

## Dedicated Working Group on SIGI

### Purpose of the Dedicated Working Group on SIGI

The dedicated Working Group on SIGI (Social Institutions and Gender Index) will gather the OECD Development Centre's Delegates representing DEV member states interested in contributing to the Centre's efforts around discriminatory social institutions, with a view to making accelerated progress towards achieving SDG 5 and Agenda 2030 in emerging and developing economies. The group will hold regular meetings to inform the Development Centre's work on gender and development, animate policy discussions, and contribute to improving the SIGI instruments, particularly its methodology, policy relevance, as well as its external communication and the dissemination of its deliverables. The Group will also facilitate outreach and coordination with relevant activities within the Development Cluster and the OECD at large, as well as with international and regional partner institutions.

### Background

Gender equality is a top thematic priority for the Development Centre. The SIGI's research and analysis have significantly contributed to shaping global understandings of the structural barriers to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment. To date, SIGI data are widely used by the international development community, researchers and policy makers in support of women's and girls' empowerment. The SIGI is also an official data source for tracking progress on the SDG indicator 5.1.1 *"Whether or not legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex"*.

The 6<sup>th</sup> High-Level Meeting (HLM) of the Governing Board of the OECD Development Centre in 2020 highlighted the important role of women in confronting the pandemic and in contributing to the recovery. Introducing a comprehensive gender lens in the design of economic policies represents a critical opportunity to harness women's economic contribution to a resilient economic and social recovery. In this context, DEV will enhance the policy dialogue component of the SIGI, to enhance data collection, increase the impact of the work and share good practices.

### Objectives

The dedicated Working Group on SIGI will aim to:

- Engage OECD Development Centre's Delegates representing member states in a policy dialogue on gender and development, to share good practices and advance the implementation of SDG 5 on gender equality;
- Establish a platform for knowledge exchange and peer learning amongst countries around discriminatory social norms;
- Provide guidance on the SIGI's outputs and activities;
- Provide ideas and guidance into revisions of the new SIGI conceptual and methodological frameworks;

Informal Note for Discussion

- Strengthen the validation process of the data collected for the SIGI;
- Help raise the voice and visibility of the SIGI in the Development Centre and more broadly in the OECD.
- Help identify areas of collaboration with other OECD directorates working on gender and with the OECD Friends of Gender Equality Plus Ambassadors Group.

**Governance of the Dedicated Working Group on SIGI**

- The dedicated Working Group will inform the Secretariat of the Development Centre in the preparation of the Governing Board’s agenda on issues related to gender equality and help identify the priority areas for discussion in the Governing Board meetings;
- The priority areas will be decided at the beginning of the year by the dedicated Working Group in consultation with their respective capitals;
- The dedicated Working Group on SIGI will meet on a regular basis to guide and inform the Development Centre’s work on SIGI and gender.

**What is the Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI)?**

Discriminatory social institutions are the formal and informal laws, attitudes and practices that shape and determine equality between women and men in all spheres of public and private life, such as education, health and employment. For example, discriminatory social norms and practices that underlie women’s unequal access to education and land and other productive resources limit women’s enjoyment of the right to an adequate standard of living. Social norms that condone violence against women and girls prevent them from full and equal participation in social, economic and political life.



The Social Institutions and Gender index (SIGI) is a cross-country measure of discrimination against women in social institutions across 180 countries. It looks at the gaps that legislation, norms and practices create between women and men in terms of rights and opportunities. The SIGI covers four dimensions, spanning major socio-economic areas that affect the life course of women and girls: discrimination in the family, restricted physical integrity, restricted access to productive and financial resources and restricted civil liberties. The [4<sup>th</sup> edition of SIGI global report](#) was launched in March, 2019. [The SIGI 2019 Regional Report for Eurasia](#) and the [SIGI 2021 Regional Report for Latin America and the Caribbean](#) were launched in May, 2019 and in July, 2020, respectively. The regional reports for Southeast Asia and Africa are forthcoming. Finally, SIGI country studies were carried out in Burkina Faso and Uganda, and two additional ones are currently being conducted in Tanzania and in Côte d’Ivoire. Country specific studies using the SIGI framework collect primary household data to provide a deeper understanding of how discrimination against women plays out at a sub-national level.