

Report on the Asia-Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Sixty-third Session of the Commission on the Status of Women

“Social Protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls”

13-14 February 2019, Bangkok



Contents

Contents.....	1
I. Organization of the Meeting.....	2
A. Background.....	2
B. Attendance.....	2
II. Proceedings.....	3
A. Segment 1: Opening of the Meeting.....	3
B. Segment 2: 25 th Anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action: Preparation for Beijing+25 Regional Review.....	3
C. Segment 3: Priority Theme for the Sixty-third Session of the Commission on the Status of Women.....	5
a. Session A: Interlinkages between Systems of Social Protection, Public Services and Sustainable Infrastructure.....	5
b. Session B: Gender-responsive Implementation of Social Protection.....	6
c. Session C: Promoting Quality Gender-responsive Public Services and Infrastructure Development.....	7
d. Session D: Measures to Accelerate Implementation of Comprehensive System of Social Protection, Public Services and Infrastructure.....	8
e. Session E: Review of all recommendations (sections A to E).....	9
D. Closing of the Meeting.....	9
III. Summary of Recommendations.....	10
a. Strengthening the policy and legislative frameworks to enhance interlinkages between systems of social protection, public services and sustainable infrastructure.....	12
b. Supporting gender-responsive implementation of social protection.....	12
c. Promoting quality gender-responsive public services.....	14
d. Mainstreaming gender in infrastructure.....	14
e. Promoting measures to accelerate implementation of comprehensive systems of social protection, public services and sustainable infrastructure.....	15
Annex I. List of Participants.....	19
Annex II. Programme.....	28

I. Organization of the Meeting

A. Background

1. To assist the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in its deliberations at its 63rd session, the Asia-Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for the 63rd session of the Commission on the Status of Women was jointly convened by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, in cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, the United Nations Development Fund (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and other members of the Asia-Pacific UN Regional Coordination Mechanism Thematic Working Group on Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women (TWG-GEEW) at the United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC) in Bangkok from 13 to 14 February 2019.

B. Attendance

2. Representatives of the following Governments attended the Meeting:
 - Members of the 63rd session of the Commission on the Status of Women from the Asia-Pacific region: Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Mongolia, Russian Federation.
 - Other Governments from the Asia-Pacific region: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Viet Nam.
3. Representatives from inter governmental organizations attended the Meeting: Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Pacific Community (SPC), South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).
4. Representatives of the following offices of the United Nations Secretariat, funds, programmes, specialized agencies and other entities attended: Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); International Labour Organization (ILO); United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women).
5. Representative of the following civil society organizations, and other entities attended the Meeting: All China Women's College, Alliance for Gender Inclusion in the Peace Process (AGIPP), Asia-Pacific Alliance for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (APA), Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development, Asia-Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD), Alliance of Concerned Teachers – Philippines, ARROW, Awaj Foundation, Burmese Women's Union, China Women's University, Colors Rainbow, Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN), Educating Girls of Rural China, Empower Foundation, Fiji Women's Rights Movement,

Homenet Pakistan, Institute for Human Development, Ishtirok, KABAR BUMI, Korea Women's Associations United (KWAU), Kolkata Rista, Landesa, National Indigenous Women Forum, Pacific Asia NGO Caucus on Beijing+25, Penn Tholzhilalargal Sangnam (Women Workers' Union), Plan International Asia Regional Office, Restless Development- India, Shobujer Ovijan Foundation, Society for the Promotion of Human Rights, Soeciety for Rural Education and Development, Soroptimist International, Tanggol Bayi (Defend Women)- Philippines, The Global Alliabce Against Traffic in Women, The Maple Women's Psychological Counseling Center, UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Voice for Change, Women Forum for Women in Nepal, Women's Watch-China, Y-PEER Asia Pacific Center, Bangkok, YWCA of Thailand.

II. Proceedings

A. Segment 1: Opening of the Meeting

6. Opening remarks were delivered by Mr. Hongjoo Hahm, Deputy Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP); Ms. Anna-Karin Jatfors, Regional Director, a.i., United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (UN Women); as well as Ms. Erwiana Sulistyaningsih, representative of Civil Society Organisations.

B. Segment 2: 25th Anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action: Preparation for Beijing+25 Regional Review

7. Segment 2 entitled "25th Anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action: Preparation for Beijing+25 Regional Review" was chaired by Ms. Hou Nirmita, Under Secretary of State, Ministry of Women's Affairs, Cambodia, and included presentations by Ms. Lopa Banerjee, Director, Civil Society Division, UN Women, and Ms. Cai Cai, Chief, Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Section, Social Development Division, ESCAP.
8. The Segment provided an overview of 25th anniversary and review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, highlighting national, regional and global guidelines, events and processes.
9. Ms. Lopa Banerjee noted the significance of the year 2020 when there would be a confluence of global reviews of international agreements related to gender equality and the empowerment of women, including the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (Beijing+25), the 20th anniversary of the United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325, and the five-year milestone for the Sustainable Development Goals. Ms. Lopa also highlighted the importance of the thematic priority areas of the 57th, 60th, 61st, 62nd and 63rd sessions of the Commission of the Status of Women as a prelude to the review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action by addressing key structural issues and tools required to create an enabling environment that facilitated the right to work, ensured rights at work as well as an adequate standard of living. The Beijing+25 Global Review was thus opportune to review the remaining gaps

to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women, with particular focus on why progress has not been achieved and how to accelerate change. The national reviews would be critical in providing the evidence to identify remaining gaps, as well as good practices. Ms. Banerjee underscored the importance of conducting the national review across government and in a consultative manner with civil society, academia and other stakeholders. Ms. Banerjee concluded by stressing the urgency to accelerate action for change and the role of the Beijing+25 Global Review to develop a roadmap to chart the way forward towards this change.

10. Ms. Cai Cai noted that impressive economic gains in Asia and the Pacific have not benefited women and gender inequalities persist across the region. Recognising the slow pace of change where gains have been made, Ms. Cai stressed the urgency to accelerate further progress to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment in the region. She noted the comprehensive commitments that member States made in the "Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Advancing Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women" which served as a basis to further develop a roadmap of critical actions to translate these key commitments into gender results. Ms. Cai further illustrated synergies between the 12 critical areas of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. She concluded by outlining the timeline for the Beijing+25 Regional Review and calling on governments to provide input to identify synergies, priorities and key drivers to accelerate progress towards the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women, in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals.
11. Representatives shared key interventions, good practices, policies and programmes to deliver on commitments made in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action towards achieving progress on gender equality and the empowerment of women in their country. Several representatives highlighted national coordination mechanisms in place to leverage synergies and reduce gender gaps to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 5 and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. Some representatives noted challenges to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and gender equality, particularly with regards to financial resources, availability of disaggregated data and statistics, as well as the implementation and enforcement of legislation and policies to achieve gender equality.
12. Priority thematic areas highlighted by representatives included the empowerment of female-headed households; increasing women's access to decision-making and leadership opportunities; women's economic empowerment; ending all forms of violence against women; sexual and reproductive health and rights; reducing norms of harmful practices; as well as education and awareness-raising. In terms of key drivers for accelerating change, representatives stressed the importance of coordination and partnership with stakeholders; international and regional collaboration to identify innovative strategies; as well as strengthening the role of national women's coordination mechanisms and the gender-mainstreaming of legal and policy frameworks.
13. Several representatives outlined their strategies, statistical tools and coordination mechanisms to conduct the national reviews. Some good practices were shared on

alignment of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action with the Sustainable Development Goals.

