I Background

The Women Parliamentary Network of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia (WPN) was established on February 14, 2013 as an informal network of women MPs from all political parties represented in the Serbian Parliament.

To date the WPN has achieved significant results in improving the position of women in Serbia. It has become a recognised actor in the field of gender equality both nationally and regionally. Recognising the importance and benefits of networking amongst women politicians at all levels, the WPN would like to incite regular meetings of women parliamentarians from SEE in order to share their experience with each other and discuss issues of common concern.

Therefore, the Women Parliamentary Network is organising a conference to gather women parliamentarians from SEE and explore possibilities of future cooperation.

The Regional Conference will take place from 2nd till 3rd of March 2015 in Belgrade at the House of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia.

II Program

This two-day conference will be dedicated to the introduction of individual parliaments, and three panel discussions. One representative per Parliament will be given up to 10 minutes time to present key issues surrounding gender equality policies in their respective countries including regulatory and institutional frameworks.

After the plenary session, the participants will be divided into three groups/panels dedicated to the following topics:

a) Position of women in political parties,
b) Cross-party networking of women politicians particularly amongst MPs,
c) Implementation of the Istanbul Convention.
Afterwards the participants will discuss the topic of economic empowerment of women and exchange their views and relevant practices applied in their respective countries. The second day of the Conference will include a panel organized in close cooperation with the Women in Parliaments Global Forum.

The Conference will result in a signed Memorandum of Cooperation in which the women parliamentarians will define cooperation modalities. Draft Memorandum of Understanding will be prepared by the Serbian Women Parliamentary Network in advance and shared with the participants for their consideration at least 15 days prior to the date of the Conference.

The Conference will also yield recommendations regarding possible improvements of the current situation in the explored fields.

III Participation

The Conference will gather Members of Parliament, representatives of the executive branch of power, nongovernmental organizations, international organizations, independent experts, and academia.

The list of invitees will include:

- Members of Parliament from:
  - Slovenia,
  - Croatia,
  - Bosnia and Herzegovina,
  - Montenegro,
  - Macedonia,
  - Albania,
  - Turkey,
  - Moldova,
  - Romania,
  - Bulgaria,
  - Hungary,
  - Greece,
  - Serbia.

- Women in Parliaments Global Forum,
- Prominent NGOs from Serbia,
- International organizations present in Serbia,
- State institutions from Serbia,
- Independent experts,
- Academia.
IV AGENDA

Day 1

11.30 – 12.00 Arrival and registration of participants

12.00 – 12.30 Opening remarks
Ms. Maja Gojkovic, Speaker of the Serbian Parliament - TBC
OSCE Mission to Serbia – TBC
Ms. Zorana Mihajlovic, Vice President of the Government of the Republic of Serbia and President of the Coordination Body for Gender Equality - TBC
Ms. Silvana Koch-Mehrin, Chief Executive Officer of the Women in Parliaments Global Forum - TBC
Stefana Miladinovic, Coordinator of the Women Parliamentary Network of Serbia

Moderator: Coordinator of the Women Parliamentary Network of Serbia, Stefana Miladinovic

12.30 - Family Photo

12.30 – 12.45 Press statements at the Central Hall of the House of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia

12.45 – 14.00 Gender equality – overview of the current situation
Dubravka Filipovski – Member of the Women Parliamentary Network of Serbia
Presentations by the Parliaments of Serbia, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Macedonia, and Albania on the following:
  - Social position of women,
  - Women in parliament,
  - Women in politics,
  - Economic position of women,
  - Women and security,
  - Domestic violence.

Moderator: Member of the Women Parliamentary Network of Serbia, Dubravka Filipovski

14.00 – 14.30 Tour of the National Assembly building, accompanied by curator

14.30 – 15.30 Lunch (National Assembly building)
15.30 – 16.45 Gender equality – overview of the current situation - continuation
Presentations by the Parliaments of Turkey, Moldova, Romania, Bulgaria, Greece, and Hungary on the following:
- Social position of women,
- Women in parliament,
- Women in politics,
- Economic position of women,
- Women and security,
- Domestic violence.

Moderator: Member of the Women Parliamentary Network of Serbia, Dubravka Filipovski

16.45 – 17.00 Coffee break

17.00 – 18.30 Panel discussions (in parallel):

a) Position of women in political parties
(Introductory remarks by Ms. Zita Gurmai Women in Parliaments Global Forum – TBC;
Moderator: Ms. Gordana Comic, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia),

b) Cross-party networking of women politicians particularly amongst MPs
(Introductory remarks by OSCE/ODIHR;
Moderator: Ms. Dijana Vukomanovic, Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia),

c) Implementation of the Istanbul Convention
(Introductory remarks by the Office of the Council of Europe in Belgrade – TBC;
Moderator: Ms. Elvira Kovac, Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia).

19.00 – 20.00 Cultural event – Visit of “Konak Kneginje Ljubice”
(Departure by bus from the plateau in front of the House of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia at 18.30h)

20.00 – 21.30 Dinner hosted by the WPN
(Departure by bus at 20.00h)
Day 2

09.00 – 11.00 Panel hosted by Women in Parliaments Global Forum TBD

11.00 – 11.30 Coffee break

11.30 – 13.00 Economic empowerment of women – parliamentary experiences and practices
(Plenary discussion)
Introductory remarks by the WPN Serbia

*Moderator: Aleksandra Tomic, Member of the Women Parliamentary Network of Serbia*

13.00 – 14.00 Conclusions (panels and plenary discussion)
Memorandum of Understanding
Initiatives
Marija Obradovic, Member of the Women Parliamentary Network of Serbia;
Sonja Lokar, CEE Gender Network Executive Director for Gender Issues

*Moderator: Member of the Women Parliamentary Network of Serbia, Marija Obradovic*

14.00 – 14.30 Press statements and presentation of the MoU

*(Introductory statement by the Member of the Women Parliamentary Network of Serbia, Marija Obradovic and presentation of the Memorandum in the presence of all the Memorandum signatories)*

14.30 – 15.30 Lunch (optional)

Departure