

CHAIRPERSON'S CONCLUSIONS

On the eve of the thirtieth anniversary of CEDAW and as part of the Beijing +15 review, ECE member States renew their commitment to the eradication of all forms of discrimination against women and girls that restrict their full participation in development processes. Member States emphasize that the achievement of gender equality is an essential condition for sustainable economic growth, and reaffirm the centrality of gender equality for the universal achievement of all Millennium Development Goals. In this context, member States welcome the forthcoming United Nations gender entity and call for its prompt establishment including at country level.

1. As regards the ECE region, priority fields for action in the past five years have been:
 - (a) legislation to address gender-based violence, including domestic violence and trafficking;
 - (b) women in the economy, mainly through narrowing the gap between female and male employment rates and adopting specific measures to combat women's poverty; and
 - (c) the development and strengthening of national mechanisms for gender equality and women's empowerment.
2. Notable progress has been achieved in most countries regarding:
 - (a) women's participation in the labour market;
 - (b) women's political participation at local levels;
 - (c) new and/or strengthened legislation on gender-based violence, including domestic violence;
 - (d) institutional mechanisms on gender equality and women's empowerment.
3. The challenges most frequently mentioned included:
 - (a) the gap between legislation and implementation;
 - (b) decent work for women and measures to counteract labour market segregation;
 - (c) the gender pay gap;
 - (d) the situation of migrant women and women belonging to minority groups, who

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.

