



## **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.



### **High-level interactive dialogue**

#### **Beijing@30: a dialogue with youth representatives**

**Friday, 19 March 2025, 3.00 - 6.00 pm**

#### **Speaker bios**

**Moderator: Ms. Fenna Timsi** is the Dutch UN Youth Representative for Human Rights and Security, advocates for and searches solutions with youth for inclusive education and peace, gender equality, reproductive rights, and youth engagement. She is firmly committed to intergenerational solidarity, youth involvement, and social equity, Fenna diligently captures the voices of young people across the Netherlands. She actively seeks and collaborates with marginalized groups, amplifying their perspectives on matters of Human Rights and Security on the global stage.

**Ms. Sanjana Chhantyal:** is a Fulbright scholar, and designed a higher education research toolkit and conducts mentorship and information sessions in schools and colleges. At SDSN-Youth, she leads two SDG-focused global entrepreneurship accelerator programs supporting youth social entrepreneurs in over 50 countries and established the partnership that connected them to multiple seed grants. She co-founded the Stree-Shakti (Women in Energy) project that prepares young women for green jobs in the energy sector. Sanjana is USAID Youth Excel's Global Youth Advisor, Max Thabiso Edkins Climate Ambassador and INvolve Heroes Role Model list awardee.

**Mr. Ahdithya Visweswaran:** is currently serving as Director of Advocacy & Public Policy at Canadian Parents for French. Working with Young Diplomats of Canada, he has ensured the full participation of young people in high-level decision-making fora. Ahdithya also focuses on youth engagement, fighting religious intolerance, removing institutional barriers for racialized and 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals, increasing access to decision-making spaces, and advocating for the importance of Indigenous cultures, languages, and nations.

**Ms. Eva (Chisom) Chukwunelo:** is an advocate for young persons with disabilities and a dedicated Amputee Peer Counselor. She is the co-founder of the Mobility Clinic in Nigeria, aiming to provide affordable prosthetic services to amputees in underserved communities to reclaim their independence and dignity.

**Ms. Ema Mecaj:** is a medical student advocating for children's rights, gender equality, and climate action. She is a Leading Minds Climate Fellow for UNICEF Innocenti and has contributed to policy discussions at the Regional Forum for Sustainable Development and the Berlin Process Summit.

**Ms. Laura Dihuignidili Huertas Thompson:** is an indigenous Guna woman from the Guna Yala Comarca in the Panamanian Caribbean region. She founded the NGO ANYAR (For our territories) in 2019 with the purpose of providing a safe space where young people can express themselves and also provide learning opportunities on new technologies.