

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: Women in Leadership: women’s representation in policy- and decision-making (Item 9 of the Agenda)

Date and time: 30 October 2019, 10:00-11:30, Room XVIII

Lead organizer of session: UNDP

Objective of the session

The dialogue in this session will bring together leaders and decision-makers from different public spheres to identify strategies to advance to equal representation in policy and in decision-making. The session will:

- Identify current achievements and challenges to equal representation of women in policy- and decision-making, including in conflict prevention and resolution
- Demonstrate the impacts and positive changes to development policy brought about by women decision makers
- Present policies and practical actions to boost women’s full and equal representation and participation in decision-making, based on Leaving No One Behind principles
- Share successful initiatives implemented in the countries of the region that have advanced equal representation in policy- and decision-making

Thematic focus:

This session will focus on the factors influencing the position and influence of women in public office; the policy impact of women’s presence in decision-making positions; the gender-responsiveness of parliaments and political parties; and opportunities for collaboration among women leaders and feminist activists across countries and sectors. It will also discuss the role of disaggregated data in decision-making positions to inform programming, policy and advocacy.

Guiding questions:

- What are the key obstacles to improving women’s presence in decision-making at national and local levels?

- What specific policies and initiatives are needed to overcome them? What institutions and which stakeholders are the most important in driving change?
- What binding and non-binding measures have achieved the maximum impact?
- How do we ensure the accountability of all concerned parties (including political parties/actors across the political spectrum) to international gender equality commitments by 2030?
- How do we maximize collaboration among parliamentary women's caucuses, women's organizations and women leaders in different fields?
- What are the gender data gaps that need to be bridged in different branches of public administration to inform programming, policy and advocacy?

Composition of the panel: key participants

Moderator:

Ms. Lena Ag, Director-General, Swedish Agency for Gender Equality, **Sweden**

Panellists:

Ms. Marija Blagojević, Advisor to the President at the Parliament of **Montenegro**

Ms. Kateryna Levchenko, Government Commissioner for Gender Equality Policy, **Ukraine**

Ms. Gulnara Ishankhanova, Head of Legal Department, Research Center "Oila", Cabinet of Ministers, **Uzbekistan**

Ms. Ana Sofia Fernandes, **Civil Society Representative** (*Vice President, European Women's Lobby, Portugal*)