Title of the session:  Education for Gender Equality: a powerful tool for transformation (Item 7 of the Agenda)

Date and time: 29 October 2019, 15:00-16:30, Room XXVII

Lead organizer of session: UNESCO

Objective of the session

The session aims to:

- discuss the gender equality progress since Beijing+20 through quality education
- consider the role of education and SDG 4 in achieving gender equality through quality data, adopting necessary legal frameworks and changing teaching practices
- evaluate the opportunities for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in the post Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA) +25 development agenda through education
- share UNESCO’s visions with regard to Priority Gender Equality Action Plan and promote cooperation across agencies in order to develop a coherent approach to the promotion of gender equality
- identify further strategies on closing the gender gap and eliminating all forms of discrimination

Thematic focus:

Gender Equality and education are at the core of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, especially emphasized through Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4 and Sustainable Development Goal 5. However, gender disparities persist and many countries lack quality, accessible, consistent, and timely data that is disaggregated by gender. The session will focus on the improvement of data, the adoption of normative frameworks and the upgrading of teaching to ensure gender equality in and through education by 2030.
Guiding questions:

- To what extent have countries achieved gender equality in education, and what are the implications?
- What countries are doing and need to do to improve data to inform action?
- How countries could produce better legal, policy and planning frameworks to advance rights?
- What are the effective teaching and learning practices to empower women?

Composition of the panel: key participants

Moderator:

Ms. Vera Labkovich, Head, Department of Population, Gender and Family Policy, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, Belarus

Panellists:

- Ms. Elina Kalkku, Under-Secretary of State for Development Policy at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Finland
- Ms. Krista Pikkat, Director, Almaty Office for Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, UNESCO
- Ms. Saadia Zahidi, Head of the Education, Gender and Work System Initiative, World Economic Forum (tbc)
- Ms. Damel Mektepbayeva, Civil Society Representative (Nazarbayev University), Kazakhstan