

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: Closing the gender gaps: Effective economic and social policies in the ECE region (Item 5 of the Agenda)

Date and time: 29 October 2019, 15:00-18:00, Room XVIII

Objective of the session

The discussion aims to facilitate an exchange of views and experiences in order to draw relevant lessons from existing effective economic and social policies to close existing gender gaps in economic activities and social protection, including labour market participation, entrepreneurship, labour migration, gender pay and pension gaps, access to highly skilled jobs, career development, social protection, pension and public services. The dialogue will address also policies to facilitate the equal access to decent work for all, recognition and redistribution of unpaid work, sharing of family responsibilities; as well as measures promoting the diversification of occupational choices by both women and men. Special attention will be given to reducing gender inequalities in rural areas.

Thematic focus:

The panel discussion will be structured in two parts. The first part will consider the dynamics of gender gaps in various areas in the past five years, including the labour market, entrepreneurship, social protection, among others, and the policies that have been implemented to tackle these gaps. The second part will focus more specifically on the gender pay gap, the reasons that explain its persistence and the different policy approaches to close it. Each part will be concluded by an interactive discussion with the audience.

Guiding questions:

- What are the major obstacles for an equal participation of women in labour markets? What are the factors that explain persistent gaps in quality education, entrepreneurship and other areas? What policies have proved more effective and how can progress be accelerated?

- What are the sources of new policy challenges for gender equality, such as technological change, irregular and informal employment and others? How can these challenges be effectively addressed?
- How can social protection systems, public services and infrastructure be enhanced in response to gender-specific risks and vulnerabilities?
- How can we ensure that no one is left behind and that progress in advancing gender equality is shared by all?
- What are the persistent drivers of the gender pay gap and how can this gap be tackled? What are the successful policy experiences available, including design, implementation procedures and institutions contributing to faster progress?

Composition of the panel: key participants

Moderator:

Ms. Sylvie Durrer, Director of the Federal Office for Gender Equality (FOGE), **Switzerland**

Civil society representatives setting the scene:

Ms. Sonja Lokar, **Civil Society Representative** (Women's Lobby, Slovenia)

Ms. Asel Kubanychbekova, **Civil Society Representative** (Women Deliver Young Leader, Kyrgyz Republic)

Closing the gender gaps in labour markets, entrepreneurship, social protection and services:

Ms. Hijran Huseynova, Chairperson of the State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs, **Azerbaijan**

Ms. Lenita Freidenvall, Deputy Head at the Division for Gender Equality, **Sweden**

Ms. Emanuela Pozzan, Senior Gender and Non-Discrimination Specialist, Conditions of Work and Equality Department, **ILO**

Ms. Hyeslin Park, Economist, Gender Programme Co-ordinator, **OECD**

Closing the gender pay gap:

Ms. Mariam Jajanidze, Gender Equality Council, **Parliament of Georgia**

Ms. Rósa Guðrún Erlingsdóttir, Senior Adviser, Prime Minister's Office, **Iceland**

Ms. Jolanta Reingardè, Programme Coordinator, Research and Statistics, **European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE)**

Mr. Johannes Smits, **Private Sector Representative**, Director and Equal Pay Specialist, **PwC**