



ONLINE INFORMATION SESSION



UNECE



# RE-TOOLING FOR SUSTAINABILITY

**19 MARCH 2020**  
**8:30 - 9:45 CET**

WEBEX CONNECTION DETAILS: [LINK](#)

MEETING PASSWORD: PgrjTw64ww8

AUDIO CONNECTION: + 41 43 456 9566 SWITZERLAND TOLL

[GLOBAL CALL-IN NUMBERS](#)

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## About The Session

The session will showcase good practices in how national governments, local authorities (e.g. cities) and communities, and other stakeholders successfully contextualized and ensured the uptake of gender-responsive standards in the economic, social and environmental spheres, with a view to contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Participants will share their experience in ensuring women's equitable participation and leadership in decision-making at all levels.

The session is co-organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), and UN Women Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia, with the support of the Mission of the Federal Republic of Germany in Geneva.

## Background

Standards can support the uptake of resource-saving products and technologies, assist organizations in reporting on their commitments, and integrate an inclusive decision-making process, which empowers all stakeholders. They can help scale-up technological innovation and are at the very basis of increased competitiveness and economic progress: the full potential of standardization for the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is neither fully understood nor harnessed.

In 2016, UNECE and its Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies (WP.6) launched the Gender-Responsive Standards Initiative as part of the activities on "Standards for SDGs". The initiative aims to strengthen the use of standards and technical regulations as powerful tools to attain SDG 5 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls), integrate a gender lens in the development of both standards and technical regulations, as well as elaborate gender indicators and criteria that could be used in standards development.

*Note: As the Coronavirus COVID-19 is a growing concern internationally, this session – previously intended to be a Side Event to the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development – is now being convened online.*

## OBJECTIVES:

- Highlight the contribution of consensus-based standards to the implementation of Agenda 2030 and specifically SDG 5
- Share best practice in developing and implementing gender responsive standards and tracking progress on the contribution of Standards to the SDGs
- Spearhead the uptake of resource-saving products and technologies that are gender-responsive by design, by engaging with national, regional and international standards bodies
- Identify bottlenecks and opportunities for women's full and effective participation in decision-making and for policy-makers uptake of international, regional and national standards.

## PARTICIPANTS

This information session is relevant for policymakers (Ministries of Economic Development/Social Affairs/Trade/Finance/Environment/Labour and local administrations),

business associations, standards developing organizations, civil society and academia with an interest on sustainable development, including by achieving women's empowerment and gender equality.

## SDG LINKAGES

Gender responsive standards contribute to the implementation of several SDGs and Targets, including: SDG 5, SDG 8, SDG 9, SDG 11, SDG 12, and SDG 13.



## AGENDA

### 8:30 - 8:40 OPENING AND INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Olga Algayerova	Executive Secretary, UNECE
Alia El-Yassir	Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia, UN Women

### 8:40 - 8:55 "THE DECLARATION ON GENDER RESPONSIVE STANDARDS: HOW IT WAS DEVELOPED, WHAT IS ITS IMPACT"

*Moderated by Elisabeth Tuerk, Director, Economic Cooperation and Trade Division, UNECE*

Stephanie Eynon	Chair, UNECE Gender Responsive Standards Initiative	Standards for gender equality
Andrijana Velevska	State Advisor for Rural Development, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy, North Macedonia	Standards for women empowerment in rural communities

### 8:55 - 9:05 WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM VIRTUAL ATTENDEES AND ANSWERS FROM THE PANEL

### 9:05 - 9:25 "STANDARDS FOR THE SDGs: DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING AN SDG TOOLBOX",

*Moderated by Lorenza Jachia, Secretary, Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies (WP. 6), UNECE*

Bilel Jamoussi	Chief, Study Groups Department, ITU Standardization Bureau	Mitigating gender bias in artificial intelligence
Sibylle Gabler	Director, Government Relations, Standards Body of Germany (DIN e.V.)	Standards for better and agile regulation (Joint Initiative on Standardization)
Justin Wilkes	Executive Director, European Environmental Citizen's Organisation for Standardisation (ECOS)	Inclusiveness in standards-setting as a tool to address and mitigate climate change

### 9:25 - 9:35 WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM ATTENDEES AND ANSWERS FROM THE PANEL

### 9:35 - 9:40 CONCLUDING REMARKS BY LORENZA JACHIA