



UN-Women Executive Board
Second Regular Session, 9 – 10 September 2019

25th anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

Background note

Upon recommendation of the Commission on the Status of Women, the Economic and Social Council decided on the intergovernmental process for the twenty five-year review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. Specifically:

- In resolution [2018/8](#), the Council decided that at its sixty-fourth session, in 2020, the Commission on the Status of Women will undertake a review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action; called upon all States to undertake comprehensive national level reviews of the progress made and challenges encountered in implementation; encouraged the UN regional commissions to undertake regional reviews; and called upon Governments to collaborate with relevant stakeholders at all levels on preparations for the 2020 review.
- In resolution [2018/9](#), the Council recommended to the General Assembly to convene a one-day high-level meeting of the Assembly in the margins of the general debate of the Assembly at its seventy-fifth session, to celebrate the anniversary.

Following adoption of these resolutions, UN-Women put in place a systematic and comprehensive effort in support of the preparations for the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, at different levels.

National level preparations

In order to assist States in and facilitate the conduct of comprehensive national-level reviews, UN-Women and the United Nations regional commissions made available a common “Guidance note for comprehensive national-level reviews” which was circulated to all States in September 2018. In June 2019, UN-Women Executive Director sent a letter to all Permanent Missions to congratulate those governments that had already submitted their national reports, and to encourage all other governments to intensify their efforts and to submit their national reports at the earliest date.

By late July 2019, 135 States had completed their national reports. UN-Women, as well as the regional commissions, have posted those on their respective websites¹. The reports will

¹ <http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw64-2020/preparations#national-level-reviews>

inform the regional reviews, as well as the global synthesis report to be submitted to the Commission on the Status of Women at its sixty-fourth session.

Where UN-Women has a presence at national level, the Entity is supporting national preparations, including multi-stakeholder involvement, upon request. Sixteen countries initiated such reviews in 2018. UN-Women helped organize consultative forums by bringing together national gender equality mechanisms, other institutions and civil society. It is anticipated that at least 85 countries will receive UN-Women's support to undertake national reviews in 2019.

Regional level preparations

All five regional commissions are undertaking regional reviews and the outcomes of intergovernmental processes at the regional level will feed into the 2020 review to be undertaken by the Commission on the Status of Women at its sixty-fourth session (9 to 20 March 2020).

UN-Women is collaborating with and supporting the regional commissions in the preparation of reviews. The regional intergovernmental meetings will be preceded by multi-stakeholder forums bringing together representatives from a broad range of civil society organizations, feminist groups, faith-based organizations, and trade unions, among others. UN-Women will place particular emphasis on facilitating and encouraging youth participation, including through youth forums.

The following dates for the regional reviews have been confirmed:

- Economic Commission for Africa: Africa regional review of twenty-five years of implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, 27 October to 1 November 2019, Addis Ababa
- Economic Commission for Europe: Beijing+25 Regional Review Meeting, 29 to 30 October 2019, Geneva
- Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean: XIV Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, 4 to 8 November 2019, Santiago de Chile
- Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific: Asia-Pacific Regional Review of the 25th Anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action: Beijing+25 Review, 27 to 29 November 2019, Bangkok
- Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia: Regional high-level meeting, 26 to 28 November 2019.

Collaboration and coordination with the UN System

The UN system plays a key role in the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, from the national to the global level, and from each entity's comparative advantage. UN Women is working with the organizations of the United Nations system, including through the Inter-agency Network on Women and Gender Equality (IANWGE), to ensure their comprehensive support and engagement in the process. In addition to entity-specific initiatives, IANWGE is undertaking an assessment of how the UN system has supported implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development since 2015 and plans to prepare a synthesis report to be presented in the margins of CSW 64.

Global level preparations

In May 2019, the General Assembly decided to convene a high-level meeting in September 2020 to celebrate the anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (A/RES/73/294). The modalities for the event are expected to be finalized before the conclusion of the seventy-third session of the Assembly.

On 22 March 2019, immediately after the closing of the 63rd session, the Commission on the Status of Women opened the 64th session for the sole purpose of electing the Bureau for the 64th and 65th sessions of the Commission.

At that time, the Commission elected the following:

- H.E. Mr. Mher Margaryan (Armenia), Chair (Eastern European States Group)
- Mr. Mohammed S. Marzooq (Iraq), Vice-Chair (Asia-Pacific States Group) (for the 64th session)
- Ms. Jo Feldman (Australia), Vice-Chair (Western European and other States Group)

Subsequently, Ms. Nora Bellout (Algeria), was nominated as Vice-Chair by the African States Group. A Vice-Chair from the Latin American and Caribbean States Group remains to be designated.

The sixty-fourth session of the Commission will take place from 9 to 20 March 2020. The Bureau held a first meeting in late June 2019 to discuss its work programme and timeline. UN Women is providing substantive support to the Bureau.

Generation Equality

In May 2019, UN-Women launched its intergenerational campaign, “Generation Equality: Realizing women’s rights for an equal future”², in an effort to galvanize attention and action on key issues of concern to women and girls. The campaign will bring together the next generations of women’s rights activists with the gender equality advocates and visionaries who were instrumental in shaping the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

Generation Equality Forum

UN-Women is convening the Generation Equality Forum, a global multi-stakeholder gathering on gender equality, co-chaired by France and Mexico, with the leadership and partnership of civil society. Building on the national and regional reviews and following the sixty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, the Forum will kick-off in Mexico in May 2020 (tentative dates: 7 to 8 May 2020), and culminate in Paris, from 7 to 10 July 2020. Crucial to the success of the Forum will be its technological accessibility, intergenerational representation and participation by a diverse range of participants.

The Forum will provide the framework for a global public conversation for urgent action and accountability for gender equality. It will celebrate the power of activism, feminist solidarity and youth leadership to achieve transformative change. At a moment when

² <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2019/5/press-release-global-intergenerational-campaign-for-beijing25>

women's rights are challenged in many spaces, the unique democratic and multi-stakeholder approach of the Forum will celebrate inclusion and progress for women and girls.

The outcome of the Forum will be an action agenda to be implemented through Action Coalitions, a set of innovative partnerships among civil society, Member States and businesses, along with other stakeholders (parliamentarians, trade unions, mayors etc.). The Action Coalitions will prioritize scaled-up, transformative and measurable results, with concrete timelines and funding, for gender equality in the period 2020-2025, and contribute to an irreversible path to achieve gender equality by 2030.

Resource mobilization and strategic partnerships strategies have been put in place to: a) secure funding support tailored to various components of the Generation Equality Forum, and b) develop the Action Coalitions that are resourced and focus on urgent and scaled-up implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Conclusion

2020 will be a pivotal year for the accelerated realization of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, everywhere. In addition to the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, a number of other milestones offer significant scope for further action, including the twentieth anniversary of Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace and security; the fifth anniversary of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals; and the seventy-fifth anniversary of the creation of the United Nations.

UN-Women welcomes the full support of its Executive Board in these efforts.