



Global Leaders' Meeting on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: A Commitment to Action

27 September 2015, New York, United Nations, Conference Room 4

Background

In 1995, in China, 189 governments adopted the [Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action](#), a comprehensive roadmap for gender equality, the empowerment of women and the human rights of women and girls. The Platform for Action made commitments under 12 critical areas of concern and articulated a vision for women and girls to have equal rights, freedom and opportunities in all spheres of society and to live their lives free from want, fear and violence. Two decades later, the Beijing Platform for Action remains a powerful source of guidance and inspiration.

We are now at a critical time in history. The adoption of a new development framework and the Sustainable Development Goals in September 2015 provides the international community with the golden opportunity to position gender equality, women's rights and women's empowerment at the centre of the global agenda, both as an important end in itself and as an essential means to sustainable development.

In this context, the People's Republic of China and UN Women will co-organize and co-host a "Global Leaders' Meeting on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: A Commitment to Action", to be held on Sunday 27 September 2015, starting at 9 a.m., at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

The meeting will be convened in conjunction with the United Nations Summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, to be held from 25 to 27 September 2015, in New York. Member States and other partners will be invited to fully commit themselves to the accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and achievement of gender equality within a timeframe aligned to the post-2015 development agenda – namely no later than 2030.

Objectives

The meeting is structured as a 'Commit event' where participants are invited to publicly state commitments to the achievement of gender equality.

The specific objectives of the meeting are:

- Build support, consensus and renewed political commitment, at the highest possible level, for the full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

and realization of the gender equality goals and targets in the post-2015 development agenda and Sustainable Development Goals.

- In line with UN Women's "Planet 50-50 by 2030: Step it Up for Gender Equality" initiative, mobilize concrete new commitments and financial contributions by Member States to eliminate gender inequality and discrimination against women.
- The commitments could be related to:
 - Investing in gender equality at the national and international levels;
 - Updating or establishing new action plans, strategies and policies on gender equality;
 - Enhancing women's leadership and participation at all levels of decision-making;
 - Introducing new laws or reviewing and implementing existing ones to promote gender equality;
 - Preventing and addressing social norms and stereotypes that condone gender inequality, discrimination and violence; and
 - Launching public mobilization and national campaigns to promote gender equality.

Participants

All Member States are invited to participate in the meeting at the level of Heads of State or Government. Invitations to attend are also extended to representatives of multilateral organizations, youth and other leaders championing gender equality, including civil society organizations and private sector companies.

Format and outcome

The meeting will consist of an opening ceremony, commitment statements, and closing remarks.

His Excellency Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China, and Ban Ki-moon, United Nations Secretary-General, will address the opening. President Xi Jinping and Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon will co-chair the first hour. The Presidents of Mexico and Kenya, as hosts of two previous World Conferences on Women, as well as the President of the 70th session of the General Assembly (host country of one previous World Conference on Women) will contribute to co-chairing the event after 10.00 am.

UN-Women will prepare a report on the meeting summarizing the messages and commitments of Member States and other actors and publish it online. There will be no negotiated outcome.

The meeting will be webcast and interpretation will be available in all six UN official languages.