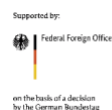




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**REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON GENDER AND ENERGY IN CENTRAL ASIA**  
**ORGANIZED JOINTLY BY THE EUROPEAN UNION THROUGH THE SECCA PROJECT,**  
**USAID POWER CENTRAL ASIA AND GIZ H2-DIPLO – DECARBONIZATION**  
**DIPLOMACY**

**17-18 October 2024**  
**Almaty, Republic of Kazakhstan**  
**Rahat Palace Hotel**

## **Background**

The European Union (EU) launched its project “Sustainable Energy Connectivity in Central Asia (SECCA)” in 2022 to achieve “a strengthened and more inclusive policy, regulatory and institutional framework for the transition to a sustainable energy system, within a regional context; as well as increased investment, capacity and awareness in sustainable energy in the Central Asia region”.

In its efforts to promote renewable energy (RE), energy efficiency (EE) and energy-saving solutions, the project acknowledges the importance of ensuring inclusive and gender-responsive energy policies. SECCA intends to contribute to strengthening public capacities for governance, strategy development, gender-responsive policy design and regulatory framework for EE and RE deployment, including by raising awareness on the benefits of the transition into more sustainable and gender-responsive energy systems. To that end, SECCA has produced 5 national Gender-in-Energy Assessments for each Central Asian country, to capture the status of gender mainstreaming in national energy policies and strategies in the beneficiary countries, as well as the actual role of women in the energy sector.

By convening this regional conference, the SECCA project intends to:

- Raise awareness and promote dialogue at the regional level on the nexus between gender equality and clean energy, by addressing topics such as the importance of gender equality for the energy transition, mechanisms to mainstream gender in the energy sector policies and programs and to design gender-responsive energy policies, programs and plans
- Share the key findings from the national Gender-in-Energy Assessments produced by the project
- Collect inputs from the region on priority areas and specific needs in advancing gender equality within the energy sector.

The conference is addressed to SECCA’s official counterparts in the clean energy policy environment, including representatives from the Ministry of Energy, energy companies, energy associations and other relevant international and regional partners and national stakeholders, and shall strive to ensure a balanced participation of female and male representatives.

SECCA proposes to invite one representative from each institutional counterpart, the SECCA national coordinator and the SECCA national gender analyst from each beneficiary country.

## **Agenda**

The Agenda is designed in such a way as to:

- Share best practices from the Region and beyond
- Stimulate exchanges and include interactive group discussions
- Present the future plans and collect recommendations on potential ways forward.

### **Day 1      Thursday, October 17**

09:00 – 09:30      *Registration*

09:30 – 09:50      **Welcome Remarks**

Welcome remarks – EU Delegation representative – Dr Johannes Baur, Head of Cooperation, Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Kazakhstan

Welcome remarks – Representative of the host country, Leyla Omarkhanova, Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Kazakhstan

Welcome remarks – USAID representative – Monique Mosolf, Regional Deputy Mission Director, USAID/Central Asia

Welcome remarks – Manuel Andresh, Head of the Hydrogen Diplomacy Office, GIZ

09:50 – 10:10      **Tour de table**

10:10 – 10:40      **Session 1: Introduction to Gender and Energy**

Objective: Illustrate how gender and energy are connected, and the relevance and implications of this nexus.

Moderator: Dr Johannes Baur

“The gender and energy nexus: A thematic overview” – SECCA Gender Expert, Ms Silvia Sartori

10:40 – 11:00      *Coffee Break*

11:00 – 12:30      **Session 2: The Central Asian Context: A Review of Key Findings**

Objective: Provide an overview of the current status of gender-related matters and their integration in the region’s energy policies based on the findings from SECCA’s Gender-in-Energy Assessments

Moderator: Ms Ilze Purina

11:00 – 11:20      “Presentation of the findings from the Gender-in-Energy Assessment in the Republic of Kazakhstan” – SECCA Gender Expert, Ms Silvia Sartori

11:20 – 11:40      “Presentation of the findings from the Gender-in-Energy Assessment in the Kyrgyz Republic” – SECCA GESI Analyst for the Kyrgyz Republic, Ms Azhara Boobekova

