



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

8-9 December 2005

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Palais des Nations, Geneva, Room IX, starting on Thursday, 8 December at 10 a.m.

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 under SPECA and international support
7. Proposal for the terms of reference (TOR), the work programme for 2006-2007 and Chairs
8. Chairperson's conclusions

ANNOTATIONS

Item 1: Opening of the session

The Officer-in-Charge of UNECE will deliver the opening speech. A welcome address will also be delivered by a representative of UNESCAP. Brief introductory remarks will be made by the 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 chair of the meeting and also chairs 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 2005 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 to promote gender equality in economies of SPECA member countries, Secretariat paper prepared in cooperation with UNDP, UNIFEM and OSCE/ODIHR (CRP.1)

Item 6: Regional cooperation under SPECA and international support

The meeting will discuss the advantages of regional cooperation under SPECA in the context of synergies and possibilities for mainstreaming gender concerns into other areas of 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. (CRP.2)

Item 7: Proposal for TORs, the work programme for 2006-2007 and Chairs

The meeting will discuss a proposal for the terms of reference, the work programme for a new SPECA Working Group on Gender and Economy and the Chairs. The discussion will be based on proposals presented at the Round Table of the International High-level SPECA Conference, Astana, May 2005 and follow-up discussions with countries, bilateral donors and international organizations. The proposal will be presented for the approval of the next meeting of SPECA Governing Council.

Item 8: Chairperson's conclusions

The chairperson will present the conclusions of the meeting.
