

**UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL PROGRAMME FOR THE ECONOMIES OF CENTRAL ASIA
(SPECA)**

Meeting of the Working Group on Gender and the Sustainable Development Goals

28 October 2019, 15:00 – 18:00

Room XXVII, Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland

DRAFT REPORT

1. At the 13th session of the SPECA Governing Council in Almaty, Kazakhstan, held on 21 September 2018, participating countries in the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia, (SPECA) reiterated their commitment to the Programme as a platform for promoting sub-regional cooperation in the SPECA region and for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In particular, the Governing Council approved the recommendations of the session of the SPECA Working Group on Gender and Economy held on 19 September 2018 in Almaty, including the recommendation to change the Thematic Working Group on Gender and Economy to “SPECA Working Group on Gender and SDGs”. The meeting of the SPECA Working Group on Gender and SDGs (WGG) contributes to promoting gender-transformative economic policies and sub-regional cooperation in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through identifying strategies for advancing of women’s economic empowerment in the SPECA region.
2. The Governing Council further decided that the WGG should continue to work in the area of gender mainstreaming and transformative policies as follows: (a) non-discriminatory labour market policies in the course of hiring and work environment free of discrimination and exploitation; (b) policies to promote the participation of women in public and private companies; (c) policies to prevent stereotypes in education and research to advance the participation of women in R&D sectors; and (d) policies for building support systems for women entrepreneurship development.
3. With the convergence of the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (Beijing+25) and the 5-year milestone for the 2030 Agenda, the year 2020 marks a window of opportunity to take stock of global, regional and country-level progress made and actions required to address barriers to gender equality and by that to accelerate the attainment of the SDGs by 2030. The regional reviews of the progress and challenges in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action prepared by UNECE and ESCAP for their respective member States in 2019 aimed at taking stock of the country’s commitments and advance in achieving gender equality. The annual meeting of the SPECA WGG preceded the Beijing +25 Regional Review meetings in UNECE (29-30 October 2019) and in ESCAP (27-29 November 2019). It discussed the situation of women in the economy and focused on the emerging issues of critical importance for accelerating the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
4. The annual meeting of the SPECA WGG, was jointly convened by UNECE and ESCAP on 28 October 2019, at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland. It was chaired by Ms. Hijran Huseynova, Chairperson of the State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan and Chair of the WGG (See Annex I for the Programme of the meeting).

5. The meeting had the following key objectives:
 - (a) within the context of the Beijing+25 review processes, share lessons learned and discuss the prevalent challenges and national priorities for advancing gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls particularly in the thematic priority areas:
 - (i) Non-discriminatory labour market policies in the course of hiring and work environment free of discrimination and exploitation;
 - (ii) Policies to promote the participation of women in public and private companies;
 - (iii) Policies to prevent stereotypes in education and research to advance the participation of women in research- and development sectors; and
 - (iv) Policies for building support systems for women entrepreneurship development;
 - (b) Identify best practices, strategies and actions to improve the enabling environment for women and girls at country and sub-regional levels, including cross-sectoral measures and institutional coordination, public-private partnerships and active engagement of women's associations and women beneficiary groups into consultative and decision-making processes;
 - (c) Identify opportunities for further sub-regional cooperation in the implementation of the SDG 5 on gender equality and their linkages with respective SDGs promoting the empowerment of all women and girls in the economic domain.
6. Participants included government representatives from Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan as well as representatives of the following United Nation bodies, specialized agencies and funds: Europe and Central Asia Regional Office of UN Women, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Regional Hub Istanbul, Europe and Central Asia Regional Office of Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) and representatives of UNECE and ESCAP (see Annex II for the full list of participants).
7. Welcome messages were delivered by Ms. Hijran Huseynova, Chairperson of the State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs of Azerbaijan, and Chairperson of the SPECA WGG, Ms. Monika Linn, Principal Adviser, Chief of the Sustainable Development and Gender Unit, Office of the Executive Secretary, UNECE, and Ms. Channe Oğuzhan, Social Affairs Officer, Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Section, Social Development Division, ESCAP.
8. The meeting was opened by Ms. Hijran Huseynova, Chairperson of the SPECA WGG. She welcomed the participants and thanked the secretariat of the WGG and the host – UNECE – for organizing the annual meeting of the SPECA WGG on the margins of the UNECE Beijing +25 Regional Review Meeting. She underscored the importance of sharing experiences in policies, programmes, tools and actions towards the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women among the SPECA members. The countries in this sub-region share common historical trends and have similar issues of women's participation in economic activities. She highlighted the continued cooperation among the members of the WGG since the establishment of the SPECA WGG in 2006 and identified areas where best practices could be further exchanged. The establishment of resource centres, gender-responsive budgeting and building partnerships with line ministries were pointed out as critical steps towards achieving gender equality at country level as well as potential areas for further cooperation. The 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action is an opportunity to look at the key areas of progress as well as at the challenges and gaps in the implementation of the national commitments. Ms. Huseynova noted the strong potential of the SPECA as a sub-regional forum to discuss SDG 5 and the gender-sensitive SDGs. She welcomed the strong participation of Governments' representative at this meeting and concluded that by working together SPECA countries can amplify their efforts in eliminating gender inequalities at a faster rate.
9. Ms. Monika Linn, Principal Adviser and Chief, Sustainable Development and Gender Unit, UNECE welcomed the participants on behalf of UNECE. In view of the upcoming UNECE Beijing+25 Regional Review Meeting (29-30 October 2019), she introduced the main themes of the sessions and outlined the key trends in gender equality as reflected in the regional synthesis report. She called the

