

# CONCEPT NOTE

## Creative mobilisation space for feminists and women's rights activists

### IN TIMES OF GENERATION EQUALITY, COVID-19 AND DECADE OF ACTION

**We want to achieve gender equality in THIS generation.** To do this, we need to exert pressure on duty holders for urgent re-prioritization of gender equality and a more ambitious investment in a gender-just transformation of our economies and societies. Feminists & women's rights activists are an essential part of achieving gender equality and shaping a feminist post-pandemic world. Feminists are calling for system change and the Generation Equality Forum process is a key catalyst of that change. We need to make sure that voices from all regions are part of this process to achieve SDG 5 (and all SDGs). Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, Western Balkans and Central Asia, regions that are underrepresented in the global process.

This **official side event to UNECE's Regional Forum on Sustainable Development** will be a creative mobilization space seeking to reaffirm our joint advocacy initiatives for de facto gender equality. We will hear stories from around the region and present our sub-regional feminist demands for Generation Equality. We now need to join our strengths, to amplify our voices and to make sure that we bring the feminist demands from our region to the global space. How do we leverage government partnerships, to support and resource the implementation of these priorities? We want to hear from you!

### [REGISTER HERE](#)

**Language and sign language interpretation** is available if needed. Our accessibility coordinator for the event is Sanne Van de Voort ([sanne.vandevooort@wecf.org](mailto:sanne.vandevooort@wecf.org)), don't hesitate to contact her if you have any questions.

### **#FeministsWantSystemChange** **#GenerationEquality**

Are our main hashtag - add it to your posts on social media and we will amplify you!

### ABOUT EVENT

- **What** - Official UNECE RFSD 2021 side event
- **When** - Wednesday, 10 March, 9:00-11:00 (CET), which includes an optional 30 min networking session at the end
- **Where** - zoom, registration needed

## ABOUT “FEMINISTS WANT SYSTEM CHANGE”

Feminists want system change is a civil society driven campaign by Women’s Major Group which was launched during the 2019 regional forums on Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. Since then it is used in various policy foras, such as UNFCCC and Agenda2030 to amplify voices and demands of civil society for the Generation Equality Forums. In 2020, Women Engage for a Common Future, The Future of Equality team, in collaboration with the UN Women’s Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia, hosted a series of virtual consultations on achieving gender equality and the Beijing+25 agenda. The aim was to accelerate mobilisation towards the Generation Equality Forums, focusing on sub-regions in UNECE which are usually underrepresented at global policy level. WECF hosted sessions for civil society, led by youth, and focused on the six Generation equality Action Coalition themes and the GEF Compact. Additionally, together with the UN Women’s Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia, they held two sub-regional sessions for Central Asia and Eastern Europe, as well as a youth mobilization space. In total 395 participants took part, out of which 48% was youth. Moreover, The Future of Equality team, together with UN Women ECA, with EU support also hosted 3 sub-regional consultations for Western Balkans and Turkey, gathering 143 participants. The feminist demands coming out of these virtual consultations is central to the [Feminists Want System Change sub-regional campaign](#), launched on the 4th of March.

## PROGRAMME

### 9:00 WELCOMING & PRESENTATION OF SUB-REGIONAL FEMINIST DEMANDS

Natia Kostava, Women’s Information Center and youth moderator of the Feminists Want System Change consultations; Anna Hovhannisyan, Women’s Resource Center Armenia, youth moderator; Olga Djanaeva, NGO Alga Kyrgyzstan and leader of the Action Coalition on Climate Justice

### 9:20 HERSTORY OF CHANGE

A Pecha Kucha session with activists from the Eastern Europe, Caucasus, Western Balkans and Central Asian region: Selin Gören (Fridays for Future Turkey), Kim Hyojeong, NomadHer and Teodora Mileska, SRHR activist

### 9:40 DISCUSSION

Participants will discuss the demands from the sub-region and UNECE region and consolidate them with the Action Coalition blueprint themes. We will split into groups on: economic justice, feminist movement building, climate justice, technology & innovation, bodily autonomy and SRHR, and gender-based violence

### 10:20 REPORT BACK AND FOLLOW-UP

Closing remarks by Alia El-Yassir, UN Women Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia

### 10:30 NETWORKING SESSION

11:00 For those who can stay on longer, we will have a short networking session where we get to know each other a little bit better

Illustrations by: Leila Ali

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