



Equal ***IS GREATER***

Time to act for gender equality and
women's empowerment and rights



Photo: UN Women/Ryan Brown

Equal **MATTERS**

– for **ALL** Women
and Girls

**Equal is greater. Equal adds up. When actions
deliver for women and girls, everyone benefits.**

The world has a plan to achieve gender equality
and the rights and empowerment of women and girls.
That plan is the **Beijing Declaration and Platform for
Action**. It is designed to unleash progress for a world
that needs solutions.

Equal IS AGREED

In 1995 at the Fourth World Conference on Women, attended by 17,000 delegates from around the globe, leaders from 189 countries adopted the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. It remains the world's most widely endorsed, and visionary, agenda for women's rights.

History shifted with the introduction of a comprehensive, actionable agreement to achieve equal rights for all women and girls in every society.

Women and men, girls and boys own the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action – both those who created it and new generations since then. Together, they created an action plan grounded in the lived experiences of women and reflecting their ideas and aspirations.

Twelve areas of critical concern in the platform cover areas of life requiring the most urgent action to deliver gender equality for women and men, in all their diversity: poverty, education and training, health, violence against women, armed conflict, the economy, power and decision-making, mechanisms for the advancement of women, human rights, the media, the environment and the girl child.

The plan includes numerous proposed actions, including commitments to:

1. Put gender equality in every national policy, budget and plan.
2. Create institutions dedicated to gender equality.
3. Guarantee an equal footing for women in the economy.
4. Take comprehensive measures to eliminate violence against women.
5. Apply gender quotas to correct gaps in political leadership.
6. Tackle the unique challenges of girls and young women.

CRITICAL AREAS OF CONCERN IN THE BEIJING PLATFORM FOR ACTION



Girl child



Environment



Institutional
mechanisms



Economy



Violence
against women



Human
rights



Health



Women
in power



Media



Armed
conflict



Education



Poverty



Equal *IS OURS*

While governments adopted the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, it is an inclusive agenda that belongs to us all. It is a touchstone for everyone committed to acting for gender equality for all women and girls.

Equal *IS TRANSFORMATION*

2025 marks the thirtieth anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

In working towards the crucial aims of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals, the ambitious roadmap developed in Beijing is more valuable than ever.

Gender equality is among the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. But it is also more than just one part of the 2030 Agenda. It is the single best way to achieve progress on every goal, from ending poverty to improving health to taking climate action.

Right now, the world is missing out on a huge potential gender equality dividend. Achieving equality could inject an additional \$12 trillion into the global economy.¹ Ending the digital gender divide could provide over \$500 billion. Closing gaps in skills could add \$10 trillion more.²



When countries act on the platform's 12 areas of concern, they see the benefits. For example, those that have passed laws to stop domestic violence have on average cut rates in half.³

Yet not a single country has fully achieved gender equality. What's more, when crises such as climate-related disasters, conflicts or pandemics interact with existing inequalities, they make them worse, undermining the world's efforts to react and recover.

Despite this, progress is unstoppable. Change is here. Ever more people, especially young people, know the value of gender equality for their lives and their world. They are aware of and demanding their rights.

¹ McKinsey Global Institute (2015). The Power of Parity: How Advancing Women's Equality Can Add \$12 Trillion to Global Growth.

² UN Women and UNDESA (2024). The Gender Snapshot 2024.

³ UN Women and UNDESA (2024). The Gender Snapshot 2024.

Equal *IS ACHIEVABLE*

As the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action turns 30, we have the chance to take stock and reenergize our efforts. We can speed up progress and bring our goals within reach by working together. This calls for:



DRIVING FOCUSED CHANGE ON THE GROUND

When governments, the private sector and others at the national level focus on concrete priority actions, big changes can happen. It's not about doing everything at once. It's about doing first what delivers the most with limited resources – and doing it together.