14. A statement was delivered by civil society that highlighted the importance of an honest and bold review as well as accountability mechanisms to achieve commitments made in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

C. Segment 3: Priority Theme for the Sixty-third Session of the Commission on the Status of Women

15. Segment 3 addressed the priority theme for the 63rd session of the Commission on the Status of Women, “Social Protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls”, and comprised of Sessions A to E.

a. Session A: Interlinkages between Systems of Social Protection, Public Services and Sustainable Infrastructure

16. Session A entitled, “Interlinkages between Systems of Social Protection, Public Services and Sustainable Infrastructure” was chaired by H.E. Ms. Yohana Susana Yembise, Minister, Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection, Indonesia. The session included a panel discussion with the following panellists: Ms. Shahra Razavi, Chief, Research and Data Division, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women); Mr. Nuno Cunha, Senior Social Protection Specialist, International Labour Organization (ILO); Ms. Datuk Norma Mansor, Director, Social Wellbeing Research Centre (SWRC) Faculty of Economics and Administration, University of Malaya, Malaysia; and Mr. Tsogtbaatar Mangalsuren, Head of Social Welfare Division, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, Mongolia.
17. The panel discussion addressed the differential access of women to social protection, in particular, noting the high degree of informality in Asia and the Pacific that excluded women from accessing maternity benefits and old age pensions. Panellists stressed the need to develop a coordinated policy response to harness the synergies between social protection, public services and infrastructure in order to effect transformational changes in the lives of women and girls in the region. They highlighted the importance of investing in gender-responsive public services and infrastructure to reduce women’s unpaid time allocations and improve health outcomes. Towards this end, the mobilization of financial resources would be required, such as through progressive income and wealth taxes. In this regard, one panellist noted the impact of the economic slowdown and austerity measures on coverage of social protection of women and children.
18. Panellists called for gender-disaggregated data on accessing social protection, as well as ensuring the participation of women in the design and implementation of gender-responsive social protection systems. In noting the fragmentation of social protection programmes, panellists highlighted the importance of ensuring administrative simplicity and efficiency and suggested consolidating programmes through a life-cycle approach.

Social protection programmes that target life-cycle associated risks faced by women would help to ensure that vulnerability does not spread from one stage to the other. Strong political will and legislative frameworks were required to consolidate fragmented programmes and initiatives into a gender-responsive social protection system.

19. During the discussion following the panellists' presentations, participants further reflected on implementation measures for a more gender-responsive social protection system, including challenges associated with employer liability in designing maternity protection systems. The extension of social protection coverage to non-citizens, including migrant domestic workers, was also highlighted. Participants also discussed the implications of digitalization of public administrations. Whilst digitalization could enable more efficient coordination and monitoring mechanisms, it also posed challenges in ensuring access to social protection for those left furthest behind.

b. Session B: Gender-responsive Implementation of Social Protection

20. Session B entitled "Gender-responsive Implementation of Social Protection" was chaired by Ms. Meenakshi Gupta, Member Secretary, National Commission for Women, India. The session included a panel discussion with the following panellists: Mr. Shamsul Alam, Senior Secretary, General Economic Division, Planning Commission, Bangladesh; Ms. Davine Sengphal, Deputy Director, Department of Women and Health, Ministry of Women's Affairs, Cambodia; Mr. Piya Hanvoravongchai, Lecturer and Assistant Director, Thailand Research Center for Health Services System, Chulalongkorn University; and Ms. Thi Thu Ha Nguyen, Senior Official, Gender Equality Department, Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs, Viet Nam.
21. The panel discussion focused on gender-responsive design and implementation of social protection to ensuring food security and nutrition, universal health coverage, including sexual and reproductive health and rights, and the prevention of gender-based violence for all women. Panellists discussed country experiences in designing and implementing social protection policies and strategies to promote women's empowerment and address gender vulnerabilities. In particular, panellists highlighted the persistent challenges in ensuring access to social protection for vulnerable women, particularly those suffering from multiple and intersectional discrimination, including rural women, women living with HIV, women living in poverty, migrant women, women working in the informal sector, and ethnic minority women.
22. Good practices and strategies highlighted the importance of inclusive policies, financing, as well as outreach. In this context, gender mainstreaming into national social protection strategies and frameworks was discussed. Panellists also noted the importance of gender-sensitive budgeting and the earmarking of government funding for social protection programmes targeted at women. The critical role of women organizations and networks at the national, regional and local levels as outreach partners to ensure access to social protection programmes for vulnerable women was emphasized. Panellists also underscored the use of direct payments to beneficiaries and unified social protection registries to reduce the leakages of benefits.

23. In the discussion that followed, some government representatives shared information on their countries' social protection laws and policies that supported gender equality and women's empowerment, such as the design of cash transfer programmes to foster independence and behavioural change as well as the use of transport allowances to ensure women in rural and remote areas have access to social protection services. Participants also noted that vulnerable women, including older women, rural women, women in informal employment and migrant women, faced specific challenges in accessing social protection, including public health services. The importance of disaggregated data in monitoring the status of vulnerable women was further stressed.

c. Session C: Promoting Quality Gender-responsive Public Services and Infrastructure Development

24. Session C entitled "Promoting Quality Gender-responsive Public Services and Infrastructure Development" was chaired by Mr. Armando Da Costa, Director General, Secretary of State for Equality and Inclusion, Timor-Leste. The session included a panel discussion with the following panellists: Mr. Sisira Kodagoda, Chairman, National Council on Road Safety, Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation, Sri Lanka; Ms. Meenakshi Gupta, Member Secretary, National Commission for Women, India; and Ms. Selai Cama Korovusere, Director of Women, Ministry of Women, Children & Poverty Alleviation, Fiji.

25. Panellists stressed the importance of availability and accessibility to gender-responsive quality public social protection services and sustainable infrastructure, such as health, education, care, energy and sanitation, in the Asia-Pacific region. Panellists shared good practices from Sri Lanka, India and Fiji on making public services and infrastructure more gender responsive, to guarantee safe and secure environments for women and girls, particularly in urban areas.

26. The panel highlighted how holistic approaches to gender-responsive infrastructure and public services were required that addressed legislative measures, gender-sensitive infrastructure planning, multistakeholder engagement as well as attitudinal changes. Particular attention was paid to public services and infrastructure to ensure the safety of women in public spaces as well as their security in accessing public transport. Panelists further stressed how investments to enable more safe and accessible infrastructure could reap returns through enhanced economic and leadership opportunities for women.

27. Following the panellist presentations, participants discussed issues of access to health care and public services as well as sustainable infrastructure for marginalized women and girls, particularly in rural and remote areas. The specific needs of women in particularly vulnerable situations, including female-headed households, women with disabilities, transgender, migrants and those working in the informal sector were further stressed. Participants highlighted the need to strengthen the provision of quality maternal health care services and awareness raising initiatives to end violence against women, as well as to promote change of social norms. In addition, participants emphasized gender-responsive

budgeting as a tool to guide policy and planning towards more gender-responsive public services and infrastructure, as well as the need for sex-disaggregated and gender data.

