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l'alimentation  
et  
l'agriculture

Продовольственная и  
сельскохозяйственная  
организация  
Объединенных  
Наций

Organización  
de las  
Naciones  
Unidas  
para la  
Agricultura  
y la  
Alimentación

## EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURE (ECA)

### THIRTEENTH (SPECIAL) SESSION OF THE WORKING PARTY ON WOMEN AND THE FAMILY IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Rome, Italy, 15 April 2009

#### PREPARATIONS FOR THE 14<sup>TH</sup> WPW SESSION, BUDAPEST, HUNGARY, JUNE 2009 (TBC)

#### IMPACTS OF MIGRATIONS ON THE LIVELIHOODS OF RURAL HOUSEHOLDS AND BETTER MANAGEMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES AT ORIGIN. SELECTED EUROPEAN POLICY EXPERIENCE: GENDER FOCUS AND MAINSTREAMING

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## I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Fourteenth Session of the FAO/ECA Working Party on Women and the Family in Rural Development (WPW) is planned for June 2009, to be convened in Budapest, Hungary, pending the outcome and recommendations of the 13<sup>th</sup> (Special) WPW Session (15 April 2009) and following approval by the Executive Committee of the ECA and the WPW Board of the agenda and organization modalities. The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Hungary has confirmed interest in hosting the WPW Session in Budapest.

2. The 21<sup>ST</sup> FAO/ECA WPW Expert Meeting in Tirana in October 2008 was attended by 35 participants from 13 countries, a figure comparable to previous expert meetings, with strong recommendations for continuation of FAO's work in the field in the CEE and CIS subregion, as realization of the United Nations System's commitment to mainstreaming gender issues and empowering women in the CEE and CIS subregion<sup>1</sup>. The manifold impacts of migrations on the situation of rural women was proposed as the technical theme for the next WPW Session.

3. The Fourteenth WPW Session will also address the issue of the future of the FAO statutory body and, among other issues, efforts to increase participation by member countries, following the recommendations of the 13<sup>th</sup> (Special) WPW Session.

## II. ORGANIZATION OF THE 14<sup>TH</sup> WPW SESSION

4. The Fourteenth WPW Session is planned for June 2009, in Budapest, Hungary, based on confirmation of the invitation by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Hungary to host this Session and the announced presentation of Hungarian experience in gender mainstreaming including a study tour for participants.

5. The Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia (REU) and the Subregional Office for Central and Eastern Europe (SEU) will provide secretarial assistance to the WPW Session. Invitees will include:

- FAO Member States' Ministries of Agriculture and Rural Development;
- Ministries of Labour and Offices for Equal Opportunities, and
- UNDP and UNIFEM country offices in countries covered by REU and SEU.

6. Copies of the invitation will also be sent to all participants of previous WPW Sessions and Expert Meetings. Invitations will be followed up with reminders after two weeks, soliciting a reply.

7. The UNDP RBEC Bratislava Regional Centre has expressed interest in participation in the WPW Session, as well as a number of NGOs with which REU and SEU have collaborated in the past. The ILO Subregional Office for Central and Eastern Europe in Budapest has expressed interest in participation and presentation of its projects.

8. REU proposes to convene the WPW Session in Budapest due to the interest expressed by the Government of Hungary to host the Session, and to benefit from markedly lower costs related to conference facilities and interpretation (English-Russian), travel and accommodation for participants. Additional costs savings would result from the Secretariat being provided by REU/SEU staff stationed in Budapest.

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<sup>1</sup> For summary note on the 21<sup>st</sup> Expert Meeting, see Annex 1.

9. The WPW Trust Fund (GCP/RER/018/MUL) has, as of 2009, a balance of US\$27,000 available; these funds will be used, in line with the Trust Fund guidelines for financing resource persons for the forthcoming WPW Session and for publication of papers and the final report. The Secretariat will prepare for the Session a draft proposal to launch an appeal for voluntary contributions to replenish the existing Trust Fund.

10. Pending guidance from the Executive Committee and in line with FAO policy to involve and support participation of NGOs in FAO statutory and core activities and depending on availability of resources, REU and SEU in close collaboration with the Subregional Office for Central Asia (SEC), will consider supporting the participation of NGOs from CIS countries in the WPW Session in 2009 in view of the need to promote gender issues in this group of countries.

### **III. ELECTION OF THE BOARD OF THE WPW**

11. The present Board of the WPW was elected during the Twelfth WPW Session in 2004; a new Board should be elected during the forthcoming regular Session. The Board consists, according to the Rules of Procedure for the WPW of seven members. The present members are:

#### **Chairperson**

Wendy Peter-Hodel, Switzerland

#### **Board Members**

Theresia Oedl-Wieser, Austria

Egle Daunoriene, Lithuania

Ingunn Sornes, Norway

Janina Sawicka, Poland

Liisa Niilola, Finland

12. Nominations for the Board in the past were solicited through informal consultations by the Secretariat before the Session. So far, Albania, Poland and Romania have expressed interest in designating candidates for the Board (Poland is already represented and the present Member Professor Janina Sawicka would be replaced). The Representative of Switzerland has indicated readiness to continue with the Board. The Secretariat would make a special effort to invite candidates from the Central Asia countries and the Balkans, so far not represented on the Board. The Secretariat would also approach the Scandinavian countries for representation in view of their experience in gender mainstreaming.

