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COMMITTEE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND  
ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

Working Party on Industry and Enterprise Development

**Third Meeting of the Team of Specialists on Women's Entrepreneurship**

Geneva, Switzerland, 19 March 2003

**SUMMARY REPORT**

1. The third meeting of the Team of Specialists (TOS) on Women's Entrepreneurship was held at the Palais de Nations, Geneva on 19 March 2003.
2. It was attended by 24 TOS members. Regrets for not being able to participate in the third meeting were sent to the TOS Secretary by: Ms. M. Gannon (Chair), Ms. R. Dolev (Deputy Chair) and Ms. S. Iskakova (Deputy Chair) as well as Ms. S. Fogel, Ms. E. Lisowska, Ms. L. Mandicova, Ms. A. Putnova, Ms. C. Schreiber and Ms. R. Stoica.
3. The meeting was also attended by invited guests, who participated in the Forum on Women Entrepreneurs.
4. In the absence of the Chair and two Deputy Chairs the meeting was chaired by Mr. A. Fiddamann, Chair of Sub-Committee on projects and best practices.
5. Here follows the summary of the discussion by agenda items:
  - 5.1. Information on the Fourth session of the Working Party on Industry and Enterprise Development (WP.8);

Mr. George Kowalski, Director of the UNECE Industrial Restructuring, Energy and Enterprise Development Division (IREEDD), informed TOS members that the Working Party on Industry and Enterprise Development (WP.8), at its Fourth Session held on 13-14 February 2003, Palais des Nations, Geneva, extended the mandate of TOS of women entrepreneurship for one year (until February 2004). He also presented the work programme of WP.8 and its relationship with IREED. The latter is a new division at UNECE, created from the Energy Division and activities of the Coordination Unit for Operational Activities related to industrial restructuring, enterprise development and ICT. He positively evaluated the results of the Second Forum of Women Entrepreneurs, held on 17-18 March 2003 but underlined the need to increase the participation of Government representatives and mainstreaming women's concerns into the traditional networks supporting business activities, such as Chambers of Commerce. The TOS as well as the W.P8 could play positive role in this respect. Mr Kowalski stressed also that attracting donors and more cooperation among women's business associations, Governments and other stakeholders are key conditions to promote women's entrepreneurship.

5.2. Information on the Progress Report of TOS 2001-2002 submitted to the WP.8 and the work of sub-committees on projects and best practices and networks;

Information on the Progress Report of TOS for 2001-2002 submitted to the WP.8 was resented by Ms. E. Ruminska-Zimny, TOS Secretary. She underlined the role of the TOS Chair, Ms. M. Gannon and Deputy-Chairs, Ms. R. Dolev and Ms. S. Iskakova in progress achieved. She also pointed out that the Chair and a number of TOS members contributed to the new UNECE publication " Women's entrepreneurship in Eastern Europe and CIS countries". Mr. A. Fiddamann reported on the work of sub-committee on best practices and projects. Its main achievement was the preparation of selection criteria and standard format for project documents (contribution of Ms. Ronit Dolev). Overall, however, he said, the progress was slow due to the lack of funding and communication problems between the members of the sub-committee. As by his knowledge the situation was similar in the second sub-committee on networks (the Chair of the sub-committee on networks was not present at the meeting).

5.3. Election of TOS officials for 2003;

The following officials were elected for the period of March 2003-February 2004: Chair: Mr. A. Fiddamann, Director, The Prince of Wales International Business Leaders Forum (UK) and Deputy –Chair: Ms. Elzbieta Raciniewska, Senior Specialist, Ministry of Economy, Labour and Social Affairs (Poland). The newly elected Chair expressed his thanks to the former TOS Chair and Deputy –Chairs and hopes that they would continue to be actively involved in TOS work.

5.4. Discussion of the work programme;

The Chair pointed out at the need to establish a realistic work plan, which could be implemented by TOS members within the existing resources. The need for more focused work was underlined in the context of diversity of the situation of women entrepreneurs in countries and sub-regions. It was proposed to put on hold two committees until further decisions are taken

and reorganize the work around the follow –up to the Second Forum through the organization of sub-regional and national events, in-depth analysis of the needs of women entrepreneurs and preparation of relevant policy recommendations. Problems of data collection were presented by Ms. Hrund Gunnsteinsdottir (UNECE Statistical Division), who said that in many countries enterprises were not registered and there existed different methodologies for data collection. It was agreed that TOS should be more active in this area and should work in cooperation with the UNECE Working Group on Gender Statistics. The ultimate objective should be to prepare methodology and data collection systems for interested countries.

