

Annual Meeting

Working Group on Gender and the Sustainable Development Goals United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia

Theme: Women's empowerment in the green economy

Wednesday 9 November 2022

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Meeting Report



Contents

Introduction.....	3
Objectives.....	4
Participants.....	4
Modality/structure of event.....	5
Welcome Remarks.....	6
Keynote addresses.....	7
Session 1: Policy initiatives and best practices implemented to achieve women’s full, equal and meaningful participation and decision-making in the context of climate change	9
Session 2: Group Discussion: Women’s economic empowerment in the context of climate change based on gender-transformative policies and opportunities for subregional cooperation and partnership.....	15
Closing Remarks.....	20
Annexes.....	22



Introduction

The economic empowerment of women and gender equality are fundamental to achieving a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable future for all. This is widely acknowledged and reflected in the 2030 Agenda both as a stand-alone goal for gender equality – SDG 5 – and as an accelerator to other SDGs in specific gender-responsive targets. Recent decades of experience in development policy and practice have further reinforced that addressing gender inequality has a strong impact on all three dimensions of sustainable development.

Climate change is the greatest threat facing the world today and advancing gender equality in the context of the climate crisis is one of the greatest global challenges of the 21st century. Climate change has had and will continue to have important and lasting impacts on our lives, development, and environment. The most vulnerable and marginalised population groups are disproportionately affected as they face the most severe impacts of climate change and will continue to do so as the situation worsens. Women are more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change than men, as they constitute the majority of the world's poor and are more dependent on the natural resources that climate change threatens most.

Nevertheless, women are not just victims of climate change. Women and girls, by virtue of their position and roles, are effective and powerful leaders and change-makers for climate adaptation and mitigation. In SPECA countries, many women are involved in sustainability initiatives, and their participation and leadership results in more effective climate action. Utilizing their knowledge, capabilities, and skills is crucial for climate change adaptation and mitigation. Women's engagement in climate change decision-making must be properly acknowledged, valued, and supported. Continuing to examine the opportunities, as well as the constraints, to empower women and girls to have a voice and be equal players in decision-making related to climate change and sustainability is essential for sustainable development and greater gender equality. Without gender equality today, a sustainable future, and an equal future, remains beyond our reach.

This annual meeting of the SPECA Working Group on Gender and SDGs focused on policy initiatives and good practices taken towards achieving women's full, equal and meaningful participation and decision-making in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes.

ESCAP and UNECE convened the annual meeting of the SPECA Working Group on Gender and SDGs on 9 November 2022 in the margins of the SPECA Economic Forum taking place from 16 to 17 November 2022 in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

The 2022 annual meeting of the SPECA Thematic Working Group and SDGs was convened via Zoom.



Objectives

The annual meeting of the SPECA Working Group on Gender and SDGs is held annually in advance of the SPECA Economic Forum and serves as a forum for policy dialogue, capacity building and networking for government stakeholders from relevant key ministries and agencies in SPECA countries in partnership with UN agencies to discuss critical and key emerging issues for gender-transformative economic policies to empower women's decision-making and participation in the context of climate change. The meeting contributed to efforts toward women's economic empowerment and gender equality, poverty reduction and economic growth in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Participants shared experiences in implementing various measures and initiatives and how these measures have affected gender equality in their countries. Strategies and actions were further discussed to identify the way forward towards advancing gender equality in the context of climate change, including women's full economic and political empowerment in support of the 2030 Agenda. Specific objectives of the Working Group for this Annual Meeting include:

- Increase awareness of the importance of participatory gender-transformative approaches to the design, implementation and monitoring of measures that tackle the structural barriers to gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls;
- Share experiences and lessons learned on policy response including policy initiatives and measures implemented to achieve women's full, equal and meaningful participation and decision-making in the context of climate change and discuss further policy initiatives in response to challenges and national priorities for advancing gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls;
- Identify the necessary actions and best practices to improve the enabling environment for women and girls in SPECA countries, including cross-sectoral measures and institutional coordination, public-private partnerships and active engagement of women's associations and women beneficiary groups into consultative and decision-making processes; and
- Identify opportunities for further sub-regional cooperation on the implementation of the SDG 5 on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of All Women and Girls.

Participants

The meeting of the SPECA Working Group on Gender Equality and SDGs brought together government representatives working towards the realization of Sustainable Development Goal 5 (achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls) and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in SPECA countries. In addition to government representatives, participants included




representatives of relevant UN agencies, funds and programmes; representatives of multilateral development banks, civil society organizations; and other relevant stakeholders across Central Asia.

Modality/structure of event

The meeting of the SPECA Working Group on Gender and SDGs was held virtually on Zoom and hosted by the State Committee for Family, Women and Children's Affairs of Azerbaijan.

It consisted of two substantive sessions: (a) country presentations by participants (ten minutes each), sharing of best practices and lessons learned on the thematic priority areas for the Working Group including policy initiatives and measures implemented to achieve women's full, equal and meaningful participation and decision-making in the context of climate change in SPECA countries, and (b) a group discussion to identify strategies and actions for further response to women's economic empowerment in the context of climate change based on gender-transformative policies and opportunities for sub-regional cooperation and partnership.

Guiding questions included:

-  How can governments and other stakeholders accelerate the integration of gender equality considerations in national and subnational climate change adaptation and mitigation policies, plans and programmes?
-  What are the most efficient measures to make national climate change plans and strategies more gender-responsive and inclusive? And what are the key challenges and lessons learned in this regard?
-  What are some existing practices/lessons learned to increase the participation and leadership of women in climate change and environmental decision-making processes?

Welcome Remarks

Welcome remarks were delivered by Mr. Kaveh Zahedi, Deputy Executive Secretary, ESCAP; Mr. Dmitry Mariyasin, Deputy Executive Secretary, UNECE; and Ms. Sadagat Gahramanova, Deputy Chairperson of the State Committee for Family, Women and Children's Affairs, Azerbaijan, and Chair of the Thematic Working Group on Gender and SDGs.

Mr. Kaveh Zahedi, Deputy Executive Secretary, ESCAP, underscored some of the ways in which the Central Asia region is particularly vulnerable to climate change, with temperatures rising faster than the global average. He noted that women are more likely than men to be affected by the effects of climate change due to their limited access to resources such as information, livelihoods, and technology, combined with other deep-rooted gender inequalities, which impacts negatively on their coping and adaptive capacity. While women and girls are key agents of change, they are more often than not left out of national and global climate negotiating bodies, noted Mr Zahedi before recognizing the need to include them in the design and implementation of climate-related laws and policies. He finally reiterated ESCAP's commitment to supporting women's economic empowerment in the region and supporting SPECA countries in strengthening their efforts toward advancing increasingly gender-equal economies and societies.

Mr. Dmitry Mariyasin, Deputy Executive Secretary, UNECE, noted that women are crucial to the fight against climate change and that we must shift the narrative away from women and girls as vulnerable victims and instead promote women-led adaptive efforts, resilience and agility in all areas of climate action. Given that this meeting was being held in the context of COP27, Mr. Mariyasin underscored the need to promote gender mainstreaming in order to accelerate progress within climate action. He argued that women and girls in the region face several barriers that limit their participation in the decision-making processes, such as the lack of sufficient sex-disaggregated data to support sound policy formulation and implementation, the lack of understanding of women's perspectives and insufficient financing to support implementation. He added that women entrepreneurs in the green sector and supply chains in Central Asia also face additional constraints, such as asset ownership and limited access to finance and training/mentorship programmes.

