



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
6 July 2014

Original: English

Economic Commission for Europe

Beijing+20 Regional Review Meeting

Geneva, 6–7 November 2014

Item 2 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Annotated provisional agenda for the Beijing+20 Regional Review Meeting

Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls for sustainable development in the ECE region

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m. on Thursday, 6 November 2014

I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Election of chairpersons.
4. Long-term trends in gender equality and the empowerment of women in the ECE region.
5. Closing gender gaps through economic and social policies.
6. Women's representation and leadership in policy- and decision-making.
7. Preventing and eliminating violence against women and girls.
8. Anti-discriminatory legislation, gender justice and governance.
9. The way forward: gender equality for inclusive and sustainable societies.
10. Co-Chairs' summary and closure of the meeting.

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II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. 2015 will mark the twentieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, where United Nations Member States adopted and committed to implement the Beijing Platform for Action. This platform is the most comprehensive global policy framework to achieve the goals of gender equality, human rights of women and girls, development and peace through actions across twelve critical areas - poverty, education and training, health, economy, power and decision-making, human rights, armed conflict, institutional mechanisms, media, environment, violence against women and the girl child. Since then, progress in implementing these commitments has been reviewed every five years at the national, regional and global levels. At the first five-year review in 2000, the Twenty-Third special session of the General Assembly adopted some further actions and initiatives.

2. Following resolution 2013/18 of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-ninth session will undertake a global review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the Twenty-Third special session of the General Assembly. It will also examine current challenges that affect the implementation of the Platform for Action and the achievement of gender equality, and the empowerment and human rights of women and girls. The review is also an opportunity to discuss strategies and policies for strengthening gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in the post-2015 development agenda. In the review process, the five Regional Commissions, in cooperation with UN-Women, will undertake regional reviews. The outcomes of these regional reviews will feed into the global review.

3. The Executive Committee of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) at its meeting on 28 October 2013 decided to hold the Regional Review Meeting on 6 and 7 November 2014 at the Palais des Nations, Geneva. This multi-stakeholder meeting will involve all ECE member States, the United Nations system and other international organizations working on gender equality in the region, civil society and other key stakeholders. It will be organized in the format of inter-active discussions. Prior to the Regional Review Meeting, an NGO Forum organized by the representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGO) to the United Nations, assembled under the NGO Committee on the Status of Women, Geneva (NGO CSW Geneva), will bring together the voices of civil society and provide input to the regional review. The NGO Forum will take place on 3–5 November 2014 at the Palais des Nations, Geneva.

4. The Regional Review Meeting will be convened with the following key objectives: to review progress in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action in the region on the basis of the national reports received; to identify current challenges; to highlight good practices and provide directions for further action in the region; to discuss strategies and policies for strengthening gender equality, the human rights of women and girls and the empowerment of women and girls in the post-2015 development agenda.

5. Information and materials for this meeting are available on the ECE website (<http://www.unecce.org/gender>).

1. Opening of the meeting

6. The Executive Secretary of ECE will open the Regional Review Meeting. A high-level representative of UN-Women will then deliver the opening address.

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

7. The participants in the meeting will be invited to adopt the agenda as set out in the present document (ECE/AC.28/2014/1). The provisional timetable and the organization of work for the meeting will be presented in information paper 1.

3. Election of chairpersons

8. The participants will be invited to elect two co-Chairs and a Rapporteur.

4. Long-term trends in gender equality and the empowerment of women in the ECE region

Documentation: ECE/AC.28/2014/3, ECE/AC.28/2014/4, ECE/AC.28/2014/6

9. The high-level dialogue will start from the main findings of the regional synthesis report and will discuss long-term trends and key challenges in the different parts of the ECE region with Ministers, representatives of civil society, business, academia and international organizations.