The issue of training for women entrepreneurs was discussed. It was noted that the lessons from a CEI pilot training project, organized by the Governments of Italy and Austria in cooperation with UNECE and IMO (November 2002), provided a good starting point to develop TOS activities in the area of training. The representative of UNDP pointed out that there was a possibility to cooperate in organizing such training with UNDP country offices as well as using their training materials on gender and economy issues (in Russian and in English). Attention was drawn to the fact that methodology for evaluation criteria and projects proposals should be used for all projects presented by TOS members.

It was also proposed to send the final report from the Second Forum to governments in order to raise their awareness of problems of women entrepreneurs.

#### 5.5. Adoption of the work plan for 2003.

It was agreed to include into the work plan for 2003 the organization of a sub-regional Round Table on “Women entrepreneurs in a Wider Europe” (November 2003, Warsaw), launching the preparatory process to organize a sub-regional Forum of Women Entrepreneurs in central Asia (Uzbekistan, 2004), prepare inputs to the UNECE publication “Access to financing and ICT for women entrepreneurs”, explore the possibility to publish the profiles from the UNECE Gallery of Excellent Women Entrepreneurs as well as prepare a background paper presenting the existing methodologies and data related to women’s entrepreneurship by sub-regions. The revised work programme of TOS is presented in the Annex 1.

In order to implement these tasks it was agreed to establish four initiative groups (Russia; Belarus and Ukraine; Central Asia; South Caucasus) and two thematic groups (training; statistics).

#### Sub-regional Initiative Groups

Belarus and Ukraine :	Co-ordinators: <u>Ms. O. Apatenko</u> (Ukraine) and <u>Ms.G. Pidkamina</u> (Ukraine)
Russia:	Coordinator: <u>Ms. O.Politova</u> (Russia)
Central Asia:	Coordinator: <u>Ms. Z. Tukhtakhodjaeva</u> (Uzbekistan)
South Caucasus:	Coordinator: <u>The Initiative Group for the South Caucasus</u>

Thematic Groups

Training and

Human resources

Data and statistics

Coordinator: Ms. I. I. Vanore-Speer (Switzerland)

Coordinator: Ms. Hrunn Gunnsteinsdottir (UNECE)

**PROGRAMME OF WORK  
TEAM OF SPECIALISTS ON WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEURSHIP  
2003**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event/ Project</b>	<b>Organizer/Project Leader</b>
21 November 2003	Round Table « Women entrepreneurs in a Wider Europe » at the CEI Economic Forum, Warsaw, Poland	TOS Secretary in cooperation with TOS officials and sub-regional group on Belarus and Ukraine (O. Apatenko/ G. Pidkamina) and Russia
21 November 2003	Fourth meeting of TOS, Warsaw, Poland	TOS Secretary and TOS officials
April 2003 - February 2004	Establishing organizational committee, draft concept, programme, dates and place of the sub-regional Forum of Women Entrepreneurs in central Asia (Uzbekistan, 2004)	Initiative Group for central Asia coordinator: <u>Z. Tukhtakhodjaeva</u> in cooperation with TOS officials and TOS Secretary
April 2003-September 2003	Publication "Access to financing and ICT for women entrepreneurs"	TOS Secretary
April 2003-February 2004	Background review of the existing methodologies and data related to women's entrepreneurship by sub-regions; contacts with national statistical offices; work of experts	<u>Ms.Hrund Gunnsteinsdottir</u> (UNECE), UNECE working Group on Gender Statistics, TOS members in cooperation with TOS Secretary
April 2003-February 2004	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Analysis of Training Needs and Capacity (TNCA) in selected sub-regions;</li> <li>2) Development of training activities based on results of TNCA and the experiences of the CEI training course (2002) and its follow-up in 2003, in cooperation with CEI and interested Governments</li> </ol>	Initiative Group on Human resources and training Coordinator: <u>Ms.I.I.Vanore-Speer</u> in cooperation with TOS officials and TOS Secretary
June-December 2003	Explore the possibility to organize a joint Round Table with the International Trade Center at the WSIS (10-12 December 2003) on « E :facilitated trade and women entrepreneurs »	TOS Secretary in cooperation with TOS officials and Group coordinators