



# UNECE Weekly

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## NEW GENDER ENTITY ANNOUNCES NEW ERA FOR UN'S WORK FOR WOMEN

With its unanimous vote on 2 July, the United Nations General Assembly put an end to years of negotiations and gave green light for the creation of the new entity for gender equality and women's empowerment which will be known as UN Women.

The new entity is expected to be operational by January 2011 and will merge four currently distinct parts of the UN system: the Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW), the International Research and Training Institute for

the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women (OSAGI) and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM).

Part of the wider UN reform agenda on system-wide coherence, which strives to bring together resources and mandates for greater impact, the composite entity will provide a strong and unified voice for women and gender equality. □

To learn more about UN Women, visit: [www.unwomen.org](http://www.unwomen.org).

## EXECUTIVE SECRETARY CALLS FOR DECISIVE ACTION TO ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY

Speaking at the Regional Commissions Dialogue during the High-Level Segment of the Economic and Social Council on 2 July 2010, which focused this year on "Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women in the Implementation of the MDGs: Regional Perspectives", Ján Kubiš, UNECE Executive Secretary, stressed the need to act more decisively to reach the Millennium Development Goals.

In the UNECE region, the agreed gender equality target of educational parity is almost achieved. However, the goal of women's empowerment and gender equality (MDG3) requires thinking beyond educational parity. Men continue to dominate in decision-making; women continue to be disadvantaged in employment. Gender role stereotypes which prevail across all societies continue to reproduce



entrenched inequalities between women and men. As a result, progress falls short of our expectations.

Decisive actions are needed and require adequate resources. Mr. Kubiš highlighted the significant role UNECE member States play in providing financial assistance and technical cooperation towards women's empowerment and gender equality and stressed the importance of gender-sensitive development cooperation for progress in achieving the MDGs, at the bilateral as well as regional level.

ECOSOC underlined the importance of its dialogue with the Regional Commissions whose work it considered to be at the centre of regional development. A number of delegates stressed the need to give this dialogue and the issue of regional development and cooperation a more prominent place in an appropriate segment of ECOSOC. □

## 4<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE UNECE TEAM OF SPECIALISTS ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY PALAIS DES NATIONS, 8-9 JULY 2010

Government experts and specialists from relevant intergovernmental organizations, private sector, consumer associations and academia of the UNECE member states will be meeting in Geneva on 8 and 9 July 2010 in the context of the UNECE Team of Specialists on Intellectual Property (TOS-IP) to exchange experiences and good practices in the field of intellectual property (IP).

This 4<sup>th</sup> session of the UNECE TOS-IP will address issues related to commercialization, protection and

enforcement of intellectual property and work on policy recommendations to facilitate the effective regulatory protection of intellectual property rights (IPR) and strengthen their role in innovative development.

For an economy to be competitive and innovative, a well-designed IP regime is required. Hence, there is a necessity for a sound regulatory framework and cross-border know-how in the commercialization, protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights. UNECE

member countries, however, represent different levels of economic development and some of them lack experience in the field of IP. The missing expertise is a hurdle for innovation and consequently economic growth. Therefore, during the session, experts will engage in numerous discussions and exchange knowledge in the field in order to foster better management of IP in all UNECE member states.

The meeting will address the commercialization and protection of IPR in public research organizations and innovative enterprises, and will discuss issues related to cross-border IPR enforcement. □

*For further information, please visit: <http://www.unece.org/ceci/documents/2010/ip/session4tosip10.html>  
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## **UNECE MOVES TO ENHANCE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN ENVIRONMENTAL DECISION MAKING**



A Task Force on Public Participation in Decision-making was established on 30 June 2010 at an extraordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties to the UNECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention).

This new task force will work on improving the implementation of the Convention's provisions on public participation in environmental decision-making, including through sharing expertise and good practices, developing recommendations, strengthening civil society and building capacity for public authorities and other stakeholders.

It will be chaired by Mr. Philip Kearney from Ireland, who previously chaired the Expert Group on Public Participation and was elected to the position by consensus. "This new task force will be a great coordinating tool for the Public Participation pillar of the Aarhus Convention. Improving public participation in environmental decision-making will have important and long-lasting benefits for the people of the UNECE region" he said.

The task force will also identify common problems in implementing the Public Participation pillar of the Convention and make available to interested Parties any possible solutions. It will focus part of its work on the organization of workshops, the creation of a clearinghouse website of available documentation, and the commissioning and publication of expert studies.

Parties, Signatories, other interested States, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, research institutes and other stakeholders are invited to participate in the work of the task force. □

*For more information, please contact the secretariat at: [public.participation@unece.org](mailto:public.participation@unece.org).*

## **UNECE AIMS TO REDUCE BLACK CARBON EMISSIONS**

The first meeting of the Ad Hoc Expert Group on Black Carbon under the UNECE Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution was held in Brussels, Belgium on 17-18 June 2010. Representatives, observers and

researchers from Europe, North and South America and Asia convened to review the current state of black carbon research and explore future strategies for reducing the pollutant's emissions.

Black carbon is an air pollutant formed through the incomplete combustion of fossil fuels, biofuel and biomass. In 2009, the Executive Body of the Convention recognized that black carbon poses significant risks to human health and the environment. It is an important component of particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>), fine particles which lead to tens of thousands of premature deaths and serious health effects due to exposure in the UNECE region annually, and has a significant climate forcing impact, leading to increased warming, particularly in areas covered by snow and ice, such as the Arctic.

The group's work will contribute to improved coordination of black and organic carbon-related activities, with the aim of improving public health in the UNECE region while achieving reductions that will also benefit the climate in the near term.

At the end of this year, the group, chaired by Norway and the United States, will provide a report of its findings, including options for potential revisions to the Gothenburg Protocol, enabling Parties to the Convention to mitigate black carbon as part of a broader particulate matter strategy. □



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