5. Closing gender gaps through economic and social policies

Documentation: ECE/AC.28/2014/3, ECE/AC.28/2014/4, ECE/AC.28/2014/5, ECE/AC.28/2014/6,

10. The high-level discussion will focus on the existing gender gaps in economic activities, including labour markets, wages, education and training, and career development, and the effect of economic and social policies on reinforcing or reducing gender gaps. It will also look at the impacts of the recent economic and financial crisis on gender equality. The dialogue will also consider policies promoting financing for gender equality as well as challenges presented by demographic trends and the need to incorporate a gender dimension into new development strategies.

6. Women's representation and leadership in policy- and decision-making

Documentation: ECE/AC.28/2014/3, ECE/AC.28/2014/4, ECE/AC.28/2014/6

11. Women have advanced in policy- and decision-making in the last two decades, but this progress has been limited and widely varies across countries in the ECE region. The debate will focus on the variety of policies and temporary measures to boost women's full and equal representation. It will give the opportunity to share best practices and initiatives that have been successfully implemented in the countries of the region and attempt to identify a range of possible actions to advance women's participation in policy- and decision-making.

7. Preventing and eliminating violence against women and girls

Documentation: ECE/AC.28/2014/3, ECE/AC.28/2014/4, ECE/AC.28/2014/6, ECE/AC.28/2014/7

12. Violence against women and girls remains a pervasive problem across the region. It occurs in many different forms in public and private spheres, including home, school and work, in times of peace and in times of conflict. It is rooted in multiple and intersecting

forms of discrimination and inequalities. Gender-based violence constitutes a violation of basic human rights including the right to life and the right to a life free of violence.

13. The discussion will address the structural causes of gender-based violence and its consequences for societies. Participants will share experiences and best practices in identifying and addressing the root causes of gender-based violence; improving prevention and protection services; responding to the health and economic needs of those affected by gender-based violence; and supporting legislation and its enforcement. The dialogue will also examine the situation of women-migrants as well as policies that eliminate trafficking in women and assist victims of violence due to prostitution and trafficking.

8. Anti-discriminatory legislation, gender justice and governance

Documentation: ECE/AC.28/2014/3, ECE/AC.28/2014/4, ECE/AC.28/2014/6

14. Anti-discriminatory legislation and gender-sensitive policies have been developed as part of national strategies in many countries of the region and as part of the European Union legal and policy framework on gender, giving equal rights to women and men in access to and control over resources, including land and property rights, inheritance, and other productive assets. However, progress has been uneven across the ECE region, with implementation gaps and, with varying degrees, persistent discriminatory attitudes and behaviours.

15. Issues to be addressed in this high-level discussion will include strengthening legislation, abolishing discriminatory laws, reforms in the security and justice sectors that are aligned with international standards, access to justice as well as implementation gaps in anti-discriminatory legislation. The dialogue will also focus on the role of civil society and how to strengthen the informed participation of gender equality advocates at community, country and international levels.

9. The way forward: gender equality for inclusive and sustainable societies

Documentation: ECE/AC.28/2014/3, ECE/AC.28/2014/4, ECE/AC.28/2014/6

16. While progress has been achieved in the ECE region since the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and the Beijing Platform of Action, it is important that member States adopt and implement further policies and measures to secure the gains made as well as to accelerate progress and respond to emerging issues. The post-2015 development agenda that is evolving around universally defined Sustainable Development Goals will provide an opportunity to address the national priorities for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women in a consistent and coherent framework.

17. The high-level discussion will focus on how the key challenges for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in the region can be addressed in the framework of the post-2015 development agenda.

10. Co-Chairs' summary and closure of the meeting

18. The co-Chairs will present their summary of the meeting, which will highlight the key messages from the thematic discussions. This summary and the regional synthesis report will constitute the ECE contribution to the global Beijing+20 review to be held at the fifty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women in New York in March 2015.

19. The report of the meeting and the list of participants will be finalized by the secretariat in consultation with the co-Chairs after the meeting. These documents will be posted on the dedicated ECE meeting website.