Ms. Sadagat Gahramanova, Deputy Chairperson of the State Committee for Family, Women and Children's Affairs, Azerbaijan, and Chair of the Thematic Working Group on Gender and SDGs, recognized that the achievement of gender equality in the context of climate change is one of the greatest challenges of the 21st century. She recognised that women are effective and influential leaders and agents of change in climate change adaptation and mitigation. She argued that this year's meeting of the SPECA Working Group on Gender and SDGs focused on policy initiatives and good practices aimed at achieving women's full, equal and meaningful participation and decision-making in the context of climate change, environmental protection and climate change policies. She

also offered reassurance that since Azerbaijan is the Chair of the SPECA Economic Forum in 2023, their Government would aspire to bring the topic of gender equality and empowerment of women and girls in the context of climate change to the forefront of the discussions at the 2023 Forum.

Keynote addresses

Ms. Alia Al-Yassir, UN Women Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia, highlighted some of the ways in which crises and disasters tend to further deepen already entrenched gender inequalities and that women, who are more likely to live in poverty than men, face systematic discrimination and violence that worsens during periods of crisis and instability. By the end of this year, many women will have insufficient income to meet even their basic needs such as food, clothing, and adequate shelter, with roughly 383 million women and girls expected to be living in extreme poverty around the world. She also explained that women's unpaid care and domestic burden considerably increased over the last years with women performing three times as much unpaid care and domestic work as men do. She argued for revising investments in a way that they reap not only economic and political benefits, but also long-term social benefits. Within this context, Ms. Alia noted as essential that the enormous contributions that women make to local, national, and global economies, whether in businesses, on farms, as entrepreneurs or employees, or by doing unpaid care work at home, are recognised.

To do so, Ms. Al-Yassir first stressed the need to revisit the 'social contract' to address the vast deficits in state support and infrastructure for the care economy. The social contract needs to be geared towards the achievement of substantive equality, recognising the contributions and ensuring the rights of those who work to sustain the functioning of both markets and states, meaning that we must invest in social care and ensure gender-responsive budgeting and financing. She gave the example of Generation Equality, the UN Women initiative, whose objectives are to design, finance and implement measures to redistribute unpaid care and domestic work, reward paid care work and ensure representation of women care workers. Specifically, this Action Coalition is encouraging participating countries to commit to investments of 3-10 per cent of national income and create up to 80 million decent care jobs. It operates under the principles that it is the responsibility of the State to be the main guarantor of care; and that care is a public good for sustaining families and communities.

Ms. Al-Yassir then focused on women's entrepreneurship. She explained that not enough is done to support women entrepreneurs, and that in addition to alleviating women's unpaid care and domestic work we must also start leveraging existing resources through the power of partnerships. She shared that, at the global level, UN Women promotes gender-responsive procurement with the private sector, through a community of practice of 350 stakeholders, and that, at the regional level, UN

Women is working on identifying the needs of both women entrepreneurs and private sector companies to address gender-responsive procurement from both the supply and demand sides.

Finally, Ms. Al-Yassir stressed that SPECA countries must enable and support women's leadership in decision-making spheres. She pointed out the fact that women are woefully under-represented in the formal water sector involving utilities, even though the water stress situation in SPECA is a growing problem. She then recommended that the SPECA WG on Gender and SDGs support countries to develop and introduce gender-responsive standards and norms in the water sector.

Dr. Anke Stock, Senior Gender Expert and Programmes Coordinator, Women Engage for a Common Future (WECF), introduced the work of WECF on gender equality in the SPECA region. She explained that WECF mainly work with rural communities on environmental issues (including climate change mitigation and adaptation, energy efficiency, chemicals and water and sanitation) which are related to issues faced by women and girls in the region. She also gave the example of the WOMEN 2030 programme which advances the implementation of the SDGs in a gender-equitable and climate-just way, and of another small-scale project whose goal is to build capacity-building of young feminists.

Dr. Stock then highlighted three structural barriers that WECF found working on these particular programmes and projects. She noted that there are low levels of awareness on the global impacts of climate change and its impacts on women and gender equality in particular. While there are national programmes to alleviate the impacts of climate, most are either not implemented and/or gender blind. She stressed the need to raise awareness of the links between climate change and gender equality issues, and explained that gender and capacity-building trainings, as well as creating tools for change, are key solutions to hold governments accountable to implementing the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. She then presented the work of WECF's partner in Kyrgyzstan, where they are doing participatory community assessments and information campaigns on women's rights, and the work of their partner in Tajikistan, where they organise summer camps training where they teach young people, and especially women, about climate change issues.

Dr. Stock then stressed that women and girls in the region are still bearing the brunt of the unpaid care and domestic work, which hampers their participation in the economic sector as well as in decision-making. She recommended new approaches to involve women and girls and to provide them with access to employment. She gave the example of their partner in Kyrgyzstan, where they succeeded to get women involved in the management of the local water systems. She explained that this initiative was extremely successful, as, on the one hand, it helped women to earn an income, participate in local politics and in leadership positions, and on the other hand, it helped sustaining a well-functioning water system. She also shared the example of their partner in Tajikistan, where women cooperatives assist women in taking their farming products to the market, therefore helping them to earn an income. In addition, Dr. Stock mentioned the issue of the technology gap. She explained that this is not only due to the poor digital infrastructure, but also to the fact that new



green technologies are not being promoted. She stressed that women can be key agents to promote these new technologies, and that we need to develop digital infrastructures and more training and education for women and girls in the region. She mentioned the example of WECF's in the Balkans, where women are trained on new technologies and on management skills. This allows them to take leadership positions in their cooperatives and to promote these new technologies (e.g. solar panels).

Session 1: Policy initiatives and best practices implemented to achieve women's full, equal and meaningful participation and decision-making in the context of climate change

Ms. Cai Cai, Chief, Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Section, Social Development Division, ESCAP, underscored that climate change has enormous significance for Central Asia, a region already highly vulnerable to natural disasters such as droughts, floods, earthquakes, and mudslides. She explained that, as natural disasters continue to disrupt and threaten people's well-being and undermine regional economic growth, these risks have a particularly severe impact on the most vulnerable, and more specifically women. In many contexts, women's dependence on and unequal access to the environment and public services and infrastructure mean that they are disproportionately affected by climate change, environmental degradation, and disasters. Ms. Cai Cai then stated that existing inequalities, limited access to resources, restricted rights, and the lack of women's voices in decision-making increase women's vulnerability to the impact of climate change in Central Asia. Indeed, she noted that women are left out of national and global climate negotiating bodies, with the average representation of women in Central Asia being less than 30 per cent, despite being the most affected and impacted by natural disasters. Moreover, she added that women's unpaid care and domestic work intensifies during natural disasters, as they bear the burden of securing food, water and energy resources for the household, as well as fulfilment of caring responsibilities.

Ms. Cai Cai also argued that Central Asia has a unique opportunity to support sustainable growth and job creation through green investments, such as cleaner energy, natural capital restoration and sustainable agriculture, and the inclusion of women in these initiatives. She then underscored laws, regulations, action plans and policies taken by countries in the region: from Tajikistan's National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy for 2019-2030 which highlights and introduces gender issues in disaster risk reduction strategies; to Azerbaijan's Employment Project which aims to increase environmentally friendly rural employment and promote the use of green technology, to Kazakhstan's project on 'Supporting Kazakhstan in Transition to Green Economy Mode,' which prioritizes the participation of women living in rural areas in public utilities, agriculture, and use of renewable energy sources in the water sector. Finally, she reiterated ESCAP's commitment to supporting women's economic empowerment in the SPECA region and to building a more gender-equal society.



