



UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL PROGRAMME FOR THE ECONOMIES OF CENTRAL ASIA (SPECA)

2018 SPECA WORKING GROUP ON GENDER AND ECONOMY
*Accelerating progress towards gender equality and achieving the SDGs: strategies for
advancing women's economic empowerment in the SPECA region"*

(Grand Hotel Tien Shan, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 19 September 2018)

INFORMATION NOTE

I. INTRODUCTION

This Information note provides some details regarding the 2018 meeting of the SPECA Working Group on Gender and Economy (WGGE) jointly organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

II. VENUE

The meeting will take place on 19 September 2018 at the Grand Hotel Tien Shan, Almaty, Kazakhstan.

Address: 115, Bogenbay Batyr Street, Almaty, Kazakhstan.

Please see: <http://ts-hotels.kz>

III. CONFERENCE FEE

No conference fee is charged for participation.

IV. PASSPORTS AND VISAS

All participants are advised to consult with the Embassy/Consulate of the Republic of Kazakhstan in their respective countries of residence regarding the latest applicable visa requirements and, if needed, to obtain an appropriate visa prior to their departure. Requests for issuance of a visa support letter/invitation letter should be sent to **Ms. Lyazzat Palymbetova** at e-mail: palymbetova@un.org together with the passport copy, registration form, indicating home address and travel dates/flight details.

V. TRANSPORTATION

The participants are responsible for their transfer from airport to hotel and from hotel to airport. Taxis from the EcoTaxi booth are readily available outside of the Almaty International Airport. A transfer cost is approximately 3,500-4,500 Kazakhstani tenge (KZT) (approx. USD 10–15) for one-way trip.

VI. ACCOMMODATION

UNECE secretariat has pre-booked a few single rooms at the special UN rate of 21,000 KZT (approximately 61 USD) for single room or 24,000 KZT for superior double per night with breakfast included and is offered to our meeting participants at the Grand Hotel "Tien-Shan" where the meeting will be held. **Check-in time is 2:00 pm.** However, please note

that early check-in before 6 a.m. is charged at 100 % of the cost of the night and early check in between 6:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. is at 50% of the cost. The Grand Hotel "Tien-Shan" can provide an airport transfer service in Almaty (at approximately 18 USD) for one-way from the airport to the hotel. If you are interested, please contact the hotel directly (tel.: +7 (727) 244 96 11, email: reservations@ts-hotels.kz) to reserve your room and provide your arrival/departure details, if airport transfer is needed.

VII. DOCUMENTATION

Documents for the 2018 SPECA WGGE meeting can be found in:
<http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=49503>

VIII. INTERPRETATION AND VISUAL AIDS

Simultaneous interpretation in English and Russian as well as facilities for computer-aided presentations (e.g. PowerPoint) will be provided.

IX. CONTACT INFORMATION

Further information on the meeting of the SPECA WGGE can be obtained from:

Ms. Felirose Gutierrez

Programme Assistant

Sustainable Development and Gender Unit

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Tel.: + 4122 917 1488

E-mail: felirose.gutierrez@un.org

X. USEFUL INFORMATION

Climate: The climate in Kazakhstan is continental with cold winters and hot summers. In September, the average daily temperature in Almaty usually varies from +22 to +28 °C.

Time: GMT+6

Smoking: In accordance with the law of Kazakhstan, smoking in public places is prohibited.

Banking services: ATMs are available in the majority of hotels.

Currency: The national currency is "Tenge". Most hotels and shops accept credit cards, including Visa and Mastercard.

Exchange rate¹:

- 1 USD = 360 KZT

- 1 EUR = 418 KZT

International calls: For international calls, please dial: 8 + 10 + country code + dialed number.

Emergency phone numbers:

101 – Fire emergency

102 – Police

103 – Ambulance

Electricity: Alternating current, 220V with 50 Hz frequency.

Taxi services: For local taxi services, please contact the hotel reception.

¹ https://halykbank.kz/exchange_rates