28. Examples of good practices, such as the Market for Change initiative in Fiji, were discussed by participants in terms of improving market access and encouraging entrepreneurship and economic autonomy for rural women. The Safe Cities initiative in India was further commended by participants, while noting the need to establish indicators and evaluate the extent to which increased safety and security of women may be measured and achievements monitored.

d. Session D: Measures to Accelerate Implementation of Comprehensive System of Social Protection, Public Services and Infrastructure

29. Session D entitled “Measures to Accelerate Implementation of Comprehensive System of Social Protection, Public Services and Infrastructure” included a multi-stakeholder dialogue chaired by Mr. Shamsul Alam, Senior Secretary, General Economics Division, Planning Commission, Bangladesh. The panellists included Ms. Leituala Kuiniselani Toelupe Tago – Elisara, Director, Social Development Programme, Pacific Community (SPC), Ms. Rishfa Rasheed, Director, Social Affairs, South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC); Ms. Sita Sumrit, Assistant Director and Head of Poverty Eradication and Gender Division, Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Secretariat; and Ms. Sanam Amin, Programme Officer, Asia-Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD).
30. The multi-stakeholder dialogue focused on sub-regional policy frameworks, accountability mechanisms and challenges of advancing gender equality and empowerment of women and girls. The panel addressed the complementarity of national, sub-regional, regional and global frameworks and mechanisms to accelerate comprehensive systems of social protection, public services and infrastructure. The importance of sub-regional accountability frameworks to monitor gender-responsive social protection, public services and infrastructure through knowledge generation, gender mainstreaming, partnerships and investments was emphasized.
31. Recognising the rapid rate of urbanisation in the region, the panel discussed the need for gender responsive and sustainable cities with inclusive, safe and affordable infrastructure, public services and spaces for women. Panellists called for adequate fiscal space, financial and human resources, gender knowledge and technical skills to support the implementation of gender-responsive social protection, public services and infrastructure. The role of multistakeholders, including parliamentarians and community leaders was also underscored. Gender-responsive budgeting was cited as a key participatory tool to ensure the differentiated needs of women were addressed by policy-making. The panel also reviewed the gender dimension of energy-related services and infrastructure.
32. During the discussion following the panellist presentations, some participants noted that infrastructure projects should adhere to the principle of leaving no one behind. Participants discussed gender-sensitive infrastructure projects and the implementation of gender-

responsive budgeting in the region. Discussions also addressed how intergovernmental platforms could make governments accountable as well as the need to understand the intersectional nature of discrimination faced by indigenous women in the region.

e. Session E: Review of all recommendations (sections A to E)

33. Ms. Luzviminda Ilagan, Undersecretary, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Philippines, chaired session E “Review of all recommendations (sections A to E)” of the Meeting, during which government representatives identified key recommendations to address the specific needs of women and girls in Asia and the Pacific.
34. The recommendations were agreed upon during the session and will feed into the preparations for the 63rd session of the Commission on the Status of Women to be convened in New York from 11 to 22 March 2019. The adopted recommendations are provided under Section III of this report.

D. Closing of the Meeting

35. The Closing of the Meeting was chaired by Ms. Luzviminda Ilagan, Undersecretary, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Philippines. Ms. Cai Cai, Chief, Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Section, Social Development Division, ESCAP, and Ms. Janneke van der Graaff-Kukler, Regional Planning and Coordination Specialist, UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, delivered the closing remarks as the Co-chairs of the United Nations Regional Coordination Mechanism’s Thematic Working Group on Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women.
36. Ms. Cai Cai stressed that the discussions during the Meeting reflected the necessity for coordination and the need to harnesses the synergies between social protection, public services and infrastructure. She expressed hope that these discussions and recommendations would assist in the development of policy responses and strategies regarding these critical issues at the national level thereby contributing to the achievement of gender equality and women’s empowerment in Asia and the Pacific. She indicated that the inputs received from the Asia-Pacific region and the recommendations agreed upon during the Meeting will feed into the global dialogue during the 63rd session of the Commission on the Status of Women.
37. Ms. Janneke van der Graaff-Kukler stressed the importance of the interlinkages between social protection, public services and infrastructure, and the gender lens in all those areas for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by 2030. She emphasized that 2019 and 2020 are pivotal years in terms of accountability and implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325. She expressed hope that the Meeting outcomes would help advance the Beijing+25 review process at the national level. She further underscored the necessity to address social norms and gender stereotypes that perpetuate gender inequalities.

38. Ms. Cai Cai and Ms. Janneke van der Graaff-Kukler expressed appreciation to the member States for actively presenting updates on their national Beijing+25 review processes and associated good practices. Both speakers stressed that they look forward to active cooperation in preparations for, and the implementation of, the Asia-Pacific High-Level Intergovernmental Meeting on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Beijing+25 Review in November 2019 and beyond. They further welcomed the inputs provided by member States of the Asia-Pacific region to the agreed recommendations, and thanked panellists and civil society organizations present at the Meeting for contributing their perspectives.

III. Summary of Recommendations

39. Asia and the Pacific has continued to be the main engine of the global economy, accounting for more than 60 per cent of global growth.ⁱ With 1.9 billion workers – 1.2 billion men and 700 million women, the Asia-Pacific region represented 60 per cent of the global workforce in 2017.ⁱⁱ The region has been able to lift more than 80 percent of its extreme poor out of poverty during 1990-2015.ⁱⁱⁱ Nevertheless, Asia and the Pacific is also undergoing rapid economic transition, urbanisation and demographic shifts, while persistent and emerging development challenges have the potential to exacerbate social inequalities and foster political instability. These challenges include increasing income inequalities, aging populations, vulnerabilities to the impacts of climate change and disasters, and technological disruptions (automation and digitalisation), which threaten to reverse hard-won development gains in the region.^{iv} Approximately 61 per cent of the population in the Asia-Pacific region has no access to social protection at all. On average, 38.9 per cent of the population in the region has effective access to at least one area of social protection, but there are considerable differences in terms of social protection coverage across the region.^v Whilst noting that some countries are making progress to formalise domestic workers, the majority of women in the region don't have access to paid maternity benefits, as per the minimal agreed requirements of international labour standards.^{vi} Most countries in the region spend, on average, less than one third of the global average on social protection, leaving the majority of the population without social protection and contributing to rising inequalities in the region.^{vii} These trends and issues call for the urgent and critical need to address inequality and increase social investment in this region. Reducing inequality is particularly important for women and girls who face greater disadvantage as a result of gender-based discrimination, which intersects with other forms of discrimination related to race, ethnicity, class, nationality, sexual orientation, religion, age, disability, migration and location (including rural and remote areas). Women and girls who experience multiple forms of discrimination are further marginalised and disadvantaged.
40. Despite progress in some areas of gender equality such as reducing maternal mortality and achieving gender parity in primary school enrolment rates, the region still has a disproportionate share of women in the informal economy (more than 8 out of 10 working women are in vulnerable employment), particularly in agriculture and rural sectors, and often have little or no entitlement to social protection and access to public services.^{viii} Further, women and girls in this region bear an unequal share of unpaid care and domestic

work, on average four times more than men, adversely affecting their ability to move into higher quality jobs and opportunities as well as their likelihood to contribute to social security compared to other women and men.^{ix} Women and girls are affected by unacceptably high-levels of gender-based violence and harmful practices, poor access to quality sexual and reproductive health services, and low levels of representation and participation in multiple arenas of decision making. Women are also disproportionately affected by the impacts of climate change and disasters due to underlying gender inequality and socio-economic disadvantage, including unequal access to resources, opportunities, information and services.^x