Ms. Sadagat Gahramanova, Deputy Chairperson of the State Committee for Family, Women and Children's Affairs, Azerbaijan, and Chair of the Thematic Working Group on Gender and SDGs, presented on Azerbaijan's experience. She underlined that a core principle of a sustainable economy concerns the practice to resist climate change, using natural resources rationally and maintaining diversity. Ms. Gahramanova informed participants that Azerbaijan's agricultural sector, water sector, and maritime sector are vulnerable to climate change, and climate change incurs negative impacts on drinking water, food security and economic activities. In this regard, the government has invested great efforts to implement relevant policies, improve legislative and regulatory frameworks, align with international practices, and strengthen response measures. She explained that, in accordance with the programme "Azerbaijan 2030: National Priorities for Socio-Economic Development", high-quality ecological environment and green energy are national development priorities. She noted that Azerbaijan has joined a number of international initiatives (e.g. the UN's Agenda 2030) and supports programmes and projects on circular economy transition, clean technologies, clean energy, as well as contamination control and mitigation.

As Ms. Gahramanova noted, a key component of the green economy is agriculture, and thus, the empowerment of rural women holds a special place. The State Committee and UNDP jointly implemented a technical assistance project to enhance women's socio-economic participation in the green economy. Within the project's framework, 17 women's resource centres have been established. She also mentioned that women from socially vulnerable groups gained benefits from free training in areas such as business development, accounting, financial literacy, and computer skills. Over 8,200 women were involved in training and events organised by women's resource centres, and around 600 women started their businesses. In addition, Ms. Gahramanova stressed the crucial role of feminist organisations (e.g., the Association of Women Entrepreneurs and the Rural Women's Association) in education, advocacy, and protection of women's rights and their economic development. The collaboration between domestic CSOs and foreign associations is also important.

In addition, Ms. Gahramanova mentioned that, with technical support from FAO, the Ministry of Agriculture is implementing a project that aims to improve food security and living conditions in rural areas through increasing women's economic participation, on which a Gender Action Plan for 2022-2025 was developed. In the meantime, she stressed that gender commissions were established in self-governing bodies at the local level, and the State Committee has cooperated with experts to provide systematic training for gender coordinators. Such practices aim to improve gender relations in families, identify socially vulnerable families, and provide them with legal and economic assistance.

Ms. Gahramanova concluded by drawing participants' attention to the significant role of cooperation and dialogue in achieving sustainable development. She highlighted that, to fulfill the obligations arising from the 2030 Agenda and to strengthen the state's economic, social and environmental



potential, it is important to attract international donors to transition to a green economy, build partnerships with international organisations and countries, as well as engaging both private and public companies. Ms. Gahramanova is convinced that the meeting will contribute positively to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.



The representative of Kyrgyzstan provided a broad picture of women’s status in Kyrgyzstan with specific data, stressing women’s crucial role. She also noted that Kyrgyzstan’s Constitution explicitly stipulates the equal enjoyment of rights and opportunities for women and men, and discrimination based on gender is prohibited. In this regard, the government has made several commitments to attain gender equality within the frameworks of international initiatives and conventions. As per the “Action Plan through 2040”, Kyrgyzstan is expected to achieve full-fledged and equal participation of women in the decision-making of political, economic and public life by 2040. She noted that government programmes have been implemented to reduce the gap in access to opportunities between women and men; in 2019, women entrepreneurship was the focus of a national conference for the first time, and a government programme was initiated to support women entrepreneurship for 2022-2026. In addition, a cabinet minister is responsible for the annual meeting for women entrepreneurship, and it can be seen women entrepreneurship is at a strategic position in Kyrgyzstan’s national policies. Monitoring and evaluation on the implementation of previous national strategies to promote gender equality showed significant progress and the effectiveness of planned interventions.

Moreover, the representative stressed that women’s leadership and participation in decision-making is a key goal and method to attain the SDGs and the Beijing Declaration. She noted that women’s participation in self-governing bodies in Kyrgyzstan showcases a success story of women in political life. Through legislation and increased engagement in local elections, the share of women deputies has increased from 9 per cent to 38 per cent. She noted the 30 per cent gender quota on seats in the parliament is a good practice to increase women participation in policy-making processes; however, she also informed that only 9.5 percent of the ministers are women, indicating a severe lacking of women representation. In this regard, the state has drafted resolutions to establish a working group on proposals and special measures to increase the representation of women in politics, public administration and leadership roles at the municipal level.

Moving forward, the representative of Kyrgyzstan pointed out that climate change not only brings hardships but also widens the gaps between the poor and the rich, as well as between women and men. Stressing that climate change is a concern for all mankind, she noted the disproportionate impacts of climate change on children, persons with disabilities, and people in vulnerable situations. In particular, she believes that climate change negatively impacts women the most, leading to increasing gender inequality and poverty. Burdened by unpaid care work, women have limited mobility and are more easily to fall into poverty and suffer from health problems, contamination, pandemic and diseases. All these factors disproportionately affect areas such as education, income, employment and maternity rate. she informed that, as climate change is related to women and other vulnerable groups, the government has made action plans and factored in these intersectionalities in the processes of policy design and implementation.



Talking about climate change adaptation and resilience, the representative of Kyrgyzstan noted that gender analysis and national assessment of the situations of women, youths and other vulnerable groups are necessary. She introduced some of the government's measures to increase gender equality in the context of climate change, such as increasing the potential of women deputies at the local level, conducting gender-sensitive analysis, providing training and teaching for health staff, and developing and giving out products for climate change adaptation. She added that gender-sensitive climate adaptation programmes enable them to assess and assist groups that are the most vulnerable, as well as increase women's capability and climate change and planning capacity. In addition, she briefly introduced their main scope of work in the Action Plan for Gender Equality 2022-2024 and noted that concrete measures have been taken to assist women, such as engaging more women into the labour market and increasing women's skills and abilities. Last, she mentioned the need to improve environmental regulation and raise the population's awareness of climate change. In addition, she shared that the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection was established in 2021, and respective agencies have had extensive consultations with a range of stakeholders to review the current approaches. She believes that such practices will contribute to the implementation of the national Action Plan.

The representative of Turkmenistan shared the progress and achievements that Turkmenistan has achieved, highlighting their focus on gender equality and climate change. He mentioned that Turkmenistan organised earlier this year the Inter-Parliamentary Forum and Dialogue of Women from Central Asia and Russia. The Forum held a meaningful and fruitful exchange of views and the best national practices in areas such as support for families, women, children, and gender equality. In addition, policies and progress made by the states of Central Asia and Russia over the past 30 years in enhancing gender equality and women's participation in state and public life, were discussed in detail.

