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**REGIONAL CONSULTATIONS ON GENDER EQUALITY AND**

**POLITICAL EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN**

**Workshop in Strasbourg (10.11.2016)**

*Council of Europe Headquarters*

*Avenue de l'Europe, 67000 Strasbourg*

**08:30 – 09:00 Registration and welcome coffee**

Upon registering, the participants will receive name badges, along with a welcome package containing information about the workshop and the implementing parties.

**09:00 – 09:20 Opening remarks**

*Amb. Maria Leissner, Secretary General of the Community of Democracies*

*Ms Karin Gardes, Director of External Relations of the International IDEA*

*Ms Bharati Sadasivam, Team Leader, Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment*

*UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub for Europe and CIS*

**09:20 – 11:45 Session I – Gender equality and advancing women political empowerment: a regional overview**

*Roundtable discussion moderated by Ms Cécile Gréboval, Council of Europe*

The aim of this session is to provide an overview of the regionally-faced challenges and obstacles related to Gender Equality and Advancing Women Political Participation/Empowerment.

Participants will be then requested to comment on the framing remarks, by sharing their experiences and highlighting obstacles and challenges they face in their own countries, and whether the developments at the regional level were useful/helpful in addressing those.

**11:45 – 12:00** **Coffee break**

**12:00 – 13:00****Session II – Implementing 2030 Agenda and advancing the SDG’s goal 5: regional level perspective**

*Discussion moderated by Ms Bharati Sadasivam, UNDP and Ms Asya Varbanova, UN Women*

This session will analyze SDG’s goal 5 “Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls” and specifically one of its targets to “Ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision making in political, economic and public life” and Goal 16 “Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels” and one of its targets to “Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels”. It will also discuss the role of regional organisations and other stakeholders in advancing goal 5 and goal 16.

**13:00 – 14:00 Lunch break**

**14:00 – 15:30 Session III****–** **Using** **legal and policy instruments to foster women’s political participation and gender equality**

*Discussion facilitated by Ms Karin Gardes, IDEA*

This session is aimed at presenting the existing legal and policy instruments, as well as other mechanisms and tools available both globally and regionally to foster women’s political participation and gender equality (e.g. by UN Nations Human Rights Council, and regional organisations, including Council of Europe, OSCE).

**15:45 – 16:00** **Coffee Break**

**16:00 – 16:30 Plenary discussion**

Participants will be asked to discuss 1) how to improve the existing tools to make them more effective (better respond to the current challenges) and 2) how to synergize and improve complementarity of the presented tools, also bearing in mind conclusions from Session III

**16:30 – 16:40 Closing Remarks**

*Patricia Galdamez, Civil Society Coordinator, Community of Democracies*