Agenda Item 3c
Bangladesh

Round table 3
Inequalities and social exclusion, and rights
Thursday, 16 November 2023 (14:00-15:30 UTC+7) Bangkok and online
This round table aims to critically examine these complexities. Specifically, it focuses on persons in vulnerable situations with regard to education, work and overall living conditions. It will explore actionable strategies to address the underlying inequalities as well as their underlying causes. Gender considerations, as well as reflections regarding technology and the availability of data and statistics, will be mainstreamed in the discussion.

Guiding questions:

Who experiences inequalities and social exclusion in Asia and the Pacific and how is this experienced? What are the underlying factors that contribute to this?
Migrants, floating populations, slums, persons with disabilities, transgender, people living in disaster prone areas, etc. Sub-groups of the population are vulnerable to being socially excluded.

- Gender differentials-lower female labor force participation rate
- Gender-based violence (GBV)

Regional disparity: Rural-Urban and regional disparities- Poverty: 20.5% in rural areas, and 14.7% in urban areas;
Women: gender gap in earnings, access to land rights and other family wealth;
Gender based violence, Child marriage and other harmful practices create structural inequality and exclusion;
Social exclusion: Marginalized groups/communities including people living in difficult geographical terrains such as char and haor areas and some parts of CHT.
Underlying issues/factors: laws, policies, social norms

In what ways have climate change, disasters, conflicts, the COVID-19 pandemic and digital transformations exacerbated inequalities and social exclusion?

- Effect of COVID-19 on income: large drop in income of low income groups, migrant workers,
The income Gini coefficient was 0.499 in 2022, compared to 0.482 in 2016 and 0.458 in 2010;
- Effect of COVID-19 on school dropout and child marriage school- child marriage-scholarship exclusion;
- Effects of Climate change: displacement and migration, which create vulnerability at the new location to access and use Reproductive Health Care Services (climate change aggravating migration and health issues)

What policies and approaches have been successful in addressing inequalities and social exclusion, including the intersecting factors of gender, age, and other factors?
Social security and other schemes for marginalized groups, including widow, elderly.
Affirmative actions/quota in government jobs;
Tax policies

8th Five-Year Plan: July 2020- June 2025
Social protection addressing gender inequalities and gender dimensions of poverty and shocks
Protection from effects of environmental and bio-diversity degradation
Climate change adaptation, mitigation, resilience, coping, food security, and livelihood
Information services to strengthen resilience to climate change, calamities, and shocks
Mitigation measures during involuntary resettlement
National insurance and universal pension coverage for low-income vulnerable women