

# REGIONAL FORUM

ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE UNECE REGION

2-3 APRIL 2025 | PALAIS DES NATIONS | GENEVA



5 GENDER  
EQUALITY



## Peer learning round table on SDG 5

**THE TIME IS NOW: INCLUSIVE, EVIDENCE-BASED, AND TRANSFORMATIVE  
SOLUTIONS FOR GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT**

***Wednesday 2 April, 15:00 – 18:00***

***Palais des Nations, Room V***

*Languages: English, French, and Russian*

## Background

Gender equality is a key accelerator and catalyst for achieving the 2030 Agenda, with transformative potential across all Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The latest assessments show that the world is far from achieving gender equality by 2030, and the cost of inaction is extremely high. The UN estimates that, without immediate and decisive action to accelerate progress, it will take 286 years to close gaps in legal protection and remove legislation that discriminates against women and girls, 300 years to end child marriage, 140 years for women to be equally represented in managerial roles and 47 years to achieve equal representation in national parliaments. The 2024 UN Global [Gender Snapshot](#) Report illustrates how slow progress on SDG 5 ricochets across the other goals, worsening outcomes for women and girls on poverty, health, and food security while causing countries to miss out on billions in potential economic gains.

In the UNECE region, three priority areas have been identified for accelerating progress for women and girls: eliminating violence against women, promoting women's economic rights, including the right to work and rights at work, and increasing women's political participation and representation.

Critical strides have been made in these areas. However, progress on SDG 5 remains slow and uneven, exacerbated by intersecting crises such as the ongoing climate emergency, economic instability, multiple conflicts and war, and the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The need for urgent, scalable solutions to accelerate action on gender equality has never been more crucial. The Beijing+30 [Political Declaration](#), adopted by consensus at the 69<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on the Status of Women, affirms that “gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls are essential for sustainable development and fulfilling our pledge to leave no one behind.”

This roundtable will explore innovative, inclusive, transformative, and actionable solutions and practices that could accelerate progress toward SDG 5 while also generating synergies and addressing intersections across the various SDGs goals and targets. It will examine new and emerging challenges since 2022, when SDG 5 was last reviewed. The roundtable will reflect on ways to harness the political momentum from the SDG Summit, the Summit of the Future, and the 30th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women to deliver on SDG 5 by 2030. Focus areas will include the availability and use of gender data for policy making and implementation and the intersection of population dynamics and gender – particularly concerning care ecosystems and social protection, and health, including sexual and reproductive health and rights.



### Guiding Questions:

- Data for policymaking and implementation: How can gender-disaggregated data and evidence-based policymaking be strengthened to drive more effective implementation of SDG 5?
- What are the most significant barriers to achieving gender equality in the region and subregions, and how can policy and institutional reforms accelerate progress on SDG 5?
- What innovative approaches - whether policy-driven, social, institutional, or technological – and partnerships have proven successful in advancing gender equality, and how can they be scaled?
- How can gender equality be leveraged as a catalyst for achieving other SDGs, particularly in addressing population and gender challenges and opportunities, including care policies and investments, and social protection?
- What innovative approaches can improve access to healthcare for women and girls in marginalized communities, including sexual and reproductive health and rights?

### Programme:

Timeframe	Description
15:00 – 15:05	<b>Opening Remarks and Presentation of the Session</b>
15:05 – 15:15	<p><b>Setting the scene</b></p> <p>This segment will provide a timely and critical overview of subregional and regional progress toward gender equality. It will examine the status of SDG 5 targets and indicators, offering an update on regional progress towards achieving the Goal under review and highlighting opportunities and priority areas for accelerated action.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ms. Genoveva Tisheva</b>, CEDAW Member</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Belén Sanz Luque</b>, UN Women Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia</li> </ul> <p><b>Video animation:</b> <a href="#">What's Changing? Gender Equality Trends in the UNECE Region</a></p>
15:15 - 16:30	<p><b>Panel 1: Leveraging Gender Data for Policy Action</b></p> <p><b>Moderated by:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ms. Helena Valas</b>, Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, Republic of Slovenia</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Florence Bauer</b>, UNFPA Regional Director for Eastern Europe and Central Asia</li> </ul> <p><b>With the participation of:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Davit Khachatryan</b>, Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Affairs, Armenia</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Jona Dervishaliaj</b>, Director General, Social Protection Development, Ministry of Health and Social Protection, Albania</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ms. Dilnoza Muratova</b>, Deputy Director, National Centre of the Republic of Uzbekistan for Human Rights</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Manuel Montero Rey</b>, Head of International Service Institute for Older People and Social Services (IMSERSO), Spain</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Aizhan Dzhanayeva</b>, youth representative from youth consultations</li> </ul> <p><b>Interventions and statements from the floor</b></p> <p><b>Wrap-up and conclusions</b></p> <p><b>Projection of the “Unstoppable” campaign videos</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Video story from Albania</i></li> <li>• <i>Video story from Uzbekistan</i></li> </ul>
16:30 – 17:45	<p><b>Panel 2: Population Dynamics, Scaling Up Promising Practices, and Building Partnerships</b></p> <p><b>Moderated by:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ms. Helena Valas</b>, Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, Republic of Slovenia</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Belén Sanz Luque</b>, UN Women Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia</li> </ul> <p><b>With the participation of:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ambassador Désirée Schweitzer</b>, Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations in Geneva</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Corina Adjer</b>, Adviser on Employment and Social Protection, Government of the Republic of Moldova</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Claudia Luciani</b>, Director of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Ingrid MacDonald</b>, United Nations Resident Coordinator, Bosnia and Herzegovina</li> </ul> <p><b>Interventions and statements from the floor</b></p> <p><b>Projection of the “Unstoppable” campaign videos</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Video story from Moldova</i></li> <li>• <i>Video story from Bosnia and Herzegovina</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Wrap-up and conclusions</b></p>
17:45 – 18:00	<p><b>Closing remarks</b></p>

**Organized/Led by** UN Women and UNFPA with contributions from the Europe and Central Asia UN Issue-based Coalition on Gender Equality, FAO, ILO, UNAIDS, UNDP, and ITU

## ANNEX 1: SDG 5 Targets

*SDG 5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere. SDG 5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation*

*SDG 5.3 Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation*

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*SDG 5.4 Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate*

*SDG 5.5 Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life*

*SDG 5.6 Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences*

*SDG 5.a Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws*

*SDG 5.b Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women*

*SDG 5.c Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all level*