

SIDE EVENT EQUAL PAY FOR WORK OF EQUAL VALUE

22 MARCH 2019
13:15 – 14:30 P.M.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
CENTRE GENEVA (CICG)

Photo: UN Women/Renja Effendi

SANDWICHES AND LIGHT DRINKS WILL BE SERVED AT 13:00

NOTE ABOUT THE SIDE EVENT

Building upon the momentum gained since the launch of the Equal Pay International Coalition (**EPIC**) in September 2017, the Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) (UN ECE, UNCTAD, ITC) and the Permanent Mission of Iceland, in partnership with the EPIC Secretariat, OECD, ILO and UN Women, will launch **EPIC** in the Europe and Central Asia (ECA) region and bring together regional leaders including governments, trade unions, private sector, and civil society to share knowledge, and exchange good practice on how to accelerate the achievement of equal pay for work of equal value.

BACKGROUND

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 8 promotes sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including

for young people and persons with disabilities. Equal pay for women and men for work of equal value is central to realizing gender equality and women's economic empowerment, reducing poverty and promoting economic growth. To sustain SDG 8, there is the necessity to acknowledge the central role played by gender equality (SDG 5) in having a multiplier effect on the accomplishment of all the SDGs, including SDG 8. Therefore, UN Women, ILO and OECD joined forces to accelerate progress towards SDG target 8.5 on full employment and decent work with equal pay, by leveraging expertise across a diverse range of stakeholders through concrete actions on the ground and in workplaces.

OUTCOME

Call to action by key actors to become a member of EPIC and accelerate action to achieve equal pay for work of equal value.



OBJECTIVES

- Host a multi-stakeholder dialogue to advance the achievement of full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men and equal pay for work of equal value
- Raise awareness of the persistent gender pay gap in the UNECE region and beyond, as well as its causes and consequences
- Facilitate knowledge exchange and sharing of best practices among key actors in the UNECE region
- Galvanise action from key actors to achieve equal pay for work of equal value

PARTICIPANTS

Representatives of government entities including ministries responsible for labour and employment, ministries responsible for gender equality and national statistical offices, employers' and workers' organizations, relevant UN entities, the private sector, trade unions, gender advocates from the countries of ECA region.



AGENDA

Time	Activity
Opening segment	
13:15	Moderator: <i>Alia El-Yassir, Regional Director, UN Women Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia</i> H.E. Harald Aspelund, <i>Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Iceland to the International Organizations in Geneva</i> Manuela Tomei, <i>Director of the ILO's WorkQuality Department</i> Angelica Salvi del Pero, <i>Senior Advisor to the Director of Employment, Labour and Social Affairs, OECD</i>
Equal Pay International Coalition (EPIC) in the Europe and Central Asia region In a moderated discussion, the participants will exchange views on the challenges and obstacles to achieving equal pay, share best practices and lessons learned from the ECA region, and discuss the role of EPIC in the ECA region to reduce the gender pay gap.	
13:30	Moderator: <i>Manuela Tomei, Director of ILO's WorkQuality Department</i> Roberto Suarez Santos, <i>Secretary-General, International Organization of Employers</i> Nazli Ümit Boyner, <i>Equal Pay Platform of Champions (TBC)</i> Henrike von Platen, <i>CEO, Fair Pay Innovation Lab, Member of EPIC</i> Chidi King, <i>Director of Equality, International Trade Union Confederation</i> <i>Representative of the Government of Georgia</i>
Questions and Answers Moderated discussion	
14:00	Moderator: <i>Alia El-Yassir, Regional Director, UN Women Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia</i>
Closing Remarks: The way ahead for EPIC in Europe and Central Asia	
14:30	Sylvie Durrer, <i>Director, Federal Office for Gender Equality Switzerland, Chair of the EPIC Steering Committee (TBC)</i>

To learn more about EPIC: <https://www.equalpayinternationalcoalition.org/>

To learn how you can become involved with EPIC: <https://www.equalpayinternationalcoalition.org/members/>