The representative also informed that many compendiums and manuals have been prepared to raise awareness among national environmental authorities and institutions. He stressed the state's prioritised policy areas, such as maintaining a healthy living environment, protecting people's health, respecting nature, using natural resources rationally, introducing and bringing eco-friendly technologies into production, among others. He also pointed out that Turkmenistan has joined a number of UN environmental agreements and conventions, such as the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer; and the Convention on the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage of UNESCO, among others. The state has been actively fulfilling its obligations. He believes that the role of the National Strategy of Turkmenistan on Climate Change is also very important in the development of the green economy. A main goal of the National Strategy is to save fuel and energy resources and to implement measures to stabilise emissions by 2030 through energy-saving technologies. To achieve this goal, the Law of Turkmenistan on Renewable Energy Sources was adopted in March 2021. This Law determines the legal, organisational, economic and



social foundations of the state's in the field of renewable energy sources, as well as regulating the relations arising from the use of renewable energy sources.

The representative mentioned that Turkmenistan pursues an active gender policy that advances the equal participation of women in all social, political, economic and cultural spheres. Moreover, the Constitution of Turkmenistan and relevant legislation guarantee the implementation of equal rights and freedom, as well as equal opportunities for men and women in accordance with international standards.

The representative of Turkmenistan informed that, in December 2020, the second National Action Plan for Gender Equality in Turkmenistan for 2021-2025 was approved, which is a comprehensive policy document that defines national goals, objectives and priorities to advance gender equality in all spheres of people's lives. He added that, with the support of UNFPA, the National Action Plan draws on a range of policies and papers, such as the concluding recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, international human rights instruments related to gender equality, as well as relevant SDG goals and targets on gender equality. He stated that the implementation of the goals and objectives within the National Action Plan is closely intertwined with the SDGs. Increasing the effectiveness of the advancement of women's rights and factoring in development realities will largely contribute to achieving equal rights for men and women. In addition, he shared that in accordance to the legislation of Turkmenistan, both women and men, on equal terms, are members of representative, executive and judicial bodies of power at all levels, and they should take an active part in developing and implementing state socio-economic programmes.

The representative pointed out that the SDGs, to a certain degree, are reflected and incorporated into the state's documents, such as the National Action Plan for Human Rights in Turkmenistan for 2021-2025. Other National Action Plans are jointly prepared by UN agencies and the state's Interdepartmental Commission to ensure Turkmenistan's achievement of human rights and in compliance with international humanitarian law. He stressed that women's economic empowerment in a green economy is interconnected with many other aspects of the socio-economic development of Turkmenistan and other countries in the region, highlighting that it is a shared concern and mission. He believes that the meeting will provide a new impetus to advancing our activities in this direction.



Session 2: Group Discussion: Women's economic empowerment in the context of climate change based on gender-transformative policies and opportunities for subregional cooperation and partnership

Ms. Shreya Kumra, Programme Management Officer, Office of the Deputy Executive Secretary, UNECE, presented UNECE's activities to strengthen women's economic autonomy in the context of the climate crisis. She stressed that, although progress has been made over recent years, it is still imperative to integrate a gendered perspective in policy-making processes and collective action. She acknowledged that although the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) failed to factor in a gendered lens at its initial establishment, nevertheless, UNFCCC decisions and bodies in recent years have reflected gender equality and supported strengthening of women's participation in the negotiation processes, for instance in the Paris Agreement (COP21) and the Lima Work Programme on Gender (COP25). Ms. Kumra elaborated on UNECE's work on the nexus of climate change, economic growth and gender equality in the SPECA region, such as women's role and participation in the energy sector, equitable access to water and sanitation, as well as measures to address the socio-economic factors that affect women's employment in the forest sector. In addition, Ms. Kumra highlighted UNECE's efforts in gender mainstreaming in the Environmental Performance Review Programme (EPR) in Central Asia. She informed that the latest EPRs encompass a subsection on gender, including a note on women's political participation, state legislation on gender equality and the countries' score on gender equality indices. She shared some of the policy recommendations in the EPRs and the countries' good practices, such as increasing the number of women in search and rescue work, including more sex-disaggregated data on gender and environment, as well as increasing access to land and finance for women. Moreover, Ms. Kumra briefly introduced UNECE's work on these topics in the Pan-European context, including the UNECE Gender-Responsive Standards Initiative; Guidelines on the Promotion of Green Jobs in Forestry published by UNECE/FAO/Forest Europe; as well as UNECE/ UNDP/ UN Women organised trainings for local authorities to better integrate a gender perspective into environmental policies. UNECE welcomes any interest from the Governments in the SPECA region to carry out similar activities in their respective countries.

She concluded her presentation by inviting panelists to share their views on the following overarching questions:

- Challenges in integrating gender equality and inclusivity in environmental policies in the SPECA region;
- Ways to champion participation and leadership of women and girls in shaping climate solutions in the SPECA region in view of the ongoing COP27;
- Best practice examples from projects and investments in the SPECA region to achieve SDG 5 and advancing environmental sustainability.



Ms. Nargis Azizova, Programme Specialist, UN Women Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia, referred to several UN high-level conferences and statistics to stress the interrelations between gender equality and climate change. She argued that despite efforts in gender mainstreaming in certain projects on environment and natural resources management, only 56 per cent of all 2030 strategies have incorporated gender issues, and thus, require more gender sensitivity. In addition, Ms. Azizova called attention to resolving gender inequality to achieve sustainable development for all, and she expressed concerns about the lack of female participation at different levels (i.e., community, local, regional, and global levels). She stressed the importance of financing to enhance women's participation and fulfil commitments because only a fraction of financing for natural resources protection activities targets women and girls. Moreover, Ms. Azizova noted that women and girls' participation in STEM is severely lacking in Central Asia, and that only a small proportion of landowners are women and girls who are often excluded from decision-making processes. She pointed out that UN Women has recently reviewed the progress on SDGs related to gender, and regrettably, we are far away from the goal to achieve gender equality by 2030. She believes that we should invest more efforts to accelerate our progress. In addition, Ms. Azizova presented some statistics on women's poverty and employment, stating that women unemployment remains an acute challenge within the region. She is convinced that reducing unemployment and poverty necessitates more ambitious and robust state policies on planning and financing in areas such as access to education, family planning, equal salary, social benefits, etc. In terms of water resource management, she referred to UN multilateral dialogues and argued that good initiatives should be in place in SPECA to minimise the negative impacts of a lack of clean water on unpaid care work and unpaid labour. She added that noticeable progress is observed only on target 1 of the SDG 6 (i.e., access to safe and inexpensive drinking water), while other targets and goals necessitate more radical efforts. With respect to access to energy, Ms. Azizova called attention to women's position in the renewable energy sector and the severe lack of women's participation in this sector as we talk about transitioning to clean and renewable energy.

Moreover, she reflected on the measures taken by the governments to reduce the impact of COVID-19 and recover from its repercussions. As states have introduced a range of policies, Ms. Azizova argued that we should also focus on areas such as unpaid labour, gender-based violence, and financing issues. Moving forward, she reiterated the connection between climate change and gender equality, stating that recent COPs have incorporated debates and activities related to gender and the promotion of gender equality. She anticipated more debates on such issues and commitments to addressing gender challenges. In addition, she believes that gender inequality in climate change cannot be resolved unless women take on more decision-making roles. At the ministerial level, there still lacks women ministers and women representation in the political sphere. There has been increased incidence of violence due to climate change and crisis, and thus, it is important to focus on prevention and financing. Ms. Azizova is convinced that SPECA is a lasting programme and that SPECA should be increasingly adaptive to the global agenda; SPECA countries should revisit their gender plans and explore how these plans can be adapted and implemented. Ms. Azizova concluded



by sharing other initiatives (e.g. the coalition for climate justice) and anticipated that SPECA will localise their efforts, set up goals, and make commitments that are achievable in the region.