## ANNEX 1

**21<sup>ST</sup> FAO/ECA WPW EXPERT MEETING  
TIRANA, ALBANIA, 23-25 OCTOBER 2008**

The 21<sup>st</sup> Expert Meeting (EM) was convened in Tirana, at the invitation of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer's Protection of Albania. The Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia (REU) and the Subregional Office for Central and Eastern Europe (SEU) provided Secretariat to the Expert Meeting, Official Invitations were sent to Ministries of Agriculture and Rural Development of Member States as well as to Ministries of Labour and Offices for Equal Opportunities, to UNDP and UNIFEM Country Offices in countries covered by REU and SEU, to NGOs, and to past Expert Meeting participants. FAO Headquarters Gender, Equity and Rural Employment Division, Economic and Social Development Department, provided guidance to the commissioning and preparation of technical papers and presentations and presentation of FAO work, including SEAGA training and manuals on gender disaggregated statistics and social and economic gender analyses of the situation of rural populations. The meeting was conducted in English and Russian.

The Expert Meeting was attended by thirty eight (38) participants from thirteen (13) countries, including fifteen (15) participants from Albania<sup>2</sup>. This compares to participation in previous Expert Meetings in recent years. It is noted that representatives of four countries planned and declared participation but withdrew at the last moment due to sickness and personal reasons, while participants from four countries responded too late to obtain entry visas. Some 10 participants of previous Expert Meetings expressed interest but could not participate due to lack of resources.

It is noted that Ministries of Agriculture from five countries in the subregion replied that while interested in the subject, they could not participate due to limited human or financial resources, while three countries replied that they were not involved in or did not cover activities related to rural development with a focus on gender. WPW activities continue to suffer from the low priority allocated to gender issues in rural development by Ministries of Agriculture and the low priority given to agriculture and rural areas in the Ministries of Labour and Social Affairs throughout the CEE and Central Asia subregions.

The Secretariat, in preparation for the Expert Meeting, had contacted via e-mail, through official and unofficial communications, approximately fifty potential participating institutions, including government ministries and agencies, United Nations specialized agencies and country offices, donors and field projects. While not all contacts resulted in participation, these will also be used in the future. A number of organizations, e.g. IFAD, have declared interest in participation in future WPW Expert Meetings.

The Government of Albania and the UNDP country office gave the Expert Meeting broad publicity; H.E. Jemin Gjana, Minister for Agriculture, Food and Consumer's Protection opened the Expert Meeting and an extensive presentation of gender policies in Albania was made by Ms Anna Xheka, Director, Department for Equal Opportunities Policies, Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities. Ms Fernanda Guerrieri, FAO Subregional Coordinator for Central and Eastern Europe opened the Expert Meeting and Ms Paola Termine, Rural Employment Officer, Gender, Equity and Rural Employment Division, FAO Economic and Social Development Department, contributed to the meeting with a presentation of FAO's work on gender.

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<sup>2</sup> The previous meetings were attended, respectively by 45 participants from 15 countries (2006), 37 participants from 16 countries (2007) and 19 participants from 10 countries (2007).

Both during the Expert Meeting presentations and discussions and in the recommendations FAO was (i) strongly encouraged to continue this line of activities and training, and to (ii) work more to expand the scope of institutions, governments and NGOs participating. A strong recommendation from up to five countries was for FAO to assist in the preparation and management of a representative survey on the social and economic situation of women in agriculture and rural areas in the transition period, as a pilot, for later submission to donors. Participants underlined the unique position of the WPW as a forum for exchange of experience and networking, and expressed recognition of FAO's work in the CEE and CIS subregion as a realization of the United Nations System's commitment to mainstreaming gender issues and empowering women in the CEE and CIS subregion.

The cost of the Expert Meeting, covered by REU and SEU from the ESW Regular Programme allotment for 2008-2009 of US\$76,000, was US\$14,000, of which two-thirds was for resource persons and the facilitator and one third for FAO staff travel and interpretation costs. In addition, a resource person (recommended by ESW on gender disaggregated statistics, a main agenda item) was contracted for US\$5,200 from the WPW Trust Fund. An estimate of staff time for the Expert Meeting preparations is up to 20 days of the services of a P-4 Policy Officer, Regional Gender Focal Point, and up to 30 days of a Junior Technical Officer, Gender in Rural Development, to which participation in and reporting on the Expert Meeting should be added.

The Expert Meeting report and policy recommendations as well as recommendations for future WPW activities are being finalized by the SEU Secretariat for publication, together with the Expert Meeting papers and presentations, on the REU/SEU website.