

**UNITED
NATIONS**

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**Economic and Social
Council**

I. ATTENDANCE

5. The meeting was attended by representatives from 53 ECE member States: Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, and Uzbekistan.
6. Representatives of the Holy See participated under Article 8 of the Commission's terms of reference.
7. Representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and specialized agencies as well as other intergovernmental organizations were in attendance.
8. The meeting was attended by 372 participants, including 115 representatives from 52 non-governmental organizations.

V. REGIONAL REVIEW OF PROGRESS

(Agenda item 4)

13. The regional review of progress was opened with introductory remarks by Mr. Ján Kubiš, ECE Executive Secretary. Subsequently, Heads of Delegations as well as NGOs and international organizations were given the floor to present the progress made during the past years in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the challenges ahead. Statements were made by 38 member States under this agenda item.

VI. THEMATIC DEBATES

14. The meeting was organized around the three substantive issues on the agenda. Each session or sub-session was chaired by the chairperson of the conference and introduced by three to four panellists consisting of Government representatives, specialized agencies, international organizations, NGOs as well as independent experts on the relevant subject. The presentations of the panellists were followed by an interactive debate for each panel. Representatives of NGOs presented conclusions and recommendations from the NGO Forum at each substantive session.

A. Gender-sensitive economic policies in the context of the economic and financial crisis

(Agenda item 5)

(a) Panel 1

15. Panellists and titles of interventions: Ms. B. Pyke, Director, Directorate-General Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, European Commission: “*Gender equality in EU labour markets: challenges and policies*”; Ms. J. Trenevskva, Advisor for gender, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia: “*Gender-responsive budgeting – the experience of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*”; Ms. O. Kisselyova, President, Liberal Society Institute, Ukraine: “*A gender approach to social protection policies*”.

(b) Panel 2

16. Panellists and titles of interventions: Ms. B. Adams, Senior Advisor, Global Policy Forum: “*The financial crisis - risks and opportunities*”; Mr. S. Sainciuc, Deputy Minister of Labour, Social Protection and Family, Republic of Moldova: “*Poverty, migrants and remittances: the impact of the crisis on vulnerable women in Moldova*”; Ms. E. Kalnina, National Gender Equality Council of Latvia and Coalition for Gender Equality in Latvia: “*The impact of the crisis on work/family reconciliation measures and women’ position in Latvia*”; Ms. C. Gréboval, Policy Director, European Women’s Lobby: “*Gender approach to the economic and financial crisis in the EU*”.

B. Gender and the corporate sector

(Agenda item 6)

17. Panellists and titles of interventions: Ms. J. Hjertø, Senior Adviser, Ministry of Children and Equality, Norway: “*Legislative measures to achieve gender balance on company boards –*

the experience of Norway"; Mr. C. de Vries, Senior Policy Advisor, Directorate Emancipation, Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, Netherlands: *"Talent to the top": voluntary measures to advance women in decision making – the case of the Netherlands*";

(f) the lack of sex-disaggregated quantitative and qualitative data, and the lack of gender-sensitive indicators;

(g) the role of men in advancing gender equality, for example through increased sharing of family responsibilities.

4. The following recommendations were highlighted :

(a) Address specific vulnerabilities through:

(i) enforcing new legislation against gender-based violence, including domestic violence, violence in conflicts and trafficking, and developing prevention, protection and assistance measures for victims, as well as sanctions against perpetrators;

(ii) combating poverty of women in certain rural areas, including through facilitating ownership of land and productive assets;

(iii) defending the rights of women migrant workers and those working in the informal sector, especially in terms of personal safety, and working and social rights.

(b) Engender national policies through:

(i) expanding the breadth and depth of gender-responsive budgeting as one of

legal frameworks (e. g. quotas, targets, objectives, sanctions and other measures);

- (iii) reconciling work with family responsibilities through legal entitlements such as paid leave for both parents, policy measures to encourage men to meet their family responsibilities, available and affordable quality care for children and dependant adults, and affordable training schemes to facilitate reintegration in the labour market;
- (d) Mitigate the impact of the crisis on women through promoting gender-sensitive analysis of the impact of the crisis and developing counter