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**GTG meeting**

Date and premises: 7th February, 10 a.m. Lotus

Special guests:

EU Delegation, H.E. Ambassador Marilyn Josefson

US Embassy, Annie Steed, Economic Growth Team Leader (acting)

Extended participants: NGO expert Larissa Alexandrova, participated in recent CEDAW reporting process in Genève.

Agenda:

* 8th of March events
* CEDAW 71st session and CSO feedback
* 2019 GTG Workplan
* Beijing+25 review - country process
* AOB

Opening:

Welcoming of all GTG members, GTG Chairperson Aziza Hamidova stated that It’s an honor for the GTG group to have high ranked gender experts at today’s meeting, and this is a clear sign that gender equality issues are seriously considered by all diplomatic missions and international organizations, presenting and operating in the country.

**8th of March Action Plan**

UN Women informed that theme of 2019International Women’s Day is “Think Equal, Build Smart, Innovate for Change” on International Women’s Day. The UN Women will spotlight public services, income security, safe spaces and technology to advance progress for women and girls. Bonu, UN Women presented draft plan iof events dedicated to the 8th of March Day. The agencies were invited to share their thoughts and to join the activity.

* The leaflet on the IWD 2019 will invite the Society to think of transformative shifts, integrated approaches and new solutions for protection of women’s rights.
* One of the planned events will be devoted to Day of Tolerance on WEE and HIV issues. The UN Women jointly with Y-Peer volunteers will conduct so-called “Hackathon”[[1]](#footnote-1). Chairman of the meeting explained the history of Hackathons. The members offered an idea of inclusion, as one of the topics, information about and participation of WLWD.
* TED talks – there were different ideas on inclusion of also Universities and high schools. UN Women invited the members to think about speakers with good oratorical skills. TED format is proposed to be conducted on the base of RTSU. H.E. EU Ambassador mentioned that the information on TED talks needs to be spread to those who are not present- UK and US Ambassadors. H.E. is inspired by the OSCE Gender Network and by the idea to life on engagement of young boys, to attract the mass media.
* The attention of the audience was drawn to the thematic meeting of country experts at social café ‘Chatr’. One of the participant’s ideas (the OSCE) was to introduce Life Book during such thematic sittings. In a whole, the idea was accepted as very effective: to help the social café; to help experts (counterparts, CSOs, individual experts) to share ideas, to crystallize priorities and complimentary actions in form of technical discussion. UNFPA suggested to dedicate one day to the issues of SRHR.
* USAID mentioned about its model of Women Sistery Month and that it can share its ideas.
* H.E. EU Delegation Ambassador stated of importance of not only the agencies’ efforts, but also mechanism of their cooperation between themselves and with Government (GoT). Therefore, other Ambassadors and Dr. Pratibha Mehta UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative, are also working on their ideas and collaboration with the GoT
* Another point, raised by the participants (NGO experts), was to engage and hold accountable the state decision makers and the representatives of the CWFA GoT. They should not only be invited guests.
* NGO gender expert raised concern of not enough participation of the Committee members in advocacy campaigns- their role is to see what violations against women and girls occur in, f. ex, public places/ bazaars, and to urgently address those problems instead of paying attention at external attributes and clothes of women, when carried away by such restrictions, the committee interferes with privacy, violating the rights of people for private life.
* On the Radio programme: ADB questioned the issue of inviting only women, as men’s supportive opinions would also be important, and mothers’ support is also important considering their decision-making role in the household. All decision makers are important to be engaged (Parliament Members, CWFA and other Ministries). It is the CWFA who should conduct the talk show(s) or any other forum on Gender and politics/ gender and economics/ gender and resources/ gender and decision making/ Gender and education and more. Such forums would attract attention of many Communities.
* H.E. EU Ambassador: it is important if the GTG supports round of talks with CWFA GoT and Female Ambassadors. The EU will present soon the analysis of the results of a Gap Study, with participation of all ministries.
* Members raised concerns of SRH/HIV education and that the MoES of RT will probably not allow conducting of such a monitoring.
* NGO member: On new Law of RT against discrimination- the WG is created (reportedly), but it doesn’t function. There is also no institutional independence of advocates - they can be easily called for legal liability on the same case where they act on the side of defenders.

**CEDAW 71st session and CSO feedback**

* Larisa Alexandrova stated that as per request of SCOs, participating in the 71th Session of the UN CEDAW Committee, the CEDAW members gave extended recommendation to the Government of RT on gender-based stereotypes.
* It is urgently needed to decriminalize art. 125 of the CC of RT (the infecting with HIV), as because of this article breastfeeding mothers and those women who were infected but didn’t know of their status, also get juridical punishment. People have restrictions to become guardian of the child, if they are HIV positive. *The casus was that the Governmental members refused having such a Regulation, and the participating NGOs immediately found it and passed to the CEDAW members.*
* It is good that during the work of the session, gender experts in Tajikistan where on-line connection with the CSOs’ members in Genève and could help the delegation (SCOs) with required information or finding document at once.

To-date, UN Women and the CWFA GRT have had the CEDAW Committee recommendations in Tajik language.

**2019 GTG Workplan**

Draft of the Plan will be sent to all participants, where 1st part relates to all members and is open for additions/ comments with a strong message to shift to coordination. The 2nd part of the plan is for UN members only, who are also kindly requested to contribute.

All comments and additions are expected to the suggested draft GTG WP 2019 by Monday COB.

**Beijing+25 review - country process**

The Report on Beijing +25 reads about contribution of gender movement since Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing and adoption of PoA. The Guidelines on B+25 will be shared to all GTG members for advocacy purposes.

1. The initial aim of Hackathons *(eng. “hacker” + “marathon”)* was to engage best IT specialists to development of the cutting-edge models of work; i.e. it is an incubator of social technologies, where hackers and designers in the two-day sprint mode are working on the creation of programs, sites or applications. The purpose of the event is to create a working prototype of a site or application that can be run with a few modifications in a short time after the end of the hackathon. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)