

**BEIJING+30**  
**NATIONAL REVIEW OF THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC ON THE IMPLEMENTATION**  
**OF THE BEIJING DECLARATION AND PLATFORM FOR ACTION\***

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## Section 1. Key messages

**1. Inclusive review process:** The review was conducted based on the proposed narrative national reporting methodology and extensive consultations, focus groups, interviews with more than 330 participants: representatives of government agencies, civil society and development partners. The overall management and coordination of the review was carried out by the authorized state body for gender policy – the Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Migration (MLSSM).

**2. Key achievements:** According to the 2023 Sustainable Development Report, the Kyrgyz Republic ranks 45th out of 166 countries in terms of progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In 2023, Kyrgyzstan joined the Human Rights Council as a member for the period of 2023–2025.

### *Inclusive legislation to promote gender equality*

Kyrgyzstan has ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the ILO Convention No. 190 (C190) on the Elimination of Violence and Harassment in the Workplace. Revisions to the Law on Education and the Law on Public Health incorporate provisions based on the recommendations of Beijing+25 and the lessons learned from the pandemic and border armed conflicts. Electoral legislation now mandates national-level quotas of no less than 30 per cent of seats for women and includes reserved seats at the local level. Women’s representation in parliament has increased to 22 per cent. The share of women deputies in local councils (*aiyl keneshes*) increased from 9.6 per cent to 38.76 per cent. The constitutional chamber authorized adoption by persons with HIV status.

### *Prevention of gender-based violence*

Amendments to the Criminal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code provide for more stringent penalties, removal of provisions allowing for the termination of cases through reconciliation, removal of the statute of limitations, and prohibition of probationary supervision and release on bail in cases of rape and offences against sexual integrity.

### *Localization of the BPfA and SDGs*

The country’s National Development Strategy for 2018–2040 and the National Development Programme up to 2026 incorporate gender equality, inclusive growth, equality of opportunity, eradication of domestic violence, promotion of tolerance, reduction of poverty and inequality, and development of digital technology and skills among girls and women. The country is implementing the National Strategy for Achieving Gender Equality

(NSAGE) by 2030 and the Action Plan (AP) for achieving gender equality for 2022–2024. Priority areas include women’s economic empowerment, cultural policies and functional education, strengthening protection against gender discrimination and fair justice, promoting gender parity in decision-making and increasing women’s political participation, as well as regulatory policies, including gender-responsive budgeting. The above priorities are based on the recommendations from the Beijing+25 national review. The Programme for the Support and Development of Women’s Entrepreneurship for 2022–2026, as well as the State Programme for the Support of Women’s Leadership up to 2030 are being implemented.

National commitments to implement the SDGs and the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA) have been integrated into the programmes and action plans adopted by the Cabinet of Ministers for healthcare and health system development in 2019–2030: “Healthy Person – Prosperous Country”; education development 2021–2040; family support and child protection in 2018–2028; improvement of the quality of life of elderly citizens in 2019–2025; supporting persons with disabilities and other low-mobility groups of the population “Accessible Country”; combating HIV infection in the Kyrgyz Republic in 2017–2021, etcetera.

The National Statistics System contains 38 of the 51 indicators included in the United Nations Minimum Set of Gender Indicators. A remuneration system for caregivers of children and persons with disabilities has been introduced. As of 1 June 2024, 14,741 children and persons with disabilities receive care services from 14,436 caregivers, who are mainly women. The amount of funding from the national budget as of 1 June 2024, for care service payments relating to children and persons with disabilities amounted to 523.3 million som. The salaries of social workers caring for the elderly living alone and persons with disabilities were increased by 85 per cent [3]. In 2023 the Government preschool education acceleration programme was introduced, as a result of which about 150 home-type kindergartens, opened by businesswomen, began operation in all regions of the country.

### **3. Challenges and gaps**

*Rising inequality amid economic turbulence, social transformations and climate change*

Inequality remains a persistent issue. According to the Human Development Index, the country ranks 117th out of 193 countries. Kyrgyzstan ranked 90th out of 146 countries in

the Global Gender Gap Index in 2023. The poverty rate increased from 20.1 per cent in 2019 to 33.2 per cent, and 62.2 per cent of poor people are residents of rural areas. Poverty in all its manifestations (multidimensional poverty) affects 47.4 per cent of the country's population. Most girls and women from poor families are not covered by the state benefits and pensions. Women engaged in the informal economy have limited access to social protection measures during pregnancy and childbirth. The effects of climate change limit access to land and water resources and increase the vulnerability of women and girls to the implementation of economic opportunities, growing inequalities and escalating conflicts.

