

Information Note on the Beijing+20 Review process in the UNECE region

Twenty-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action (Beijing+20): regional process

A. Regional Assessment Report

1. UN Women has initiated the preparatory process for Beijing+20 and in cooperation with UN regional commissions has prepared a guidance note with a common questionnaire to guide the member States in preparing the national reviews. The guidance note has been sent out by UN Women to the Permanent Missions in New York, accompanied by a Note verbale (<http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw59-2015/preparations>).
2. The regional commissions will use the national reviews to prepare regional assessment reports over the course of 2014. All States are invited to complete their national reviews by 1 May 2014.
3. The UNECE secretariat has established working relations with the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE, Vilnius, Lithuania) to cooperate in the preparatory process of the Beijing +20 review. Following the approach of the Swedish Presidency Report from 2009, all data from the national reviews collected by UNECE will be provided to the EIGE for the 2014 Report of the EU Member States on the Beijing Platform for Action. UNECE has agreed to share the information collected through the UN Guidance Note (questionnaire) as well as to collaborate on the discussions of the findings of this report. EIGE has put a call for tender in which the use of data from the UNECE questionnaires is explicitly mentioned (http://eige.europa.eu/sites/default/files/Tender%20Specifications_EIGE2013OPER13.pdf). The EIGE will undertake a Beijing+20 review for the EU and its Member States only and is not planning an intergovernmental review meeting.
4. UNECE will also collaborate with the EIGE in the preparation of the assessment report for the UNECE region, as well as in the organization of the sessions of the regional review meeting. Initial contacts have been established with the project manager of Beijing+20 at the EIGE and the statistics office at the same institute.

B. Regional Review Meeting

5. The meeting will review the progress and challenges in the twelve areas of concern of the Platform for Action, with an emphasis on the years since 2009 and focusing on the Women and Economy area in the context of the current economic situation, financial crisis and demographic trends in the UNECE region. As it will mark the 20-year anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, it will be an opportunity to highlight key achievements and setbacks for the period.

Date and venue

6. Date: 6-7 November 2014
Venue: Geneva, Palais des Nations

Format and participants

7. The meeting will be a region-wide event: member States of UNECE will discuss key achievements and challenges in their countries. High-level participants will have substantive roles as Bureau members and speakers. Delegations will consist of heads/representatives of

national gender machineries; representatives of ministries of economy, finance and/or development; experts; parliamentarians; NGOs.

8. It is expected that NGOs and other stakeholder groups will take an active part in the meeting. Geneva-based NGOs have already formed a working group for the Beijing+20 review process and approached UNECE.

Expected output

9. Based on previous experience, the expected outcome will be the Chairperson's conclusions and a meeting report. The Chairperson's conclusions will highlight key points from the discussion, including good practices, and provide directions for further action in the region. The Chairperson's conclusions will be forwarded, together with the report, to the Commission on the Status of Women. They will serve as the UNECE region's input to the global review meeting, to be held during the fifty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women in March 2015 in New York.

Partner organizations

10. Following the practice of the previous meetings, Beijing+5, Beijing+10 and Beijing+15, UNECE will closely cooperate with UN Women, UNDP, UNFPA and other organizations working on gender equality and the advancement of women in the region. It is expected to invite also international financial institutions such as the World Bank, IMF and EBRD. For cooperation with EIGE, cf. paragraphs 3 and 4.

Documentation

11. The documentation will be prepared by the secretariat and will include a regional assessment report, 1-2 background notes and the report of the meeting, including the Chairperson's conclusions.

Financial Resources

12. There will be a need for extrabudgetary resources to finance speakers, consultants for the regional assessment report and background notes and to cover travel costs of speakers and participants from EECCA and South-Eastern European countries members of UNECE. For details see Annex 1.