



**Report of the
Asia-Pacific Regional Preparatory meeting
for the Fifty-eighth Session of the
Commission on the Status of Women**

12-13 February 2014

Bangkok

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I. ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

1. The Asia-Pacific Regional Preparatory meeting for the fifty-eighth session of the Commission on the Status of Women was held in Bangkok on 12 and 13 February 2013. The meeting was jointly organized by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific.
2. The objectives of the meeting were to prepare government representatives for the fifty-eighth session of the Commission on the Status of Women by: (a) taking stock of regional progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls and identifying common challenges and critical issues in areas that were off track; and (b) reviewing the Millennium Development Goals as a development framework to identify common priorities, strategies and ways forward for achieving gender equality and women's empowerment, including for the development agenda beyond 2015.
3. Ms. Nanda Krairiksh, Director, Social Development Division, ESCAP, and Ms. Roberta Clarke, Regional Director, UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, opened the meeting and welcomed delegates to the two-day dialogue.
4. Ms. Krairiksh highlighted that having driven much of the global momentum toward achieving the Millennium Development Goals targets, the Asia-Pacific region had claimed many Goal successes. However, bottlenecks faced across the region, particularly related to gender equality and women's empowerment, had continued to limit progress within and beyond the Millennium Development Goal framework. As the international community entered a period of reflection and priority setting for the post-2015 era, Ms. Krairiksh encouraged delegates to carry the regional experience and consensus to the global dialogue and to ensure that regional priorities received appropriate attention.
5. Ms. Clarke discussed the complexity and diversity of the regional experience in implementing the Millennium Development Goals, indicating that progress in achieving the Goals in Asia and the Pacific had been unequally experienced across the region. She noted that, while normative standards and shifts in policy had addressed most forms of direct discrimination against women in the region, an "abiding bias against women" had remained. That was reflected, for example, in the continued low levels of political participation, violence against women and the high proportion of women in vulnerable employment. Ms. Clarke noted that, in order to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment, the development agenda beyond 2015 needed to contain both a stand-alone goal on gender equality and a comprehensive reflection of the gender dimensions of goals across the development framework.
6. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following 11 member States of the ESCAP region that serve on the Commission on the Status of Women: Bangladesh; China; Indonesia; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Japan; Malaysia; Pakistan; Philippines; Republic of Korea; Russian Federation; and Thailand.
7. Representatives of the following United Nations bodies and specialized agencies attended: United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT); United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); and International Labour Organization (ILO).

8. A representative from the following intergovernmental organization attended: International Organization for Migration (IOM).
9. The following civil society organizations were represented: Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development; Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era; South Asia Women's Watch; and Young Feminist Fund.
10. The list of participants is contained in annex I to the present report.

II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

11. The meeting elected Ms. Emmeline L. Verzosa (Philippines) as Chair.

III. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

12. The meeting adopted the following agenda:
 1. Opening of the meeting.
 2. Election of the chair.
 3. Adoption of the agenda.
 4. Priority theme for the fifty-eighth session of the Commission on the Status of Women: Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls.
 5. Working groups:
 - (a) Millennium Development Goals challenges, achievements and lessons learned;
 - (b) The post-2015 development agenda: transformative approaches to gender equality and women's empowerment.
 6. Identification of common strategies and ways forward.
 7. Adoption of the report.
 8. Closing of the meeting.

IV. PRIORITY THEME FOR THE FIFTY-EIGHTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN: CHALLENGES AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

13. Under agenda item 4, three presentations were delivered by the Joint Secretariat, as follows:
 - (a) Mr. John Hendra, Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director for Policy and Programme, UN Women, gave a presentation entitled "The Millennium Development Goals and the post-2015 development agenda: current processes, structural and policy constraints in achieving the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls". He informed the meeting about the global processes and discussions on the development agenda beyond 2015. In particular he emphasized the need to advance implementation and accountability for gender equality commitments;

- (b) Ms. Nanda Krairiksh gave a presentation on the Asia-Pacific road map for the Beijing+20 Review. She highlighted, in particular, the activities aimed at intergovernmental consensus building, analysis of progress and gaps in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and stakeholder engagement;
- (c) Ms. Cai Cai, Chief, Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Section, Social Development Division, ESCAP, presented an overview of the achievements and challenges in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls in Asia and the Pacific. She reviewed the uneven progress in attainment of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls in the Asian and Pacific region and emphasized the lessons learned in aspiring towards more equitable, inclusive and sustainable development.

14. Member States noted the importance of gender equality and women's empowerment in the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals, informing the meeting of successes in achieving a range of Millennium Development Goal targets, while noting progress had been uneven both between and within countries, with some achievements remaining fragile and experiencing setbacks due to global financial shocks and unprecedented disasters.

15. Regarding Millennium Development Goal 3 on promoting gender equality and empowering women, member States highlighted the achievements, lessons learned and remaining gaps in relation to the Goal's indicators.

(a) Ratios of girls to boys in primary, secondary and tertiary education:

- (i) Gender parity at the primary level had been achieved, with some countries noting implementation of gender-sensitive education policies;
- (ii) Uneven results were presented for the secondary and tertiary levels, with some countries approaching or achieving gender parity and other countries experiencing lower retention rates for girls due to household poverty and early marriage;
- (iii) Increased educational attainments among women did not necessarily lead to better employment options;
- (iv) Some countries had focused on eliminating gender bias and gender stereotyping in the education sector.

(b) Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector:

- (i) Women's economic independence as an integral component of women's empowerment, an indication of progress made in terms of women's participation in non-agricultural employment, with some women gaining employment opportunities in export-led industries, own-account businesses and non-traditional fields, such as transportation, finance, banking and information technology;
- (ii) Policies had been developed to increase women's participation in public sector employment, including through reserving for women a percentage of positions in the national and local level civil services;
- (iii) Cooperation with the private sector to facilitate greater diversity in private sector employment, including, for example, through policies to address the low representation of women in private sector executive-level management and on boards of publicly traded companies. Innovative modalities for promoting and funding women's entrepreneurship were also introduced;

- (iv) Emphasis needs to be placed on ensuring that policies support women's career aspirations, women's ability to re-enter the workforce and work-life balance, and on supporting women's multiple roles and responsibilities, including enjoyment of family life and motherhood.

