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## MEASURING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

A group of international experts in the measurement of gender-based violence met in Geneva on 28-30 September to develop methods for measuring violence against women. The complex phenomenon of violence against women has many forms: physical, sexual, psychological and economic. Its consequences are wide reaching, often affecting both the health of women and impacting on their ability to participate in work, care and other activities.

Through his UNiTE campaign (<http://endviolence.un.org/>), the United Nations Secretary-General has called for all countries to collect data on violence against women by 2015. This is a sensitive topic and in many cases, acts of violence go unreported to authorities, especially when violence is committed within the home.

In February 2009, the United Nations Statistical Commission approved a core set of indicators for measuring the prevalence of violence against women. These indicators cover physical and sexual violence by intimate partners and/or by other people.

Due to its sensitive nature, data on violence against women is often gathered through anonymous surveys dedicated to this topic. However, dedicated surveys can be costly to run, especially on a regular basis.

To provide an alternative that would enable countries to gather at least a minimum set of information on the core indicators, UNECE is working together with experts and United Nations partners to develop and test a short module of questions that could be incorporated within another household survey. The September meeting agreed on the questions and general methods and now work will continue to test the proposed module in a number of countries across the world.

For more information contact *Jessica Gardner* ([gender.stat@unece.org](mailto:gender.stat@unece.org)).

Get the latest gender statistics for Europe, Central Asia and North America in the UNECE Statistical Database <http://www.unece.org/pxweb/DATABASE/STAT/Gender.stat.asp>.



## UNECE SUPPORTS STRONGER WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN SOUTH-EAST EUROPE

At a stakeholders meeting held in Sarajevo on 1 October UNECE launched a regional project aimed at supporting women's entrepreneurship in South-East Europe, focusing on the expansion and job creation of women-owned businesses,

The project, run in cooperation with the Regional Cooperation Council Secretariat, will address three key obstacles to the growth of women's entrepreneurship: lack of networking opportunities, difficult access to credit, and lack of specific knowledge and skills.

The ultimate goal is to establish a regional network of women entrepreneurs, to provide support to the development of innovative financing options, and to deliver capacity building in the technical skills required to expand, access finance and support a larger business.

The event brought together associations of businesswomen from South-East Europe, representatives of the International Finance Corporation, Council of Europe Development Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Nordic Investment Bank, European Training Foundation, Unioncamere Veneto, and other organizations, initiatives and institutions from that region.

The meeting was also designed to pave the way for a regional conference that will take place in Istanbul in the first half of 2010, within the framework of the Turkish Chairmanship-in-Office of the South-East European Cooperation Process.

For more information contact *Malinka Koparanova* ([gender@unece.org](mailto:gender@unece.org)).



## UN DEPUTY-SECRETARY-GENERAL JOINS UNECE TO CELEBRATE ENTRY INTO FORCE OF NEW TREATY ON POLLUTANTS

United Nations Deputy-Secretary-General Asha-Rose Migiro joined UNECE staff and guests at a reception marking the entry into force of the Kiev Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers to the UNECE Aarhus Convention\*, on 8 October in Geneva.

The reception was hosted by H.E. Ambassador Marie-Louise Overvad, Permanent Representative of Denmark to the United Nations Office in Geneva. Ambassador Overvad said that the Protocol was adopted in Kiev and that she was also speaking on behalf of Ukrainian Ambassador Mr. Maimeskul. She said that Denmark, where the Aarhus Convention was adopted in June 1998, was particularly happy that the Protocol had reached the required number of parties to enter into force ahead of the COP-15 meeting.

The convention and its protocol, she added, recognized that "people have a right to know and to understand what happens to the environment they live in", an issue Denmark was very engaged in and that the Protocol "has a potential to play a major role in our concerted efforts to improve the environment and mitigate climate change".

Asha-Rose Migiro said that the Protocol "marks a milestone in the advancement towards environmental democracy".

For more information on the Protocol visit <http://www.unece.org/env/pp/prtr.htm>.



From left to right, Michael Stanley-Jones of the UNECE secretariat, Ambassador Marie-Louise Overvad, Deputy-Secretary-General Asha-Rose Migiro, Jeremy Wates of the UNECE secretariat

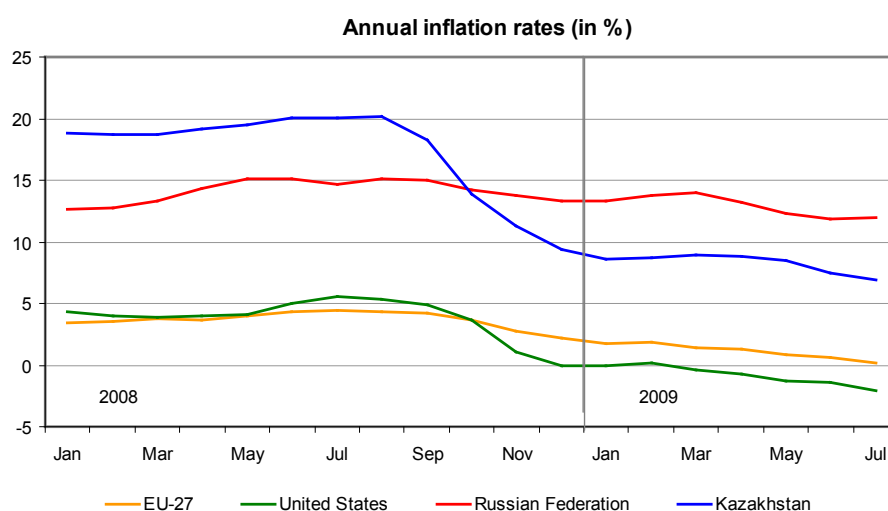
\* Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters

## FACTS AND FIGURES

### CONSUMER PRICE INFLATION IS COMING DOWN

Inflation rates as measured by the development in the consumer price index have fallen significantly over the last year. In July 2009 the 12-month rate of change of the harmonized consumer price index of the EU-27 countries was as low as 0.2%, compared to 4.4% in July 2008. Over the same period the United States has experienced a decline in consumer prices of 2.0%, a phenomenon sometimes referred to as deflation. Several European countries, including France, Germany and the United Kingdom, have also experienced a decline in consumer prices.

The consumer price inflation has continued to stay around 12-13% per year in the Russian Federation, while the inflation rate has declined in most other eastern countries in the ECE region. One example is Kazakhstan, where the inflation rate has come down from 20% in July 2008 to 7% in July 2009. Falling energy prices is one of the main explanations behind the reduced inflation rates.



Data source: UNECE statistical database (<http://www.unece.org/stats/data>) and Eurostat.