

## SIDE EVENT FfD4 – SEVILLA

### “Rethinking Partnerships: Feminist and Inclusive Financing in a Shifting Global Architecture”

#### Context and Rationale

The international financial architecture is undergoing a deep transformation, driven both by the increasing economic constraints represented by the recent cuts by the United States and government and that are having a ripple effect on all cooperation in the Global North, and by the growing demands for deep systemic reform of fiscal affairs in several countries in the Global South.

This context is also characterized by a shrinking civic space, the resurgence of anti- gender movements and intensifying competition for limited resources. Feminist agendas -historically underfunded- now face increased pressure to prove their effectiveness and impact within new financial logics that increasingly emphasize efficiency, return on investment, geopolitical alignment, as well as restrictive fiscal reforms. **This moment calls for bold and coordinated action to protect and scale up feminist financing models that place human rights, gender equality and sustainability at its core.**

Within this evolving landscape, the French [Support Fund for Feminist Organisations](#) (FSOF<sup>1</sup> in its French acronym), led by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MEAE) and the French Development Agency (AFD), has a strategic initiative that promotes a shift from conventional international cooperation to more flexible and transformative funding mechanisms that promote gender equality and strengthen grassroots feminist organizations, especially in the Global South.

Meanwhile, Mexico continues to champion multilateralism and feminist foreign policy, creating fertile ground for dialogue among governments, civil society, and emerging private actors on how to defend, finance, and expand feminist approaches to development. A truly inclusive and resilient financial architecture must not only integrate feminist priorities but actively protect them from dilution or marginalization in the evolving aid ecosystem.

#### Objectives

- **Foster inclusive dialogue** among governments, feminist civil society, and the private sector to advance feminist-responsive and effective financing models grounded in principles of equity, international

<sup>1</sup> <sup>1</sup> Fonds de soutien aux organisations féministes

cooperation, and feminist foreign policy.

- **Analyze the risks and opportunities** of the ongoing shift from traditional development aid toward “investments in solidarity and sustainability,” particularly considering democratic backsliding, shrinking civic space, and declining resources for feminist organizations in the Global South.
- **Highlight the strategic role of feminist intermediary funds** in ensuring access to flexible, context-sensitive financing for grassroots movements advancing gender justice.
- **Explore the evolving role of the private sector** in feminist cooperation, acknowledging both its contributions and the need for accountability and autonomy in feminist agendas.
- **Develop joint policy proposals** among States, civil society, and private actors that embed gender justice, local ownership, and intersectionality in the reform of the international financial architecture.

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**Format (100 minutes, hybrid: in-person and livestream<sup>2</sup>)**

### **Opening Remarks (10 min)**

- **Mr Thani Mohamed Soilihi**, *Ministre délégué chargé de la Francophonie et des Partenariats internationaux*<sup>3</sup> from France, setting the tone on feminist diplomacy and in particular about the role of the Feminist Foreign Policy in the protection and the scaling up of the gender equality agenda (« Shaping FFP » conference in Paris).

### **Panel Discussion (40 min)**

- **Thomas Melonio**, Chief Economist and Executive Director for Innovation, Strategy & Research, French Development Agency.

AFD's commitments to gender equality as a feminist donor, reaffirm its positioning in line with the French strategy and in response to the backlash. Assert the key role of development banks in the current architecture of aid: importance of integrating them into the FfD4 and conversely strengthening the integration of gender equality within the actions of the banks.

- **Three feminist CSO representatives from the Souths:** On-the-ground reflections: flexible funding, backlash, and survival.

- **Ms. Andrea Larios** - Feminist Network for a Feminist Tax Policy - Latin American FON<sup>4</sup> grantee partner

- **Ms. Anuradha Chatterji** - Creating Ressources for Empowerment in Action (CREA). FON Consortium partner in Asia:

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<sup>2</sup> To be confirmed

<sup>3</sup> Delegated Minister for the Francophonie and International Partnerships

<sup>4</sup> Feminists Opportunities Now (FON) Project (French FSOF projects)

Role of Feminist intermediary funds as a tool for transformative financing.

- **Ms. Nancy Houston** - Feminists in Kenya (Prix Marianne 2025) (African FON grantee partner).

- **CARE France National Director - Ms. Emanuela Croce**

### **Interactive Roundtable (25 min)**

A dialogue with participants exploring how to align States, civil society, and private sector efforts to protect and scale up the gender equality agenda under fiscal pressure.

### **Closing Key Takeaways (15 min)**

Moderated wrap-up: policy priorities for feminist-responsive financing in the FfD4 outcome.

