



FROM DATA TO POLICY ACTION: TACKLING GENDER-BASED DISCRIMINATION IN SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS

POLICY DIALOGUE IN WEST AFRICA

BACKGROUND

The OECD Development Centre's [Social Institutions and Gender Index \(SIGI\)](#) sheds light on formal and informal laws, social norms and practices that constitute structural barriers that women and girls face throughout their lifetime. Despite some progress in recent years, women in West Africa still face gender-based discrimination across all spheres of life. Such discrimination not only negatively affects women's rights and empowerment opportunities but also decreases countries potential for economic growth and sustainable development.

In order to move this conversation forward, from data to policy action, the [OECD Development Centre](#) and the [Sahel and West Africa Club Secretariat](#) are co-organising a policy dialogue in collaboration with the Austrian Development Agency, on addressing social institutions governing women and men's behaviour to enhance gender equality. The policy dialogue will bring together a range of stakeholders including policy makers, international and regional organisations, as well as grassroots organisations, civil society and research organisations, think tanks, gender experts and advocates and foundations.

The outcomes of the dialogue, together with subsequent policy dialogues organised in Southern and East Africa, will feed into the **forthcoming SIGI 2021 Regional Report for Africa**, with concrete policy actions to enhance gender equality and women's empowerment.

OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of the West Africa policy dialogues will be to:

- **Take stock of gender-based discrimination** and key indicators to track progress;
- **Identify key challenges as well opportunities**, including through the exchange of good practices on addressing gender-based discrimination and promoting women's and girls' rights;
- **Identify a set of context-specific policy options** to advance gender equality and women's empowerment in West Africa.



FORMAT

The policy dialogue will be organised in **three separate sessions**:

<i>Event</i>	<i>Date and time (CET)</i>
A workshop on gender equality with grassroots organisations, civil society and research organisations, think tanks, gender experts and advocates, as well as foundations	27 April 2021 10 AM – 1:00 PM
A workshop with policy makers, as well as international and regional organisations	29 April 2021 10 AM – 1:00 PM
A plenary meeting with all stakeholders	7 July 2021

The workshops will include:

- a presentation of the SIGI 2019 results and findings specific to West Africa;
- thematic sessions focusing on three different themes:
 - Women's health deprivation and restricted reproductive autonomy
 - Women's economic empowerment and access to productive and financial resources
 - Women's political voice, leadership and agency;
- a prioritisation of policy options to promote gender equality and women's empowerment.

The plenary meeting will:

- bring all stakeholders together in a spirit of mutual learning and exchange;
- take stock of the key outcomes from the workshops, especially the proposed policy options;
- provide a space for dialogue among stakeholders to agree on policy recommendations and key messages for the forthcoming SIGI Regional Report for Africa.

FURTHER READING

- OECD (2019), [SIGI 2019 Global Report: Transforming Challenges into Opportunities, Social Institutions and Gender Index](#), OECD Publishing, Paris
- Bouchama, N., G. Ferrant, L. Fuirot, A. Meneses and A. Thim (2018) [Gender Inequality in West African Social Institutions](#), West African Papers, No. 13, OECD Publishing, Paris ([en français](#))

SOCIAL MEDIA

The dialogues will continue on social media using the hashtags: #SIGIAfrica and #SIGI

Tag us with: [@OECD_Centre](#), [@Wikigender](#) and [@SWAC_OECD](#).