(c) Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament:

- (i) Efforts to improve the percentage of female representation in national parliament and broader efforts to ensure women's representation in political life, both at local and national levels, were highlighted;
- (ii) Opportunities and limitations of quota systems that either reserved seats for women in parliaments or determined the share of women on political parties' candidate lists were noted. It was underscored that increasing the number of women in parliament was important for equality. The meeting indicated that such participation would ensure greater representation of the differentiated interests, needs and responsibilities of women and men. The meeting also highlighted the importance of strengthening women's capacity to participate in the political sphere and preparing them for political office, creating an enabling environment for women's political participation, and gender sensitizing voters and the media.

16. The following issues were noted by member States as those that required further attention in the effort to attain the Millennium Development Goals:

- (a) Scarcity of reliable data disaggregated by sex, age, and urban and rural area;
- (b) The feminization of poverty;
- (c) The lack of progress in improving maternal health due to multiple factors, including but not limited to issues related to access to services and the patriarchal culture within households;
- (d) The need to ensure a reduction in the rates of under-five child mortality;
- (e) The lack of cross-cutting solutions to improve health outcomes for women and children;
- (f) The need to ensure adequate resources to institutional mechanisms for gender equality at the national level;
- (g) The role of non-State actors and, in particular the private sector, in the implementation and review of the Millennium Development Goals and the Beijing Platform for Action.

17. Member States expressed their continued strong support for the inclusion of gender equality and women's empowerment in the development agenda beyond 2015, including through a two-pronged approach incorporating a specific gender equality goal and integration of gender dimensions across the framework.

18. In particular, the meeting emphasized that the following issues should be considered:

- (a) Strengthening of efforts to complete unfinished business in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals. The unmet targets of the Millennium Development Goals should be part of the development agenda beyond 2015 in order to maintain coherence and momentum;
- (b) Prioritization of the collection and analysis of data disaggregated by sex, age, and urban and rural areas;

- (c) Prevention and elimination of violence against women, both in the public and private spheres;
- (d) Prioritization of process and quality in terms of implementation of development goals in the national context;
- (e) Avoidance of a “one size fits all” approach, with flexibility required to tailor targets in line with national and subnational contexts and priorities;
- (f) National partnerships, including with the private sector, civil society organizations and human rights institutions, for implementing national development plans;
- (g) Improved national capacity for the design and effective implementation of programmes and projects in support of development goals;
- (h) Addressing issues related to migration, disaster, conflict and climate change.

19. The representatives of the civil society organizations delivered statements on the outcome of the civil society consultation, which was held on 10 and 11 February. The statement is contained in annex II to this report.

V. RECOMMENDATIONS

20. The Asia-Pacific Regional Preparatory meeting for the fifty-eighth session of the Commission on the Status of Women reaffirms its commitment to existing global development and human rights frameworks and recognizes their essential contribution toward achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration.¹ The global development and human rights frameworks include, among other things:

- (a) the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women² and its Optional Protocol;³
- (b) the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development;⁴
- (c) the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,⁵ the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly⁶ and the declarations adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women on the occasion of the tenth⁷ and fifteenth⁸ anniversaries of the Fourth World Conference on Women.

21. The meeting also takes note of the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development of the Sixth Asia and Pacific Population Conference.^{9 10}

¹General Assembly resolution 55/2.

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

³United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2131, No. 20378..

⁴ A/CONF.171/13/Rev.1.

⁵ *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

⁶Resolution S-23/3, annex.

⁷ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 7 (E/2005/27), chap. I.A.

⁸ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2010, Supplement No. 7. (E/2010/27 (Supp)-E/CN.6/2010/11 (Supp))*

⁹ The Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development of the Sixth Asian and Pacific Population Conference was adopted by a vote.

¹⁰ Report of the Sixth Asian and Pacific Population Conference (E/ESCAP/APPC(6)/3) [Bangkok, 16-20 September 2013].

22. The meeting reaffirms that gender equality, the empowerment of women, women's full enjoyment of human rights and the eradication of poverty are essential to economic and social development, including the achievement of all of the Millennium Development Goals. The meeting also reaffirms the significant role of women as empowered drivers of development.

A. Achievements, challenges and lessons learned from the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific

23. The meeting recognizes that growing inequality and impediments to resource allocation within and between countries represents an urgent challenge, with multiple implications for the realization of economic and social rights of women and girls and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. It also recognizes that extreme inequality in income distribution endangers the pace and sustainability of growth over the long term.

24. The meeting recognizes that with regard to Millennium Development Goal 1 (eradicate extreme poverty and hunger), women and children still constitute the majority of those affected by extreme poverty and hunger. Significant gender gaps in employment rates persist and women are more likely than men to be in vulnerable forms of employment and have less access to comprehensive forms of social protection. The meeting further notes the need to recognize the disproportionate amount of time women are engaged in care work and the economic and social contribution and value of women's unpaid work.

25. The meeting notes with concern the slow progress in the Asia-Pacific region in meeting the targets for Millennium Development Goal 3 (promote gender equality and empower women), particularly in regard to women's political participation.

26. The meeting notes that a significant number of women and young people continue to have an unmet need for access to sexual and reproductive health information and services. The meeting notes also that, in regard to Millennium Development Goal 5 (improve maternal health), progress in achieving this Goal has been especially slow and that maternal deaths and mortality rates of children under the age of five continue to be unacceptably high.

27. The meeting notes that, in regard to Millennium Development Goal 8 (develop a global partnership for development), the share of official development assistance in support of gender equality has remained inadequate. It also notes that a gender gap in access to information and communication technologies persists.

28. The meeting highlights the critical importance of sex-disaggregated data and is concerned that several indicators to monitor the Millennium Development Goals do not provide any information about the situation of women and girls, including those pertaining to poverty, hunger, environmental sustainability and global partnership for development.

