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UN WOMEN
United Nations Entity for Gender Equality
and the Empowerment of Women

SIDE EVENT RURAL WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS AS AGENTS OF CHANGE

30 October
9:00 - 9:50

Room XXVII, Palais des Nations

Photo: UNDP Azerbaijan

SANDWICHES AND LIGHT DRINKS WILL BE SERVED AT 8:15AM

NOTE ON THE SIDE EVENT

Rural women in Eastern Europe and Central Asia contribute greatly to the economy through paid and unpaid work but are often among those that benefit the least from the economic development of the country. Entrepreneurship helps to harness women's potential, increases incomes for women and improves the well-being of their families and communities.

The Women's Resource Centres in Azerbaijan have had transformative impacts on women's lives by developing women's business and technical skills, giving them mentoring support and market access and launching them as entrepreneurs in different fields.

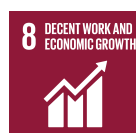
The event will feature women entrepreneurs from Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan in a conversation on what has worked and what more can be done to promote rural women's economic independence, with a focus on support provided by entrepreneur associations, international organizations and government.

BACKGROUND

The State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs of Azerbaijan has partnered with UNDP Azerbaijan and UN Women Georgia to establish and strengthen Women's Resource Centres in rural areas of the country. The centres have provided women with crucial space to embark on entrepreneurship, giving them the confidence, capital and connections, they need to succeed. The Central Asia Crafts Support Association's Resource Centre in Kyrgyzstan has been working with rural women in remote communities for the past 20 years. In partnership with FAO, the association formed craft groups, helping rural women improve their skills and upgrade the quality of traditional products made of felt and wool, leading to higher sales and incomes.

OUTCOME

The event will present successful models of support for rural women entrepreneurs that help progress towards a critical area of concern of the Beijing Platform for Action: women and the economy. It will help foster collaboration among countries and demonstrate the linkages between SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities).



OBJECTIVES

- Raise awareness of women's achievements and challenges in entrepreneurship
- Highlight unique models and strategies that have been effective in advancing women's entrepreneurship in different contexts
- Suggest further steps that governments and development partners can take to support rural women's entrepreneurship
- Showcase the potential of rural women's entrepreneurship through success stories



AGENDA

Time	Activity
Opening Remarks	
8:30 - 8:40	Professor Hijran Huseynova, Chair, State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs, Government of Azerbaijan
Moderated panel discussion	
8:40 - 9:20	<p>Panel chair: Professor Hijran Huseynova, Chair, State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs, Government of Azerbaijan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aygun Aliyeva, Coordinator and NGO leader, Women's Resource Centre, Sabirabad, Azerbaijan • Elnara Iskendarova, Woman entrepreneur, Women's Resource Centre, Khazar region of Baku, Azerbaijan • Dinara Chochunbaeva, Founder, Central Asia Crafts Support Association, Kyrgyzstan • Madina Kasimbaeva, Woman entrepreneur, Uzbekistan
Discussion open to the floor	
9:20 - 9:40	Moderator: Professor Hijran Huseynova, Chair, State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs, Government of Azerbaijan
Closing remarks	
9:40 - 9:45	Professor Hijran Huseynova, Chair, State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs, Government of Azerbaijan

PARTNERS

NGO "Support to Sabirabad Women's Social Development", Azerbaijan; Central Asia Crafts Support Association's Resource Centre, Kyrgyzstan

DONORS

Project activities in Azerbaijan covered under UN Women's Regional Project on "Women's Economic Empowerment in the South Caucasus" are funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation



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