the issue in a rights-based perspective.

In the presentations to this panel and many others the day before, we have heard about many good practice examples, such as those I commented on, and somehow this answers the first question formulated. We have heard recommendations about the need for statistics, indicators and their gender disaggregation, which is key for accountability and gender-responsive implementation. I would add that a rights-based approach can be started even before having the data, so lack of data is no excuse for inaction, but rather having a rights-based policy in place will result in producing better data (and better evaluation).

But we haven't heard good stories of examples of successful multistakeholder partnerships... which points to the need to better define the different roles of different stakeholders and the rules that bind them. There are regrettably too many examples of public-private-partnerships that went wrong.

In 2013 the World Bank's IFC published the report "Investing in Women's Employment: Good for Business, Good for Development" to highlight WINvest (Investing in Women), the World Bank Group's Global Partnership initiative with the private sector on women's employment. This initiative aimed to bring together IFC clients and private sector partners with a vested interest in substantiating the business case for improving working conditions and employment opportunities for women. Mining companies notorious for their environmental damage and fossil fuels corporations were involved. The example given the largest attention by the report is that of the Brazilian company Odebrecht, that launched a 9 million US dollar program (over five years) to train and hire women as construction workers. Aside from Brazil, the program was launched (even when "on a much smaller scale") in Angola, Argentina, Colombia, Cuba, Guinea, Liberia, Mozambique, Peru and Venezuela. Thus, with a tiny fraction of their global income of 100 billion US dollars in 2016, Odebrecht gained recognition and praise from the World Bank... and now all of their top executives, including CEO Marcelo Odebrecht, are in jail in Brazil and fined with 2.6 billion dollars by the US courts for their massive bribing of decision-makers in almost every country in which they operated!

"Women washing" can be as bad as "green washing" and without proper screening and vetting and safeguarding these "partnerships" can result in moral damage for the UN and the member states involved.