representatives of the SPECA member States to participate actively in the dialogues and share their experience in the design and implementation of gender transformative policies. Ms. Linn reassured the participants that UNECE continues its support to gender equality and women's economic empowerment through mainstreaming gender in its subprogrammes, promoting women's entrepreneurship development and capacity building, and providing forums for exchange of policies and practices in these areas.

10. Ms. Channe Oğuzhan, Social Affairs Officer, Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Section, Social Development Division, ESCAP, within the context of the 2030 Agenda and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, commented on the progress of gender equality and the empowerment of women within SPECA countries. Ms. Oğuzhan emphasized how the national review reports on the progress and challenges of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action were an important milestone in reporting the achievements on gender equality and the empowerment of women. In total, 41 national review reports were received from ESCAP member countries, with all members of SPECA submitting a national review. Ms. Oğuzhan congratulated the member countries on this achievement. Ms. Oğuzhan shared findings from the national reviews across the North and Central Asian sub-region. The national reports of the SPECA countries have identified the adoption of laws, regulations, action plans and policies; advancing women's economic empowerment; and political participation and decision-making as the three key achievements for the last five years. Despite advances in these areas, challenges in women's economic empowerment; gender norms and stereotypes and women's political participation and decision-making remain.

11. The work of the SPECA WGG meeting was organized into two main sessions. The first session focused on peer learning and sharing good practices and lessons learned on the thematic priority areas for the SPECA WGG, including on issues emerging from the reviews of the progress and challenges in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. The representatives of SPECA member countries provided a short update on their recent policies, programmes and initiatives for the promotion of women's economic empowerment and gender equality.

12. During the session, the discussion focused on several key areas: a) women's entrepreneurship; b) the importance of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs); c) gender-responsive budgeting (GRB); and d) the vulnerability of different social groups.

13. As part of their country's commitments to the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs, countries reported on commitments to the promotion of women's entrepreneurship. All participants highlighted the important role of women's entrepreneurship as a pathway to supporting gender equality as well as promoting long term development and prosperity for all. Women's engagement in diverse sectors of work was addressed in the discussion on institutional structures and regulatory environments for women. SPECA representatives noted the importance of coordination with respective ministries and agencies, such as the ministry of economy, of trade, of finance, of education, investments agencies and other related agencies. Collaboration and technical support from UN agencies were also discussed and examples were provided by UN Women, FAO and WFP programmes and projects in this sub-region.

14. In the area of women's entrepreneurship development, SPECA countries supported women's MSME's in various forms: from setting up women resource centres and associations to providing trainings for improving skills in ICT, business coaching and insurance businesses. The representative from Azerbaijan highlighted the good practice of eight Women Resource Centres that had been established to boost entrepreneurship and social participation, each with a network of more than 1,000 participants. The recent reforms in the country, including the Law on Entrepreneurship and the state support for small business have created an enabling environment for individual and small-scale entrepreneurs. The role of technology through training programmes and capacity building for e-techniques was also noted as an accelerator for women's empowerment. In Azerbaijan, rural women continue to face challenges related to limited access to financial resources, and international support through projects is beneficial. Positive trends in women's participation in the labour force and as entrepreneurs, were reported in Kazakhstan as well. The Government has supported capacity building

of rural women. In Kyrgyzstan, women who would like to set up their own business, receive training before applying for financial support.