29. The meeting is concerned that several critical gender equality issues were not covered by the Millennium Development Goals, such as violence against women and girls, women's disproportionate share of unpaid care work, the multiple roles played by women in family and society, women's equal access to assets and productive resources, the gender wage gap, women's sexual and reproductive health and the equal participation of women at all levels of decision-making. The meeting recognizes that unless all dimensions of gender

inequality are addressed, gender equality, women's rights and women's empowerment cannot be achieved.

30. The meeting notes the cross-cutting nature of gender inequalities and the need for coordinated, multisectoral policies and programmes to support women's empowerment. It also recognizes that the insufficient priority given to and significant underinvestment in gender equality and women's empowerment continues to limit progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals pertaining to women and girls. It stresses that the allocation of resources to achieve gender equality through domestic resource mobilization and official development assistance remains extremely inadequate.

31. The meeting notes that failure to address global environmental degradation and climate change and to reverse the loss of environmental resources disproportionately affects women, in part because women are more dependent than men on natural resources for their livelihood. It further notes that due to structural inequalities and vulnerabilities, natural and other disasters affect women and girls differently than men and boys..

32. The meeting calls for the promotion and protection of the rights of female migrant workers, including guaranteeing access to adequate legal assistance and basic social services, with special attention to highly vulnerable groups.

33. The meeting recognizes the need to address the root factors, including external factors, that contribute to trafficking in women and girls; prevent, combat and eliminate trafficking in women and girls by criminalizing all forms of trafficking in persons, in particular for the purpose of sexual and economic exploitation, as well as by strengthening existing civil and criminal legislation with a view to providing better protection of the rights of women and girls and by bringing to justice and punishing the offenders and intermediaries involved, including public officials, by protecting the rights of trafficked persons and preventing revictimization; take appropriate measures to ensure that identified victims of trafficking in persons are not penalized for having been trafficked; provide identified victims of trafficking appropriate protection and care, such as rehabilitation and reintegration in society, witness protection, job training, legal assistance, confidential health care and repatriation with the informed consent of the trafficked person, regardless of their participation in any legal proceeding; and accelerate public awareness, education and training to discourage the demand that fosters all forms of exploitation.

34. The meeting calls for high-level political commitment and accountability to gender equality and women's empowerment at the national level to support the work of national women's machineries and promote coordination among all relevant ministries at the national level.

B. Recommendations on the Post-2015 Agenda

35. In accelerating the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and laying the ground for prioritization of gender equality, women's rights and women's empowerment in the development agenda beyond 2015, the meeting calls upon all relevant stakeholders, including governments: to realize women's and girls' full enjoyment of the human rights; to strengthen the enabling environment for gender equality; to maximize investments in gender equality and women's empowerment; to strengthen the evidence-base for policies to achieve gender equality; and to ensure women's participation at all levels and strengthen accountability.

36. The meeting recognizes that all relevant stakeholders must be fully engaged in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals and the development agenda beyond 2015. Relevant stakeholders include, among others, civil society, the private sector and the media.

37. The meeting supports that the new development agenda should take into consideration a two-pronged transformative approach that is inclusive in its nature and recognizes the importance of gender equality and women's empowerment in all development sectors by:

- (a) Including a specific goal on gender equality and women's empowerment that includes, the following elements: prevent and respond to violence against women and girls; expand women's capabilities and access to and control over resources and equal decision-making in households, as well as in public and private spheres;
- (b) Integrating a gender perspective that tackles the historical and structural inequalities in power relations between women and men, poverty and exclusion and the persistent discriminatory social norms and gender stereotypes directed at women and girls. To ensure that a gender perspective is mainstreamed, indicators should be in place that measure the gender responsiveness of development goals and targets, where appropriate.

38. The meeting underlines the need to adopt a development agenda beyond 2015 based on the principles that development is inclusive, gender inequality is addressed and non-discrimination of women and girls and cultural diversity are promoted, which encompass the following:

- (a) comprehensive, multidimensional approach;
- (b) rights-based approach;
- (c) sustainable development as expressed in the outcome on the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development ;
- (d) people-centred development and transformative approach;
- (e) synergies of the principles of human rights and sustainable development.

39. The meeting recognizes that the development agenda needs to respond to the diversity of situations in which women find themselves.

C. Priority areas for action in Asia and the Pacific

40. The meeting calls upon governments, the relevant entities of the United Nations system, international and regional organizations, women's and other civil society organizations, the private sector and media to take the following actions at the local, national, regional and global levels:

- (a) Accelerate efforts to meet the Millennium Development Goal targets, particularly poverty reduction, women's full and decent employment, women's political participation and maternal health;
- (b) Ensure that women's and girls realize the full enjoyment of human rights by:
 - (i) Encouraging States to ratify and fully implement the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women,¹¹ to

¹¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

review and, where appropriate, withdraw reservations, particularly those that are incompatible with the objective and purpose of the Convention, and to ratify or accede to its Optional Protocol;¹²

- (ii) Ensuring full and effective implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development;
- (iii) Eliminating all forms of discrimination against women and girls through: the adoption and accelerated and effective implementation of laws and putting in place comprehensive policy measures; the removal of discriminatory provisions in legal frameworks; and taking comprehensive measures to ensure women's access to justice;
- (iv) Addressing the root causes, promoting prevention, providing comprehensive multisectoral services and prosecuting and punishing the perpetrators of violence against women and girls;
- (v) Implementing specific and targeted measures for the most marginalized groups and for women and girls who experience multiple forms of discrimination;
- (vi) Addressing the multiple factors contributing to women's poverty by ensuring women's economic and social rights, including rights related to employment and decent work, health, education, social protection over the life cycle, basic services and an adequate standard of living, including the right to food security and adequate nutrition, water and housing;
- (vii) Ensuring women's right to work and rights at work through policies that promote decent work for all and equal pay for work of equal value, prohibit sexual harassment, support the reconciliation of paid work with family/care responsibilities for both women and men and ensure the rights of female migrant workers, including domestic workers;
- (viii) Recognizing, valuing, reducing and redistributing unpaid care work through gender-responsive policies on social protection and essential services, including care services, infrastructure development and employment;
- (ix) Providing universal social protection across the life cycle that provides women and girls with protection against risks and vulnerabilities and promotes their rights;
- (x) Enabling girls and women with disabilities to have equitable access to mainstream development opportunities;
- (xi) Addressing the concerns of women affected by situations of humanitarian disaster, environmental degradation, climate change, conflict, sanctions and foreign occupation by providing timely and necessary assistance;
- (xii) Ensuring that in armed conflict and post-conflict situations the prevention of and response to all forms of violence against women and girls, including sexual and gender-based violence, are prioritized and effectively addressed;
- (xiii) Ensuring that the specific needs of women and girls are incorporated into the planning, delivery and monitoring of, and infrastructure for, disaster risk reduction programmes and protocols and humanitarian

