



Влада Републике Србије  
КООРДИНАЦИОНО ТЕЛО  
ЗА РОДНУ РАВНОПРАВНОСТ



Regional  
Cooperation  
Council



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## COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (CSW66) SIDE EVENT 2022

*“Women leading the way towards more equitable and sustainable solutions to climate change”*

### *Concept Note*

**Co-organisers:** Coordination Body for Gender Equality of the Republic of Serbia, Regional Cooperation Council, European Union

**Title:** Women leading the way towards more equitable and sustainable solutions to climate change

**Date:** TBC

**Time:** 2 hours

**Format:** Hybrid event, live studio in Belgrade, Serbia with some speakers, and online

**Language:** English

**Summary** The side event entitled „*Women leading the way towards more equitable and sustainable solutions to climate change*”, co-hosted by the Coordination Body for Gender Equality of the Government of the Republic of Serbia, Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) and the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Serbia with the support of UN Women Serbia is to be organised on the margins of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW66), to be taking place from 14 to 25 March, 2022. The event will identify challenges and opportunities concerning the position of women in climate change-related decision-making processes in the Western Balkans.

### **Description**

With its rich experience in pursuing regional activities on women economic empowerment, gender inequality in the labour markets and inclusion of women and girls in STEM education and careers, RCC and the Coordination Body for Gender Equality of the Government of the Republic of Serbia aim at identifying challenges and opportunities concerning the position of women in climate change-related decision-making processes in the Western Balkans.

Climate change is seen as an important potential accelerator and promoter of gender equality, offering the possibility of more systematic involvement of women in planning and implementing the fight against climate change. Women and girls are disproportionately affected by the climate crisis in Western Balkans, even though most women in the region have no say on climate policies

or the ways in which resources are allocated in this area, with rural women being completely excluded. Women and girls are most often those that carry the burden of the climate crisis for as the climate crisis challenges only amplifies existing inequalities between women and men. Precisely because women are contributing to well-being and sustainable growth of their communities, they have a vast potential of keeping the ecosystem, biological diversity and natural resources in check.

The region's determination to fight climate change is reflected in the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans (GAWB), adopted by the Western Balkan Leaders on the Sofia Summit in November 2020. The Western Balkan region committed to undertaking a major transformation to address, among others, the growing climate challenges by putting sustainable development, resource efficiency, nature protection and climate action in the center of all economic activities. In this respect, women are recognized as ones of the stakeholders considered a vital element in the implementation of GAWB Action Plan, particularly in the midst of green recovery and sustainable green economy.

The side event will provide further insights into inextricable links between women and climate change, as well as it will raise importance on equal representation in fighting the climate crisis at the local, national and regional level. In line with the main theme of CSW66, this side event will bring together key stakeholders, policymakers, and representatives of civil society organisations and private sector from the region to identify problems in gender equality and climate change and provide a platform for participants to exchange experiences and views on this topic. The panel will aim at raising awareness of the climate challenges that the region faces and raising importance of the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans as the most comprehensive Action Plan to fight climate change in the region.