15. The need to systematically factor in women's needs in the budget process was addressed by the representative of Kazakhstan. She noted the importance of the GRB as an effective instrument for both achieving gender equality and increasing the efficiency of Government finance, and shared preparatory work for implementing it at regional and national level. Participants stressed the need to reflect gender dimension both in the expenditures and revenue. Ms. Nargis Azizova, representing UN Women shared the experience on developing gender-responsive budgets in seven countries in Europe and Central Asia region, including in North Macedonia.

16. Within this discussion, all participants emphasized the importance of engaging and understanding the needs of all women and girls in order to develop gender-responsive policies and ensure them with systematic and efficient means of implementation. Rural women and women with children should be provided special attention. Ms. Dono Abdurazakova, representative of FAO, addressed the urgent needs of women living in rural areas in the sub-region and pointed out to key policies and programmes of FAO in these countries. Stressing the 2030 Agenda framework, participants underlined that it was important to ensure that no part of society was left behind. The representative of Kazakhstan stressed the increasingly diverse areas that women engage with including traditionally male industries; yet a lot of women do the vast majority of unpaid work at home.

17. Ms. Malinka Koparanova, Senior Social Affairs and Gender Focal Point, UNECE, focused the attention to existing gender gaps in entrepreneurship, payment for work of equal value and barriers to women's employability in the SPECA sub-region. She pointed out that the exchange of practices to address the root causes of these inequalities could accelerate the achievement of SDG 5 and other gender-related SDGs. Transferring working models on gender equality and the empowerment of women within the members could help the sub-region to adjust faster to global trends and ensure the elimination of gender differences at a faster pace. Strengthening of women's capabilities should go hand in hand with the provision of more opportunities in diversified economies. The representative of UNDP, Ms. Bharati Sadasivam shared an example to this point: the project *Aid for Trade* considers women's involvement from both the demand and supply side of the market. She called for actions to provide public services to reduce women's unpaid work and addressed the need to adopt long-term strategies for migration and displacement issues in the region.

18. Many of the participants addressed the need of sex-disaggregated data and gender statistics for timely and systematic monitoring and reporting of gender-responsive policies in the SPECA countries. Capacity building in the compilation and analysis of sex-disaggregated data and gender statistics was underscored as crucial for all SPECA countries, and an area of further cooperation with International Organizations.

19. Following the country reports, the second session focused on three main areas; (a) review of activities in 2018-2019, (b) discussion on priorities and future activities for 2020-2021 and (c) discussion and approval of the Terms of Reference for the SPECA Thematic Working Group on Gender and the SDGs (see Annex III for Terms of Reference).

20. Ms. Malinka Koparanova, reviewed the activities of the SPECA WGG for 2018-2019 highlighting the contributions of the SPECA countries to the review of the progress in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, Beijing+25. The representatives of UNECE, UN Women, UNDP and FAO shared regional perspectives on the strategies which had been implemented to accelerate progress on gender equality and its linkages to the Agenda 2030 and gender-related targets of SDGs. The representatives from FAO, UNECE and UNDP acknowledged the political will and understanding of all member States to support the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda.

21. In the discussion on priorities and future work of the SPECA, the WGG participants identified key areas for further sub-regional cooperation focusing on SDG 5 and its mainstreaming throughout the other SDGs, as well as the modalities of the Working Group for 2020-2021. These key areas include: (a) improving connectivity within the SPECA WGG; (b) fostering cooperation among women

entrepreneurs in the sub-region; (c) capacity building for women to set up their own businesses and/or expand existing activities; (d) increasing women's presence in new sectors through enhancing women's technological literacy and competitiveness, thus reducing occupational segregation; (e) encouraging peer learning among SPECA members through exchanging successful policy measures and best practices for promoting women's economic empowerment and achieving SDG 5; and (f) promoting partnership with the private sector. These areas of work have been agreed as the Work Plan for 2020-2021. In addition, participants agreed to continue to build capacity for women entrepreneurs in the SPECA countries through workshops/meetings, to regularly inform the secretariat about activities in the above areas and seek opportunities for joint projects in those areas, including funding. Ms. Huseynova made a proposal to the WGG to inform the forthcoming 64th session on the Commission on the Status of Women about the work of the SPECA WGG which could take the format, for example of a side event or a joint statement.

