

## 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:** Key trends on gender equality in the UNECE region (Item 4 of the Agenda)

**Date and time:** 29 October 2019, 11:30-13:00, Room XVIII

**Lead organizers of session:** UNECE and UN Women

#### Objective of the session

The objective of the session is to outline the key trends in gender equality and the empowerment of women in the ECE region since the last Regional review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action (2014) and the realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development from a gender perspective. The discussion will highlight progress and key achievements in the 12 critical areas of concern of the Beijing Platform for Action and their intersection with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in six overarching clusters: inclusive development, shared prosperity and decent work, poverty eradication, social protection and social services, freedom from violence, stigma and stereotypes, participation, accountability and gender-responsive institutions, peaceful and inclusive societies, and environmental conservation, protection and rehabilitation.

The dialogue will focus on evidence-based assessments of the impact of actions taken and of results achieved by the ECE member States. It will also look at key opportunities and challenges, including digitalisation and its impact on the economy and gender equality, and discuss possible approaches and policies to address them.

#### Thematic focus:

This session will give an overview of the major achievements made and challenges faced by ECE member States, factors and obstacles in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and its intersection with the SDGs.

#### Guiding questions:

- What are the key priorities and achievements in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women in the region in the past 5 years? Why are these considered as major steps towards advancing the gender equality agenda? How has the implementation

of these steps contributed to the achievement of the SDGs in your country, and for which SDGs have such initiatives/policies been crucial?

- What were the main drivers contributing to success in promoting gender equality in your country/region in the past 5 years? Can you describe an area where policy measures and mechanisms were significant contributors? How were these mechanisms maintained? How were the different stakeholders involved in the process?
- What were the major obstacles in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women in the past 5 years? What caused them? Were there any measures adopted to mitigate the setbacks in progress towards gender equality? From today's viewpoint, do you consider some of these setbacks unavoidable, or could they have been addressed differently? How? What are the major challenges in the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women for the past 5 years?
- What are the emerging trends in the region and how can they be addressed in planning and policy making?
- Which mechanisms exist for a regular dialogue between Governments and civil society? Can you provide examples where such mechanisms contributed to promoting gender equality, or have been inefficient?
- Has cooperation at country level, bilateral, sub-regional or regional level helped the achievement of gender equality? What sort of policies, measures and mechanisms do you consider as most beneficial to the advancement of women? In what ways can cooperation be improved?

#### Composition of the panel: key participants

##### **Moderator:**

Ms. Alia El-Yassir, Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia, **UN Women**

##### ***Presentation of key findings of the Synthesis Report for the UNECE region***

Ms. Monika Linn, Director, Sustainable Development and Gender Unit, **UNECE**

##### ***Presentations of key findings from sub-regional preparations***

Ms. Altynai Omurbekova, Deputy Prime Minister, **Kyrgyz Republic**

Ms. Jovanka Trencheska, State Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, **North Macedonia**

Ms. Virginija Langbakk, Director, **European Institute for Gender Equality**

Ms. Liliana Palihovici, **Civil Society Representative** (*President of Association "Institutum Virtutes Civilis", Republic of Moldova*)