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European Bank
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International conference:
“GENDER EQUALITY FOR SUSTAINABLE SOCIETY”

Concept Note and Conference Program

“Codru” Hotel, Chisinau, Moldova

First edition, 20 November 2012

Background

While the Moldovan Government adopted a legal framework on Equality of Opportunities between Women and Men and a programme on Gender Equality 2010-2015, discrimination against women is present throughout the society. Since the adoption of the law in 2007, no single case was brought before the national courts regarding gender based-discrimination. Statistical evidence shows that women are significantly under-represented in the National Parliament, in local decision-making bodies, in the associative sector and business. Paternalistic approaches also prevail in family life and in the society.

Goal and objectives of the conference

The goal of the conference is to promote gender equality in the society, politics and decision-making, public sector and business.

The conference is structured around three thematic sessions, as follows:

- *Gender equality in the society*

This session seeks to identify sustainable solutions for strengthening gender equality in the society. Experts with practical experience in prevention of domestic violence, education, social protection, civil society will share their views about problems and challenges in these areas and approaches to improve the situation. The participants will consider proposed solutions in a participatory manner.

- *Women participation in political process and public service*

This session seeks to formulate recommendations at policy and institutional level in order to strengthen women participation in politics and political process. Participants will consider the current situation and practices regarding participation and representation of women in the political process and public sector. Speakers will present their own experience regarding the efforts undertaken and challenges faced to advance in politics and/or public sector. Based on the findings, participants will seek to identify corresponding recommendations at policy and institutional level for various actors, including Parliament, Central and local Government, civil society, justice sector actors, media.

- *Women in business: realities, experiences, trends*

This session seeks to raise awareness on the women economic potential and articulate problems and strategies for empowering women to advance in the business and entrepreneurial sectors. The session will begin by reviewing the current situation, opportunities and barriers regarding the participation and advancement of women in business. Women who excelled in the business sector will share with the audience their experience including key success factors and challenges. Subsequently, participants will consider the growing women's role in economic development and formulate potential actions for increasing business and entrepreneurial opportunities for women.

Participants

The conference will be attended by Government officials, Gender Focal Points, representatives of business community, local governments, NGOs, independent experts, media and development partners.

Methodology

The one-day event consists of three plenary sessions. Each session will comprise presentations from officials, resource persons and thematic experts followed by questions, answers, discussions. The presentations are intended to inform and facilitate discussions.

Outcome document

Based on the recommendations from the Conference and the subsequent deliberations, the organizers will present the outline (key recommendations) for a conference outcome document. A final version of this document will be sent out to all participants after the conference.

Resource persons

The resource persons are national and international experts in the area of gender equality, human rights, public service, business, civil society.

Role of Moderator:

- *To explain the overall objective of the session;*
- *To ensure timeliness of session;*
- *To coordinate closely with keynote speakers;*
- *To ensure capturing of key good practices and recommendations.*

Conference languages

During the conference simultaneous translation from/to English-Romanian-Russian will be provided.

Conference organizing committee

Silvia Radu, Ingrid Tersman, Marie Moser, Nina Orlova, Sorin Mereacre, Andrei Brighidin, Carolina Blajin, Veronica Arpintin, Jennifer Griffith, Natia Cherkezishvili, Alexei Buzu, Olga Melniciuc, Daniela Terzi-Barbăroșie, Angelina Zaporojan-Pîrgari, Selena Stejaru, Mila Malairău, Ana Răileanu, Eugenia Benigni, Cristian Ciobanu.

Donors

The conference is supported by East Europe Foundation with financial resources offered by Gas Natural Fenosa Moldova and the Government of Sweden through the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida).

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

GENDER EQUALITY FOR SUSTAINABLE SOCIETY

First Edition, 20 November 2012, Codru Hotel, White Hall

Agenda (draft as of 19-11-2012)

8:30 – 9:00	Registration of the Participants. Welcome Coffee/Tea.
9:00 – 9:30	Welcoming remarks: Moderator: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Ms Silvia Radu, Executive President “Gas Natural Fenosa”, EEf Chair Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- H.E. Vlad Filat, Prime Minister of the Republic of Moldova (TBC)- Ms Margareta Timofti, First Lady of the Republic of Moldova- H.E. Ingrid Tersman, Swedish Ambassador to the Republic of Moldova- H.E. William H. Moser, US Ambassador to the Republic of Moldova- H.E. Nicola Harrington-Buhay, UN Resident Coordinator in Moldova
9:30 – 9:40	Introduction: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Ms Angelina Zaporozjan - Pîrgari, Program Director, Women's Law Centre
9:40 – 10:30	Session 1. Gender equality in the society. Moderator: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Ms Ana Revenco, Head of Department, Ministry of Interior Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Mr. Mihai Moldovanu, Deputy Prime Minister- Ms Valentina Buliga, Minister of Labour, Social Protection and Family- Ms Loretta Handrabura, Deputy Minister of Education- Ms Daniela Misail-Nichitin, President, “La Strada” Association- Ms Nina Costiuc, Mayor, Budesti village
10:30 – 11:00	Discussions and conclusions
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee/Tea Break. Press Conference
11:30 – 12:30	Session 2. Women participation in politics and public service. Moderator: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Ms Olga Nicolenco, independent expert on gender equality Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Ms Liliana Palihovici, Deputy Speaker of the Moldovan Parliament- Ms Elaine Marshall, Secretary of State, North Carolina, US (TBC)- Ms Carola Velasquez Ormeno, Peruvian Diplomat- Ms Maria Mendez, Education and Cultural Attaché, Embassy of Spain- Ms Ana Maria Mihaescu, Chief of Mission, IFC, World Bank Group
12:30 – 13:00	Discussions and conclusions
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:00	Session 3. Women in business: realities, experiences, trends Moderator:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms Veronica Arpintin, EBRD Moldova <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Valeriu Lazar, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Economy (TBC) - Ms Iulia Iabanji, General Director ODIMM - Ms Julia Otto, Head of Office, EBRD - Ms Carmina Vicol, General Director, Prime Capital - Ms Natia Cherkezishvili, Acting Head of UN Women in Moldova - Ms Valentina Uzun, Owner, Azamet Grup SRL - Mr. Eugeniu Josan, President, Global Compact Moldova
15:00 – 15:30	Discussions and conclusions
15:30 – 16:15	<p>Closing Remarks</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Sorin Mereacre, president of the East Europe Foundation <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms Silvia Radu, Executive President, “Gas Natural Fenosa” - Ms Marie Moser, President of International Women Club of Moldova
16:15 – 16:45	Coffee/Tea Break.