22. The proposed draft of the Terms of Reference for the SPECA Working Group on Gender and the SDGs was introduced by the Chairperson of the WGG and discussed by the participants. The draft of the Terms of Reference (see Annex III for Terms of Reference) was approved by the SPECA WGG without any changes.

23. In closing the meeting, the Chairperson thanked the participants for the information and discussions and expressed satisfaction with the continued efforts of the SPECA countries to strengthen policies targeting gender equality and the empowerment of women through sub-regional cooperation. She noted the importance of focusing further work of the SPECA WGGE on SDG 5 and its linkages to other SDGs through sub-regional cooperation with the priorities identified in paragraph 21. Ms. Huseynova expressed her appreciation to the SPECA secretariat for their efforts in organizing the meeting and thanked the SPECA WGG for their collaboration.

ANNEX I (a): Programme of the SPECA WGG meeting, 28 October 2019

14:30-15:00	Registration
15:00-15:10	<p>Welcome remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representative, UNECE • Representative, ESCAP • H.E. Ms. Hijran Huseynova, Chairperson of the State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs of Azerbaijan, and Chair of the Working Group on Gender and SDGs
15:10-16:30	<p>Session 1: Country presentations (10 minutes each)</p> <p>Peer learning and sharing of good practices and lessons learned on the thematic priority areas for the SPECA Working Group on Gender and SDGs, including on issues emerging from the reviews of the progress and challenges in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Azerbaijan • Kazakhstan • Kyrgyzstan
16:30-16:45	Coffee break
16:45-17:45	<p>Session 2: Group discussion</p> <p>Review of activities in 2018-2019</p> <p>Discussion on priorities and future activities for 2020-2021</p> <p>Discussion and approval of the Terms of Reference for the SPECA Working Group on Gender and the SDGs.</p>
17:45-18:00	Conclusions and approval of the Work Plan for 2020-2021

ANNEX I (b): Programme of the SPECA WGG meeting, 28 October 2019 (Russian)

Рабочая группа СПЕКА по Гендеру и ЦУР

14:30-15:00	Регистрация
15:00-15:10	Приветствие ЕЭК и ООН ЕСКАТО Приветствие председателя Рабочей группы
15:10-16:30	Презентации стран их гендерно-чувствительных экономических программ и политик, вопросы и обсуждение Участникам предлагается представить краткую обновленную информацию по реформам, а также по программам для предоставления экономических полномочий женщинам и гендерному равенству в экономике и рассказать об успешных примерах гендерно-чувствительных программ и политик в их стране. Членам Рабочей группы также предлагается представить их варианты решения проблем по развитию женского предпринимательства, поднятые во время встречи Рабочей группы 19 сентября 2018 года. Им предлагается указать на то, где они видят большой потенциал и преимущество в плане субрегионального сотрудничества, а также каким образом ЕЭК ООН может оказать содействие.
16:30-16:45	Кофе брейк
16:45-17:50	Обзор проделанной работы за 2018 – 2019 год Обсуждение рабочего плана и действий на 2020-2021 год Обсуждение и Утверждения ПРОЕКТА КРУГА ВЕДЕНИЯ РАБОЧЕЙ ГРУППЫ СПЕКА ПО ГЕНДЕРУ И ЦУР
17:50-18:00	Заключительная сессия: принятие рабочего плана на 2020-2021 года

ANNEX II: List of participants

SPECA NATIONAL DELEGATIONS

REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

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UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATION

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ANNEX III (a): Terms of Reference

UNECE
United Nations Economic
Commission for Europe



ESCAP
United Nations Economic and Social
Commission for Asia and the Pacific

UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL PROGRAMME FOR THE ECONOMIES OF CENTRAL ASIA (SPECA)

DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE SPECA WORKING GROUP ON GENDER AND SDGs

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) was established by the Tashkent Declaration on 26 March 1998, signed by the Presidents of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Executive Secretaries of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the Republic of Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan joined the Programme later.

2. The SPECA participating countries are Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific provide overall support to the Programme.

