



High-level interactive dialogue. Beijing@30: A dialogue with youth representatives

Friday, 14 March 2025, 3.00 – 6.00 p.m.

Concept Note

Overview

Thirty years after the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women, no country has fully achieved gender equality. The young generation of 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 interactive dialogue will bring together young leaders and advocates to reflect on the progress made since the adoption of the landmark Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, which set forth a comprehensive framework for gender equality and women's rights. The dialogue should be a space where youth representatives from diverse backgrounds can engage in dynamic exchanges with policymakers, experts, and global leaders. They will share insights, voice challenges, and propose innovative solutions to persistent issues such as gender-based violence, access to education, and economic empowerment. This dialogue will emphasize the critical role of young people in shaping the future but will also aim to bridge generational perspectives, reinforcing a shared commitment to accelerate progress on the goals of the Beijing Platform for Action.

Objective

The high-level interactive dialogue will reflect on the progress made since the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action with youth representatives sharing insights, voicing challenges, and proposing innovative solutions to persistent issues such as gender-based violence, access to education, and economic empowerment.

Format and participation

The interactive dialogue will be chaired by a Minister from a Member State serving in the Bureau of the Commission on the Status of Women. A moderator will support the Chair.

The high-level interactive dialogue will start with presentations from five young participants, including those from the regional review meetings on their vision and expectations for the future. The Assistant Secretary-General of the UN Youth Office will provide reflections on the presentations from the youth representatives. The floor will then be open for comments and questions from young members of national delegations, Member States and other stakeholders in an interactive dialogue. Panelists will respond to any questions posed and make short concluding comments, time permitting.

Member States will participate in the dialogue on a voluntary basis. No speakers' list will be kept. UN-Women will facilitate an online application process for representatives of NGOs in consultative status

with ECOSOC. The list of NGOs proposed for participation in the event will be distributed to Member States through respective Bureau members.

Leading questions

Participants are invited to consider the following questions to help to focus the interactive dialogue:

- a) What does the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action mean to you or to young people? From a youth perspective, how do you translate it to our current reality?
- b) What are the effective, innovative approaches and ways of working that can protect the gains made and create new pathways for the implementation of the BPfA ensuring that young people especially young women and girls have the right, and the ability to make decisions about their lives in the public and private spheres?
- c) How can young people reclaim their citizens' voice and civic space? What are the key elements that can shape meaningful engagement and shape such spaces in ways that expand possibilities for advancing gender equality, rights and empowerment of women and girls?
- d) What changes, reforms and processes are necessary at global and domestic level to deliver long-term, sustainable and affordable financing for gender equality and sustainable development at the required scale?

Outcome

The outcome of the high-level interactive dialogue will be in the form of a summary by the Chair of the Commission, prepared in consultation with the regional groups, through the members of the Bureau.