

**Minutes of the Equal Opportunities and Gender Concerns in Romania after EU Accession  
Roundtable  
UN House, 16 July 2008**

- Chair: Mr. Jan Sorensen, UN Resident Coordinator, UNDP Resident Representative
- Participants: Ms. Andreea Marin Banica, Media representative, UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador  
Ms. Liliana Pagu, Președinte Asociația Femeilor din România  
Ms. Oana Baluta, Președinte Centrul 'Filia'  
Ms. Sandra Pralong, Communications Consultant  
Mr. Tudor Stefanescu, Head of the Inter-Agency Support Unit, UNDP  
Ms. Daniela Albu, Executive Assistant UN RC/UNDP RR Office, Gender Focal Point  
Ms. Elena Dobre, Counselor of European Affairs, Dept. of Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities  
Ms. Monica Cercescu, Publicist Comentator, Saptamana Financiara  
Ms. Dina Loghin, Președinte executiv Șanse egale pentru femei (Fundația SEF)  
Ms. Cristina Chinole, Project Manager ODA, UNDP Romania  
Ms. Cristina Vaileanu, Project Officer ODA Romania  
Ms. Catrinel Nana, Programme Associate, UNDP Romania  
Ms. Irina Sorescu, Executive President Centrul Parteneriat pentru Egalitate (CPE)  
Ms. Cristina Fometescu, Departament Programe, Agentia Nationala pentru Egalitate de Sanse intre Femei si Barbati (ANES)

**Welcoming and introductory remarks by JS:**

- Jan Sorensen, UNDP Resident Representative and UN Resident Coordinator opened the Round Table inviting all participants to express their views and concerns on equal opportunities and gender issues and expressing his wish to revive an active gender network. He also highlighted that UNDP neutral mandate can offer the opportunity to all actors to contribute and bring their agendas on the table with a view to find viable solutions and this is the reason why UNDP decided to host this Round Table gathering together representatives of the Government, NGOs and media representatives.

### **Participants' key-inputs re *Gender problems in Romania*:**

- Even though there is a pretty sound legislative framework on gender equality and anti-discrimination, women don't know all of their rights or don't know how to access their rights.
- Women are barely represented in political decision-making:
  - o After this June local elections the number of elected women decreased compared with 2004
  - o The new adopted electoral system (uninominal vote in single-member constituency) is expected to have an even higher negative impact on women's parliamentary representation.
- Gender and women's issues need to be on the political Agenda
- Public policies do not respond to gender problem identified addressing the causes
- A root analysis is needed; risk of initiating fake campaign based on stereotypes that won't respond to realistic needs
- On the other hand, there are a lot of gender studies and gender analysis that are not used by policy makers in order have more gender sensitive policies
- Media doesn't support gender equality issues and even reinforce gender stereotypes
- Some of Romania's problems that will become more evident on the long term, like ageing population it's gender linked, because both women and men face difficulties in reconciliation of their working and family life
- Rural women are facing an even higher gender gap and they are more in risk of poverty; the same for women who are head of single-parent households

### **Addressing the situation:**

- ANES' priorities for 2008-2010:
  1. Facilitating integration of rural women on the labor marker
  2. Reconciliation of work and private life
- Media support to promote women with viable initiatives is needed
- Need of creating awareness among women from different domains of activity
- Media networking and relation on gender issues more active
- Need of collective actions to free up the creative energy of women, to empower women to make their contribution visible
- A clear platform is needed to support gender initiatives
- Importance of having media support
- Women have to come together and demand more from political class
- A gender network to be created in Romania
- To establish a basis for communicating

- Public discourse to deliver a strong and committed public message

**Initial promises/commitments:**

- Ms. Andreea Marin to support gender initiatives by creating dedicated programmes, where RT participants can have their input. To place articles on personal blog with problems identified and with useful links re women concerns
- create an online working group
- Ms. Oana Baluta to provide necessary data/research results/studies in order to have the necessary statistical data and analysis of women and men's situation in Romania.
- Interviews with women who can make a difference in today's society to be promoted in local/central press
- A special conference/seminar with women journalists, to make them aware that gender issues are insufficiently covered; make women journalists partners in this initiative

**Preliminary conclusions:**

- UNDP to set up an interactive gender network
- Relevant information, studies and articles to be easily available on a dedicated site/TV programmes
- Networking tool to exchange ideas and communicate on how to move forward
- Gender issues not sufficiently represented in the media
- Partnerships to be developed
- Women journalists to be more involved in gender initiatives
- To convene another meeting for end of summer and take concrete actions
- Oana Baluta to be the Focal Point for creating a database with articles, books, authors.