SECRETARIAT OF THE CONFERENCE ON INTERACTION AND CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES IN ASIA

СЕКРЕТАРИАТ СОВЕЩАНИЯ ПО ВЗАИМОДЕЙСТВИЮ И МЕРАМ ДОВЕРИЯ В АЗИИ

№NTC/PH/616

The Secretariat of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) presents its compliments to the CICA Member States and has the honour to forward herewith a concept paper and programme for seminar "Community Resilience in Times of COVID-19 – Gender, Education and Public Health", which will be organized by the State of Israel online on 21 June 2022 under the CICA Plan of Implementation of Confidence Building Measures for 2022.

Enclosure:
Concept paper and programme on 3 p.

The Secretariat avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the CICA Member States the assurances of its highest consideration.

Nur-Sultan, 18 May 2022

MEMBER STATES
OF THE CONFERENCE ON INTERACTION
AND CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES
IN ASIA

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Приложение: концепция и программа на 3 л.

Секретариат Совещания по взаимодействию и мерам доверия в Азии (СВМДА) свидетельствует свое уважение государствам-членам СВМДА и имеет честь настоящим препроводить концепцию и программу семинара «Устойчивость обществ в период пандемии COVID-19: гендерные вопросы, образование и общественное здравоохранение», который будет организован Государством Израиль в онлайн формате 21 июня 2022 года в рамках Плана СВМДА по реализации мер доверия на 2022 год.

Секретариат пользуется случаем, чтобы возобновить государствам-членам СВМДА уверения в своем весьма высоком уважении.

город Нур-Султан, 18 мая 2022 г.

ГОСУДАРСТВА-ЧЛЕНЫ СОВЕЩАНИЯ ПО ВЗАИМОДЕЙСТВИЮ И МЕРАМ ДОВЕРИЯ В АЗИИ

CONCEPT PAPER
for Seminar on
Community Resilience in Times of COVID-19 –
Gender, Education, and Public Health

Introduction

For two years now, the entire world has been in the grip of a new, previously unknown coronavirus infection, which has led to an unparalleled pandemic and affected all key areas of human life.

The effects of COVID-19 have mostly showed how sensitive and vulnerable economy and society, gender, education, and public health are.

The rise in domestic violence, disruption of education during the pandemic, heavy toll in human lives as an unprecedented public health challenge are just some of the serious problems that must be addressed at both the universal and the regional levels.

These problems are equally relevant to the Asian continent. Although Asia is now in the thick of global international relations in terms of economic potential and the degree of influence on world politics, the countries of the region are still negatively affected by serious threats to their sustainable development.

As UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres rightly noted in one of his statements, *"Our world can only get ahead of this virus one way – together".*[1]

In view of the above, the efforts of the CICA Member States have led to the development of a new confidence building measure in the New Challenges and Threats dimension with the priority area Epidemiological Safety, Public Health and Pharmaceuticals. To implement this confidence building measure, the proposed activity Community Resilience in Times of COVID-19 – Gender, Education, and Public Health was included in the CICA Plan for 2022.

Host: CICA Member State – Israel

Goals and objectives:

The goal of the Seminar is to strengthen cooperation among the CICA Member States and to find balanced solutions in the context of addressing gender issues in the post-COVID period, as well as issues in the area of pre-school education and public health.

To achieve the stated goal, the following *objectives* have been set:

- Discussing the social and economic effects of COVID-19 on women *(including the impact of the pandemic on women through economic uncertainty, rise of violence, increased burden of unpaid care, reduction of social services, etc.);*

- Studying the effects of COVID-19 on children's development, as well as the challenges that children themselves, teachers, and parents face *(disruption of education during the pandemic, etc.);*
- Reviewing the strengthening of community resilience and its connection to public health *(including a review of tools for coping with crisis and trauma).*

Target audience: Representatives of the CICA Member States, as well as representatives of government and non-governmental institutions, academia, and international partners focusing on gender equality, education, and public health.

Date of the Seminar:
21 June 2022 (Tuesday), 10:00-13:00 (Israel time)

Meeting format: online

Structure and format:
The Seminar will be structured around three key sessions moderated by invited experts in gender, education, and public health.
The mentioned sessions will discuss the following issues:
Session I: Women's resilience through COVID-19;
Session II: Supporting young children in education during the pandemic;
Session III: Community resilience and public health: A Direct Connection.

Expected outcome:
- Awareness of the importance of community resilience and its role in addressing serious challenges posed by the pandemic at the global and regional levels;
- Sharing experiences on community resilience during the pandemic on the Asian continent;
- Discussing and developing a concerted position of the CICA Member States on coping with COVID-19 with a particular focus on gender, education, and public health;
- Developing recommendations following the Seminar.

Working languages: English

Community Resilience in Times of COVID 19 – Gender, Education and Public Health

June 21st, 10:00-13:00 (Israel Time)

Two years since the COVID-19 pandemic and there remains immense challenges to overcome. Strengthening resilience and improving the public health of communities must be a priority. This Seminar will discuss the effects COVID-19 has had on our communities, with a specific focus on gender issues, early childhood education and public health. Speakers will discuss the importance of community resilience and its role in dealing with the enormous challenges COVID-19 has had on our society.

10:00: Women's Resilience through COVID-19
Prof. Frances Raday, Professor of Law, Hebrew University, Formerly Special Rapporteur, UN Human Rights Council; Expert Member, CEDAW

This session will focus on the social and economic impact of COVID 19 on women. It will highlight how COVID 19 severely impacts women through economic uncertainty, the rise of violence, the increased burden of unpaid care, and the reduction of social services. The session will also discuss possible solutions to help support women during these times.

11:00: Supporting Young Children in Education during the Pandemic
Ran Cohen Harounoff, Early Childhood Education Expert, Founder Early Starters International

This session will discuss the importance of early childhood education, and its disruption during COVID 19. It will also discuss the effects COVID 19 has had on child development and focus on the challenges children, teachers and parents face.

12:00: Community Resilience and Public Health: A Direct Connection
Prof. Mooli Lahad, PhD., Senior Medical Psychologist, Founder and President, Community Stress Prevention Center

This session will focus on the importance of community resilience, how communities can strengthen it, and how it is connected to public health. The lecture will also present the tools of coping with crisis and trauma.