41. The Asia-Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for the 63rd session of the Commission on the Status of Women considered “Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls” as its priority theme. The theme is grounded in the economic, social and cultural rights of women and girls enshrined in the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, among other international agreements. It is also aligned with the regional priorities in the context of the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Advancing Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment (Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific Resolution 71/13).^{xi}
42. The participants of the Asia-Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for 63rd session of the Commission on the Status of Women jointly examined the linkages of social protection systems, public services and infrastructure. The Meeting discussed how each area of work can be further enhanced in response to different gender-specific risks and vulnerabilities that cuts across different thematic areas, including but not limited to, health risks (e.g. infant mortality and diseases), life-cycle risks (e.g. childbearing, divorce, widowhood), household-economic risks (e.g. lack of access to finance and insurance services, increased expenditure for social obligations such as marriage and funerals), and social risks and vulnerabilities (e.g. exclusion, sexual and gender-based violence and crime). The Meeting identified and agreed on the following recommendations, building on the recommendations made by government representatives at the Asia-Pacific Policy Dialogue on Women’s Economic Empowerment in the Changing World of Work to inform the sixty-first session of the Commission on the Status of Women (61st session of the Commission on the Status of Women) in New York in March 2017 and the Report from the Expert Group Meeting in preparation for the 63rd session of the Commission on the Status of Women.^{xii} The Meeting called for a more comprehensive approach to strengthening systems of social protection, public services and sustainable infrastructure to address social and economic vulnerabilities within a broader development policy framework.
43. Taking into consideration the linkages of social protection systems, public services and infrastructure in the Asia-Pacific region, the participants of the Asia-Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for the 63rd session of the Commission on the Status of Women jointly identified and agreed on the following recommendations, with an emphasis on means of implementation, toward advancing the empowerment of all women and girls:

a. Strengthening the policy and legislative frameworks to enhance interlinkages between systems of social protection, public services and sustainable infrastructure

1. Adopt a comprehensive system approach to social protection, public services and sustainable infrastructure that strengthens coordination across sectors and levels of government, and including consultation with social partners and relevant organizations for gender-responsive design, monitoring and implementation.
2. Ensure that national social protection strategies and plans of action are informed by a gender lens and maximize synergies with public services, infrastructure, and other complementary programmes, particularly social protection plans and strategies that tackle social risks and vulnerabilities such as legal discrimination, rights awareness and discriminatory social norms, natural, economic and political shocks and practices.
3. Build technical capacity and funding for national and sub-national gender equality mechanisms, as appropriate to effectively support and monitor the mainstreaming of gender perspectives in the design and delivery of social protection systems, public services and sustainable infrastructure across and in coordination with other sectors and ministries.
4. Take special measures to address and include specific groups of women who experience multiple and intersecting forms of inequality and discrimination and/or face vulnerabilities into the social protection system.
5. Ensure that social protection, public services and sustainable infrastructure investments are geared towards supporting the livelihoods and productivity of women in informal economy including street vendors, waste pickers, domestic workers, home-based and agricultural workers (both own account workers and wage workers).
6. Provide women with equal and equitable access to social protection programmes such as public works and infrastructure jobs and/or other labour market interventions, including rights to decent work, measures to enable their upward mobility and career development.
7. Strengthen the production, dissemination and use of data and evidence-based research on women and girls' participation, access to, and benefit from social protection systems, public services, and sustainable infrastructure, including data disaggregated by sex, age and other variables, as appropriate on time use as well as reliable and comparable prevalence data on violence against women and girls to inform social protection, public services, and infrastructure policies that guarantee their safety and adequately respond to their needs.

b. Supporting gender-responsive implementation of social protection

8. Conduct a context-specific vulnerability assessment that incorporates gender and age dimensions to analyse risks and factors that drive exclusion and disadvantage of women and girls, including considerations of other vulnerable groups to inform the design and implementation of social protection schemes.^{xiii}
9. Support affordability and feasibility assessments to identify aspects of gender-responsive social protection measures that are immediately feasible and gradual steps for their full implementation.

10. Analyse the national/local specific context to identify pathways and inform strategies towards universal national social protection systems that ensure the income security of all women and girls throughout the life cycle.
11. Progressively increase the coverage and adequacy of social protection benefits, combining contributory and non-contributory mechanisms.
12. Increase investment in capacity building programmes tailored to implementers and local officials to integrate the gender perspective into daily work and practices.
13. Prioritise categorical targeting, based on age or geographical location over the narrow methods of poverty targeting based on means or proxy-means testing to avoid exclusion errors and stigmatisation.
14. Ensure that conditional cash transfers do not add pressure on care burden of women and girls or perpetuate gender stereotypes.
15. Ensure that pension systems are gender responsive, including by considering fair retirement policies and protection of the rights to pensions for women that survive their partners, given the aging population trends in the region.
16. Work towards formal and informal workers' access to social protection, including occupational injury, disability insurance, paid sick leave, parental leave, care leave, occupational health and safety, health, pension, and unemployment provisioning, and maternity benefits.
17. Support employers' and workers' organisation, including their rights to organise, freedom of association and collective bargaining in advancing the implementation of work-family balance, including maternity protection and paternity leave and childcare.
18. Ensure maternity benefits are in line with the ILO Maternity Convention No. 183, as applicable, and extend the support to pregnant women, adolescent mothers, and mothers of young children, who have no access to formal social security system, including in the form of cash transfers.
19. Improve the adequacy of tax-funded benefits on which women and girls disproportionately depend due to their disproportionate responsibilities for unpaid domestic and care work, including child-related cash transfers and social pensions to prevent women's poverty in old age.
20. Maximise the impact of social protection on the empowerment of women and girls through parallel investments in labour market policies that incentivise decent work for women, vocational training, childcare and services that prevent and respond to violence against women and girls.
21. Ensure the portability of social protection, social security and labour rights across sectors and national borders in accordance with national laws and regulation.
22. Support implementation of international labour standards, including the right to equal pay and conditions for work of equal value to close gender wage gaps, ensuring non-discrimination and minimum wage support to workers with family responsibilities and the rights to freedom of association and collective bargaining.
23. Support national efforts to improve the collection and analysis of sex- and age-disaggregated data and other variables as applicable on access to key social protection benefits, including pensions, disability, maternity and unemployment benefits, disaggregated by sex and type of programme.

24. Develop and adopt gender-responsive social protection strategies to reduce and mitigate the risks and enhance resilience to the effects of climate change and natural disasters.

c. Promoting quality gender-responsive public services

25. Ensure affordable and accessible quality public services, particularly health and education for all.
26. Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development.
27. Establish comprehensive, coordinated, inter-disciplinary, accessible and sustained multisectoral services, programmes and responses at all levels, that are adequately resourced and with the support of all available technologies, for all victims and survivors of all forms of violence against women and girls.
28. Identify and address access barriers, both financial and non-financial, faced by women and girls, including by lifting legal restrictions, changing discriminatory social norms and practices and adjusting physical infrastructure to meet the needs of all women including adolescent girls, older women and women with all disabilities.
29. Put in place measures that prevent and address institutional violence, discrimination, harassment and abuse of women and girls as users and providers of public services, including appropriate grievance mechanisms and support systems for victims.
30. Provide, fund and encourage rehabilitation programmes for the perpetrators of violence and promote research to further efforts in preventing its recurrence.
31. Invest in affordable, accessible, inclusive and gender-responsive quality services, including care services and facilities for children, persons with disabilities, older persons, refugees and internally displaced persons as essential public services in accordance with national laws.
32. Design and implement gender- and age-responsive trainings for public service workers.
33. Expand social and legal protections to cover all public service workers, including unpaid volunteer workers, community health and childcare workers.
34. Promote gender-balanced public service workforce, including parity in decision making and leadership positions, as well as effective mechanisms and tools, to ensure the meaningful voice, agency and participation of women.
35. Provide specific health and social care interventions for women and girls in prison to improve their health and well being.

d. Mainstreaming gender in infrastructure

36. Conduct systematic and transparent assessments of the environmental, human rights, gender and health impact of infrastructure projects with the inclusive participation of all women and girls in affected communities.
37. Ensure that physical infrastructures and workplaces are gender-responsive and inclusive including through the provision of clean water and sanitation, safe toilet facilities, child care and breastfeeding rooms.