¹² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2131, No. 20378.

assistance to address natural disasters, including those induced by climate change, such as extreme weather events and slow onset impacts, with their full participation, and that in disaster preparedness efforts and in post-disaster settings, the prevention of and response to all forms of violence against women and girls, including sexual violence, are prioritized and adequately addressed;

(c) Enhancing the enabling environment for gender equality and women's and girls' rights by;

- (i) Promoting international cooperation and experience sharing to encourage innovative approaches to development and gender equality challenges;
- (ii) Ensuring that macroeconomic policies promote gender equality by creating decent work for all through the mobilization of resources to finance social protection, infrastructure and essential services, and by reducing inequalities based on context-specific characteristics, particularly in times of economic crisis;
- (iii) Formulating policies and establishing and strengthening institutional mechanisms to foster a conducive environment for women's participation and engagement in decision-making processes in the public and private spheres, including within the household;
- (iv) Strengthening institutional mechanisms for gender mainstreaming and the monitoring and evaluation of the Millennium Development Goals;
- (v) Promoting partnerships with non-State actors, including civil society, the private sector, national human rights institutions, where they exist, and the media;
- (vi) Promoting an enabling environment through social protection policies and programmes that cater to the welfare and well-being of women in marginalized or poverty-afflicted situations;
- (vii) Encouraging and advocating the rights of women and girls to choose their own field of educational and professional specialization supported with vocational and technical trainings and providing an enabling environment for women and girls to extract tangible benefits from entrepreneurship;

(d) Maximizing investments in gender equality and women's empowerment by;

- (i) Increasing significantly financial resources across all sectors for the realization of gender equality and women's rights, through domestic resource mobilization and increased official development assistance;
- (ii) Institutionalizing gender-responsive budgeting across all sectors of public expenditure to address gaps in resourcing for gender equality;
- (iii) Ensuring that all national and sector-specific gender equality plans and policies are fully costed and adequately resourced in order to enable their effective implementation;
- (iv) Investing in training and capacity-building with regards to gender mainstreaming in gender-responsive policy formulation;

(e) Strengthening the evidence-base for and measurability of policies related to , gender equality by ;

- (i.) Improving the systematic and coordinated collection, dissemination and analysis and use of quantitative and qualitative data that can be disaggregated by sex, age, geographical location and income, at the national and local level through financial and technical support and capacity-building;
 - (ii.) Ensuring that the development agenda beyond 2015 targets are supported with appropriate indicators for sex and other relevant forms of disaggregated data;
 - (iii.) Developing systems for monitoring and evaluation that: (a) incorporate both quantitative and qualitative measures that are comparable internationally; and (b) address means and processes, as well as outcomes;
- (f) Taking a comprehensive approach to gender equality through:
 - (i.) Strengthening national institutions tasked with promoting gender equality and women's empowerment and their ability to coordinate across relevant sectors;
 - (ii.) Bolstering institutional arrangements to review and evaluate the comprehensive approach to gender mainstreaming;
 - (iii.) Allocating resources for intraministerial coordination, mainstreaming and capacity-building among relevant officials at the national and subnational level;
- (g) Ensuring women's participation at all levels and across public and private spheres by:
 - (i.) Providing opportunities and developing women's capacity to enable their full participation in public and private spheres;
 - (ii.) Providing support services to assist women in balancing their multiple roles in family and the society and to ensure their active participation in public life;
 - (iii.) Promoting women's leadership in senior-level decision-making in political, economic, social and cultural spheres;
- (h) Strengthening accountability mechanisms by:
 - (i.) Enhancing institutional arrangements, including national human rights institutions where they exist, for increased capacity to review, report, evaluate and provide feedback at all levels and in all relevant areas on gender equality and women's empowerment;
 - (ii.) Improving access to information and strengthening the engagement of stakeholders, including women's and civil society organizations, as appropriate, in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies to accelerate the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and in the formulation of the development agenda beyond 2015;
- (i) Engaging all stakeholders relevant to the implementation of development and gender equality objectives by:
 - (i.) Strengthening national institutions tasked with promoting gender equality and women's empowerment, such as national women's machineries, and their ability to coordinate across relevant sectors;
 - (ii.) Encouraging all sectors, particularly the private sector, to address employment policies that discourage women's equality in the workplace;

- (iii.) Engaging the media in its role in shaping mindsets, including promoting non-discriminatory and non-derogatory portrayals of women, and in promoting work-life balance and women's leadership;
- (iv.) Promoting men and boy's participation in, and contribution to, gender equality in all aspects of life.

VI. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

41. The meeting adopted the present report on 13 February 2014.

Annex I
List of participants

Bangladesh

Mr. Md. Khalilur Rahman, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, Dhaka

Mr. Kazi Russel Pervez, Counsellor and Assistant Permanent Representative to ESCAP,
Embassy of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Bangkok

China

Ms. Song Wenyan, Deputy Director-General of International Department, All-China
Women's Federation, Beijing

Ms. Xie Zhangwei, Assistant to the Permanent Representative to ESCAP, Permanent Mission
of the People's Republic of China to ESCAP, Bangkok

Indonesia

Mr. Muhammad Ihsan, Head of Cooperation Division, Ministry of Women's Empowerment
and Child Protection, Jakarta

Ms. Grata Endah Werdaningtyas, Deputy Director for Vulnerable Groups' Rights,
Directorate of Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Jakarta

Mr. Dino Anggara, Staff, Directorate of Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs, Ministry
Foreign Affairs, Jakarta

