Interactive dialogue

**Beijing@25: An intergenerational conversation with participants in the Fourth World Conference on Women**

Monday, 16 March 2019, 10.00 am – 1.00 pm, United Nations Headquarters

**Concept note**

**Overview**

Twenty-five years after the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women, no country has fully achieved gender equality. The new generation of gender equality leaders, advocates and activists is facing longstanding and new challenges. They bring fresh perspectives, ideas and expectations for ending discrimination against women and girls, everywhere, by 2030. The objective of this interactive dialogue on **Beijing@25: An intergenerational conversation with participants in the Fourth World Conference on Women** is to bring together participants from the Fourth World Conference on Women and today’s leaders in an intergenerational dialogue around key messages and lessons learned from the historic moment of Beijing and how best to address today’s challenges and opportunities for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.

Fundamental shifts in the global gender equality landscape have taken place over the last twenty-five years, and in particular in the last five years, influenced by trends in the political, economic, social and environmental contexts. Growing movements of women across the globe have mobilized calling for economic, social and environmental justice, with young feminists often taking a leading role, working across areas and demanding systemic change in an integrated manner across all dimensions of sustainable development (E/CN.6/2020/3).

**Format and participation**

The interactive dialogue will be chaired by Ms. Jo Feldman (Australia), Vice-Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women. Two moderators will support the Chair.

The moderators will direct the conversation to ensure its interactive nature using a set of guiding questions. The interactive dialogue will be conducted in two segments. The first segment will consist of an intergenerational conversation between participants from the Fourth World Conference on Women who will share their experiences, stories and insights and young participants who will share their vision and expectations for the future. Following their conversation, the floor will be open for comments from government representatives, and representatives from NGOs to contribute to the inter-active dialogue.
The second segment will provide an opportunity to young people to discuss the challenges facing them today, reflect on changes in the women’s movement, exchange views on the changing gender equality agenda, and the role of partnerships in accelerating the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, by 2030. The moderators will then facilitate an interactive discussion among all panelists on the key issues raised. They may also use an online tool to engage participants in the interactive dialogue. Following this exchange, the floor will again be open for comments from government representatives. Young members of government delegations will be especially encouraged to take the floor. Representatives from NGOs will also be given opportunity to contribute to the conversation. The moderators will wrap up the session and the Chair will close the meeting.

**Guiding questions**

Participating stakeholders in the interactive dialogue will be invited to address the following questions:

1. What are some of the key lessons from the Fourth World Conference on Women? What policies and strategies have proven to be most successful and impactful in advancing progress for women and girls?
2. How can the vision of the Beijing Platform for Action be realized in this era of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals? What new challenges need to be addressed, and what are some of the new solutions for tackling persistent challenges?
3. How has the women’s movement changed over time and adjusted to changing realities? What are some of the current challenges and opportunities facing gender equality leaders and activists?
4. How can partnerships between governments, civil society and women’s organizations and other stakeholders be strengthened in order to accelerate the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls?

**Outcome**

The outcome of the interactive dialogue will be in the form of a Chair’s summary, prepared in consultation with the regional groups through the members of the Bureau.