



**United Nations Economic Commission for Europe**

**ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME**

**Third UNECE Forum of Women Entrepreneurs**

**“Building partnerships to close the entrepreneurship gender gaps  
in the ECE region”**

**in cooperation with**

**the State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan**

**14-15 November 2012, Baku, Azerbaijan**

**Wednesday, 14 November 2012**

**9.00 – 10.00 REGISTRATION OF PARTICIPANTS**

**10.00 – 10.30 OPENING SESSION**

Welcoming addresses: by the Government of Azerbaijan  
by the UNECE secretariat

**10.30 – 13.00 SESSION 1. OVERCOMING GENDER GAPS THROUGH REGIONAL COOPERATION**

The session will focus on identifying barriers to women’s entrepreneurship and on various forms of partnerships between women entrepreneurs across the UNECE region. It will discuss good practices in partnerships at regional/sub-regional level, implementation of collaborative strategies between countries and different institutions from the public and private sectors facilitating women’s entrepreneurial activities in ECE sub-regions. It will discuss conditions for closing entrepreneurship gaps between women and men, including in the policy environment. The session will also highlight sources of financing for women entrepreneurs and the roles of specialized financial providers at the regional level. Finally, the session will reflect on building skills and training women entrepreneurs to meet the challenges of a competitive knowledge-based economy in the UNECE region.

Expected Speakers: Representatives of Women’s Business Associations

Representatives from the academia

Representatives from government institutions and agencies

Representatives from SME associations

Representatives from international organizations

**11.45 – 12.00 Coffee break**

**12.00 – 13.00 SESSION 1 (continued)**

**13.00 – 15.00      Lunch**

During lunch a special topic on **Networking** will be discussed and successful women entrepreneurs will share their experiences in this area.

<b>15.00 – 18.00</b>	<b>SESSION 2. GENDER ASPECTS OF INNOVATION-BASED ENTREPRENEURSHIP</b>
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This session will consider the drivers of innovative entrepreneurship and difficulties that entrepreneurs face when establishing an enterprise based on R&D results (including gender specific hindrances such as differences in the education patterns of men and women, lack of entrepreneurial training tailored to women's needs, difficulties in attracting external finance by female entrepreneurs etc.). It will discuss the bottlenecks to innovation-based entrepreneurship (e.g. inadequate regulatory framework and lack of government assistance for innovative companies) and the corrective action required from Governments and other stakeholders aimed at improving the regulatory and institutional environment to promote innovation-based enterprises, including those operated by women. Finally, the session will address the issue of developing cooperation between Governments and other stakeholders (private sector, academic and educational institutions) to facilitate innovative entrepreneurship by men and women.

Expected Speakers: Successful women academic entrepreneurs

Representatives from government institutions and agencies working in the field of innovation

Domestic and foreign investors

Innovative companies

**16.30 – 16.45      Coffee break**

**16.45 – 18.00      SESSION 2 (continued)**

**RECEPTION**

**Thursday, 15 November 2012**

<b>9.30 – 12.30</b>	<b>SESSION 3. PROMOTING WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEURSHIP THROUGH POLICIES, STRATEGIES AND PROGRAMMES AT COUNTRY LEVEL</b>
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The session will provide a forum for sharing countries' experiences on how to implement coherent public policies, private initiatives and public-private partnerships at country level to promote women's entrepreneurship and thereby to lessen the existing gender gaps in UNECE member States. Representatives of various organizations supporting entrepreneurship – ministries of economy and trade, investment committees, SME agencies, private companies – will present successful projects and discuss how to better address the needs of women entrepreneurs in their countries.

Expected Speakers: Representatives of Women's Business Associations

Representatives from government institutions and agencies

Representatives from SME associations

Successful women entrepreneurs

**11.00 – 11.15      Coffee break**

**11.30 – 12.30      SESSION 3 (continued)**

<b>12.30 – 13.00</b>	<b>CLOSING SESSION</b>
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