38. Implement effective measures to guarantee safe sanitation for women and girls, including in schools and health clinics, transportation hubs, refugee camps, government offices and work sites.
39. Integrate menstrual hygiene management (MHM) as a mandatory feature of all public sanitation interventions, and as a feature of education curriculum for both girls and boys.
40. Promote household-level access, including in rural and remote areas, to adequate levels of electricity through grid and off-grid solutions, and to clean and safe water accounting for women's multiple roles and their specific livelihood needs, including pumped water and medium size electrical appliances.
41. Ensure that community energy systems, such as mini-grids, provide targeted support and incentives for women's participation and leadership as users, maintainers and producers.
42. Improve access to safe and clean cook-stoves and time-saving technologies designed in consultation with intended women users, to ensure their appropriateness and sustainability.
43. Ensure infrastructure development and investment to consider women's multiple roles as workers and caregivers and attend to the diversity of their needs, protecting their safety and promoting their mobility and economic empowerment.

e. Promoting measures to accelerate implementation of comprehensive systems of social protection, public services and sustainable infrastructure

44. Creating fiscal space for gender-responsive social investments
 - a. Optimize fiscal expenditures for gender-responsive social protection and care infrastructure, such as equitable, quality, accessible and affordable early childhood education, childcare, elder care, health-care, and care and social services for persons with disabilities and persons living with HIV and AIDS, which meet the needs of both caregivers and those in need of care, bearing in mind that social protection policies also play a critical role in reducing poverty and inequality and supporting inclusive growth and gender equality.
 - b. Work towards establishing or strengthening inclusive and gender-responsive social protection systems, including floors, to ensure full access to social protection for all without discrimination of any kind, and take measures to progressively achieve higher levels of protection, including facilitating the transition from informal to formal economy.
 - c. Invest in gender-responsive budgeting and tracking of budget allocations and spending, particularly gender-responsive social protection, public services and infrastructure.
 - d. Ensure that line ministries and relevant corporate sector entities in relevant sectors, including labour, social security and social welfare, health, education, planning, energy and transport, report on gender equality actions and spending.
 - e. Develop equitable and progressive domestic resource mobilization strategies, including increased revenue from tax and non-tax sources, to advance gender-

responsive social protection, improve the affordability and quality of gender-responsive public services, and invest in sustainable infrastructure at scale.

45. Strengthening governance and partnerships to improve coordination and accountability among different actors at the national, sub-national, and local levels

- a. Enhance governance and coordination between national and sub-national/local governments to optimize local-level engagement in light of growing decentralization to streamline coordination between line ministries and local governance to improve performance and delivery of frontline service providers for women and girls.^{xiv}
- b. Review the national policy frameworks and legislations and clarify roles and responsibilities of national and sub-national, local governments for delivering public services in general and social protection in particular, including reform process that is necessary to enhance service delivery particularly for women and girls of marginalised groups.
- c. Engage sub-national and local governments institutions and other relevant stakeholders in designing and creating gender sensitive, accessible grievance, complaint and redress mechanisms.
- d. Evaluate the cost and benefits of private sector participation in social protection systems, public service delivery and infrastructure developments.
- e. Ensure that private providers comply with the human rights principles of availability, accessibility, affordability and quality and do not discriminate by sex and other characteristics.
- f. Enhance cross-border collaboration to prevent and prosecute the abuse of migrant care workers, including bilateral agreements between countries of origin and destination in recognition of gender-responsive social protection as well as women's labour and human rights.

46. Strengthening capacity for gender-responsive monitoring and evaluation

- a. Systematically integrate gender indicators into the monitoring and evaluation frameworks of all policies and programs.
- b. Complement quantitative impact evaluations with qualitative studies that can reveal unintended consequences of social protection, public services and sustainable infrastructure on gender equality and women's empowerment.
- c. Develop gender- and age-specific indicators for monitoring the coverage and adequacy of social protection, public services and sustainable infrastructure across sectors, such as health, education, care, energy, transport, water and sanitation.
- d. Strengthening capacity for reporting and analysis of monitoring and evaluation data disaggregated by sex, age and other factors; explore how programme implementers can elicit gender-responsive data given current data shortcomings.
- e. Support community engagement, and women's organisations in piloting gender social audits and other participatory monitoring and evaluation methods to

promote learning on gender-sensitive programme governance and accountability, including women's representation and participation in the bodies that supervise and administer social protection, public services and infrastructure including social security tripartite councils.

47. Advocacy and awareness raising for gender-responsive social protection, public service and sustainable infrastructure

- a. Use evidence to enhance recognition among policy and decision makers that public spending on gender-responsive social protection, public services and sustainable infrastructure is an investment that can enhance economic productivity, sustainable development and resilience against crises and shocks.
- b. Promote the value of work by workers in the care sector and the skills required, including through national advocacy campaigns to address cultural norms and attitudes. In particular, protect the labour and human rights of care workers, including by ensuring their fair wages, social security and pension schemes.
- c. Transform gender norms and stereotypes through social protection interventions, such as the introduction of parental leaves benefits to incentivize fathers' participation in childrearing and retribution of care work.
- d. Promote advocacy and dissemination of information with beneficiaries and wider communities to raise awareness of gender-sensitive programme features and the reasons behind them.

ⁱ IMF. 2018. *Regional Economic Outlook: Asia and Pacific*. May 2018.

<https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/REO/APAC/Issues/2018/04/16/areo0509> [accessed December 2018]

ⁱⁱ ILO. 2018. Asia-Pacific Employment and Social Outlook: Advancing decent work for sustainable development.

https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/news/WCMS_649949/lang--en/index.htm [accessed January 2019]

ⁱⁱⁱ UNESCAP. 2018. *Social Outlook for Asia and the Pacific 2018: Poorly Protected*. Bangkok: UNESCAP.

^{iv} ADB and UN Women. 2018. *Gender Equality and the Sustainable Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific: Baseline and pathways for transformative change by 2030*. Bangkok: UN Women; and see, UNESCAP, *Frontier Technologies for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific*,

<https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/publications/Frontier%20tech%20for%20SDG.pdf> [accessed January 2019]

^v ILO. 2017. *World Social Protection Report 2017-19: Universal social protection to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals*. Geneva: ILO. https://www.ilo.org/global/publications/books/WCMS_604882/lang--en/index.htm [Accessed January 2019]

^{vi} ILO. Maternity Protection Convention. 2000 (No. 183).

https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:12100:0::NO::P12100_ILO_CODE:C183 [accessed January 2019]

^{vii} UNESCAP. 2018. *Social Outlook for Asia and the Pacific 2018: Poorly Protected*. Bangkok: UNESCAP.

^{viii} See, ADB and UN Women. 2018. *Gender Equality and the Sustainable Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific: Baseline and pathways for transformative change by 2030*; ILO. 2018; *World Employment Social Outlook Women 2018*. Geneva: ILO; and ILO. 2018. *Care work and Care Jobs: For the Future of Decent Work*. Geneva: ILO. *Key findings and messages Asia and the*

Pacific https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/documents/publication/wcms_633305.pdf [accessed January 2019]

^{ix} ILO. *Care Work and Care Jobs: For the Future of Decent Work*. Geneva: ILO.

