

March 16, 2022

Venue: Hotel Emerald

10:00 – 10:50 Democracy should not be taken for granted

Democracy demands continuous strengthening and nurturing, and, despite its shortfalls, it delivers peace and prosperity for its citizens. Although Kosovo is a young country, its democracy is growing and building a better life for its people. Nonetheless, globally, democracy today is under attack on many fronts and the people of Kosovo need to reaffirm their commitment to democracy's promise. In this open conversation, President Osmani will discuss with the audience the current state of democracy in the country, its challenges and opportunities, and how the inclusion of all voices makes democracy sustainable and more effective.

- H.E. Dr. Vjosa Osmani Sadriu, President of the Republic of Kosovo
- Edi Gusia, Agency for Gender Equality, Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosovo

10:50 – 11:00 Photo opportunity with President Osmani Sadriu

11:00-12:45 Accountability in Local Governance: Citizens' Priorities Responded through Gender Responsive Budgets

An inclusive engagement and representation of citizens in policy-making processes are at the core of good governance. Meaningful participation of citizens at the local level is particularly important for a well functioning democracy. To guarantee that women and men enjoy full and equal rights, responsibilities, and opportunities, government institutions should ensure that policies, legislation, and budgets are audited through a gender lens. This panel discussion will seek to examine the state of accountability at the local level in delivering responsive services for all citizens, in particular to those most vulnerable.

- Donjeta Sahatciu, Deputy Mayor, Municipality of Pristina
- Marqe Tanushi Selmanaj, Deputy Mayor, Municipality of Klina
- Adnan Ademi, Speaker of the Municipal Assembly, Municipality of Shtime
- Fatbardha Emini, Director of Directorate of education, Municipality of Vitia TBD

Moderator: Rachel Weston, Regional Policy Specialist, UN Women Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia

12:45 - 13:45 Lunch

14:00 - 14:20 Defending democracy through inclusion

- Ambassador Melanne Verweir, Executive Director of the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security and former US Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women Issues

14:20 - 16:00 Ten Years Since the Pristina Principles: Buckle Up for Accelerated Gender Parity

Kosovo's society has seen progress in having more women's voices being heard in its public discourse; nonetheless, there is still much to be done to achieve gender parity. The Pristina Principles serve as a foundation and guide for efforts to advance women's full and equal participation in society. Women continue to face significant barriers across all segments – political, social, cultural, economic and legal. The record number of women elected and advancements in technology present an opportunity for the panel discussion to reference and identify ways forward to accelerate gender parity to ensure women's political and economic empowerment, their security and justice in Kosovo.

- Atifete Jahjaga, Former President of the Republic of Kosovo
- Tinka Kurti, Member of Parliament and Chair of Women Caucus, Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo
- Artane Rizvanolli, Minister of Economy, Government of the Republic of Kosovo
- Vlora Citaku, Vice President, Democratic Party of Kosovo (PDK)
- Teuta Sahatqija, Presidency Member of Democratic League of Kosovo (LDK)

**Moderator: Visar Ymeri, Executive Director,
Musine Kokalari Institute for Social Policy**

16:00 - 16:10 Closing Remarks and Adjournment

- Ambassador Nancy Soderberg, Senior Country Director, NDI Kosovo