BACKING POWER FOR THE PEOPLE

Women's rights organizations, youth movements and civil society in all its forms play crucial roles in demanding human rights. They need room to call for changes, and their demands should be acted upon. To be fully effective, organizations mobilizing for change require sufficient resources.



MAKING THE MULTILATERAL SYSTEM THE MOST POWERFUL FORCE FOR EQUALITY IT CAN BE

The United Nations, the international financial institutions and regional organizations all must play their parts. It's about making sure that they are deliberate in efforts to achieve gender equality and held accountable for progress.

Equal IS ACTION

We know what we need to do to reach gender equality – and we are doing it. That’s the conclusion of a review of 159 national reports for the thirtieth anniversary, the most comprehensive stocktaking ever of progress on the Beijing Platform.

Yet the review also points to the work ahead to overcome remaining obstacles, close gaps and reach ALL women and girls. Based on the findings, UN Women developed the Beijing+30 Action Agenda. It outlines six priorities to free women from poverty and improve their voice, choice and safety.

Each action would trigger faster changes on a broader scale, and realize both the Beijing Platform for Action and the Sustainable Development Goals. Each would unite people from different backgrounds and parts of the world. The six actions are:

1.

A digital revolution: Ensure women and girls can reap the economic benefits of the digital revolution, accessing new skills, opportunities and services, by bridging the digital gender gap & providing equal access to technology.

2.

Freedom from poverty: Address women’s poverty by investing national budgets in social protection and high-quality public services, including health, education and care, investments which can also create millions of decent, green jobs.

3.

Zero violence: Adopt, implement and fund legislation to end violence against women and girls, and develop comprehensive national action plans, including support and coordination with community-led organizations to extend the reach of services.

4.

Full and equal decision-making power: Accelerate the achievement of women’s full and equal decision-making power in private and public domains, and at all levels of government, including by applying temporary special measures.

5.

Peace and security: Drive accountability for the women, peace and security agenda and gender-responsive humanitarian action by adopting fully financed national action plans and funding local women’s organizations leading responses to crises and conflicts.

6.

Climate justice: Prioritize women and girls’ rights, including those from rural and indigenous communities, in the transition to environmental sustainability, by centring them in climate action, ensuring they can develop new skills to gain green jobs and guaranteeing their access to productive assets and land rights.

Putting adolescent girls and youth at the heart of the six actions is the best way to guarantee success today and tomorrow. All six require stepping up financing and filling gender data gaps so policymakers and activists have evidence to drive change.

Equal ***IS PROMISES DELIVERED***

Thirty years ago, people from every part of the world committed to achieving gender equality. They showed that we can agree on the imperative of equality – and a roadmap to get there.

In 2025, it can happen again. We have a chance to deliver at last on the overdue promises of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. It is in our hands to achieve an equal world where all voices are heard, all rights are respected and all people enjoy equal opportunity.

We invite you to join us. Let's take forward the Beijing+30 Action Agenda – together.

Photo: UN Women/Rossana Fraga



UN WOMEN IS THE UN ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO GENDER EQUALITY AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN. A GLOBAL CHAMPION FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS, UN WOMEN WAS ESTABLISHED TO ACCELERATE PROGRESS ON MEETING THEIR NEEDS WORLDWIDE.

UN Women supports UN Member States as they set global standards for achieving gender equality, and works with governments and civil society to design laws, policies, programmes and services needed to ensure that the standards are effectively implemented and truly benefit women and girls worldwide. It works globally to make the vision of the Sustainable Development Goals a reality for women and girls and stands behind women's equal participation in all aspects of life, focusing on four strategic priorities: Women lead, participate in and benefit equally from governance systems; Women have income security, decent work and economic autonomy; All women and girls live a life free from all forms of violence; Women and girls contribute to and have greater influence in building sustainable peace and resilience, and benefit equally from the prevention of natural disasters and conflicts and humanitarian action. UN Women also coordinates and promotes the UN system's work in advancing gender equality.



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