



**Briefing on UN-Women’s operational response at national level  
in support of Beijing+20 preparations**

2 February 2015; 8:15 - 9:15 a.m.

Conference room 3

The President of UN-Women Executive Board Bureau, H.E. Ambassador Ib Petersen chaired the Briefing on UN-Women’s operational response at the national level in support of Beijing+20 preparations.

After remarks by Deputy Executive Director, Ms. Lakshmi Puri, we heard through video conferencing from UN-Women Regional Director Asia Pacific, Ms. Roberta Clarke, who presented the operational response at the national level in support of Beijing+20 preparations in Asia and the Pacific and UN-Women Representative to Ethiopia, the AU and UNECA, Ms. Letty Chiwara who briefed the participants on the same preparations in Africa (all presentations can be accessed on the Executive Board-webpage under: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/executive-board/documents/briefing-on-support-for-natiaonl-beijing-preparations>).

The briefings highlighted that UN-Women is not only an integral element of the “Delivering as One” approach, but also plays a crucial role in UN-system wide coordination on not only all endeavors regarding the B+20 process on regional and country levels but also gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. Ms. Puri reiterated the importance of making use of the momentum of B+20 to create high visibility for the work on gender equality. She highlighted UN-Women’s important role in the area of norm setting and serving as knowledge hub, the entities operational impact through the manifold collaborations in the various field offices, the change initiated by advocacy and campaign work, as well as UN-Women’s fruitful partnerships with Governments, Private Sector and Civil Society.

Ms. Puri underscored that the process of appraisal, review and commemoration of the Beijing declaration and B+20 is a great opportunity to take stock and identify gaps, opportunities and needs. The momentum will support political commitment on gender equality and the empowerment of women, enhancing the global movement-building and creating a broader knowledge and evidence base which will further improve policy and programmes. UN-Women

will conduct its “Step It Up” campaign which will lead up to the “Global Leaders' Commitment Meeting on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment” and will give Member States the opportunity to recommit to the objectives regarding gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls outlined in the post-2015 development framework.

Appreciation was expressed by many Member States about UN-Women’s strong implementation rate, despite limited resources. However, the funding gap of UN-Women remains weak and only adequate resource provision to UN-Women will guarantee continuous, successful follow-through in reaching the objectives outlined in the Beijing declaration and the gender equality targets envisioned in the sustainable development goals. Therefore, structured dialogues on funding UN-Women will continuously at the Executive Board and innovative ways of resource mobilization will be explored.

The complete, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing declaration will contribute to the realization of objectives on gender equality and the empowerment of women spelled out in the sustainable development goals. In all future endeavors the identification of new, innovative, “game changers” and “agents of changes” will be key to overcome the challenges of today. Including, but not limited to, stronger engagement of men and boys, faith based organizations as well as information-technology based solutions.

The Chinese delegation took the floor and expressed China’s gratitude for UN-Women’s leadership on the global review of the Beijing declaration, and mentioned the B+20 event in September which is co-hosted by China. The Chinese delegation asked about the long-term vision of UN-Women’s campaign work. Ms. Puri gave her reassurance that UN-Women will make the best possible use of the momentum of B+20 to continue with the global movement-building.

No further question have been raised, and the meeting was adjourned.