

Concept Note

Beijing+25 UNECE Regional Review Meeting

“From commitments in Beijing to transformative results by 2030 – Gender equality in the ECE region”

Geneva, 29–30 October 2019

Title of the session: Acting for climate: Empowering women to build climate resilience (Item 10 of the Agenda)

Date and time: 30 October 2019, 11:30-13:00, Room XVIII

Lead organizers: FAO, UNDP and UN Women

Objective of the session

‘Women and Environment’ is one of the twelve critical areas of concern identified by the Beijing Platform of Action adopted in 1995. Twenty-five years after, climate change and its gender-differentiated impact poses serious threats to the lives and livelihoods of communities in the region, including small-scale producers, and women in particular. The session will review current challenges and focus on promising practices and actions that are needed from the Governments, civil society organizations and other critical stakeholders to build resilience in the region.

Thematic focus:

Climate change affects women and men differently. The discussion will address how climate change amplifies existing gender inequalities including the health impact of gender-based vulnerabilities and how policies in the public and private sectors could be gender mainstreamed to ensure that everyone has access to the resources they need to adapt to and mitigate climate change. The exchange will particularly focus on the full and equal participation of women and girls as agents and beneficiaries of sustainable development and their crucial role in climate change adaptation and mitigation at all levels, from negotiating policies to natural resource management and sustainable consumption.

Guiding questions:

- What are the key challenges to gender-responsive climate strategies? What are the most efficient measures to make national climate change plans and strategies more gender responsive and inclusive?
- In which ways have women’s active participation, voice, and agency in national decision-making processes on climate change been promoted and advocated for?
- How can we address capacity and resource gaps?

- What are some examples of how institutions have addressed these issues?
- How can international organizations, government agencies work more systematically with women's organizations to strengthen climate resilience for men and women equally? How can we collectively make this an urgent priority?

Composition of the panel: key participants

Moderator:

Ms. Galina Jevgrafova, Advisor, Ministry of Agriculture, **Estonia**

Panellists/Key experts:

- Ms. Katri Viinikka, Ambassador for Equality Issues, **Finland**
- Ms. Sandra Nedeljkovic, Deputy Director, Public Investment Management Office, **Serbia**
- Ms. Jeannette Gurung, **Civil Society Representative** (*Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management, United States*)
- Ms. Saltanat Rakhimbekova, **Civil Society Representative** (*Coalition for green economy and development "G-Global", Kazakhstan*)