



## CONCEPT NOTE

### **GREEN AND GENDER EQUITABLE: recommendations for Ukraine's post-war recovery**

#### NGO FORUM Parallel Event

#### 68<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women

##### **General information**

Along with human, residential buildings and infrastructure damages, in the last 2 years the on-going Russian war has been causing massive damage to the environment of Ukraine and the neighbouring countries.

A viable environment and undisturbed natural resources are essential to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and accelerate the global shift to Green Economy. The war against Ukraine has wrought not only widespread destruction of life-supporting infrastructure, but also potentially irreparable environmental damage.

As of 15 February 2024, Ukraine's the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine<sup>1</sup> has verified over 3,800 reports on environmental threats received from the officials and citizens. Among them the cases on:

- air pollution due to fires from oil products; large amounts of asbestos and other harmful dust, with followed risks to the human health;
- soil pollution by hazardous particulates as result of oil spills, destruction of industrial sites;
- water pollution, including transboundary river basins such as the Dnipro and Dniester rivers, by heavy metals, motor oil and fuel, persistent organic pollutants and other toxic materials;
- forests, nature reserves and protected areas due to fires and loss of biodiversity, that decrease natural adaptive capacities to mitigate climate change, among others;
- coastal and marine ecosystems by chemical and acoustic pollution resulted in loss of aquatic fauna (i.e. death of around 5,000 dolphins) etc.

Losses are estimated at approx. 57 bln euros.

The breach of the Kakhovka dam in June 2023 is a far-reaching environmental disaster that goes beyond Ukraine's borders. According to the UNEP-led assessment<sup>2</sup>, the magnitude of which might not be clear for years or even decades to come. Hundreds of square kilometres were flooded, and thousands of square

<sup>1</sup> Official resource of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine:

<https://ecozagroza.gov.ua/en>

<sup>2</sup> Rapid Environmental Assessment of Kakhovka Dam Breach Ukraine, 2023:

<https://www.unep.org/resources/report/rapid-environmental-assessment-kakhovka-dam-breach-ukraine-2023>

kilometres of reservoir and wetlands were desiccated. The destruction of the Kakhovka hydroelectric dam is a war crime and a potential act of ecocide committed by the occupying forces of the Russian Federation during the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

The international and donor community expresses strong support for Ukraine's vision of a green post-war recovery. Such international organizations as UNEP,, UNECE, OECD, UNIDO, The World Bank, NGO ZoiEnvironment Network and many national environmental organizations have been assessing the negative impact of the war on the environment, draft recommendations on sustainable and green post-war recovery and creates platforms for discussing mobilization of financial support and investment projects to support Ukraine in recovering its economy. Ensuring that gender mainstreaming is built into the post-war green recovery is the topic of this panel.

<b>Aim</b>	To discuss, raise awareness and prepare recommendations on green and gender equitable during the post-war recovery in Ukraine
<b>Expected results</b>	To draw attention to and emphasize the important role of inclusive green, sustainable and gender-equitable issues in the post-war reconstruction of Ukraine
<b>Event date and time:</b>	14 March 2024 14:00-15:30 Kyiv time / 13:00-14:30 Geneva time / 7:00-8:30 New York time
<b>Duration</b>	90 minutes
<b>Venue</b>	Virtual / <a href="https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMsdeirqz8uGtfjs_J18NDssK2x0NBZn-BE#/registration">https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMsdeirqz8uGtfjs_J18NDssK2x0NBZn-BE#/registration</a>
<b>Participants:</b>	Representatives of the Ukrainians governmental and non-governmental organizations, thematic experts, WFUWO associated organizations
<b>Organizers and Co-Sponsors</b>	<b>Organizer:</b> WFUWO World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations / WFUWO at UNOG  <b>Co-sponsors:</b> Ukrainian Women in Switzerland Association, Ukrainian Women's Fund, La Strada, Ukrainian Women's Initiative in UAE
<b>Program:</b>	<b>Moderator:</b> <b>Ms. Lesya Nikolayeva</b> International Environmental Expert, Chair of the Ukrainian Women in Switzerland Association  <b>Welcoming remarks:</b> <b>Mrs. Jaroslava Khartyanyi</b> President, World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations  <b>Panellists:</b> <b>Ms. Mariana Yevsyukova</b> , Co-founder and coordinator of the Ukrainian Women's Initiative in the United Arab Emirates / WFUWO's representatives to the UN in

Geneva, “Ukrainian pavilion at COP28: ensuring gender quality in green recovery process”

**Ms. Svitlana Sushko**, Acting Director, Reform Support Team at the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine, “Government agenda for inclusive green post-war recovery and gender equality”

**Ms. Anna Ackermann**, Policy analyst, Green reconstruction of Ukraine, International Institute for Sustainable Development / Board member of Centre for Environmental Initiatives “Ecoaction”, “Progress and challenges in preparation to green reconstruction of Ukraine”

**Ms. Kateryna Shor**, Project manager at Information Center "Green Dossier", “Gender balance in the Ukrainian organic sector: the impact of the war and post-war recovery”

**Mr. Andriy Andrushevych**, Senior Policy Expert, Resource and Analysis Centre “Society and environment”, “The changing role of women in Ukrainian society and post-war reconstruction”

**Final remarks**