



## THE WORLD POLICY FORUM

Social Realignment

***By invitation only***

### Women's Economic Empowerment: Pandemic Response, Recovery and Resilience – Building Back Better

Women's Economic Imperative

#### Speakers:

##### Keynotes:

- **Justine Greening**, Founder of Social Mobility Pledge
- **Caren Grown**, Gender Global Director at World Bank
- **Linda Scott**, Emeritus DP World Chair of Entrepreneurship and Innovation, Oxford University
- **Vera Songwe**, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa; Under Secretary-General, United Nations
- **Elizabeth Vasquez**, CEO of WEConnect International

##### Moderator:

- **Amadou Mahtar Ba**, Executive Chairman, AllAfrica

##### Co-chairs:

- **Luis Guillermo Solis**, Interim Director & Professor of Kimberly Green; Co-Chair, United Nations Secretary General's High-Level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment
- **Simona Scarpaleggia**, Global CEO of EDGE Strategy; Co Chair, United Nations Secretary General's High-Level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment

#### Objectives:

The goal of the side event is to focus on the importance of gender economic equity across the SDGs, particularly in the context of policy responses to address the economic and social impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic as we seek to build back better.

The work of the UN Secretary General's High-Level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment (UNHLP-WEE), completed in 2017, focused on several key issues that are particularly relevant for the building back better and increasing the resiliency of women and girls in the face of future economic, environmental and social shocks.

This side event brings together some members of the UNHLP-WEE along with a range of policy makers, private sector, civil society and other actors to discuss the importance of gender



## THE WORLD POLICY FORUM

economic equity across the SDGs, recognizing the devastating economic and social impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic and the critical role of women and girls for the pandemic response, recovery and resilience.

### Session context:

The United Nations Secretary General's High-Level Panel (UNHLP) on Women's Economic Empowerment (WEE) was established by then-UNSG Ban Ki-moon in 2016 "to address the specific economic issues that affect women and to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its promise to leave no one behind."

His successor, António Guterres affirmed and expanded this commitment recognizing that *"Women's economic empowerment is at the heart of the 2030 Agenda. We will not achieve the Sustainable Development Goals if there is no accelerated action to empower women economically. We know that women's participation in all spheres of life, including in the economy, is essential to sustainable and durable peace and to the realization of human rights"*. United Nations Secretary-General, António Guterres, March 2017

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated many of the social, economic, and health issues impacting the lives of women and girls and increased the vulnerabilities of marginalized populations. The work of the UNHLP-WEE, completed in 2017, focused on several key issues that are particularly relevant for the building back better and increasing the resiliency of women and girls in the face of future economic, environmental and social shocks.