

## Draft 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:** Global goals and the Beijing commitments (Item 11 of the Agenda)

**Date and time:** 30 October 2019, 15:00-17:00, Room XVIII

**Lead organizer:** UN Women and UNECE

#### Objective of the session

This final session will aim to summarize the key takeaways across the six thematic areas and identify the priorities for moving forward to implement both the Beijing Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda. The thematic areas will be addressed by different actors (government representatives, CSOs, youth, etc.), in order to highlight diverse perspectives in approaching the implementation of international normative frameworks on gender equality and women’s empowerment. The session will thus focus on recapping the relevant best practices, innovative approaches and significant achievements that were shared over the two days of the Regional Review Meeting, as well as entrenched or emerging obstacles, laying the groundwork for identifying next steps

The session will also explore the issue of investing in women’s organisations as a critical mechanism for driving change to support gender equality in the context of restricted space for civil society tied to the rise of right-wing and conservative movements. Additional discussions will include: the limited availability of international funding for CSOs working on gender equality and the support of government-organized NGOs (GONGOs) in lieu of civil society organizations. Perspectives will include the ways in which the full and equal participation of women in civil society can keep governments accountable and bring about transformative change.

#### Thematic focus:

This session will provide an overview of each of the six themes under which the Beijing Platform for Action and SDG commitments have been grouped: inclusive development, prosperity and decent work; tackling poverty and social protection; freedom from violence, stigma and stereotypes; participation, accountability and gender-responsive institutions; peaceful and inclusive societies, and environment conservation, protection and rehabilitation.

### Guiding questions

- What were the key achievements within each thematic area?
- What good practice examples should be highlighted for replication?
- Have any new issues emerged?
- What barriers have impeded advancements, and what have been the strategies to overcome those barriers?
- What should be the priority focus areas for the next stage of advancement?
- How can alignment of the Beijing Platform for Action and SDG processes foster these necessary developments?

### Composition of the panel: key participants

**Moderator:** Ms. Zhanna Andreasyan, Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Affairs, **Armenia**

**Panellists:**

Ms. Marlène Schiappa, Minister of State for Gender Equality, **France**

Ms. Merita Xhafa, General Director of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, **Albania**

Ms. Astrid Krumwiede, Senior Expert, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, **Germany**

Mr. Charles Ramsden, Chair of the Gender Equality Commission, Council of Europe

Ms. Silvana Cappuccio, **Civil Society Representative** (*Italian General Confederation of Labour*)

Ms. Selma Acuner, **Civil Society Representative** (*Women for Women's Human Rights, Turkey*)