Ms. Yunianti Chuzaifah, Head/Commissioner, National Commission on Violence Against
Women, Jakarta

Iran (Islamic Republic of)

H.E. Mr. Hossein Kamalian, Ambassador and Permanent Representative to ESCAP, Embassy
of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Bangkok

Ms. Fatemeh Rahmati, Deputy for International Affairs, Vice-Presidency for Women and
Family Affairs, Tehran

Ms. Mansoureh Sharifisadr, Director-General for Human Rights and Women Affairs,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Tehran

Japan

Mr. Hisanobu Mochizuki, Counsellor and Deputy Permanent Representative to ESCAP,
Embassy of Japan, Bangkok

Ms. Chanyapach Unhajata, Political Assistant, Embassy of Japan, Bangkok

Malaysia

Ms. Farah Kareena Hadenan, Principal Secretary, Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development, Putrajaya

Pakistan

Ms. Mian Hameeda, Minister, Women Development Department, Punjab Government, Punjab

Ms. Maryam Rehman, Assistant Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Islamabad

Mr. Ata ul Munim Shahid, Counsellor/Deputy Head of Mission and Deputy Permanent Representative to ESCAP, Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Bangkok

Philippines

Ms. Emmeline L. Verzosa, Executive Director, Philippine Commission on Women, Manila

Ms. Anita E. Baleda, Division Chief, Policy Development and Advocacy Division, Philippine Commission on Women, Manila

Republic of Korea

Ms. Eun-Jung Choi, Director, International Cooperation Division, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family, Seoul

Ms. Seh Young Kim, Specialist for International Organizations, Embassy of the Republic of Korea, Bangkok

Russian Federation

Mr. Evgeny Bessonov, Minister-Counsellor and Deputy Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to ESCAP, Embassy of the Russian Federation, Bangkok

Mr. Ilya Andreev, Attaché and Assistant Permanent Representative to ESCAP, Embassy of the Russian Federation, Bangkok

Thailand

Ms. Paweena Subhimaros, Social Development Officer, Office of Women's Affairs and Family Development, Bangkok

Resource person

Ms. Ethel Sigimanu, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs, Solomon Islands

United Nations bodies

United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

Ms. Mariko Sato, Chief, Bangkok

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

Dr. Isiye Ndombi, Deputy Regional Director and Officer-in-Charge of the Office, Regional Office for East Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok

Ms. Chemba Raghavan, Education Specialist, Regional Office for East Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok

Ms. Jessica Aumann, Education Consultant - Gender and Early Childhood, Regional Office for East Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

Ms. Nobuko Horibe, Regional Director, Asia and the Pacific Regional Office, Bangkok

Ms. Lubna Baqi, Deputy Regional Director, Asia and the Pacific Regional Office, Bangkok

Ms. Anne Harmer, Regional Programme Coordinator, Asia and the Pacific Regional Office, Bangkok

Specialized agencies and related organizations

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Ms. Nomindelger Bayasgalanbat, Nutrition Officer, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok

International Labour Organization (ILO)

Ms. Nelien Haspel, Senior Specialist in Gender and Women Workers Issues, Decent Work Technical Support Team, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok

Intergovernmental organizations

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Ms. Kristina Mejo, Regional Project Development Officer, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok

Civil society organizations

Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD)

Ms. Kate Lappin, Regional Coordinator, Chiang Mai, Thailand

Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN)

Ms. Josefa Gigi Francisco, Global Coordinator, Development, Quezon City, Philippines

South Asia Women's Watch (SAWW)/ National Alliance of Women (NAWO)

Ms. Pam Rajput, Convenor/ Vice President, Chandigarh, India

The Young Feminist Fund (FRIDA)

Ms Paulini Turagabeci, Leadership Development of Young Women

Joint Secretariat

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Ms. Nanda Krairiksh, Director, Social Development Division (SDD)

Ms. Cai Cai, Chief, Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Section, SDD

Ms. Beverly Jones, Social Affairs Officer, SDD

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Annex II

Joint Statement of Women's Rights Civil Society Movements at the Asia-Pacific Civil Society Consultation for the 20-Year Review of the Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and for the 58th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women¹

Forever Forward, Never Backward

Women's rights civil society movements from the Asia Pacific region² gathered at the United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok on 10-11 February 2014, call upon our region's governments to take this opportunity of the Review of the Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA) and the 58th Session of the Commission of the Status of Women, to advance commitments related to gender equality and women's and girls' rights, development and empowerment within a vision of a regional community that enjoy development, economic, social, gender and environmental justice. We remind ourselves that the BPFA drew its mandate and inspiration from earlier global agreements, such as, the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, International Conference on Population and Development, and Vienna Conference on Human Rights.

Twenty years ago, the world's leaders committed to collectively uphold the rights, and empowerment of women and girls at the Fourth World Conference on Women that produced an unprecedented document known as the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. Five years later, the Millennium Declaration was adopted which reinforced the principles of human dignity, equality, and equity at the global level and reconfirmed, among others, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as, respect for the equal rights of all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion.

THE AMBITION OF THE MILLENNIUM DECLARATION

- *We will spare no effort to promote democracy and strengthen the rule of law, as well as respect for all internationally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development. We resolve therefore: to respect fully and uphold the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; to strive for the full protection and promotion in all our countries of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights for all; to strengthen the capacity of all our countries to implement the principles and practices of democracy and respect for human rights, including minority rights; to combat all forms of violence against women and to implement the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; to take measures to ensure respect for and protection of the human rights of migrants, migrant workers and their families, to eliminate the increasing acts of racism and*

¹ This statement has been issued without formal editing.

