

## **PROPOSAL BY THE PARTICIPANTS FROM AZERBAIJAN, ARMENIA AND GEORGIA AT THE FIRST ECE FORUM OF WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS**

Having discussed the problems and prospects for women's entrepreneurship in the three South Caucasian countries and mindful of their common purpose and interest in developing businesses headed by women, the delegates have agreed to form an Initiative Group to work together with the ECE Regional Adviser on Gender and Economy.

The participants at the meeting propose that the Initiative Group should comprise four individuals from each country, one of whom should act as country coordinator.

The aims and objectives of the Initiative Group are:

1. To define a set of measures for the development of women's entrepreneurship in the South Caucasus and prepare specific proposals for ECE;
2. To coordinate positions for each country and formulate a common regional position;
3. To suggest candidates from among women entrepreneurs and leaders of women's professional associations who will be trained to offer basic training in their turn;
4. To organize training from women entrepreneurs at local level;
5. To lobby for the interests of women entrepreneurs in State and legislative structures.

In the light of the proposals of the Initiative Group that were worked out at the informal meeting in Geneva on 22-26 October 2001, the participants suggest a regional project to support and promote the development of women's entrepreneurship in the South Caucasus.

They suggest the Initiative Group should meet annually at ECE in Geneva to decide on later specific action under the project.

They request ECE to ensure that the Initiative Group is kept properly informed about SME development, and to arrange for the best women entrepreneurs from the region to be recommended for and receive awards.

They urge UNECE to take advantage of the potential, abilities and knowledge of members of the Initiative Group when holding discussions within the framework of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Women's Entrepreneurship (WP.8).

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