



**Commission on the Status of Women  
Fifty-ninth session**

**Results of regional Beijing+20 events of the UN regional commissions**

**Thursday, 12 March 2015  
3.00 to 6.00 pm**

**ISSUES PAPER**

**1. Introduction**

In its resolution 2013/18, the Economic and Social Council decided that at its fifty-ninth session, in 2015, the Commission of the Status of Women (CSW) will undertake a review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, including current challenges that affect the implementation of the Platform for Action and the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women, as well as opportunities for strengthening gender equality and the empowerment of women in the post-2015 development agenda through the integration of a gender perspective.

In the same resolution, the Economic and Social Council encouraged the regional commissions to undertake regional reviews so that the outcomes of intergovernmental processes at the regional level could feed into the 2015 review.

As part of the review and appraisal at its fifty-ninth session, the Commission will hold a panel discussion on the results of regional Beijing+20 reviews of the United Nations regional commissions. The panel will result in a Chair's summary that should contribute to the accelerated implementation of the Platform for Action in the current context.

**2. Elements for discussion**

**A. Background**

All five regional commissions held intergovernmental meetings to assess progress, and to identify remaining gaps and priority areas for action to accelerate the implementation of the Platform for Action in their regions.

- The Economic Commission for Europe held a regional review event, the “Beijing+20 Regional Review Meeting”, in Geneva on 6 and 7 November 2014.

- The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific held the “Asian and Pacific Conference on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment: Beijing+20 Review”, in Bangkok from 17 to 20 November 2014.
- The Economic Commission for Africa held the “Ninth African Regional Conference on Women (Beijing+20 Review)”, in Addis Ababa from 17 to 19 November 2014.
- The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean held a special session on the 20-year review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in Latin America and the Caribbean during the 51st meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, in Santiago from 17 to 19 November 2014.
- The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia held the “Arab High-level Conference on Beijing+20: Towards Justice and Equality for Women in the Arab Region, in Cairo, on 2 and 3 February 2015.

In conjunction with the regional reviews, civil society and non-governmental organizations convened meetings and provided inputs to, and participated actively in the intergovernmental meetings.

Also in preparation for the regional reviews, the regional commissions prepared analysis, with key findings on regional trends in implementation, and recommendations for further action. These findings and recommendations supported the intergovernmental deliberations and outcomes.

Each of the five regional reviews resulted in an outcome that now provides a basis for further action by Member States at the national level. The outcomes also identify action to be taken by other stakeholders, including the regional commissions. Those outcomes are:

- ECE: Co-Chairpersons’ conclusions, at: [http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/Gender/Beijing\\_20/ECE AC 28 2014 2 e.pdf](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/Gender/Beijing_20/ECE_AC_28_2014_2_e.pdf)
- ESCAP: Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Advancing Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment, at: [http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/Report\\_B1401277.pdf](http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/Report_B1401277.pdf).
- ECA: Addis Ababa Declaration on Accelerating the Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action. Towards a transformational change for women and girls in Africa, at: <http://www.uneca.org/beijing-plus-20>; and [http://www.uneca.org/sites/default/files/publications/beijing\\_20\\_addis\\_declaration.eng\\_.pdf](http://www.uneca.org/sites/default/files/publications/beijing_20_addis_declaration.eng_.pdf)
- ECLAC: Statement on the special session on Beijing+20 in Latin America and the Caribbean; at: <http://www.cepal.org/cgi-bin/getprod.asp?xml=/mujer/noticias/paginas/3/51823/P51823.xml&xsl=/mujer/tpl/p18f.xsl&base=/tpl/e-mail.xsl#VMo5SNKG-b1>; and: [http://www.cepal.org/mujer/noticias/paginas/9/53409/14-20873\\_MDM-51\\_Beijing\\_statements.pdf](http://www.cepal.org/mujer/noticias/paginas/9/53409/14-20873_MDM-51_Beijing_statements.pdf);
- ESCWA: Arab Declaration: Toward Justice and Equality for Women in the Arab Region, at: <http://www.escwa.un.org/sites/BeijingPlus20/>; and [http://www.escwa.un.org/sites/BeijingPlus20/docs/E4\\_ArabDecl.pdf](http://www.escwa.un.org/sites/BeijingPlus20/docs/E4_ArabDecl.pdf).

## **B. Questions for discussion**

The following questions could be addressed during the discussion:

1. What are the key findings regarding remaining gaps and challenges as well as emerging issues that need to be addressed urgently for accelerated implementation of the Platform for Action?

2. What are the key commitments to further action that Member States have agreed to prioritize in their regions? How will action on those be monitored?
3. How will Governments, supported by the regional commissions, the UN system, and in collaboration with other stakeholders ensure that implementation of the regional outcomes and of the Platform for Action receives the priority necessary for measurable progress within the next five years?
4. What will it take to ensure that progress in realizing gender equality and the empowerment of women is a central commitment in the post-2015 development agenda and its follow-up and implementation? What kinds of alliances and partnerships will Governments build and strengthen at regional level to ensure concrete change in the lives of women and girls?

### **3. Format**

The panel will be chaired by Ms. Kanda Vajrabhaya, Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women, and will be moderated by Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ncguka, Executive Director, UN-Women.

Executive Secretaries of the regional commissions will present the key findings from the regional reviews, as well as the key strategies and actions for implementation (of some 7 minutes, each). Their presentations will be followed by an inter-active dialogue with Ministers and other heads of delegations of Member States, representatives of the UN system and of civil society. The focus of the discussion will be on ways, measures and strategies for ensuring that the agreements reached at the regional review meetings are effectively implemented at regional and national level, in a coherent approach that brings together all stakeholders and that effectively positions follow-up to the regional outcomes and the Beijing+20 review centrally in the context of the post-2015 development agenda.