^x See, Chapter 6, ADB and UN Women. 2018. *Gender Equality and the Sustainable Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific: Baseline and pathways for transformative change by 2030*.

^{xi} UNESCAP and UN Women. 2015. *Report of the Asian and Pacific Conference on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Beijing+20 Review*, Bangkok, Thailand, 17-20 November 2014

^{xii} UNESCAP and UN Women. 2017. *Asia and Pacific Policy Dialogue on "Women's Economic Empowerment in the Changing World of Work": Summary Report of Recommendation*, Bangkok, Thailand, 23-24 February 2017; and UN Women, Expert Group Meeting in preparation for the sixty-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women (63rd session of the Commission on the Status of Women) on "*Social protection systems, public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality*", New York, 13-15 September 2018.

^{xiii} Vulnerability assessments typically overlook gender-based violence and gendered impact of climate change or situation of women migrant workers, refugee and or stateless women.

^{xiv} Many countries in the region have fragmented schemes involving different government agencies, competing for limited funds, sometimes offering similar benefit packages and targeting the same beneficiaries. Lack of coordination and weak targeting mechanisms have led to duplication of efforts and wasted resources with high rates of leakages to the non-targeted beneficiaries. Local governments either already play a significant role in such services or are mandated to do so. However, there are a number of challenges that need to be carefully factored in. Government legislations and policies in many countries limit the mandates of local governments to implement social protection programmes.

Annex I. List of Participants

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

COUNTRIES

AFGHANISTAN

H.E. Ms. Delbar Nazari, Minister of Women's Affairs

Mr. Hafiz Rohani, Expert of Evaluation and Monitoring, Department of Evaluation and Monitoring, Minister of Women's Affairs

BANGLADESH

Mr. Shamsul Alam, Senior Secretary, General Economics Division, Planning Commission

Ms. Kamrun Nahar, Secretary, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs

Dr. Md. Shamsul Arefin, Secretary (Coordination and Reforms), Cabinet Division, Bangladesh Secretariat

Mr. Md. Abdul Barik, Additional Secretary, Cabinet Division, Bangladesh Secretariat

Mr. Abul Hossain, Project Director, Multi-Sectoral Programme on Violence against Women, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs

Ms. Dilwoara Alo, Personal Staff to Secretary (Deputy Secretary), Ministry of Women and Children Affairs

CAMBODIA

Ms. Hou Nirmita, Under Secretary of State, Minister of Women's Affairs, Ministry of Women's Affairs of Cambodia

Ms. Davine Sengphal, Deputy Director, Department of Women and Health, Ministry of Women's Affairs

Ms. Chinneth Cheng, Deputy Director, Department of Gender Equality, Ministry of Women's Affairs

FIJI

H.E. Mr. Kolinio Gata Takali, High Commissioner and Permanent Representative to ESCAP

Ms. Selai Cama Korovusere, Director of Women, Ministry of Women, Children & Poverty Alleviation

Mr. Pita Tagicakirewa, Counsellor and Alternate Permanent Representative to ESCAP

INDIA

Ms. Meenakshi Gupta, Member Secretary, National Commission for Women

INDONESIA

H.E. Ms. Yohana Susana Yembise, Minister, Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection

H.E. Ms. Agustina Erni, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection

Ms. Ratna Susianawati, Secretary Deputy of Gender Equality, Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection

Mr. Victor Hari Saputra, ADC, Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection

Ms. Nani Dwi Wahyuni, Head, Cooperation Division, Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection

Ms. Risna Kusumaningrum, Head, Monitoring & Evaluation of Beneficiaries Section, Ministry of Social Affairs of Indonesia

Ms. Endah Sulistyarningsih, Head, Sub Directorate of Human Resources, Ministry of Social Affairs of Indonesia

Mr. Dicky Komar, Deputy Chief of Mission and Deputy Permanent Representative to ESCAP, Indonesian Embassy, Bangkok

Ms. Meutia Hasniatiningsih Hasan, Official & First Secretary, Directorate of Human Rights & Humanitarian Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

IRAN (REPUBLIC OF)

Ms. Leila Falahati, Director General of International Affairs, Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs

JAPAN

Mr. Masateru Yoshida, Director for International Affairs, Gender Equality Bureau, Cabinet Office

Ms. Madoka Nasu Official, Gender Equality Bureau, Cabinet Office

MALAYSIA

Ms. Norma Mansor, Director, Social Wellbeing Research Centre (SWRC), Faculty of Economics and Administration, University of Malaya

MONGOLIA

Mr. Tsogtbaatar Mangalsuren, Head of Social Welfare Division, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection

MYANMAR

Mr. Shein Myint, Assistant Director, Social Protection Division, Department of Social Welfare, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement

NEPAL

Ms. Rudra Devi Sharma, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizen, Email: rudrasharma46@gmail.com

PAKISTAN

Mr. Muhammad Hassan Mangi, Director General IC/(NCCWD), Ministry of Human Rights

Mr. Faraz Zaidi, Counsellor and Deputy Head of Mission and Deputy Permanent Representative of Pakistan to UNESCAP, Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

Mr. Yasir Iqbal Butt, First Secretary and Alternate Permanent Representative of Pakistan to UNESCAP, Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

PHILIPPINES

Ms Luzviminda Ilagan, Undersecretary, Department of Social Welfare and Development

Ms. Anita E. Baleda, Chief, Policy Development and Advocacy Division, Philippine Commission on Women

Ms. Rebecca Rafaela Baylosis, Supervising Gender & Development Specialist, Policy Development, Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation Division, Philippine Commission on Women

Ms. Anna Clarissa Abesamis, Senior Economic Development Specialist, National Economic and Development Authority

Ms. Maria May-I Fabros, Principal Assistant, Socio-Cultural Division, Office of the United Nations and International Organizations, Department of Foreign Affairs, Philippine Commission on Women

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Mr. Oleg Shamanov, Minister-Counsellor, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to ESCAP

Mr. Dmitry Kulikov, Third Secretary, Assistant Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to ESCAP

SRI LANKA

Mr. Sisira Kodagoda, Chairman, National Council on Road Safety, Ministry of Transport & Civil Aviation

THAILAND

Ms. Pinsuda Jayanama, Director, Social Division, Department of International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ms. Siriwan Yentang, Director, Division of Gender Equality Promotion, Department of Women's Affairs and Family Development, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security

Ms. Krittika Bhosai, Director, International Organizations Cooperation Division, Fiscal Policy Office, Ministry of Finance

Dr. Dutsadee Juengsiragulwit, Director, Rajanagarindra Institute of Child and Adolescent Mental Health, Ministry of Public Health

Ms. Wilairat Sirisoponsilp, Deputy Director, Office of Transport and Traffic Policy and Planning, Ministry of Transport

Ms. Angkana Chaiwiriya, Plan and Policy Analyst, Senior Professional Level, Office of National Economic and Social Development Council Board, Office of the Prime Minister

Mr. Paritat Chantasakda, Senior Economist Fiscal Policy Office, Ministry of Finance

Ms. Saowalak Suwankhruea, Senior International Relations Officer, International Cooperation Bureau, Ministry of Labour

Mrs. Thirawadee Phumnikom, Expert on Gender Department of Women's Affairs and Family Development, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security

Mr. Pornpet Panjapiyakul, Health Administration Expert, MD., Health Administration Division, Office of Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Public Health

Ms. Sarittha Somsup, Medical Doctor, Bureau of Health Promotion, Ministry of Public Health