*Fragmentation and instability in the process of nationalization and localization of the BPfA, especially in the context of turbulent political processes and the crisis of power at different stages of the country's development*

Weak institutional mechanisms for gender equality and limited capacity of state policy actors critically affect the lack of continuity and fragile institutional memory of state institutions in the implementation of the BPfA. There is a noted diversity and inconsistency among strategies, programmes, action plans and activities at the national level, compounded by weak implementation mechanisms. The gap between national and local levels of strategic management slows down the process of localization of the BPfA. Strategic planning at all levels is not aligned with planning and budgeting procedures, and the potential of the programme budgeting is not fully utilized to promote gender equality.

*A paradigm shift towards the recreation of a patriarchal culture and the spread of destructive religious ideologies and norms that limit the rights and opportunities of women and girls and threaten the agenda for achieving gender equality*

Instances of intolerance, calls for violence based on religion or belief, propagandising of polygamy, child marriages and other discriminatory practices against women, including bride kidnapping, physical and psychological and economic violence, have been reported. Women and girls living in rural areas are almost twice as likely to be victims of child and forced marriage. Domestic violence cases increased by 32.6 per cent in 2023 compared to 2022. The pressure of stereotypes and patriarchal norms, coupled with weak protection mechanisms force victims of violence to conceal their problems.

*The space for civil society is shrinking and remains fragmented*

At all levels, there is increased oversight and control over the activities of "foreign representatives", a designation that includes a fairly wide range of organizations, including

women's and human rights organizations. Growing social apathy and burnout among women's organizations leads to a decrease in the potential to maintain the gender and women's rights agenda. In 2023, Kyrgyzstan fell 50 places in the World Press Freedom Index, ranking 122nd out of 180.

#### **4. Best practices in systemic changes**

##### *Promotion of women's leadership*

The consolidation of the efforts of women deputies and the Central Election Commission (CEC), civil society, local leaders of women's communities and gender activists have made it possible to form and guide a process to expand women's participation in politics and to secure quotas and reserved seats for women. In 2022, to strengthen the political leadership of women, the CEC created the Centre for Civic and Digital Education and opened 77 offices in the regions.

##### *Developing the care economy and recognising women's unpaid work*

The measures taken to reduce women's unpaid work are based on time budget surveys conducted regularly by the National Statistics Committee . A comprehensive approach was applied with a focus on the development of childcare and disability care services, increasing the remuneration of social workers and supporting entrepreneurship in the field of preschool education services. Political will, a holistic approach and the combined efforts of government agencies and civil society led to the implementation of the Government Programme for Acceleration of the Expansion of the Services Market and have had a multiplier effect on the development of the market for preschool education services and women's entrepreneurship without additional foreign investment.

##### *An innovative approach to reducing violence against women and children*

The process of changing socio-cultural norms was launched through gender-transformation approaches and strengthened coordination, and the partnership of state institutions, non-state actors and development partners. An example is the joint European Union and United Nations Spotlight Initiative. Innovative methodologies such as GALS, Positive Deviance, Design Thinking, MenEngage have been actively used in the prevention of violence and made it possible to demonstrate the values and benefits of partnership, mutual respect for the rights and life practices of women and men at the level of behavioural attitudes in families and communities.

## **5. Priority areas and actions up to 2030**

1. Quality education, vocational training and lifelong learning accessible to women and girls
2. Women's entrepreneurship and women-led enterprises
3. Promoting gender equality as part of environmental sustainability, climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies
4. Eradication of violence against women and girls
5. Participation in political life and representation

*Actions aimed at accelerating and promoting priority areas include:*

1. Strengthening the regulatory framework, integrating the requirements and standards of gender analysis and expertise in development, implementation and budgeting.
2. Reinforcing implementation, integration, coordination, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for gender policies, and introducing gender-responsive budgeting at all levels of governance.
3. Building the capacity of girls and women through the development of their professional skills, introducing special measures to increase their representation in research, development, production and business, sustainable environmental management, state and municipal administration, as well as by supporting and expanding civil society that promotes the gender agenda.
4. Shaping public perceptions of women's leadership in its diversity and constructing gender-oriented socio-cultural norms and practices in families, communities and the state using innovative approaches, digital technology, platforms, social media and the mass media.
5. Developing the care economy and reducing the unpaid work of girls and women by introducing modern approaches and innovations.
6. Improving the methodology for collecting and analysing gender indicators, developing a research, analytical and evidence base for the gender agenda, monitoring and assessing the socio-economic status and contribution of girls and women to the development of the country.
7. Establishing and expanding partnerships with global and regional platforms and other entities to exchange innovative approaches and competencies on the gender agenda.