



**3rd OSCE Gender Equality Review
Conference
27-28 October 2020**

**3-я Конференция ОБСЕ
по обзору гендерного равенства
27-28 октябрь 2020 г.**

CONCEPT NOTE

The Third OSCE Gender Equality Review Conference aims to provide a platform where representatives of OSCE participating States, Partners for Co-operation, executive structures, civil society, academia and the private sector, can assess progress achieved in the implementation of the 2004 OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality. It should also enable discussions targeting the identification of good practices, challenges, gaps, emerging issues as well as short- and medium-term areas for specific engagement.

Background and Aim of the Conference

Three years after its second edition in 2017, the Third OSCE Gender Equality Review Conference will take place virtually on 27-28 October 2020. The event is organized by the Albanian OSCE Chairmanship, in co-operation with the OSCE Secretariat and the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR). The Conference will review progress in the implementation of the 2004 OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality, taking into account the recommendations and conclusions from the 2017 Conference, as well as other OSCE commitments to gender equality.

The aim of the Conference is to promote a more systematic implementation of OSCE gender equality commitments across the three dimensions via targeted activities in priority areas. To this end, this year's Conference will focus on three themes:

1. Women's Participation in Political and Public Life
2. Women's Participation in the Security Sector
3. Women's Economic Empowerment

It will also provide a space to discuss emerging issues that have an impact on the promotion/realization of gender equality in the OSCE region, such as digitalization and increase in cyber violence against women and girls.

Scope and Format of the Conference

Due to COVID-19 related restrictions, the conference will be held in a fully virtual format, with access provided via the Zoom platform. It will consist of a high-level opening, a review session and three specific thematic sessions.

The sessions are designed to be informative and interactive. Each session will have a maximum of three speakers representing governments, international organizations, OSCE institutions or civil society organizations, who will engage in an open and constructive discussion.

The GERC conference was supported as part of the OSCE Extra-budgetary project "WIN for women and men – strengthening comprehensive security through innovating and networking for gender equality" by Austria, Finland, Norway and Slovakia.