Mr. Tanit Loipimai, Foreign Relation Officer (Professional Level), Policy and Planning Division, Social Security Office, Ministry of Labour

Mr. Phanuphat Yimphong, Labour Specialist (Practical Level), Benefit Bureau, Social Security Office, Ministry of Labour

Ms. Sudawadee Thaweepaisan, Plan and Policy Analyst, Practitioner level, Office of National Economic and Social Development Council Board, Office of the Prime Minister

Ms. Pornruethai Chueabanditporn, HR Officer, Office of Transport and Traffic Policy and Planning, Ministry of Transport

Ms. Thida Pongcharoenchai, Social Development Officer, Professional Level Measures and Mechanisms Group, Division of Gender Equality Promotion, Department of Women's Affairs and Family Development, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security

Ms. Varee Chaitaveeporn, Foreign Relation Officer, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security

Mr. Watcharakorn Riabroi, Public Health Technical Officer, Bureau of Reproductive Health, Department of Health, Ministry of Public Health

Ms. Piyawadee Phisarnrattanakhun, Policy and Plan Analyst, Bureau of Health Promotion, Ministry of Public Health

Mr. Chaiyakorn Kiatpongsan, Counsellor, Social Division, Department of International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ms. Supattra Auearee, First Secretary, Social Division, Department of International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ms. Pornrawe Poenateetai, Third Secretary, Social Division, Department of International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ms. Makkawun Sanitchon, Human Rights Officer, Social Division, Department of International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

First Name: Mr. Suparek Wesarat, Human Rights Officer, Social Division, Department of International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ms. Asila Dorotae, Intern, Social Division, Department of International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

TIMOR-LESTE

Mr. Armando Da Costa, Director General, Secretary of State for Equality and Inclusion

Ms. Elisa da Silva, Counselor/Deputy Head of Mission, Deputy Permanent Representative to ESCAP, Embassy of Timor-Leste

VIET NAM

Ms. Thi Thu Ha Nguyen, Senior Official, Gender Equality Department, Ministry of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs

UNITED NATIONS BODIES

UNDP BANGLADESH

Mr. Mohammad Khaled Hasan, Social Protection Specialist, Social Protection Policy Support (SPPS) Programme

Mr. Aminul Arifeen, Project Manager, Social Protection Policy Support (SPPS) Programme

UNHCR REGIONAL OFFICE IN THAILAND

Ms. Anjalie Thomas, Intern – Livelihoods and Statelessness

UN WOMEN MYANMAR

Ms. San Hom Nan, Gender, Peace and Resilience Building Program Officer

SPECIALIZED AGENCY

ILO REGIONAL OFFICE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Ms. Suzuki Shiori, Intern

INTER GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

ASEAN

Ms. Sita Sumrit, Assistant Director, Poverty Eradication and Gender Division, ASEAN Secretariat

PACIFIC COMMUNITY (SPC)

Ms. Leituala Kuiniselani Toelupe Tago – Elisara, Director, Social Development Programme

SOUTH ASIAN ASSOCIATION FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION (SAARC)

Ms. Rishfa Rasheed, Director, Social Affairs, South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation

CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

All China Women's College

Ms. Liu Bohong, Professor

Alliance for Gender Inclusion in the Peace Process (AGIPP)

Ms. Nang Phyu Phyu Lin, National Advisor

Asia Pacific Alliance for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (APA)

Ms. Alexandra Johns, Executive Director

Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development

Ms. Nobuko Horibe, Interim Executive Director

Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD)

Ms. Kornvika Paopratum, Finance Officer

Ms. Misun Woo , Regional Coordinator

Ms. Sanam Amin, Programme Officer

Ms. Ya Gan, Programme Associate

Alliance of Concerned Teachers – Philippines

Ms. Melania Flores, Member, Education Committee

ARROW

Ms. Sivananthi KV Thanenthiran, Executive Director

Awaj Foundation

Ms. Mst. Nurfa Khatun, Coordinator

Burmese Women's Union

Mrs. Nan Khan Thi Tun, Information and Documentation Department Coordinator

China Women's University

Ms. Bohong Liu, Professor

Colors Rainbow

Ms. Shin Thant, Program Coordinator (Advocacy)

Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN)

Ms. Cai Yiping, Executive Committee member

Educating Girls of Rural China

Ms. Meifen Gong, Programme Manager

Empower Foundation

Ms. Elizabeth Kay Cameron, Member

Fiji Women's Rights Movement

Ms. Kaushal Sharma, Programme Director

Homenet Pakistan

Ms. Ume Laila Azhar, Executive Director

Institute for Human Development

Ms. Aasha Kapur Mehta, Independent researcher, Visiting professor at Institute for Human Development and former Professor at Indian Institute of Public Administration

Ishtirok

Ms. Saida Inoyatova, Head

KABAR BUMI

Ms. Erwiana Sulistyaningsih, Treasurer

Korea Women's Associations United (KWAU)

Ms. Youngsook Cho, chair of International Solidarity Center

Kolkata Rista

Ms. Santosh Kumar Giri, Executive Director

Landesa

Ms. Govind Kelkar, Senior Adviser

National Indigenous Women Forum

Ms. Bina Rai, Programme Coordinator

Pacific Asia NGO Caucus on Beijing + 25

Ms. Patricia Licuanan, Convenor

Penn Thozhilalargal Sangam (Women Workers' Union)

Ms. Selvi Palani

Plan International Asia Regional Office

Ms. Zara Rapoport, Gender Equality and Inclusion Specialist

Restless Development – India

Ms. Nikita Khanna, Assistant Program Coordinator

Shobujer Ovijan Foundation

Ms. Mahmuda Begum, Executive Director

Society for the Promotion of Human Rights

Ms. Ivy Nallammah Josiah, Secretary General

Society for Rural Education and Development

Ms. Burnad Fathima Natesan, Executive Director

Soroptimist International

Ms. Theresa Devasahayam, UN Representative

Tanggol Bayi (Defend Women) – Philippines

Ms. Gerifel Cerillo

The Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women

Ms. Leah Sullivan, Communications and Advocacy Officer

Ms. Alfie Gordo, Communications Officer

The Maple Women's Psychological Counseling Center

Ms. Ding Juan, Project Expert

UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Ms. Heisoo Shin, Member & Vice-Chair

Voice for Change

Ms. Lily Be'Soer, Director and Founder

Women Forum for Women in Nepal

Ms. Anisha Luintel, Lead Researcher

Women's Watch-China

Ms. Lixia Lin, Secretary General

Y-PEER Asia Pacific Center, Bangkok

Mr. Sangeet Gopal Kayastha, Coordinator

YWCA of Thailand

Ms. Bu-nga Kornvinai, Board of Director

Ms. Chantanee Molee, General Secretary

SPEAKERS

Mr. Piya Hanvoravongchai, Program Director, Equity Initiative

Mr. Nuno Cunha, Senior Social Protection Specialist, ILO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

