

## 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:** Ending violence against women and girls: Lessons from the region (Item 6 of the Agenda)

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

**Lead organizer:** UN Women

#### Objective of the session

The objective of the session is to review the achievements and challenges in protection and response to violence against women in the ECE region. The session will look at violence against women in peaceful times as well as in armed conflict and post-conflict settings.

This session will maintain a strong focus on ensuring protection and services to particularly vulnerable groups of women, including ethnic minorities, women with disabilities, migrant and internally displaced women, domestic workers and LGBTIQ women and sex workers etc., capitalizing on the *Leave no one behind* approach. Despite the significant advances in addressing violence against women across the region, these groups fall into national "blind spots" due to women's special needs, discriminatory cultural norms and/or their social invisibility. The session will explore the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination these groups face in accessing protection and service provision.

The dialogue will also highlight leading national achievements in ending violence against women and girls. Challenges such as the lack of sex-disaggregated data and gender statistics for monitoring and evidence-based policy making and the need to mobilize men and boys as allies for change will also be discussed.

#### Thematic focus:

The discussion will be structured in two parts. The first part will consider inter-agency national coordination structures to combat violence against women as foreseen by the Istanbul Convention and the UN Essential Services Package. The second part will discuss intersectional and multiple forms of discrimination that form barriers to ensuring meaningful protection and services to diverse groups of women aligned with their specific needs.

**Guiding questions:**

- What are the particular forms of violence suffered by disabled women and girls, ethnic minorities, internally displaced and migrant women, sex workers and LGBTIQ women?
- What are best practice examples of ensuring effective protection and services for these groups of women, and the challenges overcome in doing so?
- What role do NHRI's play in combating violence against women?
- How to foster the political will and momentum necessary to engage in major national-level legal and policy reforms and overcome obstacles?
- What are key achievements and challenges with regards to collection of data on ERAW?
- How do we engage men and boys?

**Composition of the panel: key participants**

**Moderator:**

Mr. Artiom Sici, State Secretary of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection, **Moldova**

**Panellists:**

- Ms. Rebeca Palomo, State Commissioner on Violence Against Women, **Spain**
- Mr. Joško Mandić, Expert Advisor, Agency for Gender Equality, **Bosnia and Herzegovina**
- Ms. Marijke Weewauters, Head of the federal unit on gender-based violence, Institute for the Equality of Women and Men, **Belgium**
- Ms. Dubravka Šimonovic, Special Rapporteur on violence against women, **United Nations**
- Ms. Marceline Naudi, President, Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO), **Council of Europe**
- Ms. Shazia Choudhry, **Civil Society Representative** (*Professor of Law at Queen Mary, University of London/WAVE*), United Kingdom
- Ms. Melsa Ararat, **Private Sector Representative**, Founding Director, Corporate Governance Forum of Turkey, Sabancı Business School, Istanbul