



The 18<sup>th</sup> Cetinje Parliamentary Forum “Women in Business”, hosted by the Parliament of Montenegro in cooperation with the OSCE (Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe), the RCC (Regional Cooperation Council) and the GTF (Regional Centre for Gender Equality), held on 08 and 09 June 2015 in Cetinje, adopted the following

### **JOINT STATEMENT**

The countries participating in the Cetinje Parliamentary Forum have established the legal and institutional framework supporting gender equality, inviting for further enhancing of women’s rights and economic empowerment of women.

Although the formal assumptions are put in place, the institutional support and proper incentives are still missing, since the support to women in business is not only a gender equality issue, but also a huge economic resource of this region.

Therefore, the participants to the 18<sup>th</sup> Cetinje Parliamentary Forum call for:

- promoting the significance of entrepreneurship both for the economic prosperity of the community at large and for improving personal economic and family position, for acknowledgement of individual abilities, and greater autonomy;
- setting up alliances of women MPs to reinforce the oversight role of parliaments over the implementation of gender equality policies;
- using all channels of parliamentary diplomacy to promote participation of women in economy, in economic decision-making and strengthening women entrepreneurship;
- establishing inter-agency cooperation where all the institutions would share the same vision for women entrepreneurship;
- improving statistics for obtaining relevant data needed for designing incentives, but also for monitoring the development of women entrepreneurship, and calls for setting up a comprehensive database of women entrepreneurship at all levels, including regional level;
- supporting the establishment of funds to provide incentives for women entrepreneurship, but also initiate cooperation with banks that should be partners in developing women entrepreneurship;
- call local governments to develop support programmes for women in business;



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- raising awareness of the necessity to redistribute roles and responsibilities in private and public life between men and women, of responsible fatherhood, and to increase the number and capacity of affordable child and elderly care institutions in the country;
- recognise the importance of the media as important partners for promotion and development of women entrepreneurship, and call for establishing closer cooperation with them;
- in the process of affirming and stimulating entrepreneurship, call for greater cooperation and partnership among the public, the private and the nongovernmental sectors;
- develop different training programmes for starting own business, with special emphasis on women entrepreneurship;

MPs of countries participating in the Forum will continue to organise meetings for the purpose of sharing experiences, identifying problems and raising awareness on the importance of women entrepreneurship as well as lobbying for projects and programmes that will support them.