² Human Rights Now, Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha (BNPS), Center for Research on Environment Health & Population Activities (CREHPA), Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN), Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD), International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific (IWRAP Asia Pacific), Foundation for Women, FRIDA The Young Feminist Fund & YWCA Fiji, New Zealand National Council of Women / UNW National Committee for Aotearoa New Zealand, Feminist League, High Level Committee on the Status of Women and National Alliance of Women's Organisations (NAWO), Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP), Asia Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW), Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD), Asia Pacific Alliance for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (APA), International Planned Parenthood Federation South East Region, CBM Central East Asia, The Women and Media Collective, Sri Lanka / Asia Pacific Women's Watch, Asian Muslim Action Network, Cordaid, Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights (WGNRR), WOCAN (Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management), Youth Lead

xenophobia in many societies and to promote greater harmony and tolerance in all societies...”³

In imagining a future of fully inclusive, equitable, and sustainable development, the Millennium Declaration foreshadowed the potential for globalisation to be a force that threatens our collective progress by creating new levels of inequality: leaving the environmental, social, and economic costs to be borne by the many and the profits to largely accrue to a lucky few.

- *We believe that the central challenge we face today is to ensure that globalization becomes a positive force for all the world's people. For while globalization offers great opportunities, at present its benefits are very unevenly shared, while its costs are unevenly distributed. We recognize that developing countries and countries with economies in transition face special*
- *difficulties in responding to this central challenge. Thus, only through broad and sustained efforts to create a shared future, based upon our common humanity in all its diversity, can globalization be made fully inclusive and equitable. These efforts must include policies and measures, at the global level, which correspond to the needs of developing countries and economies in transition and are formulated and implemented with their effective participation.*

- *Poverty eradication ... “depends on good governance at the international level and on transparency in the financial, monetary and trading systems. We are committed to an open, equitable, rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory multilateral trading and financial system.”*

The MDGs themselves did not reflect the ambition or commitment reflected in the Millennium Declaration, particularly for women. In fact, they had the perverse effect of diverting focus from existing, more ambitious and rights based commitments

Regrettably, we now see that the apprehension expressed in the declaration has been realised. Globalisation has led to wealth, power and resources accruing to a minority of the world's richest and most powerful people and corporations. Our world is now a plutocracy. Recent statistics revealed that the wealthiest 85 people in the world are now wealthier than half the world's population - 3.5 billion people. This model of wealth accumulation is directly responsible for the crises of inequality and of environment we now confront.

We endorse the Bangkok Declaration produced by 100 civil society organisations from the Asia Pacific region which called for a new model of development characterised as '**Development Justice**'. The delivery of Development Justice requires five transformative shifts that incorporate:

- Redistributive Justice,
- Economic Justice,
- Social Justice (including gender justice),
- Environmental Justice and
- Accountability to the peoples

At this regional meeting, we call on our governments to deliver an outcome document that will reflect rights, development, empowerment and future aspirations of women and girls, as follows:

Key Messages:

1. This must be the era of **ACCOUNTABILITY**. Strong normative standards and commitments exist but these commitments are rarely implemented and discarded at the altar of economic growth and political power.
2. A new development framework must be **TRANSFORMATIVE**. It must address the structural caucuses of inequality and marginalisation. It must address the convergence of the pernicious effects of globalisation, militarism and conflict and fundamentalisms that particularly target women's bodies and livelihoods.
3. The framework must include a strong stand-alone **GENDER GOAL** that address root causes of rights violations. And gender must be integrated throughout the framework.
4. The post2015 agenda must include an **INEQUALITIES GOAL** that aims to reduce inequalities of wealth, power, resources and opportunities between states, between rich and poor within states and between men and women. This goal must ignite macro-economic reform at the global and national level.
5. A new development agenda must address the **CLIMATE CRISIS** and the cause of the climate crisis – a refusal to limit production and consumption, particularly in the developed world.
6. The new development agenda must be underpinned by the principles of **HUMAN RIGHTS** and the **RIO PRINCIPLES**.
7. New global **PARTNERSHIPS** must result in strengthened partnerships amongst citizenry – that is citizens and those they charge with delivering sustainable development – their governments.

MACROECONOMIC POLICY, UNPAID CARE WORK & SOCIALPOLICY

Women represent 70% of people living in poverty in the Asia Pacific. Nearly two-thirds of women work in 'vulnerable employment' that lacks basic security, benefits, and working conditions. Moreover, Asia has the highest gender pay gap in the world.

In this conjuncture, addressing gender inequality requires us to examine and anticipate comparative impacts of macroeconomic policy and regulation on poor women and men. The contours of our political economy of development; the scope and composition of public expenditure; the features of public revenue collection; the impact of sector policies on employment; the profile of social policies, all these take place in a gendered terrain, where women remain by and large economically subordinated to men and therefore are affected differently by economic globalization.

As duty-bearers, states must be accountable and transparent to its rights-holding citizens. They must utilize maximum available resources not to bail out banks and companies, but to realize the economic, social and cultural rights of people, and in the context of the BPFA+20 Review, of women and girls especially.

Recommendations:

1. Address the structural foundations and sources of gender inequality and injustice, including

- Macroeconomic policies, including government expenditures and revenue, fiscal, monetary and trade policies, as well as sector policies (for agriculture, fisheries and aquaculture, and other industries and services) should be consistent with social equity and gender equality goals. It is an error to implement macroeconomic policies that focus on growth rates, trade volumes and financial targets alone without explicit social and environmental goals that aim first of all to improve people's quality of life, and maintain a sustainable ecosystem. In particular, economic investments and public policies should guarantee people's economic and social rights, rather than being driven by the financial interests of large corporations.
- Access to economic assets should be democratized. For this, inheritance, ownership, and financial rules and regulations norms should be revised and transformed so as to address structural barriers to women's access to and decision-making over financial, natural and other economic resources. Women, as the majority of subsistence farmers, are particularly vulnerable to the persistent land-grabbing and displacement occurring in the global south. The new development agenda must aim to ensure more equitable access to land and resources and secure tenure for women and communities.
- Inequity and inequality cannot be tackled just by attending to their manifestations, but instead by attacking their most profound sources. Redistributing wealth, opportunity, and power are key actions in this regard. For women, this includes reducing the heavy and inequitable burdens of unpaid care work.
- All public policies, including macroeconomic policies, should be evaluated for their impact on gender equity and equality, and data and statistical systems must be geared to support this.

2. Transform the gender division of labour by expanding care services and redistributing paid and unpaid work

- A fairer and more just social organization of care is needed in order to redistribute care responsibilities and the burden of paid and unpaid work. Expanding public care services and making them accessible to the needs of diverse households, is a key component of any redistribution strategy.
- The economic value of unpaid care work should be made explicit and considered in macroeconomic accounting and policies. The best way of recognizing the contribution of unpaid care work to economic development should be tailored to each national situation.

