



CONCEPT NOTE

PLATFORM#5: STRATEGIC COLLABORATION FOR WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

SIDE EVENT

ON THE MARGINS OF 67TH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

DATE: 6 MARCH 2023

TIME: 1:15 – 2:30 PM (EST)

UNHQ/ CONFERENCE ROOM A

Background

In 2022, the Government of Armenia and the UN Development Programme (UNDP) co-financed and piloted an innovative ecosystem-level support mechanism - Platform#5 - to overcome compound challenges for women's economic empowerment. The overall goal of Platform#5 is to boost women's entrepreneurship and employability by creating a human-centric, SDG-aligned ecosystem and innovative support mechanisms. As a leader of Action Coalition for Technology and Innovation for Gender Equality under the UN Women-led "Generation Equality" Forum, Armenia has embarked on an ambitious journey to develop a bold transformative action for women's economic empowerment in high labor productivity sectors of economy.

Development of women's entrepreneurship and productive employability is often met with a number of ecosystem-level compound challenges, which require complex and non-traditional (innovative) support mechanisms. When adequately resourced and implemented, interventions aimed at enhancing productivity, employment and entrepreneurship can be instrumental in helping unleash the full potential of women and better attain the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

During its first year of operation, Platform#5 has been used to uplift more than 2,000 women in rural areas, women enrolled in family or social benefits system, women who have been subjected to trafficking, domestic violence, or exploitation, who are caretakers of adults with disabilities or those with three and more children. Successful practices applied by Platform#5 contribute to the

design of the National Employment Strategy - a joint effort of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs and the UNDP, which applies strategic innovation to boost women's economic empowerment.

The pilot project has demonstrated the potential of Platform#5 to serve as an efficient mechanism in scaling up women entrepreneurship and seeking partnerships for resource mobilization to upscale Platform#5 to benefit thousands of unemployed women in coming years.

Objectives of the Side Event

Held on the sidelines of the 67th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW67), the Side Event will demonstrate **innovative models of strategic collaboration** between the government, international development organizations, donor organizations and local innovation ecosystem players.

Organizers

The event is organized by the **Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs of Armenia** and the **UN Development Programme (UNDP)**, in partnership with **UN Women, UNICEF** and **NGO CSW**.