Dr. Margherita Calderone, Principal Economist, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), presented EBRD's approach to promoting gender equality. She stated that EBRD developed two strategies in 2021 to promote gender equality and equal opportunity. Dr. Calderone stated that in the face of shocks and challenges, such as the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine, EBRD has adopted innovative measures and set a goal to achieve 40 per cent of gender-smart or responsive investments by 2025. She also introduced three strategic areas on which EBRD's work is centred (i.e., building inclusive and gender-responsive financial systems; promoting access to skills, employment and livelihoods; and creating inclusive services and public goods for all). She introduced these three pillars in detail. First, in terms of access to skills and employment, Dr. Calderone explained that EBRD focuses on harnessing the opportunities of green economy transition and digital transition and ensuring their accessibility to everyone; EBRD primarily works with the private sector but also partners with the public sector to increase the diversity of the workforce and the equitability of skills. EBRD has invested efforts in developing training programmes on green and digital skills, ensuring effective coordination between private sector clients and education providers, and enhancing the credibility and sustainability of these programmes by involving state and local authorities. These training and curricula are developed in a gender-responsive way. Second, in terms of access to social services, Dr. Calderone pointed out that EBRD focuses on the city level and highlighted its flagship Green Cities Programme, in which almost all projects have integrated and encompassed a gender component. Other areas of work include ensuring that public goods are safe for women and addressing social challenges such as gender-based violence and harassment in public transportation. Third, regarding access to finance and entrepreneurship, Dr. Calderone argued that EBRD's Women in Business Programme has been implemented for almost a decade, providing valuable lessons for the development of new strategies in areas such as financial inclusion, capacity building for fintech solutions and inclusive supply chain financing for women-led small- and medium-sized enterprises. In addition, she noted EBRD's efforts at the policy level, such as creating an enabling legal environment to support women entrepreneurs in starting their businesses.

Finally, Dr. Calderone elaborated on EBRD's work at the national level based on the case of Kazakhstan. She introduced umbrella activities that aim to advance gender equality, such as green climate funds and renewable energy programmes. EBRD developed a sectoral roadmap on women's participation, indicating the necessary steps to enhance women's participation at the national level; EBRD also cooperated with ministries and education providers to train women and give them the skills they need to seize opportunities. In particular, EBRD has worked extensively with Kazakhstan's Ministry of Labour to develop occupational standards, support the transition to a green economy and build digital solutions. According to Dr. Calderone, EBRD has made noteworthy efforts in integrating training and skills in Kazakhstan's National Qualification Framework to identify emerging job



opportunities (e.g., security managers for energy firms), set sectoral standards, and assist companies with their recruitment. Notably, through close collaboration with the Ministry of Labour, the ban on women's participation in certain sectors, such as energy and infrastructure, was removed last year, enabling women to enter these high-growth, high-value sectors.

Ms. Tiffany Sprague, UNDP-UNICEF STEM4ALL coordinator, UNDP Regional Hub, shared how STEM4ALL as a centralised “one-stop-shop” facilitates sharing knowledge, raising awareness, and mobilising communities to challenge gender stereotypes in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). She noted that although women's participation in STEM is integral to achieving sustainable transition, women are significantly underrepresented in STEM fields, with a limited number of female STEM researchers, prevalent gender disparity in decision-making roles, and a severe lacking of investment capital for women-led STEM companies. She argued that the STEM4ALL platform helps to address the challenges facing Europe and Central Asia and to transform our societies. Ms. Sprague informed that the platform does so via three main functions. It is a platform where information is shared; it connects like-minded people to share knowledge, create tailored solutions through collaboration, curate events, share successful stories, and encourage networking; it also drives concrete actions, such as the aggregation and creation of events, networks and opportunities to inspire women and girls. She highlighted that as women suffer from underrepresentation in STEM fields, particularly in ICT and engineering, the need to increase female participation in STEM is pressing; the benefits of investing in female participation in STEM extend beyond simple economic empowerment to preventing labour shortage, diversifying talent pools and businesses, building more gender-equal, prosperous and peaceful societies, etc.

According to Ms. Sprague, there are multiple barriers impeding women and girls' entry into STEM fields and their professional development, such as a lack of education, gender stereotypes, and social norms, all of which the STEM4ALL initiative is working to address. UNDP's partnership with UNICEF showcases a good example to mobilise resources and make collective efforts; and the initiative's objectives are four-fold:

- To scale the capacities of the STEM4ALL platform, its STEMInists Network, and existing programmes;
- To dismantle the norms and stereotypes that limit women and girls' options in STEM;
- To remove systematic barriers that prevent women and girls from entering and progressing in STEM;
- To amplify the positive practices and stories of women and girls in STEM and STEM ecosystem enablers.

In addition, Ms. Sprague noted six types of interventions that contribute to women and girls' participation in STEM, including mentorship, entrepreneurship, skilling, research, job placement, and advocacy. She also stressed that the STEM4ALL platform leverages technology to bring together



STEM ecosystem enablers across the regions to share best practices and collaborate across different sectors to close the gender gap in STEM. In addition, Ms. Sprague introduced their work at the global, regional, and sub-regional levels, such as inviting experts to share how to grow professionally in STEM sectors and building partnerships with other UN agencies and units (e.g. UNDP Accelerator Labs) to jointly design and implement initiatives. Moreover, Ms. Sprague underlined that the STEM4ALL platform engages a diverse range of stakeholders and is managed jointly by UNDP and UNICEF. It encompasses four main work streams, communications, research and data, network, and knowledge flow. The platform not only provides users with a holistic view of the gap in women and girls' participation in STEM, but also allows public engagement through training, workshops, knowledge sharing activities, etc. The platform is arranged into multiple sections and includes rich resources to meet the needs of users. Lastly, Ms. Sprague informed that STEM4ALL is an ongoing initiative and the platform is expected to encompass more resources.

Moderated Q&A

Ms. Shreya Kumra, Programme Management Officer, Office of the Deputy Executive Secretary, UNECE moderated this session and thanked all presenters for their contributions. She raised three questions and invited panelists for the discussion.

When asked what can be done to encourage women's leadership in political roles, **Ms. Nargis Azizova, Programme Specialist, UN Women Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia** referred to the practice of Kyrgyzstan. In addition to high political leadership roles, Kyrgyzstan also focuses on women's political participation in local elections. She informed that UN Women Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia has utilised temporary special measures to reduce the gender gap in decision-making processes at all levels. In addition, Ms. Azizova called attention to sectors where women are traditionally underrepresented, and she praised UNDP's practice to encourage women and girls to study STEM. She noted that special grant programmes have enabled youths from rural areas to receive higher education. She highlighted that such simple practices can make a significant difference and benefit not only youths and families, but also countries, because they cultivate women and girls who will be able to work in sectors which were previously lacking female representation. UN Women has contributed to those initiatives and knowledge dissemination. In her last point, Ms. Azizova stressed that much work remains to be done to overcome gender stereotypes in societies where patriarchal norms and standards are still prevalent. She believes it should be a normal practice to involve all sectors of society, especially men and boys, in encouraging and advocating female inclusion.