3. The SPECA Working Group on Gender and the Sustainable Development Goals (hereinafter referred to as “the Working Group”) is a subsidiary body of the Governing Council of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia. The Working Group on Gender and Economy (WG on Gender) was established in compliance with the proposal of the Special session of the SPECA Regional Advisory Committee (Astana, Kazakhstan, 27 May 2005) of setting up a Working group on gender and held its first session in Geneva on 5 – 9 December 2005. At the 13th session of the SPECA Governing Council (Almaty, Kazakhstan, 21 September 2018), the SPECA participating countries SPECA reiterated their commitment to the Programme as a platform for promoting subregional cooperation in the SPECA region and for achieving the SDGs, including the fundamental role of the attainment of gender equality in all areas – SDG 5. In particular, the Governing Council adopted the recommendations of the session of the SPECA Working Group on Gender and Economy held on 19 September 2018 in Almaty, including the recommendation to rename the SPECA Working Group on Gender and Economy to the SPECA Working Group on Gender and SDGs.

II. OBJECTIVES

4. In line with the overall objective of the Programme to facilitate economic cooperation in the countries of the SPECA region as well as integration of the SPECA participating countries into the world economy for their attainment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Working Group on Gender and SDGs shall continue to work in the area of gender mainstreaming and transformative policies as follows:

- (a) Non-discriminatory labour market policies in the course of hiring and work environment free of discrimination and exploitation;
- (b) Policies to promote the participation of women in public and private companies;
- (c) Policies to prevent stereotypes in education and research to advance the participation of women in R&D sectors; and
- (d) Policies for building support systems for women entrepreneurship development.

III. PARTICIPANTS

5. The Working Group shall comprise National Representatives, nominated by the Governments of the SPECA participating countries. The National Representatives shall be senior officials involved in the formulation and implementation of national policies in their respective countries and able to effectively follow up the recommendations and decisions of the Working Group.

6. Each participating country shall also nominate, on a permanent or an ad hoc basis, experts on Gender and respective areas of activities of the Working Group.

7. Relevant regional organizations implementing programmes on Gender are invited to nominate their representatives to participate in the activities of the Working Group.

8. Other United Nations bodies as well as other bilateral and multilateral agencies and organizations operating in the area of Gender and SDGs in the SPECA region are invited to participate in the work of the Working Group on Gender and SDGs.

9. Representatives of the member States of UNECE and ESCAP, representatives of United Nations Funds, international financial institutions, and donors as well as representatives of the private sector and academic community may be invited to participate in the work of the Working Group.

IV. MODALITIES OF OPERATION

10. The SPECA participating countries elected Azerbaijan as the Chair country of the Working Group on Gender and SDGs.

11. Governments of the SPECA countries nominate Focal points for the Working Group to ensure successful delivery of programmes of work, according to the adopted Terms of reference.

12. The UNECE and ESCAP secretariats shall provide substantive support to the activities of the Working Group by:

- (i) Providing expertise as well as assistance to activities implemented by the Working Group; and
- (ii) Providing secretariat support to the preparation and organization of sessions and meetings of the Working Group, including preparation of documents and maintenance of records.

13. The Working Group shall hold its annual sessions at a date and venue agreed by the participating countries any time before or concurrent to the annual sessions of the SPECA Governing Council.

14. The Working Group shall draw important policy issues to the attention of the SPECA Governing Council.

15. The working languages of SPECA are Russian and English.

V. PROGRAMME OF WORK AND ACTIVITIES

16. The annual sessions of the Working Group serve as a platform for policy dialogue, capacity-building and networking for concerned government stakeholders from relevant key ministries and agencies in SPECA countries to discuss critical and key emerging issues related to gender equality, poverty reduction and economic growth in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals. Participants share advances made and challenges encountered with respect to the implementation of SDG 5 on gender equality and will further discuss strategies to forge ahead on key issues to advance gender equality, including women's full economic and political empowerment.

17. The Working Group shall develop, agree upon and approve its Terms of reference and submit them to the Governing Council session for adoption.

18. The Working Group shall develop, agree upon, approve and implement its annual work programmes and prepare its annual reports to the Governing Council on progress made in their implementation.

19. The Working Group shall draw up its biennial work programmes which are integrated into SPECA Work Plans.

VI. FUNDING

20. The Tashkent Declaration calls upon other United Nations agencies, donor countries, international financial organizations as well as the private sector to provide financial and other types of assistance to SPECA.

21. The costs of participation of the experts in the sessions of the SPECA Working Group shall, as a rule, be borne by the Governments of the participating countries. In addition, the UNECE and ESCAP shall provide financial support, within their available resources.

22. SPECA participating countries are invited to provide financial and other types of support to the implementation of the programmes of work of the Working Group on Gender and SDGs.

