

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

106th meeting
Geneva, 8 July 2019

Item 5

Informal Document No. **2019/28/Rev.1**

**Annotated provisional agenda for the Beijing+25 Regional Review Meeting
“From commitments in Beijing
to transformative results by 2030 – Gender equality in the ECE region”**



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
xx August 2019

Original: English

Economic Commission for Europe

Beijing+25 Regional Review Meeting

Geneva, 29–30 October 2019

Item 2 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Annotated provisional agenda for the Beijing+25 Regional Review Meeting

“From commitments in Beijing to transformative results by 2030 – Gender equality in the ECE region”

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, 29 October 2019

I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Election of chairpersons.
4. Key trends on gender equality across the ECE region.
5. Closing the gender gaps: Effective economic and social policies in the ECE region.
6. Ending violence against women and girls: Lessons and solutions from the region.
7. Education for Gender Equality: a powerful tool for transformation.
8. Smart investments: Financing for Gender Equality.
9. Women in Leadership: Women’s representation in policy- and decision-making.
10. Acting for climate: Empowering women to build climate resilience.
11. Global goals and the Beijing commitments.
12. Co-Chairs’ summary and closure of the meeting.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. In the year 2020 the international community will mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fourth World Congress on Women and the adoption of the Beijing Platform for Action (1995). Five years will have passed since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

2. In line with ECOSOC resolution E/RES/2018/8, the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) will hold a global review meeting at its sixty-fourth session in 2020. All member States are called upon to undertake comprehensive national level reviews of the progress made and challenges encountered in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action. The United Nations regional commissions are encouraged to undertake regional reviews which will feed into the global review at the sixty-fourth session of the CSW in March 2020.

3. The Executive Committee of the Economic Commission for Europe (EXCOM), at its 101st meeting on 31 October 2018, decided to hold the Regional Review Meeting on 29 and 30 October 2019 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.

4. The meeting will be co-organized by ECE and the UN Women Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia, in close cooperation with the Issue-based Coalition on Gender Equality. Eight interactive discussions will shed light on different aspects of the twelve thematic areas of the Beijing Platform for Action and its alignment with the 2030 Agenda. Prior to the Regional Review Meeting a civil society consultation will bring together the voices of civil society, including youth, and provide inputs to the regional review.

5. The Regional Review Meeting will be convened with the following objectives: to review progress in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action in the ECE region on the basis of national reports; to identify current challenges; to share good practices and provide direction for effective policies and actions. The discussions will also address how strategies and policies for the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action will contribute to the realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

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

1. Opening of the meeting

7. The meeting will be opened by the ECE Executive Secretary and a high-level representative of UN Women; as well as further high-level representatives.

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

8. The participants in the meeting will be invited to adopt the agenda as set out in the present document (ECE/AC.28/2019/1). The provisional timetable is attached in Annex 1.

3. Election of chairpersons

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

4. Key trends on gender equality across the ECE region

Documentation: ECE/AC.28/2019/3, ECE/AC.28/2019/4, ECE/AC.28/2019/6

10. The high-level dialogue will focus on the main findings of the regional synthesis report and will discuss key opportunities and challenges, including digitalization and its impact on the economy and gender equality, in the ECE region with high-level government representatives as well as representatives of civil society and other stakeholders.

5. Closing the gender gaps: Effective economic and social policies in the ECE region

Documentation: ECE/AC.28/2019/3, ECE/AC.28/2019/4, ECE/AC.28/2019/5, ECE/AC.28/2019/6, ECE/AC.28/2019/11

11. The discussion will highlight effective economic and social policies to close existing gender gaps in economic activities, including labour market participation, entrepreneurship, labour migration, gender pay gap, access to highly skilled jobs, career development, and policies for gender responsive social protection and public services. It will also address the life-long effects of the gender wage gap, including the pension gap. The dialogue will include policies to facilitate the equal access to decent work for all, recognition and redistribution of unpaid work, sharing of family responsibilities; as well as measures promoting the diversification of occupational choices by both women and men. Special attention will be given to reducing gender inequalities in rural areas.

6. Ending violence against women and girls: Lessons and solutions from the region

Documentation: ECE/AC.28/2019/3, ECE/AC.28/2019/4, ECE/AC.28/2019/6, ECE/AC.28/2019/8, ECE/AC.28/2019/10

12. Across the ECE region, violence against women and girls remains a pervasive problem. It occurs in peaceful times as well as in armed conflict and post-conflict settings and impacts women's health with long-lasting consequences. It occurs in many different forms ranging from intimate partner violence, domestic violence, sexual harassment and cyber harassment, to femicide, forced and child marriages, honour-related violence and female genital mutilation. It persists in the public and private sphere as well as at the workplace. The discussion will address concrete actions to prevent and end gender-based violence, including through legislative and policy measures, strong and consistent implementation mechanisms for existing legislation, provision of efficiently coordinated essential public services, access to justice, financial support and awareness-raising efforts. Challenges such as the lack of sex-disaggregated data and gender statistics for monitoring and evidence-based policy making and the need to mobilize men and boys as allies for change will also be discussed.

7. Education for Gender Equality: a powerful tool for transformation

Documentation: ECE/AC.28/2019/3, ECE/AC.28/2019/4, ECE/AC.28/2019/5, ECE/AC.28/2019/6

13. Education is essential to attain gender equality. While girls tend to outperform boys in terms of learning outcomes in schools, gender segregation in educational choices persists. The exchange will highlight best practices to enable women and girls to meet the demands of the digital transformation and to enter the currently male dominated fields of education; including science, technology, engineering, mathematics and information technology. The discussion will also address stereotypes in teaching and will consider the importance of access to quality education to empower all learners, including women facing multiple forms of discrimination, to become agents for change and specifically women and girls to make their own decisions, including regarding their sexual and reproductive health.