Dr. Margherita Calderone, Principal Economist, EBRD, responded to the question concerning the challenges and achievements in reducing skill gaps in access to digital and green jobs, as well as stressing the importance of building more inclusive cities and regions. She started with the importance of building a business case for clients on investing in women for a more diversified



workforce. Dr. Calderone noted the positive impacts of integrating women in the labour force and economy on inclusive growth, for both companies and countries. She stated that building a business case gears companies to make commitments and promote activities that advance the objective of gender equality. In addition, she believes that although the challenge lies in raising the awareness of companies that have never worked in that field, it is also an achievement to engage more of them and see their increasing commitment to investing in women. She referred to the growth of the Green Cities Programme, in which few investors used to adopt a gendered lens. Now, every investment encompasses a gendered perspective, and gender equality has been mainstreamed in almost all projects and activities. In addition, the Women in Business Programme in Turkey has celebrated its first decade of implementation, which presents a good business case for investors to invest in women.

Ms. Tiffany Sprague, UNDP-UNICEF STEM4ALL coordinator, UNDP Regional Hub, was invited to share her views on the third question: is the STEM4ALL programme open to parents and was it challenging to get buy-in from students and families in Central Asia? She confirmed that the programme is open for parents and caretakers, and that UNICEF is taking the lead at the regional level in collaborating with country offices that have been working closely with grassroots organisations and CSOs. Meanwhile, Ms. Sprague also believed that parent involvement is not a concern, and she referred to several initiatives and interventions that encourage girls to study STEM. One example is the podcast with the parents of young girls who were winners of a subregional IT competition to share their stories and experiences. She added that these initiatives are becoming increasingly inclusive for parents, and their focus goes beyond awareness raising to parent engagement in the programming itself. At the local level, Ms. Sprague believed that collaborating with people of influence has been instrumental in challenging gendered stereotypes and social norms, as well as positioning STEM learning as an economic empowerment opportunity.

Closing Remarks

Closing remarks were delivered by Ms. Sadagat Gahramanova, Deputy Chairperson of the State Committee for Family, Women and Children's Affairs, Azerbaijan, and Chair of the Thematic Working Group on Gender and SDGs, and Dr. Srinivas Tata, Director, Social Development Division, ESCAP.

Ms. Sadagat Gahramanova, Deputy Chairperson of the State Committee for Family, Women and Children's Affairs, Azerbaijan, and Chair of the Thematic Working Group on Gender and SDGs, thanked all delegates for their participation and reiterated the importance of the meeting's topics. She was convinced the meeting drew some key takeaways that inform participants' day-to-day activities and decision-making processes. She stressed that women's empowerment in the green economy and other principles, such as women's participation in decision-making processes, are crucial because women and girls are not just victims of climate change; they are effective and

influential leaders because of their positions and roles. In addition, she highlighted strengthening women's positions in the agricultural economy and entrepreneurial development can improve their positions in all aspects of life. Ms. Gahramanova also pointed out that such meetings and experience exchange contribute to our work and are indispensable for achieving progress. She concluded that such meetings in the future will provide an opportunity to make specific changes and learn from the best practices of other participants.

Dr. Srinivas Tata, Director, Social Development Division, ESCAP, thanked all participants for their participation and for sharing their knowledge and experience during this Annual Meeting of the SPECA Working Group on Gender and SDGs. He then praised participants for their hard work, their commitment and the priority that they have placed on acknowledging the tremendous importance of implementing gendered-specific policy initiatives to achieving women's full, equal and meaningful participation and decision-making in the context of climate change in SPECA countries. Dr. Tata also reminded participants that these topics – gender equality and climate change – will be discussed at the SPECA Economic Forum next week. He concluded that despite the region's notable efforts and progress, much remains to be done, before reiterating ESCAP's commitment to supporting women's economic empowerment in the region.



Annexes

ANNEX I: Programme

Wednesday 9 November 2022

8:00-8:30	Registration for in-person participants and log-in for virtual participants
Opening of the meeting	
8:30-08:50	<p>Welcome remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Kaveh Zahidi, Deputy Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) • Mr. Dmitry Maryasin, Deputy Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) • Ms. Sadagat Gahramanova, Deputy Chairperson, the State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs, Azerbaijan and Chair of the SPECA Working Group on Gender Equality and SDGs <p>Keynote addresses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Alia Al-Yassir, UN Women Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia • Dr. Anke Stock, Senior Gender Expert and Programmes Coordinator, Women Engage for a Common Future (WECF) <p>Overview of the meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Channe Lindstrøm Oğuzhan, Social Affairs Officer, Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Section, Social Development Division, ESCAP
Policy initiatives and best practices implemented to achieve women's full, equal and meaningful participation and decision-making in the context of climate change	
08:50-10:30	<p>Overview presentation: Ms. Cai Cai, Chief, Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Section, Social Development Division, ESCAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Country presentations (10 minutes each)



	<p><i>Country's representatives are invited for interventions of up to 10 minutes. Full versions of statements, if longer, may be submitted in advance of the meeting and will be annexed to the meeting report</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Azerbaijan - Kyrgyzstan - Turkmenistan <p>Peer learning and sharing of best practices and lessons learned on the thematic priority areas for the Working Group, including policy initiatives and measures implemented to achieve women's full, equal and meaningful participation and decision-making in the context of climate change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion moderated by ESCAP
10:30-10:40	Coffee break
	<p>Group Discussion: Women's economic empowerment in the context of climate change based on gender-transformative policies and opportunities for subregional cooperation and partnership</p>
10:40-12:30	<p>Overview presentation: Ms. Shreya Kumra, Programme Management Officer, Office of the Deputy Executive Secretary, UNECE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrating gender equality and inclusivity in environmental policies and championing participation and leadership of women and girls in shaping climate solutions in the SPECA region in view of the ongoing COP27. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms. Dono Abdurazakova, Regional gender adviser, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) - Ms. Nargis Azizova, Programme Specialist, UN Women Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia - Dr. Margherita Calderone, Principal Economist, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) - Ms. Tiffany Sprague, UNDP-UNICEF STEM4ALL coordinator, UNDP Regional Hub



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion moderated by UNECE
	<p>Closing of the meeting</p>
12:30-12:40	<p>Concluding remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Sadagat Gahramanova, Deputy Chairperson, the State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs, Azerbaijan and Chair of the SPECA Working Group on Gender Equality and SDGs • Dr. Srinivas Tata, Director, Social Development Division, ESCAP



ANNEX II: Speakers' profiles

Mr. Kaveh Zahedi, Deputy Executive Secretary, ESCAP



Mr. Kaveh Zahedi oversees ESCAP's work on social development, environment, and information communications and technology, amongst other sections. Prior to joining ESCAP, Mr. Zahedi was the Regional Director and Representative for Asia and the Pacific as part of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), whereby he oversaw UNEP's technical and policy support programmes, in addition to representing the organisation within the region. Further, he previously served as Deputy Director of UNEP's Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (UNEP-DTIE), and for more than two decades worked in UNEP offices across Kenya, Mexico, UK, France and Thailand. He holds a Masters from the Fletcher School, Tufts University, US, and a first-class Economics and Geography degree from University College London (UCL).

Mr. Dmitry Mariyasin, Deputy Executive Secretary, UNECE



Mr. Dmitry Mariyasin was appointed Deputy Executive Secretary of the UN Economic Commission for Europe on 1 March 2021.

