

Meeting of the SPECA Thematic Working Group on Gender and Economy

Almaty, Kazakhstan, 19 September 2018

Theme: Accelerating progress towards gender equality and achieving the SDGs: strategies for advancing women's economic empowerment in the SPECA region

Objectives:

Key objectives of the meeting are:

- Review of policies, programmes and measures to achieve SDG 5 and its linkages to other SDGs in key areas as a follow up to the recommendations of the SPECA TWGGE meeting in February 2017;
- Identify opportunities for further sub-regional cooperation on the implementation of the SDG 5, with a particular focus on women's economic empowerment;
- Adopt a work plan for 2018-2019.

Programme:

9:30 – 10:00 **Registration of participants**

10:00 – 10:30 **Welcome and opening**

Opening statements by:

- H.E. Ms. Hijran Huseynova, Chairperson of the SPECA Working Group on Gender and Economy, Chairperson of the State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs (Representative of Azerbaijan),
- Ms. Zhuldyz PERNEBAYEVA, Director, Department of Social Policy and Development of State Bodies, Ministry of National Economy (Representative of Kazakhstan)
- Ms. Monika LINN, Principal Adviser and Chief, Sustainable Development and Gender Unit, UNECE
- Ms. Channe Lindstrøm Oğuzhan, Social Affairs Officer, Social Development Division, Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Section, UNESCAP

10:30 – 12:30 **Country presentations of economic policies and strategies for accelerating progress towards gender equality and the achievement of SDG 5 and related SDGs**

In this session, country's representatives will provide a short update on recent policies, programmes for women's economic empowerment and gender equality related to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. Participants are invited to share progress in achieving SDG 5 and how this progress has helped to accelerate other SDGs, such as SDG1, SDG4, SDG8, SDG 9 and SDG 10. Issues of important linkages between SDG 5 and respective SDGs will be addressed in view of the specific country's needs and national plans.

- H.E. Ms. Delbar NAZARI, Minister of Women's Affairs (*Afghanistan*)
- H.E. Ms. Hijran HUSEYNOVA, Chairperson of the State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs (*Azerbaijan*)
- Ms. Zhuldyz PERNEBAYEVA, Director, Department of Social Policy and Development of State Bodies, Ministry of National Economy (*Kazakhstan*)
- Ms. Gulchekhra NAZAROVA, Head of Department, Social Protection of Women, The Committee for Women and Family Affairs (*Tajikistan*)
- Ms. Diloram KUZIEVA, Head of the Department for Enhancing the Socio-Political Activity of Women, Women's Committee (*Uzbekistan*)

- 12:30 – 14:00 **LUNCH BREAK**
- 14:00 – 14:40 **Review of activities in 2017 – 2018**
 Under this agenda item, activities of the SPECA Thematic Group on Gender and Economy over the past year will be reviewed. A brief summary of key activities related to the advancement of women’s economic empowerment in the SPECA region will be provided by representatives of UNECE and UNESCAP.
- Ms. Malinka KOPARANOVA, Senior Social Affairs Officer and Gender Focal Point, Sustainable Development and Gender Unit, UNECE
 - Ms. Channe Lindstrøm Oğuzhan, Social Affairs Officer, Social Development Division, Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Section, UNESCAP
- 14:40 –16:00 **Partnership for sub-regional cooperation for women’s economic empowerment: strategies to accelerate progress and linkages in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**
 In this session, representatives of UN Women, UNECE, UNESCAP and other international organizations, as well as civil society will be invited to present views on how to further strengthen partnership to better reflect the gender dimension and its impact on sub-regional policies. Strategies, programmes and measures to accelerate women’s economic empowerment in key areas will be discussed. The discussion will benefit from the study on women’s economic empowerment in SPECA countries and its findings in several thematic areas for policy action.
- Ms. Mehtap TATAR, Programme Specialist, UN Women ECA RO
 - Ms. Malinka KOPARANOVA, Senior Social Affairs Officer and Gender Focal Point, Sustainable Development and Gender Unit, UNECE
 - Ms. Channe Lindstrøm Oğuzhan, Social Affairs Officer, Social Development Division, Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Section, UNESCAP
- 16:00 –16:30 **Coffee break**
- 16:30 –17:00 **Partnership for sub-regional cooperation for women’s economic empowerment: strategies to accelerate progress and linkages in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (continuation)**
 Working group members are invited to discuss where they see greatest potential and benefit of mainstreaming gender in sub-regional cooperation, and what help international organizations could provide to assist SPECA gender machineries as well as other local institutions.
- 17:00 – 17:20 **Discussion on priorities and future activities for 2018 -2019**
 Under this agenda item, the priorities for sub-regional cooperation in achieving SDG 5 and its mainstreaming throughout the SDGs will be identified. Modalities of the functioning of the working group (frequency of meetings, activities and resources) will be reviewed and agreed upon, and activities for the period 2018/2019 will be discussed.
- 17:20 – 17:30 **Conclusions and approval of work plan**
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