3. Remove persistent gender discrimination in the labour market and improvement of access to and decision making over resources and economic assets.

- Persistent mechanisms of gender discrimination in the labour market should be removed through a variety of measures, such as: enforcing standards and laws that penalize sex-segregation and gender-based discrimination at work; adopting legal frameworks and promoting concrete regulatory mechanisms for monitoring and implementation so as to guarantee equal pay for equal value of work; providing incentives for employers to expand jobs for women in sectors where gender disparity

is wide; providing start-up incentives and resources for women-led businesses and training for women.

- Commit to a target to legislate and deliver a living wage for all workers particularly domestic workers, migrant workers, informal sector and garment workers where wages have been set using discriminatory assumptions about the sexual division of labour and dependents.
4. Commit to the provision of universal social incomes.
- Social protection institutions should be improved and expanded, especially as in many countries where informal work represents a large share of total employment. A rights-based commitment to universal social income policies might represent an innovative framework to advance universal social protection that incorporates both income and essential services and public goods.

WOMEN & CONFLICT

Set-backs for the rights and development of women and girls has been affected by the persistence of violent conflicts. The war on terror and intra-state conflicts, including sectarian and ethnic-based conflicts undermine women's rights and the achievement of development goals. No conflict or post-conflict country has achieved a single MDG.

Conflict is not gender-blind; it differently on girls, boys, women and men. Women's care role does not stop because of conflict; it only becomes extremely difficult even life threatening.

In order to address the different levels of vulnerability and inequalities, we strongly recommend governments to take a rights-based approach to address poverty and structural inequalities that create specific needs and constraints for ordinary women and girls in conflicts and post-conflict situations, such as:

- Utilise the existing commitments in GA Resolution 1325 and consequent resolutions and CEDAW GR 30 in the post2015 agenda
- Set targets to reduce military spending as a percentage of the national budget and as a comparison to social spending (i.e. health)
- Set targets to eliminate weapons within the community from both state and non-state actors
- Measure the number of military and non-state armed security in the population
- Create mechanisms to end impunity for perpetrators of sexual and gender-based violence in conflict areas (20).

WOMEN AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Disasters and climate change are closely related. As has been stated in the Asia Pacific Report 2010 –“people in Asia-Pacific are four times more likely to be affected by natural disasters than those living in Africa, and 25 times more likely than those living in Europe or North America. While the region generated only one quarter of the world's GDP, it accounted for a staggering 85% of deaths and 38% of global economic losses during 1980-2009.

We now look forward to gender equality being clearly and strongly represented as a core transformative necessity for the realization of sustainable development, where women are not just viewed as victims or end-users, but as strong, innovative contributors to the

sustainability of the environment. We reiterate our call for a gender equality goal, with specific targets and indicators across all SDGs. We also point out that the most robust human rights and social justice framework is necessary as drivers of any sustainable development, and environmental rights as central, never as an externality. Without all this, we cannot have healthy ecosystems which will have tremendous impact on women's care burdens.

Also recalling specific focus on SIDs, LDCs, Africa and other special State circumstances; strongest work on sustainable consumption and production, and on oceans and seas, must be made. Coherency also necessitates alignment with the SIDs track; across UNFCCC negotiations. These SDG processes will lead a path in clarifying and highlighting the scale and urgency of climate change conditions, and while not duplicating, can certainly set trends toward ambitious and legally binding climate change mitigation commitments, essential for health and sustainability of oceans, air and land.

Thirdly on urgency and scale of response, we call on governments, NGOs and scientific experts and advocates for specific attention to the so-called 'deadly trio' of cumulative impacts of global oceanic warming, sea level rise, and increased levels of de-oxygenation caused by coastal nutrient run-off, combining to destroy the protective shield the ocean provides against the worst effects of accelerating climate change and environmental degradation. The SDGs must measure and monitor both clearly visible and slow-onset issues -whether it involves king tides affecting drinking water salinity in small island states with attendant effects on SRHR, leading to drought and food insecurity; levels of nuclear radiation and mercury in seafood; bleaching and die-off of coral reefs; rising extinction rates of marine flora and fauna; increase in marine invasive species, loss of mangroves, sand dunes and coastal forests, and much more.

To recognise and address all this, there must be a biosphere approach to addressing oceans and sustainable development, clearly recognising the interdependence and interlinkage of marine, atmospheric and terrestrial ecosystems. What happens on air, land and sea is inherently connected, and influencing the planetary systems driving weather, water and food systems, biodiversity, and ultimately determining the extent of sustainable development. For many of us from small island states, the existential threat to our islands means this is about right to life, and right to development, as much as any other rights.

Finally, we must take caution with the re-emergence of views on a direct and simplistic connection between climate change and population growth, we must at the same time ensure that universal access of women and girls to a full range of sexual and reproductive rights, services and health must be preserved.

Climate issues and responses must

- Ensure the post2015 agenda honours and reflects the agreed Rio principles and in particular the principles of Common But Differentiated Responsibility and that of Polluter Pays.
- Includes an ambitious goal to foster a sustainable planet that operates within safe planetary boundaries and reduces carbon emissions.
- Ensure the active participation of women and girls in decision-making processes related to disaster risk prevention and preparedness, as well as post-disaster's assessments (etc.).
- Recognize the role of women in environmental regeneration and sustainability through their indigenous knowledge, skills on environmental management and on biodiversity conservation.

- Ensure that women and men have equal access to information (e.g. about disasters, assistance), to capacity building and technologies to reduce their vulnerability to disasters.
- Ensure that women and girls have access to adequate and comprehensive assistance including sexual and reproductive health and rights services during conflicts and disasters.

SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS

In September 2013, the Asia Pacific Region showed leadership when adopting the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development. We showed commitment to resolve, respect, protect and fulfil the human rights of all women and girls including their sexual and reproductive rights, without which the ability to exercise other rights is significantly constrained. To protect and promote the well-being of women and girls, we urge Member States to reaffirm the International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action and its reviews, specifically on its core issues of sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender, youth, and sustainable development and to draw inspiration from the Ministerial Declaration as an instrument for the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment in Asia and the Pacific.

