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BEIJING +15 REGIONAL REVIEW MEETING

Geneva, 2-3 November 2009

**ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE
BEIJING +15 REGIONAL REVIEW MEETING**

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
starting at 10 a.m. on Monday, 2 November 2009

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
4. Regional review of progress.
5. Gender-sensitive economic policies in the context of the economic and financial crisis.
6. Gender and the corporate sector.
7. New partnerships, networks, and alliances for gender equality.
8. Chairperson's conclusions.

II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1: Opening of the session

1. The meeting will be opened by the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE).

Item 2: Election of officers

2. The meeting will elect a chairperson and three vice-chairpersons from the different parts of the ECE region.

Item 3: Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

3. Following adoption of the agenda, the Chairperson will provide information on the organization of work.

Item 4: Regional review of progress

4. This item will enable ECE member States to highlight and discuss achievements and challenges in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action (1995) and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (2000).

5. The session will cover key aspects of progress and setbacks, issues of concern, policy highlights and challenges. While participants will be encouraged to focus on economic aspects, this session will also provide an opportunity to refer to other areas of the Beijing Platform for Action.

Documentation: Two notes by the secretariat based on the national responses to the United Nations questionnaire sent to Governments: Regional synthesis (ECE/AC.28/2009/3), and Achievements and challenges in promoting gender equality in the ECE region by country (ECE/AC.28/2009/4).

Item 5: Gender-sensitive economic policies in the context of the economic and financial crisis

6. Discussion under this agenda item will focus on risks and opportunities for gender equality in the context of the current financial crisis. It will also consider longer term challenges presented by demographic trends and the need to incorporate a gender dimension into new development strategies. Its purpose will be to identify key issues related to gender-sensitive responses to the crisis (such as “rescue” packages) and policies aimed at reviving economic growth and improving economic governance in the longer term.

7. Issues to be addressed include: the differentiated impact of the economic and financial crisis on women and men; gender-sensitive public finance and gender budgets; gender-sensitive policies in the areas of employment, pensions, health care provisions, and other social protection schemes; gender implications of ageing; gender aspects of migration; innovative ways to reconcile

work and family responsibilities; use of a “smart economics” approach to gender equality in Europe; and the role of the United Nations and other international players, in particular international financial institutions (IFIs) in promoting gender-sensitive economic policies and measures addressing the crisis.

Documentation: A note by the secretariat on Gender-sensitive economic policies in the context of the economic and financial crisis (ECE/AC.28/2009/5).

Item 6: Gender and the corporate sector

8. The current financial crisis has drawn attention to the private sector and its role in development. In this context a discussion on gender aspects of corporate sector is timely. Discussion under this agenda item will focus on progress in women’s position and good practices in promoting gender equality in the corporate sector – both voluntary measures at the level of the firm and government regulation.

9. It will address such issues as quotas in corporate boards, gender aspects of corporate social responsibility and its potential impact on good governance of private enterprises.

Documentation: A note by the secretariat on Gender and the corporate sector (ECE/AC.28/2009/6).

Item 7: New partnerships, networks, and alliances for gender equality

10. The implementation of gender-sensitive economic policy requires new partnerships, networks and alliances between national machineries, economic and social line ministries, international organizations, social partners, and civil society.

11. Issues to be addressed under this agenda item will include advantages and challenges to establish new partnerships, “how to do it”, possibly illustrated by good practices; diversity of possible alliances and partnerships for example between national gender machineries, ministries of economy and finance and other line ministries; the involvement of trade unions and employer organizations in new partnerships; the key role of civil society organizations in promoting and setting up new alliances; the role of regional offices of United Nations organizations (such as the United Nations Development Organization and United Nations Development Fund for Women), regional organizations (such as the Council of Europe), subregional organizations and initiatives (such as the United Nations Special Programme for Economies of Central Asia and the Regional Cooperation Council for South-East Europe), as well as the role of the broad platform provided by the European Union Neighbourhood Policy.

Documentation: A note by the secretariat on New partnerships, networks, and alliances for gender equality (ECE/AC.28/2009/7).

Item 8: Chairperson’s conclusions

12. The Chairperson will present conclusions from the meeting.