ANNEX II. Programme

Draft Tentative Programme

Day 1: 13 February 2019

Time	Details
08:00-09:00	Registration
Segment 1: Opening of the Meeting	
09:00-09:30	<p>Opening remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Hongjoo Hahm, Deputy Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) • Ms. Anna-Karin Jatfors, Regional Director, a.i., United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific • Ms. Erwiana Sulistyarningsih, Representative of Civil Society Organizations
09:30-09:35	Group photo
09:35-09:50	Coffee break
Segment 2: 25th Anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action: Preparation for Beijing+25 Regional Review	
<i>Chair: Ms. Hou Nirmita, Under Secretary of State, Ministry of Women's Affairs, Cambodia</i>	
09:50-10:30	<p>Presentations</p> <p><i>This session will provide an overview of 25th anniversary and review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, highlighting national, regional and global guidelines, events and processes. It will also reflect on outcomes of the 2014 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment.</i></p> <p><u>Presenters:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Lopa Banerjee, Director, Civil Society Division, UN Women <i>Overview of the Beijing+25 process and key global and regional events</i> • Ms. Cai Cai, Chief, Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Section, Social Development Division, UNESCAP <i>From Beijing+20 to Beijing+25: Asia and Pacific High-level Meeting on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment</i> <p><u>Q&A</u></p>
10:30-12:00	<p>Plenary discussion</p> <p><i>Participants are invited to share national experiences on: a) national review process and good practices in aligning the Beijing Platform for Action with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); and b) priorities or key drivers for accelerating gender equality and empowerment of women and girls, including in the context of the SDGs.</i></p> <p>Participants are requested to limit their intervention to 3 minutes.</p>

Time	Details
12:00-13:00	Lunch
Segment 3: Priority Theme for the 63rd Session of the Commission on the Status of Women	
Session A: Interlinkages between Systems of Social Protection, Public Services and Sustainable Infrastructure <i>Chair: H.E. Ms. Yohana Susana Yembise, Minister, Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection, Indonesia</i>	
13:00-14:15	<p>Panel discussion</p> <p><u>Topic:</u> Strengthening the policy and legislative frameworks to enhance interlinkages between systems of social protection, public services and sustainable infrastructure</p> <p><i>The panel will discuss the linkages between social protection and the broader landscape of development policies and programmes, particularly public services and sustainable infrastructure and the implications for gender equality and empowerment of women and girls. The discussion will reflect the importance of coherent policy and legislative frameworks to enhance these linkages to ensure that the most disadvantaged and marginalized populations, particularly women and girls benefit from comprehensive systems of social protection, public services and sustainable infrastructure.</i></p> <p><u>Panellists:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Shahra Razavi, Chief, Research and Data Division, UN Women (Video) <i>Interlinkages between systems of social protection, public services and sustainable development and implications for gender equality</i> • Mr. Nuno Cunha, Senior Social Protection Specialist, International Labour Organization (ILO) <i>Overview of social protection systems in the Asia-Pacific region</i> • Ms. Datuk Norma Mansor, Director of Social Security Research Centre, Malaysia <i>Malaysia social protection blueprint</i> • Mr. Tsogtbaatar Mangalsuren, Head of Social Welfare Division, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, Mongolia <i>Maternity and child money programme in Mongolia</i> <p><u>Q&A</u></p>
14:15-15:00	Review of the recommendations under section A
15:00-15:30	Coffee break
Session B: Gender-responsive Implementation of Social Protection <i>Chair: Ms. Meenakshi Gupta, Member Secretary, National Commission for Women, India</i>	

Time	Details
15:30-16:45	<p>Panel discussion</p> <p><u>Topic:</u> Gender-responsive design and implementation of social protection</p> <p><i>The panel will discuss how the design and implementation of social protection programmes can address gender vulnerabilities and women’s empowerment, including multiple and intersectional discriminations. Discussion will highlight key issues/challenges and lessons learned from different countries in Asia and the Pacific region.</i></p> <p><u>Panellists:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Shamsul Alam, Senior Secretary, General Economic Division, Planning Commission, Bangladesh <i>Social protection, food security, nutrition and gender equality in Bangladesh</i> • Ms. Davine Sengphal, Deputy Director, Department of Women and Health, Ministry of Women's Affairs, Cambodia <i>Universal health coverage and sexual reproductive health and rights in Cambodia</i> • Mr. Piya Hanvoravongchai, Lecturer and Assistant Director, Thailand Research Center for Health Services System, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand <i>Justice in health: Thailand’s experiences in extending social protection coverage to marginalised populations</i> • Ms. Thi Thu Ha Nguyen, Senior Official, Gender Equality Department, Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs, Viet Nam <i>Social protection for women and girls in Viet Nam</i> <p><u>Q&A</u></p>
16:45-17:30	Review of the recommendations under section B

Day 2: 14 February 2019

Time	Details
<p>Session C: Promoting Quality Gender-responsive Public Services and Infrastructure Development</p> <p><i>Chair: Mr. Armando Da Costa, Director General, Secretary of State for Equality and Inclusion, Timor-Leste</i></p>	
08:30-10:00	<p>Panel discussion</p> <p><u>Topic:</u> Gender-responsive public services and infrastructure</p> <p><i>The panel will discuss and share good practices from different countries on gender responsive public services and infrastructure, and how to make the public services more gender responsive. The discussion will focus on availability, accessibility, acceptability and quality necessary for women and girls in the region. On infrastructure development, the panel will address the issues of safety and accessibility for women and girls as well as highlight the need to ensure consideration of women’s multiple roles both in public and domestic spheres.</i></p>

Time	Details
	<p><u>Panellists:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Sisira Kodagoda, Chairman, National Council on Road Safety, Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation, Sri Lanka <i>Sexual Harassment in Public Transport in Sri Lanka</i> • Ms. Meenakshi Gupta, Member Secretary, National Commission for Women, India <i>Safe cities experiences from India</i> • Ms. Selai Cama Korovusere, Director Women, Ministry of Women, Children & Poverty Alleviation, Fiji <i>Market for Change in Fiji</i> <p><u>Q&A</u></p>
10:00-10:45	Review of recommendations under section C & D
10.45-11.00	Coffee break
<p>Session D: Measures to Accelerate Implementation of Comprehensive System of Social Protection, Public Services and Infrastructure <i>Chair: Mr. Shamsul Alam, Senior Secretary, General Economics Division, Planning Commission, Bangladesh</i></p>	
11.00-12.15	<p>Multi-stakeholder dialogue</p> <p><u>Topic:</u> Effective means of implementation to address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Fiscal space for gender responsive social investment</i> • <i>Governance and partnerships to improve coordination and accountability</i> • <i>Gender-responsive monitoring and evaluation</i> • <i>Advocacy and awareness raising for gender-responsive social protection, public service and sustainable infrastructure</i> <p><u>Panellists:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Leituala Kuiniselani Toelupe Tago – Elisara, Director, Social Development Programme, the Pacific Community (SPC) <i>Monitoring and Evaluation of social protection programmes in the Pacific</i> • Ms. Rishfa Rasheed, Director, Social Affairs, South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) <i>Kathmandu Declaration and regional cooperation to advance social protection: lessons learned from SAARC</i> • Ms. Sita Sumrit, Assistant Director and Head of Poverty Eradication and Gender Division, ASEAN Secretariat <i>ASEAN Smart Cities: Toward gender-responsive and sustainable cities</i> • Ms. Sanam Amin, Programme Officer, Asia-Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD) <i>Participatory Budgeting and Energy Democracy</i> <p><u>Q&A</u></p>
12:15-13:00	Review recommendation under section E

Time	Details
13:00-14:30	Lunch
Session E: Review of all recommendations (sections A to E) <i>Chair: Ms. Luzviminda Ilagan, Undersecretary, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Philippines</i>	
14:30-17:00	Review of all recommendations (sections A to E)
Segment 4: Closing of the Meeting	
17:00-17:15	Closing of the Meeting <i>Closing remarks by the Co-Chairs of the Thematic Working Group on Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women (TWG-GEEW)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Cai Cai, Chief, Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Section, Social Development Division, UNESCAP • Ms. Lopa Banerjee, Director, Civil Society Division, UN Women