



**Ad Hoc Meeting on the SPECA Working Group
on Gender and Economy**

(Geneva, Switzerland, 8-9 December 2005)

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

(for information of the SPECA Coordinating Committee Meeting
Baku, Azerbaijan, 7 December 2005)

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
3. Election of officers
4. Women and the economy: country perspective
 - (a) Access to land and assets
 - (b) Employability
 - (c) Public expenditure and social protection
 - (d) Emerging issues
5. Institutional mechanisms and tools to promote gender equality in the economy
6. Regional cooperation within the framework of SPECA and international support
7. Proposals for the Terms of Reference and the Work Programme for 2006-2007
8. Chairperson's conclusions

ANNOTATIONS

Item 1: Opening of the session

The acting UNECE Executive Secretary will deliver the opening speech. Brief remarks will also be made by the Senior Social Affairs Officer and UNECE Gender Focal Point.

Item 2: Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

The meeting is invited to adopt its agenda. Information will be provided on the organization of work.

Item 3: Election of officers

Delegates are invited to elect a Chairperson of the meeting and also Chairpersons of sessions.

Item 4: Women and the economy: country perspective

National presentations will be followed by a discussion to identify themes where a regional approach would facilitate progress at national level. The following broad areas will be discussed: (a) access to land and other assets, including rights to land; (b) employability, including self-employment and entrepreneurship, work in the informal sector; (c) public expenditure and social security including pensions; and (d) emerging issues, including ICT. This agenda item will be discussed in the context of the outcome of the Beijing +10 regional review (Geneva, December 2004) and the World Summit (New York, September 2005).

Documentation: National reports prepared by country delegations.

Item 5: Institutional mechanisms and tools to promote gender equality in the economy

Under this agenda item the meeting will discuss good practices in building partnership and dialogue with economic line ministries and tools for mainstreaming gender into economic activities and policies (such as gender economic indicators, gender budgets). Mainstreaming gender into Poverty Reduction Strategies and/or MDG strategies will also be discussed.

Documentation: Conference room paper on institutional mechanisms in Central Asia and in the Caucasus prepared by the UNECE secretariat in cooperation with partner agencies.

Item 6: Regional cooperation within the framework of SPECA and international support

The meeting will discuss the advantages of regional cooperation within the SPECA framework in the context of synergies and possibilities for mainstreaming gender concerns into other areas of the SPECA work. Lessons from international support programmes will also be discussed to promote existing good practices and identify complementarities among international support programmes in the gender and economy area in the SPECA region.

Documentation: Conference room paper prepared by the UNECE secretariat.

Item 7: Proposals for the Terms of Reference and the Work Programme for 2006-2007

The meeting will discuss proposals for the Terms of Reference and Work Programme for a new SPECA Working Group on Gender and Economy. The discussion will be based on proposals presented at the Round Table of the International conference on strengthening sub-regional economic cooperation and the future role of SPECA (Astana, May 2005) and follow-up discussions with countries, bilateral donors and international organizations. The proposals will be presented for the approval of the next meeting of the SPECA Governing Council.

Item 8: Chairperson's conclusions

The chairperson will present the conclusions of the meeting.