**Dieynaba NDIOM, West African Young Feminists Network<sup>5</sup>.**

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<sup>5</sup> Réseau des Jeunes Féministes d'Afrique de l'Ouest (RJFAO)

## Side Event Organizers

- **FSOF Projects:** IPPF Africa Region, Medecins du Monde France and CREA (Feminist Opportunities Now - FON - Project), CARE France, (*Feministes en Action* Project), Equipop, Ipas.
  - **Government of France** (MEAE)
  - **French Development Agency** (AFD)
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## Expected Outcomes

- A policy brief with key recommendations for feminist-responsive financing, feeding into FfD4 and the upcoming feminist foreign conference deliberations (“Shapping FFP”).
  - Increased visibility for feminist funds and Southern feminist organizations as vital actors in international cooperation.
  - New or strengthened alliances across sectors to defend and expand the feminist agenda.
  - Heightened awareness of the risks posed by austerity and backlash—and of the mechanisms needed to counter them.
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## Target Audience

- UN Member State Delegates (particularly France, Mexico, and all countries that have an important role to resist in the pushback).
- Civil society organizations and feminist movements
- Multilateral development banks and international financial institutions
- Private sector foundations and corporate partners
- Media and Academia



## Panelists

### **LUCIE DANIELS** (Moderator)

Advocacy and Research manager – Head of Advocacy and Research at Equipop

### **ANDREA LARIOS – Red por una política fiscal feminista (Medecins du Monde - FON Project)**

Andrea Larios Campos is a feminist economist specializing in economic analysis and public finance with a human rights and gender perspective. She currently works as a researcher in the Fiscal Justice program at Fundar, leading projects on fiscal policy and economic, social, and gender justice. She co-coordinates the Feminist Fiscal Policy Network in Mexico, which brings together over 15 civil society organizations. Andrea holds a degree in Economics from Universidad Panamericana and is pursuing a Master's at UNAM. She previously worked at GBM and has published nationally and internationally, including contributions to the G20, International Budget Partnership, and outlets such as *Nexos* and *El Universal*. She has also participated as a panelist and lecturer in forums like IAFFE, ETFE, and CLACSO 2025.

### **NANCY HOUSTON - Feminists in Kenya (Prix Marianne 2025) – (IPPF - FON Project)**

Nancy Houston is an international human rights lawyer, feminist organizer, and co-founder of Feminists in Kenya - a social movement composed of Black and Queer feminist activists dedicated to amplifying feminisms as a theory and practice in Kenya. As a Chevening Scholar - the UK government's international awards program for developing future global leaders, she holds an LLM in International Human Rights Law from the University of Essex.

Through Feminists in Kenya, she has convened nationwide anti-femicide and anti- gender-based violence protests called #TotalShutDownKE, bringing together over 50,000 protesters since 2019. Their work focuses on four key themes:

Passionate about feminist philanthropy, Nancy has served as Africa Advisor for FRIDA the Young Feminist Fund and has supported the fund in distributing grants to grassroots feminist activists in Africa. Nancy is a 2025 Laureate of the Marianne Initiative for Human Rights Defenders launched by His Excellency the President of France, Emmanuel Macron.

### **ANURADHA CHATTERJI -(CREA) – FON Consortium partner**

CREA Executive Director – India

Anuradha leads CREA's India operations, refining strategy and fostering innovative program designs responsive to national, regional, and global contexts. She oversees fundraising, donor relationships, and the Resource Development team, while also guiding CREA's Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) strategy.

She holds a PhD in Biophysics from Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, and has over two decades of experience in resource mobilization, donor relations, and project management. She has worked with the Centre for Science and Environment, Plan International (India), and Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute, and consulted for CARE (India) and UNICEF (India). Anuradha values social and environmental responsibility and enjoys traveling, reading, music, and spending time with friends.

### **EMANUELA CROCE – Co-director general CARE France**

Emanuela has worked for 20 years in international NGOs (Humana, ActionAid and then CARE), with responsibilities in developing high value relations and private resources. She joined CARE France in 2011 to develop philanthropy, then became the Director of Communications and Engagement and from 2022 she is the CEO of CARE France within a co-leadership model.

### **THOMAS MELONIO, Chief Economist and Executive Director for Innovation, Strategy & Research, French Development Agency**

Dr Thomas Melonio is the AFD Executive Director of Innovation and Research. From 2012 to 2017, he was Deputy Advisor, then Advisor on Africa to the President of the Republic of France. He is an economist with a degree from HEC Paris and a PhD from Sciences Po Paris who published many articles on the financing of education, higher education and international migration. Thomas Melonio is appointed Chief Economist along his current position as Executive Director since May 2024.

### **DIEYNABA NDIOM (Wrap up and conclusion)**

Dieynaba NDIOM is a Mauritanian sociologist, feminist, and activist committed to political, health, and social issues. She holds a Master's degree in Sociology from the University of Nouakchott and has sought to combine her feminist activism with academic research, focusing on reproductive health and the rights of women migrant sex workers in Mauritania. She is currently pursuing doctoral research at the GESTES laboratory at Gaston Berger University in Saint-Louis, Senegal. She currently manages grants at the Fonds Pananetugri (Pananetugri Fund). She has been actively involved in several regional feminist spaces such as the Agora and the African Feminist Institute. She is also active in the Initiative for Reproductive Health, the Mauritanian collective “Voix des femmes” (Women’s Voices), and the Réseau des Jeunes Féministes d’Afrique de l’Ouest (RJFAO) (West African Young Feminists Network).