Member States have recognized that sexual and reproductive rights embrace certain human rights that are already recognized in national laws, international human rights documents and other consensus documents, and rest on the recognition of the basic right of all couples and individuals to decide freely and responsibly the number, spacing, timing of their children and to have the information and means to do so, the right to attend the highest standard of sexual and reproductive health, and the right to make decisions concerning reproduction and sexuality free of discrimination, coercion, and violence. Member States have expressed grave concern at acts of violence and discrimination committed against individuals on the grounds of their sexual orientation and gender identity, and have promised to work to reduce vulnerability and eliminate discrimination based on sex, gender, age, race, caste, class, migrant status, disability, HIV status and sexual orientation and gender identity, or other status. It is crucial to take forward these principles of human rights, equality and social justice, in order to ensure a post2015 agenda that is truly effective, inclusive, places women and girls at the centre and tackles root causes of inequalities and discrimination.

Human rights, especially sexual and reproductive rights need to underpin the post 2015 agenda and call attention to the following:

Respect for the sexual and reproductive health and rights of adolescents and young people, giving full attention to meeting their sexual and reproductive health, information and education needs, with their full participation and engagement, while respecting their privacy and confidentiality as well as removing legal, regulatory and social barriers to youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health services;

Assurance of sufficient resources and support for the implementation of comprehensive sexuality education programmes providing accurate and holistic information on human sexuality, gender equality, human rights, relationships, and sexual and reproductive health;

Integration of sexual and reproductive health services and programmes in response to gender-based violence, as part of a broader, multisectoral, coordinated response, including within maternal, newborn and child, adolescent and youth health, family planning and HIV-

related services, and ensuring that all victims and survivors of violence have immediate access to critical services, including emergency contraception and safe abortion;

The review, and where appropriate, repeal of laws that punish women and girls who have undergone illegal abortions as well as their service providers, where applicable, as well as end their imprisonment for such acts, bearing in mind that in no circumstances should abortion be considered as a family planning method.

Lastly, gender equality can never be fully achieved without an inter-sectional approach to reproductive and sexual rights which include the right to sexual orientation and gender identity. Discriminatory laws and policies must be repealed. Sexual and reproductive rights are indivisible, inalienable, inter-related human rights which are fundamental to achieving gender equality and human development.

STAND ALONE GENDER GOAL WITH FOCUS ON VAW AND VOICE

GENDER GOAL

A commitment to a stand-alone gender goal should reflect genuine commitment to transforming power inequalities. It should not simply aim to guarantee women the equal right to live in poverty, nor the equal right to exploit other humans. We do not set our sites on women being half of the 85 world's plutocrats. Instead we urge states to see the whole framework as integrated and critical to delivering on promises for the full realisation of human rights.

Violence against women remains widespread, systematic, and culturally entrenched in the region. Women experience violence on a continuum that spans daily acts of harassment to murder, femicide, and the disappearance of women. The Pacific Islands are reported to have the highest rate of peace-time violence in the world, with 69% of women experiencing some form of physical or sexual violence.

Eliminating violence against women must be a target of the post2015 agenda. While governments have clear obligations to act with due diligence to eliminate violence already, we need to see clear targets and indicators. Indicators should include policy indicators (i.e. existence of national fully funded action plans), of prevalence (the number of women experiencing violence), of response (number of women securing justice responses), of perception (number of women who feel safe in their homes and their communities) and of attitudes (number of people who think it's acceptable to force women to have sex).

Ensure that all victims and survivors of all forms of gender-based violence, rape and incest, including indigenous people and people of various ethnicities and traditional communities, have immediate access to critical services, including: 24-hour hotlines; psychosocial and mental health support; treatment of injuries; post-rape care, including emergency contraception, post-exposure prophylaxis for HIV prevention and access to safe abortion services; police protection; safe housing and shelter; documentation of cases, forensic services and legal aid; referrals; and longer-term support (6th APPC, para143).

Finally, Asia Pacific region remains below global averages in women's democratic leadership and voice with the Pacific region the lowest in the world.

Ensuring decision making of women in the home, in the community, in development planning and implementation, in national democratic spaces, at regional level and at

international levels is critical. The new agenda should aim for parity of women in all decision making processes.

CONCLUSION

Several states from the Asia Pacific region have expressed strong support for a transformative development agenda that aims to fully realise women's human rights and address the deep and growing inequalities of wealth, power, resources and inequalities between and within countries. Civil society is ready and willing to work with governments to realise the collective, ambitious vision of equitable and sustainable development.

In particular we see the need to work with governments to more clearly specify the **Accountability** mechanisms and the **Means of Implementation** that will make this consensus more than rhetoric.

ACCOUNTABILITIES

Accountability mechanisms at the international, regional, national and local levels need to be strengthened and enforceable. We endorse the call from UNCTAD and expressed in the Millennium declaration for new, democratic *open, equitable, rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory multilateral trading and financial systems* **that have the realization of development rights at their core.**

Partnerships between civil society and decision makers at all levels will allow for greater accountability, civic participation, monitoring and evaluation. A recognition that partnerships between the state and constituents is the primary partnership needs to be central to the agenda.

Multi-stakeholder decision making bodies at the local, national, regional and international level should include reserved space for women's civil society representation to strengthen accountability and participatory democracy for women.

Member states and UN Agencies have recognised the importance of civil society and public engagement and voice on the post2015 agenda. The MDGs lacked any national level debate and, as a consequence, local ownership is often lacking. We encourage states to

1. Foster national debate and dialogue around the new development agenda - in media, parliament and community consultative processes
2. Include civil society in delegations to CSW and other intergovernmental spaces
3. Share national statements with civil society prior to CSW and post2015 processes
4. Register panels at CSW in collaboration with civil society
5. Work with civil society to review implementation of Beijing +20
6. Sex disaggregated data must be institutionalized at all levels and data gathering must be predictable, regular and consistent.

Thank you.