

Health and Gender – New commission FEMTEC

The **COVID-19** pandemic is causing suffering, loss of life and conflict in many parts of the world. Women make up the vast majority of health workers, are always on the front line, and continue to bear primary responsibility for the care of the family, the elderly, and domestic responsibilities. It is well known that women are more vulnerable than men to job loss and social protection, as well as being inadequate

"Gender equality" is defined as Goal 5, one of 17 **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals** to be achieved **by 2030**. It must be ensured that women do not pay the highest price in this dramatic health emergency and that progress towards gender equality goals are not far behind.

The **G20** countries are committed to reducing the gender gap in labor participation by 25% **in 2025**. To achieve this, it is important that each sector, in each country, cooperate to fill these gender differences and stand out among other actions equal distribution of roles in health and nursing care jobs with equal remuneration.

The **W20** (also called the Women's G20), whose purpose is to influence public policies to increase the participation of women in their economies and societies, in this critical period, addresses issues related to the difficulties resulting from the pandemic, highlighting the fundamental role of women in health, care of children, the elderly and weaker sectors of society. During **2020**, it will promote the adoption of practical measures to increase opportunities and try to guarantee the integration of gender equality

Since COVID-19 is a serious threat to public health worldwide, measures and provisions have been adopted to face the crisis with priority health actions, with the aim that health workers, especially in areas prone to infectious diseases, be adequately prepared, training them in infection prevention and control, handling of personal protective equipment, security, among other actions, although they are still insufficient.

To help highlight the gender impacts of this crisis, the **OECD** (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development), whose mission is to promote policies that improve the economic and social well-being of citizens worldwide, has produced a report on "**Women in the center of the fight against the crisis of COVID 19**", with recommendations to reduce the immediate economic and social effects on women.

It is a priority to work to bring a sustainable gender lens to this crisis. addressing the different dimensions of the emergency, in the female labor market, in all health care roles, both in advanced and emerging economies, more likely to be exposed to risks to their health, their family and consequent loss of Jobs

The World Federation of Hydrotherapy and Climatology (**FEMTEC**) with its high-level representatives from different countries, is committed to action to generate new and best practices, compare different proposals and strategic to identify and UpToDate role in Health SPAs/Thermal centers in the new scenario created by the pandemic from a new perspective

With this lens, we propose the "**Health and Gender**" commission at Femtec. The central idea is to propose:

- solutions to improve working conditions in these health centers
- offer good and up-to-date training.
- guarantee employment with decent conditions
- quality of life
- job security
- allow the active role to contribute to innovation, infrastructure and the economy.

These will be significant steps that, through our multilateral efforts, will help the prosperity of communities and societies!

To support this proposal

Prof. Florana Menéndez, Vice president of FEMTEC and CEO of Solymed Travel

- Participated in the W20 International Conference in Buenos Aires.
- In the last 2 years she has participated in the International conferences of the AFAEMME (Federation of Mediterranean Business Women Organizations) in Barcelona.
- Active collaboration in the AIDDA
(Association of Women entrepreneurs and company managers from Italy)
- In the 4 editions of the International Congresses of Women Entrepreneurs in Cuba (WEIC), she was president of the Organizing Committee and proposal for the 5th edition.