8. Smart investments: Financing for Gender Equality

Documentation: ECE/AC.28/2019/3, ECE/AC.28/2019/4, ECE/AC.28/2019/6, ECE/AC.28/2019/7, ECE/AC.28/2019/9

14. The achievement of transformative gender equality related changes by 2030 requires innovative solutions to mobilize financial resources. The discussion will highlight effective measures to integrate a gender perspective in macroeconomic and budgetary decisions on policies and programmes at national and sub-regional levels. In the session, concrete initiatives to generate the necessary resources to deliver the expected results in line with the Beijing Platform for Action commitments and gender related SDGs targets will be presented, from both the public and private sector, including resources from innovative sources of funding. Also, the discussions will be focused on how targeted fiscal policies in social sectors and investments in agriculture and infrastructure could contribute to gender equality.

9. Women in Leadership: Women's representation in policy- and decision-making

Documentation: ECE/AC.28/2019/3, ECE/AC.28/2019/4, ECE/AC.28/2019/6, ECE/AC.28/2019/12

15. Women's equal participation in decision-making is not only a matter of justice but can also be seen as a necessary condition for women's interests to be taken into account. Across the ECE region, women remain underrepresented in decision-making positions at most levels. Young women and women from marginalized groups are widely excluded from decision making and the benefits for their meaningful engagement and contribution to policy related formulation and implementation are not recognized. The debate will focus on the variety of policies and temporary measures to boost women's full and equal representation, based on Leaving No One Behind principles. 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 leadership and contribution to policy- and decision-making, including on conflict prevention and resolutions. The meeting will also be an opportunity to address the important role of civil society, including youth, and women human rights defenders, in achieving gender equality.

10. Acting for climate: Empowering women to build climate resilience

Documentation: ECE/AC.28/2019/3, ECE/AC.28/2019/4, ECE/AC.28/2019/9, ECE/AC.28/2019/11

16. Climate change affects women and men differently. The discussion will address how climate change amplifies existing gender inequalities including the health impact of gender-based vulnerabilities and how policies in the public and private sectors could be gender mainstreamed to ensure that everyone has access to the resources they need to adapt to and mitigate climate change. The exchange will particularly focus on the full and equal participation of women and girls as agents and beneficiaries of sustainable development and their crucial role in climate change adaptation and mitigation at all levels, from negotiating policies to natural resource management and sustainable consumption.

11. Global goals and the Beijing commitments

Documentation: ECE/AC.28/2019/3, ECE/AC.28/2019/4, ECE/AC.28/2019/6, ECE/AC.28/2019/7, ECE/AC.28/2019/9

17. Gender equality is both captured as a stand-alone goal (SDG 5) in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and reflected across all the goals. The 2030 Agenda confirms that realizing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls will make a crucial contribution to progress across all the goals and targets. The systematic mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the implementation of the Agenda is crucial. Thus, gender equality acts

as a catalyst to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda providing an unprecedented opportunity to transform the lives of women and girls. This final panel discussion will focus on how strategies and policies for the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action will contribute to the realization of the 2030 Agenda. The dialogue will address different factors required to prompt the desired sustainable transformation, such as new partnerships among different stakeholders and across different sectors as well as shifts in mentalities, attitudes and behaviours.

12. Co-chairs' summary and closure of the meeting

18. The co-Chairs will present the key messages from the thematic discussions. The complete co-Chairs' summary of the discussions will be finalized by the secretariat in consultation with the co-Chairs after the meeting.

19. The summary report and the regional synthesis report will constitute the contribution from the ECE region to the global Beijing+25 review to be held at the sixty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women in New York in March 2020.

Annex

Draft provisional timetable

<i>Time</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Room</i>
29 October 2019, 10:00-18:00 Palais des Nations (Geneva, Switzerland)		
10:00 – 11:30	Item 1: Opening of the meeting	Room XVIII
	Item 2: Adoption of the agenda and organization of work	Room XVIII
	Item 3: Election of chairpersons	Room XVIII
11:30 – 13:00	Item 4: Key trends on gender equality across the UNECE region	Room XVIII
15:00 – 18:00	Item 5: Closing the gender gaps: Effective economic and social policies in the UNECE region	Room XVIII – <i>parallel session</i>
15:00 – 18:00	Item 6: Ending violence against women and girls: Lessons from the region	Room XXII – <i>parallel session</i>
15:00 – 16:30	Item 7: Education for Gender Equality: a powerful tool for transformation	Room XXVII – <i>parallel session</i>
16:30 – 18:00	Item 8: Smart investments: Financing for Gender Equality	Room XXVII – <i>parallel session</i>
30 October 2019, 10:00-18:00 Palais des Nations (Geneva, Switzerland)		
10:30 – 11:30	Item 9: Women in Leadership: Women's representation in policy- and decision-making	Room XVIII
11:30 – 13:00	Item 10: Acting for climate: Empowering women to build climate resilience	Room XVIII
15:00 – 17:00	Item 11: Global goals and the Beijing commitments	Room XVIII
17:00 – 18:00	Item 12: Co-Chairs' summary and closure of the meeting	Room XVIII