Prior to joining UNECE, Mr. Mariyasin was the Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Armenia (since December 2018, after being Deputy Resident Representative in 2017-2018) leading a team of 120 people. From 2011 till 2016 he was the Regional Partnership Advisor and Team Leader in the UNDP's Bureau for External Relations and Advocacy covering the Europe and the CIS region, based in Istanbul. In this function, he led a team of 20 that supported UNDP's partnerships with new development donors and partners in the region, including strategic partnerships with Czech Republic, Kazakhstan, Romania, Russia and Slovak Republic.



Ms. Sadagat Gahramanova, Deputy Chairperson of the State Committee for Family, Women and Children’s Affairs, Azerbaijan, and Chair of the Thematic Working Group on Gender and SDGs



Ms. Sadagat Gahramanova has been the Deputy Chairperson of the State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan since February 2006. Prior, she was the Deputy Chairman of a Committee for Women Problems, and the Head of the Executive Committee of the city of Aly-Bayramly. She graduated from Ali-Bayramly branch of Baku Evening Oil Technical College as an economist, and received further education in the Baku Higher Party School. She has further been awarded a “Shohrat” medal; an award presented by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Ms. Alia Al-Yassir, UN Women Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia



Alia El-Yassir was appointed as UN Women Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia in September 2018 and in this capacity also serves as UN Women Representative to Turkey. She has been working on gender equality and women’s empowerment within the United Nations system since the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995. She has extensive experience of working as UN Women Representative at country level managing normative, coordination and operational work within complex contexts that span the development, humanitarian and political continuum. She has also served at HQ level supporting UN Women’s global programmatic work. In her country, regional and global roles, she has built strong partnerships with and among diverse groups of stakeholders to advance the rights of women and girls.

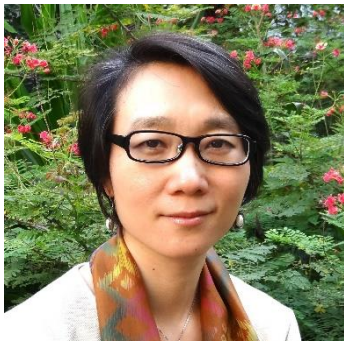
Dr. Anke Stock, Senior Gender Expert and Programmes Coordinator, Women Engage for a Common Future (WECF)



Board member of WECF and the EEB, expert on gender issues in sustainable development, working on projects on women’s empowerment in the Caucasus, Central Asia and Southern Africa, as well as on advocacy on gender equality at EU and UN level. She also has long-standing experience in consulting international organisations, such as the UN, on gender mainstreaming in, i.a., climate change policies, projects and programmes.



Ms. Cai Cai Chief, Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Section, Social Development Division United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)



ESCAP is the largest and most comprehensive United Nations entity in the Asian and Pacific region with a membership of 62 governments. Ms. Cai Cai leads ESCAP's regional programmes on advancing gender equality and women's empowerment as well as disability-inclusive development in Asia-Pacific. She has over 20 years of rich experience with the United Nations at the country, subregional and regional levels, covering a wide range of socioeconomic issues in the larger context of sustainable development.

In addition to gender and disability, she had worked in the areas of youth, ageing, as well as health and development issues. Prior to joining ESCAP, she worked with UNICEF and UNDP, focusing on policy development and advocacy that aimed to empower women and young people as a key strategy for pro-poor growth and sustainable development. Ms. Cai Cai holds a Master's degree in Public Policy from the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, USA.

Ms. Nargis Azizova, Programme Specialist, UN Women Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia



Ms. Nargis Azizova leads the intergovernmental, normative and knowledge management work at UN Women Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia since January 2018 till October 2022. In this capacity she supported the programmatic work in the WPS, EVAW and WEE thematic areas through the normative, partnership and intergovernmental angles. She facilitated the UN Women engagement and contribution to SDGs/BPFA/CEDAW related processes and platforms, including the RRFSD/HLPF, Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), etc.

She facilitated the regional Beijing+25 review process in close partnership with UNECE and leads regional engagement into the Generation Equality initiative starting from 2020. She has a strong experience on partnership with the international and regional development bodies by supporting development and implementation of joint initiatives and actions. She supports engagement with CSOs, including Regional Civil Society Advisory Group, and facilitates CSO partners' contribution to GEWE related processes in priority areas. Prior to her assignment in UN Women ECARO, she worked for UN Women Multi-country Office for Central Asia in Almaty and led the Regional Programme for labour migration in Central Asia, WPS and DRR. She was also supported engagement with CSOs and other stakeholders at the sub-regional level. Nargis worked for more than 20 years at the United



Nations in various capacities, including as Assistant Representative/Programme for UNDP Tajikistan, UNIFEM Gender and Governance Advisor to UNCT in Tajikistan.

Dr. Margherita Calderone, Principal Economist, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)



Margherita Calderone is a Principal Economist in the EBRD's Gender and Economic Inclusion team. She leads its work on the power and energy and natural resources sectors, including under EBRD's Just Transition Initiative, focusing on projects that create equitable access to skills and employment for all. She has 13 years of work experience in the design, implementation and monitoring of multi-partner inclusion, gender and development programmes across a range of emerging economies. Previously, she worked for the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) in London, and prior to that for the World Bank in the Education Global Practice. She holds a PhD in Development Economics from Humboldt University in Berlin.

Ms. Tiffany Sprague, UNDP-UNICEF STEM4ALL coordinator, UNDP Regional Hub



platform.

Over the last 20+ years, Tiffany has had the great fortune to experience work in both the corporate and nonprofit sectors tackling a diverse range of social issues in the US, Europe and Central Asia: governance, entrepreneurship, gender mainstreaming STEM education and careers for girls and women, and the utility of tech for good. She has worked in program design and development for various nonprofits, co-founded non-profit Scientific Adventures for Girls, and currently works with Gender Team at the United Nations Development Programme in Istanbul coordinating the STEM4ALL





ANNEX III: List of participants

Azerbaijan

Ms. Sadagat Gahramanova, Deputy Chairperson, The State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs, Hajibayli 80, Government House, Baku, AZ 1000, Baku, Azerbaijan, E-mail: zahida.israfilova182@gmail.com

Ms. Solmaz Bayramova, Senior advisor, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, B.Aghayev str. 100 A, Baku, Azerbaijan, E-mail: solmaz.chingizqizi@gmail.com

Ms. Zahida Israfilova, Advisor of the Foreign Relations and Protocol Services Department, The State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs, Hajibayli 80, Government House, Baku, AZ 1000, Baku, Azerbaijan, E-mail: zahida.israfilova182@gmail.com

Farid Adilov, Head of International Relations Department, The State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs, Hajibayli 80, Government House, Baku, AZ 1000, Baku, Azerbaijan

Kyrgyzstan

Ms. Gulmira Okoeva, Head of the Gender Policy and Domestic Violence Protection Coordination Department of the Ministry of Labour, Social Welfare and Migration of the Kyrgyz Republic

Turkmenistan

Mr. Batyr Orazow, Deputy Director, The Institute of state, law and democracy of Turkmenistan, 86th building, 2022th street, Ashgabat city, Turkmenistan, E-mail: hukuk@instsld.gov.tm

Ministry of Finance and Economy, Bldg. 156, Archabil Avenue, Ashgabat, Turkmenistan

Resource Persons

Dr. Margherita Calderone, Principal Economist, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), 5 Bank St, London E14 4BG, United Kingdom, E-mail: calderom@ebrd.com

