



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

agenda item 4

The Czech Republic stresses that gender equality and women's full enjoyment of human rights are essential to human, social and economic development. It also aligns with the contribution by the European Union on the employment and education matters in this context. The 20th anniversary of the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women provides an opportunity to appeal to all relevant actors for effective implementation of gender equality.

Functional institutional mechanisms are one of the key conditions for the achievement of *de facto* equality of women and men. In response to the adoption of the Beijing Platform for Action, the Czech Republic adopted its action plan for gender equality in 1998. However, measures included in this annually updated action plan have not been framed in a more complex strategic document. For this reason, we decided to draft a Government Strategy for Gender Equality for the period of 2014 – 2020. Recently, the Strategy is prepared and will be submitted to the Government next week.

The Strategy covers eight areas which closely address critical concerns of the Beijing Platform for Action. All of them include a strategic goal to be reached by 2020. These are for example: to increase women's employment, to increase number of child-care facilities, to decrease gender pay gap or to combat gender stereotypes in the Czech society. The Strategy also includes a set of indicators for evaluation.