



A ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION ON “GENDER POLICY CONCEPT PAPER” WAS JOINTLY ORGANIZED BY UNFPA CGBV PROJECT AND WOMEN’S REPUBLICAN COUNCIL

UNFPA, Yerevan, April 22, 2010 – Today, a Roundtable Discussion was jointly organized by UNFPA “Combating Gender-Based Violence in the South Caucasus” project and Women’s Republic Council to present RoA Government Gender Policy Concept Paper to the audience of NGOs working on women issues, as well as to the participant journalists and business women.

The Gender Policy Concept Paper was approved by the RoA Prime Minister on February 18, 2010 to become the first ever national strategic document of the primary importance, which defines main directions and general strategy of a state policy with relation to men and women and refers to the equal enjoyment of rights and opportunities by all citizens in all spheres of social life regardless of their sex.

The Concept Paper is based on the RA Constitution and laws, on the international conventions, ratified by Armenia, most importantly: CEDAW and CEDAW Optional Protocol, Convention on the Political Rights of Women, Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocol (tackling trafficking issues), as well as on a number of other international policy documents, including but not limited to: Beijing Platform For Action, Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women, Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergency and Armed Conflict, etc. The Concept Paper states the main principles, goals, objectives and strategy for the implementation of gender policy in Armenia and focuses on the main aspects of gender policy embracing all spheres of life, including: management sector and decision-making levels, socio-economic, education, health, culture and public information sectors.

Ms. Jina Sargizova, UNFPA “Combating Gender-Based Violence in the South Caucasus” (CGBV) Project Coordinator opened the Roundtable Discussion by welcoming the participants. She presented the results of the legal assessment of the RoA legislation from gender-based violence perspective, which was conducted within the framework of the project as a part of its legal component that targets creation of enabling environment to combat GBV in Armenia. Ms. Sargizova stressed the importance of addressing the major gaps in the national legislation to bring it into compliance with the international instruments pertaining to the issues of gender equality and combating GBV and gave the floor to Ms. Armenuhi Tanashyan, the representative of the RoA Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs.

Ms. Tanashyan focused on Gender Policy Concept Paper, main challenges and areas of concern that need to be addressed in order to achieve the goals set in this document, namely:

- Achievement of gender equality in all spheres of the social life aimed at sustainable development of the society and provision of democratic reforms.
- Ensuring equal representation of women and men at all levels of decision making.
- Overcoming all forms of discrimination on the basis of sex.
- Creation of equal opportunities and equal accessibility to economic resources for women and men in

- The spheres of labor market and employment.
- Formation of democratic political culture and supportable gender dialog in the society.

During the presentation of the Concept Paper participants made comments regarding the importance of active involvement of the civil society in the implementation of the Concept Paper and addressed the speakers with numerous questions and concerns that proved a high level of interest of NGO sector towards this state initiative.