Ms. Tiffany Sprague, Gender Specialist, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Milletstraat 26-2, Amsterdam, Netherlands, E-mail: tiffany.sprague@undp.org

Ms. Alia Al-Yassir, Regional Director, The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), Europe and Central Asia, Abide-I Hürriyet Cad. İstiklal Sok. No: 11 Key Plaza Kat:8 34381, Turkey, E-mail: alia.elyassir@unwomen.org

Ms. Nargis Azizova, Programme Specialist, The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia, Abide-i Hürriyet Cad. İstiklal Sok. No:11 KEY Plaza Kat:8 34381 Şişli, Turkey, E-mail: nargis.azizova@unwomen.org

Dr. Anke Stock, Senior Gender Expert and Programmes Coordinator, Women Engage for a Common Future (WECF), St.-Jakobs-Platz 10, 80331 Munich, Germany, E-mail: anke.stock@wecf.org

Secretariat

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

Mr. Dmitry Maryasin, Deputy Executive Secretary, UNECE, Palais des Nations, Geneva, E-mail: dmitry.mariyasin@un.org

Ms. Shreya Kumra, Programme Management Officer, Office of the Deputy Executive Secretary, UNECE, Palais des Nations, Geneva, E-mail: shreya.kumra@un.org

Ms. Mia Alibegovic, JPO in Economic Affairs, UNECE, Palais des Nations, Geneva, E-mail: mia.alibegovic@un.org

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)

Mr Kaveh Zahidi, Deputy Executive Secretary, UNESCAP, Bangkok, E-mail: zahedi@un.org

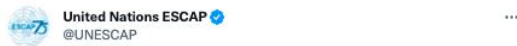
Dr. Srinivas Tata, Director, Social Development Division, UNESCAP, Bangkok, E-mail: tatas@un.org

Ms. Cai Cai, Section Chief, Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Section, Social Development Division, UNESCAP, Bangkok, E-mail: caic@un.org

Ms. Channe Lindstrom Oguzhan, Social Affairs Officer, Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Section, Social Development Division, UNESCAP, Bangkok, E-mail: lindstromoguzhan@un.org

Ms. Raphaëlle Berliat, Individual Contractor, Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Section, Social Development Division, UNESCAP, Bangkok, E-mail: raphaelle.berliat@un.org

ANNEX IV: Social media engagement



Women's engagement in climate change decision-making must be valued & supported in [#CentralAsia](#). Find out more at the [#SPECA](#) working group on [#gender](#) & [#GlobalGoals](#) - jointly with [@UNECE](#) - TODAY!

bit.ly/3DAwQRO [#SDG5](#) [#GenderEquality](#)



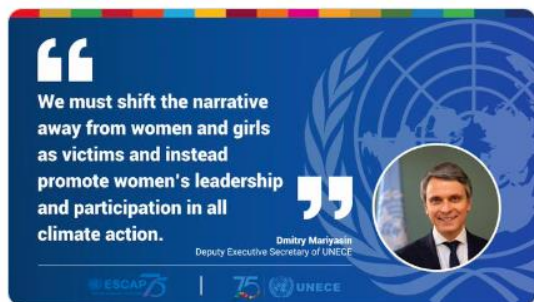
3:00 AM · 9 nov. 2022 · Buffer



UNECE's Deputy Executive Secretary [@DMariyasin](#) delivered his welcome remarks at the Annual Meeting of the SPECA Working Group on [#gender](#) and [#GlobalGoals](#) [#SDG5](#) just now!

For more information bit.ly/SPECA-Gender

[#GenderEquality](#) [#COP27](#)



United Nations ESCAP et 9 autres personnes

10:31 AM · 9 nov. 2022 · Twitter Web App



Powerful message from Anke Stock [@WECF_INT](#) at today's Annual Meeting of the SPECA Working Group on [#gender](#) and [#GlobalGoals](#) [#SDG5](#)

Find out more bit.ly/SPECA-Gender



United Nations ESCAP et 9 autres personnes

5:22 PM · 9 nov. 2022 · Twitter Web App



Women's environmental leadership & decision making is critical to finding innovative ways to address [#climatechange](#), the biggest crisis of our times.

Solutions are being discussed at the [#SPECA](#) meeting on [#gender](#) & [#SDGs](#) with [@UNESCAP](#)

bit.ly/SPECA-Gender

[#COP27](#)



Armida Alisjahbana et 9 autres personnes

9:40 AM · 9 nov. 2022 · Twitter Web App

UN Women Europe & CIS @unwomeneca · 9 nov.
 En réponse à @unwomeneca @UNECE et 16 autres personnes
 @UN_Women Policy Specialist @NargisAzizova insisted on transparent and inclusive decision-making and investment in gender-responsive climate action to overcome the climate crisis in Central Asia, at the Annual Meeting of the SPECA Working Group, hosted by @UNECE & @UNESCAP.



nargis.azizova@unwomen.org et 2 autres personnes

D **Dmitry Mariyasin** @DmitryMariyasin · 9 nov.
 A resilient future is only possible by addressing the gendered impacts of climate change and strengthening women's leadership in #climateaction:

Join us now to discuss #Gender & #SDGs at @UNESCAP @UNECE #SPECA meeting: bit.ly/SPECA-Gender



4 3

Channe Lindstrom Oguzhan @UN_Channe · 9 nov.
 With many thanks to able chairwomanship by @AileQadinUsaq - #SPECA agenda driven forward on #ClimateAction and #GenderEquality

#COP27 #SDG5



United Nations ESCAP et 7 autres personnes

UN Women Europe & CIS @unwomeneca · 9 nov.
 En réponse à @UNECE @DMariyasin et 10 autres personnes
 Speaking at the Thematic Working Group on Gender & #SDGs of the UN Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA), our Regional Director @elyassir_alia called for greater investment in social care and gender-responsive budgeting & financing. @UNECE | @UNESCAP



UN in Azerbaijan et 8 autres personnes

Kaveh Zahedi @donkaveh1 · 9 nov.
 “The climate crisis is a human rights crisis—and a women's rights crisis” said UN Chief @antonioguterres. Our #SPECA Working Group today looking at how to support women & girls in Central Asia as change makers & leaders for #ClimateAction. #COP27 #SDG5 bit.ly/SPECA-Gender



SONCA_ESCAP @sonca_escap · 10 nov.
 Countries & partners gather this week under #SPECA - supported by @UNECE and @UNESCAP- to advance #GenderEquality in the context of climate change: bit.ly/SPECA-Gender

#SDG5
 #SustainableDevelopment
 #ForPeopleForPlanet



United Nations ESCAP et 9 autres personnes

1 2



Srinivas Tata
@SrinivasTata

#Women are powerful leaders and change-makers for climate adaptation, and their participation results in more effective climate actions.

Find out more at @UNESCAP @UNECE's Annual Meeting of the SPECA Working Group on #gender and #GlobalGoals #SDG5: bit.ly/SPECA-Gender

[Traduire le Tweet](#)



United Nations ESCAP et 5 autres personnes

3:43 AM · 9 nov. 2022 · Twitter Web App



Channe Lindström Oguzhan
@UN_Channe

We must empower #women to have a voice and be equal players in decision-making related to climate change and sustainability. Without #GenderEquality today, a sustainable and equal future remains beyond our reach.

Learn more here: bit.ly/SPECA-Gender

#SDG5

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