

## Item 5. Thematic session: Accelerating women's economic empowerment: The path to peaceful, just and inclusive societies

### Biographies of moderator and panellists

**Moderator: Ms. Beate Andrees, ILO Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia**



Ms. Beate Andrees has been serving as the ILO Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia since June 1, 2020. Prior to her current role, she worked as the Chief of the Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work Branch at the ILO in Geneva, where she played a key role in various initiatives. These include the launch and consolidation of Alliance 8.7, a multi-stakeholder partnership to end forced labour, modern slavery, human trafficking, and child labour in line with SDG target 8.7, as well as coordinating efforts that led to the adoption of the 2014 Protocol to the Forced Labour Convention (1930).

Ms. Andrees has also overseen the implementation of the ILO's flagship programme on child labour and forced labour, covering more than 60 countries across the world, and has authored various articles and books in the areas of migration, trafficking, labour market governance, and supply chains. She studied Political Science and History in Jena, Toronto, and Berlin, holding a master's degree from the Freie University of Berlin and a PhD focused on international labour recruitment and governance. Prior to joining the ILO in 2003, she worked on special assignments for the public relations department of the German Parliament and lectured at the Freie University on gender, human rights, and development.

**Panellists:****Ms. Susanne Raab, Federal Minister for Women, Family, Integration and Media, Austria**

Ms. Susan Raab currently serves as the Federal Minister for Women, Family, Integration, and Media in the Federal Chancellery, a role she has held since January 5, 2022. Prior to this, she was the Federal Minister for Women, Family, Youth, and Integration from February 2021 to January 2022, and the Federal Minister for Women and Integration from January 2020 to February 2021. Her tenure in the Federal Chancellery began in January 2020, initially as a Federal Minister without a portfolio.

Ms. Raab's professional journey is marked by her extensive experience in integration and public administration. She served as the Head of the Integration Section at the Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration, and Foreign Affairs from September 2017 to January 2020. Before that, she was the Head of the Department for Integration Coordination at the same ministry from March 2014 to September 2017, and at the Federal Ministry of the Interior from July 2013 to February 2014. Her academic background includes a doctoral degree in law and diplomas in law and psychology from the University of Innsbruck. Additionally, she has contributed to academia as a research assistant and university assistant and has taught political education at Danube University Krems. Her career reflects her commitment to integration, women's rights, and public service.

**Ms. Ekin Deligöz, Parliamentary State Secretary to the Federal Minister for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, Germany**



Ms. Ekin Deligöz has been serving as Parliamentary State Secretary to the Federal Minister for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women, and Youth since December 2021. She has been politically active since 1988 and has been a member of the German Bundestag since 1998, holding several roles within the Alliance 90/The Greens. In addition to her political career, she is actively involved in

several voluntary organizations, including UNICEF Germany and the German Child Protection Association.

Prior to her political career, Ms. Deligöz worked at ICLEI, the Goethe-Institut Ankara, and served as a tutor for local politics at the University of Konstanz. She studied administrative sciences at the University of Konstanz and the University of Vienna, earning her diploma in 1998.

**Ms. Gulnora Rakhimova, Deputy Minister of Economy and Finance, Republic of Uzbekistan**



Ms. Gulnora Rakhimova was appointed Deputy Minister of Finance in July 2021. Prior to her appointment, she served as the deputy head of the Treasury - Director of the Public Procurement Department of the Ministry of Finance. From 2002 to 2014, Ms. Rakhimova worked as a senior lecturer and a senior researcher at the National University of Uzbekistan

named after Mirzo Ulugbek. In 2014-2017, she was a senior teacher at the Center for the training and retraining of employees of financial bodies and accounting units of budgetary organizations under the Ministry of Finance, and from 2017 to 2019, she headed the department there. In 2019-2020, she worked

as head of the Department for Management and Monitoring of Public Procurement of the Treasury.

Ms. Rakhimova graduated from Tashkent State University of Economics in 1996 and has held various positions in academia and government, showcasing her expertise in finance and public procurement.

**Ms. Roya Garayeva, Chair of the Women's Committee of the Pan European Regional Council of the ITUC**



Ms. Roya Garayeva has been working at the Azerbaijan Trade Unions Confederation since 2014, currently leading the sector for 'Work with International Organisations' within the international relations department. Over the past decade, she has gained extensive experience in organizing international conferences and meetings, fostering cooperation with global organizations, and navigating complex challenges with effective problem-solving skills. Her expertise includes promoting gender equality and addressing key issues aligned with the

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Throughout her career, she has been passionate about contributing to global discussions on gender equality, decent work, and sustainable development. In 2022, she was elected as the president of the Pan European Regional Council Women Committee and serves as vice president of the International Trade Unions Confederation Women Committee and as a titular member of the General Council of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC). Roya has contributed to key conferences hosted by the UN, ILO, ITUC, and PERC, with a focus on promoting labour rights, social justice, and international collaboration.

**Ms. Asel Kubanychbekova, Founder and Member of the Board of the Women's Entrepreneurship Development Foundation in the Kyrgyz Republic**



Ms. Asel Kubanychbekova is a founder and board member of She Starts, a Women's Entrepreneurship Development Fund in Kyrgyzstan. She has extensive experience leading initiatives on women's economic empowerment at both the national and regional levels and has co-led youth advocacy campaigns for girls' and women's rights in Europe and Central Asia. As one of the National Youth Gender Activists in the UN Women's Gender Youth Group, she served as the Sustainable Development Goals #5 "Gender Equality" Youth Ambassador in the Kyrgyz Republic. Ms. Kubanychbekova is an alumna of the Women Deliver Young Leaders Global Program, which aims to empower young advocates for gender equality and sexual and reproductive health and rights. With

her passion for women's economic empowerment and her educational background, holding a master's degree in law, Ms. Kubanychbekova continues to make significant contributions to promoting gender equality and women's rights in Kyrgyzstan and beyond.