

AGENDA – ANNOTATED WITH QUESTIONS

Third OSCE Gender Equality Review Conference

Date: 27 – 28 October, 2020

Venue: Zoom

English/Russian simultaneous interpretation as well as International Sign Language interpretation will be provided.

Please note that the following schedule is based on Vienna time (CET)

Tuesday, 27 October 2020

13:00 – 14:00

High Level Opening

This session will focus on the link between the OSCE’s unique concept of comprehensive security and its multiple commitments on gender equality, setting the stage for the Conference’s subsequent discussions. It will also introduce the topics of the working sessions, stressing the importance of discussing concrete outcomes, and offer an opportunity to reflect on emerging issues.

Opening remarks:

- **Sauli Niinistö**, President of Finland (*video message*)
- **Ogerta Manastirliu**, Minister of Health and Social Protection of Albania (*video message*)
- **Ambassador Kelley Currie**, Ambassador-at –Large for Global Women’s Issues
- **Asa Regner**, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director UN Women
- **Ambassador Tuula Yrjölä**, Officer-in-Charge/Secretary General, Director of the OSCE Conflict Prevention Center, Deputy Head of the OSCE Secretariat
- **Katarzyna Gardapkhadze**, First Deputy Director/Director’s Alternate of ODIHR

Moderator: **Ambassador Igli Hasani**, Chairperson of the OSCE Permanent Council, Permanent Representative of Albania to the OSCE

14:00 – 15:30	Review of Implementation OSCE Commitments
	<p><i>This forward-looking session will assess progress, gaps, opportunities and possible steps toward new OSCE commitments to gender equality.</i></p> <p><u>Questions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What progress has been achieved? Did disadvantaged groups of women also benefit from this progress? How can we more effectively include groups facing multiple forms of discrimination? - How can we ensure that our gender equality interventions are more cross dimensional? <p><u>Moderator:</u> Ambassador Clemens Koja, Head of the OSCE Mission to Skopje</p> <p><u>Speakers:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ambassador Melanne Verwee, Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Gender Issues 2. Amarsanaa Darisuren, Senior Gender Adviser, OSCE Secretariat Gender Issues Programme
15.30 - 16:00	Break
16:00 – 17:30	Session: Women’s Participation in Political and Public Life
	<p><i>This session will assess progress made in improving women’s representation and influence in parliaments and political parties, highlighting good practices for transforming institutions, addressing violence against women in politics, and engaging men on gender equality in politics.</i></p> <p><u>Moderator:</u> Ajla van Heel Merdanovic, ODIHR Gender Adviser</p> <p><u>Speakers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dr Hedy Fry, Special Representative on Gender Issues of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, Member of Parliament of Canada - Senator Tanzila Narbaeva, Chairperson of the Senate of the Oily Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan - Dr Damir Arnaut, Member of the House of Representatives of the Bosnia and Herzegovina’s Parliamentary Assembly and member of parliamentary Gender Equality Committee

Questions:

- What are the main challenges and barriers to women’s participation in political and public life in the OSCE region? How can we move beyond gender-balance quantitative measures to ensure that women have genuine influence in politics and decision-making bodies?
- How can we transform democratic institutions to be more gender- sensitive and inclusive? How would this benefit whole societies?
- How can we foster stronger political will towards gender parity in politics? In order to achieve this goal, should we consider new strategic partnerships, for example with male leaders and allies, women’s and youth organizations, or even with the private sector?
- What good practices can advance political participation of traditionally under-represented groups, such as women belonging to minorities, especially Roma and Sinti, young women, migrant women or women with disabilities?
- What strategies are effective in addressing violence against women in public life, including online violence?

Wednesday, 28 October

9:00 – 10:30 Session: Women’s Participation in the Security Sector

This session will identify best practices and formulate recommendations for achieving institutional change in security sector institutions (SSIs), including the armed forces.

Questions:

- What more can be done to increase women’s meaningful participation in SSIs beyond increasing their numbers?
- What benefits does having a gender-sensitive and inclusive institutional culture bring to operational effectiveness?
- What are the key elements and windows of opportunity that can bring about changes in institutional culture?
- How to move from good actions by individual leaders to institutionalized approaches? How to make institutional change a positive process?

Moderator: **Lt. Col. Lena Kvarving**, Norwegian Armed Forces, Gender Adviser/OSCE

Speakers:

- **Callum Watson**, Project Coordinator, DCAF Gender and Security Division
- **Nino Lomjaria**, The Public Defender (Ombudsperson) of Georgia
- **Mimi Kodheli**, Chairperson of the Committee for Foreign Policy, Albanian Parliament

10:30 – 11:00 Break

11:00 – 12:30 Session: Women's Economic Empowerment

This session will focus on the major obstacles to women's economic participation, particularly in the context of the current pandemic, and will highlight means to overcome them.

Questions:

- Status and challenges in achieving gender equality in economic participation (incl. unpaid domestic work, violence against women, occupational segregation)?
- Reasons for the gender gap in digitalization?
- How does the COVID-19 pandemic impact women's participation in economic life?

Moderator: **Ambassador John McGregor**, OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan

Speakers:

- **Carlien Scheele**, Director of the European Institute for Gender Equality
- **Žydrūnė Vitaitė**, Co-founder of „Women Go Tech” (Lithuania)
- **Lazzat Ramzanova**, Chair of the National Commission for Women, Family and Demographic Policy under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan

12:30 - 13:00 Break

13:00 – 13:30 Closing and Recommendations for Future Action

The closing session will review the preliminary conclusions and recommendations for action proposed in the preceding sessions. Speakers will highlight potential next steps for the implementation of the 2004 OSCE Gender Action Plan.

Moderator: Ambassador Luca Fratini, Director, Office of the OSCE Secretary General

Speakers:

- **Ambassador Igli Hasani**, Chairperson of the OSCE Permanent Council, Permanent Representative of Albania to the OSCE
- **Ambassador Ulrika Funered**, Permanent Representative of Sweden to the OSCE
- **İlayda Eskitaşçioğlu**, Member of the UN Women’s Generation Equality Youth task force
- **Bernhard Gollob**, founder, HeForShe Graz (Austria)

The GERC conference was supported as part of the OSCE Extra-budgetary project "WIN for women and men – strengthening comprehensive security through innovating and networking for gender equality" by Austria, Finland, Norway and Slovakia.