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Opening statement

by

Ms. Tatiana Molcean

United Nations Under-Secretary-General

Executive Secretary

of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

at

Civil Society Forum prior to the Beijing+30 Regional Review Meeting

Geneva, 20 October 2024

Dear Colleagues,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to be here today with all of you at the opening of the civil society forum preceding the Beijing+30 Regional Review Meeting.

Gender equality and the empowerment of women have been and continue to be at the heart of the United Nations' work and values. Over the past decades, we have made significant strides in advancing the rights of women and girls, but we recognize that the path to true equality is still far from complete.

As we are approaching the 30 years anniversary since the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the Economic Commission for Europe remains steadfast in its commitment to advancing these goals. Women empowerment remains a horizontal priority across the wide range of our Commission's work and we are determined to continue delivering on this critical mandate.

But today we are gathered here to discuss the crucial role that you – civil society – have in advancing the gender agenda. Civil society organizations bring invaluable insights from our diverse communities, helping us to better understand emerging challenges and opportunities, and enabling us to address them in ways that are responsive and inclusive. Through these partnerships, we are able to achieve more effective and sustainable outcomes, ensuring that no voice is left unheard.

The Beijing+30 Regional Review provides an inclusive platform. It is important forum for all stakeholders to come together and **reaffirm** our shared commitment to the gender equality agenda. It serves as a critical space for **reflection**, accountability, and collective visioning for the future. By engaging in this regional review we will assess the progress we have made, but most importantly we need to **accelerate** action in the areas where we have fallen short. The review provides an opportunity to deepen cooperation between governments, civil society, and the international community, ensuring that our efforts towards achieving gender parity are coordinated, inclusive, and impactful.

Looking into the future, I believe the role of civil society will be even more significant. As the UN Member States adopted only a few weeks ago the Pact for the Future with strengthening of the work on human rights, gender equality and the empowerment of women as one of the key priorities, your advocacy, expertise, and grassroots engagement are essential to holding institutions accountable and ensuring that progress on gender equality is not only made but sustained.

We look forward to working closely with you through the various established mechanisms. I look forward to seeing many of you at the regional review. I urge you to be proactive and engage within the thematic panels scheduled for the upcoming two days, as we have a rich and

interactive programme ahead covering a wide range of current and emerging issues.

I wish you productive discussions and hope to see you tomorrow!

Thank you!