- 11:40 – 12:00 “Presentation of the findings from the Gender-in-Energy Assessment in the Republic of Tajikistan” – SECCA GESI Analyst for Tajikistan, Mr Nasrullo Naimov
- 12:00 – 12:20 “Presentation of the findings from the Gender-in-Energy Assessment in Turkmenistan” – SECCA GESI Analyst for Turkmenistan, Ms Jemal Durdykova (online)
- 12:20 – 13:30 *Lunch Break*
- 13:30 – 14:10 Session 2 (continued): The Central Asian Context: A Review of Key Findings**
- 13:30 – 13:50 “Presentation of the findings from the Gender-in-Energy Assessment in the Republic of Uzbekistan” – SECCA GESI Analyst for Uzbekistan, Ms Iroda Chilek
- 13:50 – 14:10 “Overview on common challenges and promising practices across the Region in mainstreaming gender in energy” - SECCA GESI Expert, Ms Silvia Sartori
- 14:10 – 15:45 Session 3: The Central Asian Context: Common Challenges and Opportunities – Group Work**  
 Objective: After setting the scenes of the status of gender integration into energy policies in the five target countries, country-based group discussions take place to reflect on the findings presented earlier, identify challenges and priorities and suggest recommended actions.
- After the group work and reporting to the plenary, a final Q&A follows.
- Moderator: Silvia Sartori
- 15:45 – 16:00 **Conclusions of Day 1 – by Mr Paata Janelidze**
- 16:00 – 16:30 *Networking Coffee*
- Day 2                      Friday, 18 October**
- 09:00 – 09:30 Registration
- 09:30 – 11:00 **Session 4: International Experiences and Best Practices**  
 Objective: Share examples of how gender is being integrated in Europe and Central Asia and provide participants with knowledge and tools to advance gender-responsive energy policies in their country.
- Moderator: Ms Silvia Sartori
- “Mainstreaming Gender into European Energy Policies” – European gender and energy policy expert, Dr Marielle Feenstra
  - “Financing Gender-Responsive Energy Projects: The EBRD Experience in Central Asia” – Anar Nurbayeva, EBRD
  - “Building the Capacity towards a more Gender-Responsive Energy Sector in the Region” – Contribution by Baltugan Tazhmakina, Qazaq Green Renewable Energy Association.
- Q&A session
- 11:00 – 11:15 *Coffee Break*

11:15 – 12:30 **Partner session**

**Session 5: Women in Green Hydrogen and Green Energy: Panel Discussion**

The H2-diplo - Decarbonization Diplomacy project, implemented by GIZ, is a pivotal initiative of the German Federal Foreign Office (AA), aimed at accelerating the global energy transition and the decarbonization of fossil fuel-dependent economies in partner countries. The project is not only supporting the advancement of global trade of green hydrogen but also intends to help governments diversify local economies through value chain integration. Financed by the German Federal Foreign Office (AA) through funds of the International Climate Initiative (IKI), H2-diplo is committed to promoting gender equality in the energy sector, aligning with the feminist foreign policy approach of the AA.

In Kazakhstan, the Hydrogen Diplomacy Office in Astana is playing a critical role in supporting the country's efforts to establish green hydrogen as a cornerstone of its decarbonization strategy. Given Kazakhstan's current reliance on fossil fuels—both for domestic use and export—green hydrogen represents a sustainable alternative that could drive the transition to a greener, more competitive economy. The project also emphasizes the importance of gender equality in this transformative process, highlighting the stories and experiences of successful women in the field of green hydrogen and green energy in Central Asia.

Objective: Share the experiences and stories of successful women in the field of green hydrogen and green energy in Central Asia. The format of the session is a moderated open question round.

Moderators: Yelena Serebrennikova, Gender focal point GIZ, and Nurbek Yessetov, Energy Advisor, GIZ

- Mavjuda Kholikzoda, Energy and Water resources expert, Tajikistan
- Ainur Tumysheva – Investment Director, HyrAsia Energy (Svevind)
- Saule Zholdayakova – Acting Director of Department of Alternative Energy, Head of Hydrogen Technologies Research Laboratory, KMG Engineering LLP – online
- Ainur Begimbetova – Director, Institute of Energy and Green Technologies, EnergoUniversity
- Kundus Kyrbasheva, Director, Green Energy Fund under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic
- Gulchehra Sobirova, Chief Specialist, Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Q&A

12:30 – 13:30 *Lunch Break*

13:30 – 14:45 **Partner session**

**Session 6: Promoting Women for Sustainable Energy in Central Asia**

USAID's Power Central Asia activity began in October 2020 and aims to help five Central Asian countries—Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan—implement their national energy priorities, reap economic benefits from cross-border energy trade, and enhance energy security by expanding regional connectivity. The project also contributes to the cross-sectoral goals of promoting training, education, and capacity-building;

increasing private sector investment; leveraging the expertise of local organizations and ensuring gender equality and inclusion.

Objective: Share examples of how gender is being integrated in the project and highlight key results.

Moderator: Bayan Abylkairova

- “USAID Power Central Asia Activity: Gender Equality and Social Inclusion” – Bayan Abylkairova, USAID Power Central Asia
- “Clean Energy Education in Central Asia” – Ainur Begimbetova, Almaty University of Power Engineering and Telecommunications
- “Establishing and experiencing a master’s program for strategic management in renewable energy and energy efficiency” – Alexey Kobzev, German-Kazakh University
- “Building the Capacity of Energy Policy-Makers: The experience of Kyrgyzstan’s Gender Committee” – Meerim Zhussupova, Bishkek electricity grid under National Electric Grid of Kyrgyzstan
- “Empowering women in energy of Tajikistan: outlook and plans” – Shakhnozi Komilzoda, Association of Renewable Energy of Tajikistan
- “Gender Council under the Ministry of Energy of Uzbekistan” – Nargiza Madjitova, Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Uzbekistan

14:45 – 16:15 **Session 7: Reflections in groups**

Objective: Divided in mixed-country groups, participants are invited to reflect on the key learnings acquired during the workshop and identify specific action points they can promote to mainstream gender in their country’s energy sector.

After the group work and reporting to the plenary, a final Q&A follows.

16:15 – 16:30 **Conclusions**

Concluding remarks from all partners.

16:30 – 17:00 *Networking Coffee*