23. The Working Group shall also seek funds and technical assistance from multilateral and bilateral donors for the implementation of specific capacity-building projects falling under the scope of the approved work programmes.

VII. OTHER MATTERS

24. The Terms of Reference shall be reviewed in 5 years or sooner if the SPECA Working Group on Gender and SDGs so decides.

ANNEX III (b): Terms of Reference (Russian)

ЕЭК ООН
Европейская экономическая
комиссия Организации
Объединенных Наций



ЭСКАТО
Экономическая и социальная комиссия
для Азии и Тихого океана
Организации Объединенных Наций

СПЕЦИАЛЬНАЯ ПРОГРАММА ООН ДЛЯ ЭКОНОМИК ЦЕНТРАЛЬНОЙ АЗИИ (СПЕКА)

ПРОЕКТ КРУГА ВЕДЕНИЯ РАБОЧЕЙ ГРУППЫ СПЕКА ПО ГЕНДЕРУ И ЦУР

I. ПРЕДЫСТОРИЯ

1. Специальная программа Организации Объединенных Наций для экономик Центральной Азии (СПЕКА) была учреждена Ташкентской Декларацией 26 марта 1998 года, подписанной Президентами Республики Казахстан, Кыргызской Республики, Республики Таджикистан, Республики Узбекистан, а также Исполнительными секретарями Европейской экономической комиссии Организации Объединённых Наций (ЕЭК ООН) и Экономической и социальной комиссии Организации Объединённых Наций для Азии и Тихого океана (ЭСКАТО). Позже к Программе присоединились Исламская Республика Афганистан, Азербайджанская Республика и Туркменистан.

2. Странами-участницами СПЕКА являются Азербайджан, Афганистан, Казахстан, Кыргызстан, Таджикистан, Туркменистан и Узбекистан. Европейская экономическая комиссия ООН и Экономическая и социальная комиссия ООН для Азии и Тихого океана оказывают всестороннюю поддержку Программе.

3. Рабочая группа СПЕКА по гендеру и Целям в области устойчивого развития (далее именуемая как Рабочая группа) является вспомогательным органом Руководящего совета Специальной программы ООН для экономик Центральной Азии. Рабочая группа по гендеру и экономике (РГ по гендеру) была учреждена в соответствии с предложением Специальной сессии Регионального консультативного комитета СПЕКА (Астана, Казахстан, 27 мая 2005 года) о создании Рабочей группы по гендеру и провела свою первую сессию в Женеве 5-9 декабря 2005 года. На 13-й сессии Руководящего совета СПЕКА (Алматы, Казахстан, 21 сентября 2018 года) страны-участницы СПЕКА подтвердили свою приверженность Программе в качестве платформы для развития субрегионального сотрудничества в регионе СПЕКА и достижения ЦУР, включая основополагающую роль достижения гендерного равенства во всех областях - ЦУР 5. В частности, Руководящий совет утвердил рекомендации сессии Рабочей группы СПЕКА по гендеру и экономике, состоявшейся 19 сентября 2018 года в Алматы, включая рекомендацию о переименовании Рабочей группы СПЕКА по гендеру и экономике в Рабочую группу СПЕКА по гендеру и ЦУР.

II. ЦЕЛИ

4. В соответствии с основными целями СПЕКА по оказанию содействия странам региона СПЕКА в развитии экономического сотрудничества и интеграции стран-участниц СПЕКА в мировую экономику для осуществления Повестки дня в области устойчивого

развития на период до 2030 года, Рабочая группа по гендеру и ЦУР продолжит работу в области актуализации гендерной проблематики и преобразующей политики, а именно:

- (a) недискриминационная политика на рынке труда при приеме на работу и в рабочей среде, свободной от дискриминации и эксплуатации;
- (b) политика содействия участию женщин в государственных и частных компаниях;
- (c) политика, направленная на предотвращение стереотипов в сфере образования и научных исследований в целях расширения участия женщин в НИОКР;
- (d) политика в области создания систем поддержки развития женского предпринимательства.

III. УЧАСТНИКИ

5. Рабочая группа состоит из национальных представителей, назначаемых Правительствами стран-участниц СПЕКА. Национальными представителями являются высокопоставленные должностные лица, которые занимаются или хорошо знакомы с вопросами выработки и осуществления государственной политики в своих странах, и способны содействовать эффективному выполнению рекомендаций и решений Рабочей группы.

6. Каждая страна-участница также назначает на постоянной или временной основе экспертов по гендерным вопросам и по различным аспектам деятельности Рабочей группы.

7. Соответствующие региональные организации, программы которых непосредственно связаны с гендерной проблематикой, приглашаются назначить своих представителей для участия в деятельности Рабочей группы.

8. Другие организации системы ООН, а также двусторонние и многосторонние агентства и организации, осуществляющие деятельность в области гендера и ЦУР в регионе СПЕКА, приглашаются принять участие в работе Рабочей группы по гендеру и ЦУР.

9. Представители государств-членов ЕЭК ООН и ЭСКАТО, фондов Организации Объединенных Наций, международных финансовых учреждений, организаций-доноров, а также представители частного сектора и научного сообщества могут быть приглашены для участия в деятельности Рабочей группы.

IV. МЕТОДЫ РАБОТЫ

10. Страны-участницы СПЕКА избрали Азербайджан страной-председателем Рабочей группы СПЕКА по гендеру и ЦУР.

11. Правительства стран СПЕКА назначают контактных лиц для эффективного осуществления программы работы Рабочей группы в соответствии с утвержденным кругом ведения.

12. Секретариаты ЕЭК ООН и ЭСКАТО оказывают Рабочей группе субстантивную поддержку путем:

- (i) оказания экспертной поддержки, а также содействия в проведении мероприятий Рабочей группы;
- (ii) оказания поддержки секретариата в подготовке и организации сессий и совещаний, включая подготовку документов и ведение отчетности.

13. Рабочая группа проводит свои ежегодные сессии в согласованные всеми странами-участницами сроки и месте в любое время до начала работы ежегодных сессий Руководящего совета СПЕКА или в период их проведения.

14. Рабочая группа доводит важные стратегические вопросы до сведения Руководящего совета СПЕКА.

15. Рабочими языками СПЕКА являются русский и английский.

V. ПРОГРАММА РАБОТЫ И ДЕЯТЕЛЬНОСТЬ

16. Ежегодные сессии Рабочей группы служат платформой для диалога по вопросам политики, наращивания потенциала и создания сетей для заинтересованных правительственных структур из соответствующих ключевых министерств и ведомств в странах СПЕКА в целях обсуждения важнейших и главных возникающих вопросов, связанных с гендерным равенством, сокращением масштабов бедности и экономическим ростом в поддержку осуществления Повестки дня в области устойчивого развития на период до 2030 года и Целей в области устойчивого развития. Участники делятся информацией о достигнутых успехах и возникших проблемах в достижении ЦУР 5, касающейся гендерного равенства, и обсуждают дальнейшие стратегии по продвижению ключевых вопросов гендерного равенства, включая обеспечение полного расширения экономических и политических прав и возможностей женщин.

17. Рабочая группа разрабатывает, согласовывает и одобряет свой Круг ведения, а затем представляет его Руководящему совету для утверждения.

18. Рабочая группа разрабатывает, согласовывает, одобряет и выполняет свои ежегодные программы работы, а также готовит ежегодные отчеты о ходе выполнения программ работы с целью представления его Руководящему совету.

19. Рабочая группа разрабатывает двухгодичные программы работы для включения в Планы работы СПЕКА.

VI. ФИНАНСИРОВАНИЕ

20. Ташкентская декларация призывает другие учреждения системы Организации Объединенных Наций, страны-доноры, международные финансовые организации, а также частный сектор оказывать СПЕКА финансовую и иную поддержку.

21. Расходы по участию экспертов в сессиях Рабочей группы СПЕКА, как правило, покрываются Правительствами стран-участниц. Кроме того, ЕЭК ООН и ЭСКАТО оказывают финансовую поддержку деятельности Рабочей группы в пределах имеющихся ресурсов.

22. Странам-участницам СПЕКА предлагается оказывать финансовую и иную поддержку в осуществлении программ работы Рабочей группы по гендеру и ЦУР.

23. Рабочая группа также обращается к двусторонним и многосторонним донорам за финансовой и технической поддержкой для осуществления своей деятельности с целью реализации конкретных проектов по наращиванию потенциала в рамках утвержденных программ работы.

VII. ПРОЧИЕ ВОПРОСЫ

24. Данный Круг ведения будет пересмотрен через 5 лет или ранее, если Рабочая группа СПЕКА по гендеру и ЦУР примет такое решение.