



IN BRIEF



# BEIJING+20: RECOMMITTING FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

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## Why Beijing+20

The year 2015 marks the 20th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPfA). The Platform for Action is the defining and foundational policy framework for the achievement of gender equality, women's rights and women's empowerment. For two decades, it has been the road map and central rallying point for gender equality.

Beijing+20 takes place at a strategic moment, at the crossroads of the elaboration of a new global development agenda and Sustainable Development Goals, the Global Review of UN Resolution 1325 and the 2015 UN Climate Change Conference or COP21. The confluence of these processes provides a once-in-a-generation opportunity to position gender equality and women's empowerment at the heart of the global agenda of sustainable development, peace and security and human rights. Beijing+20 aims at:

- Renewing political will and commitment;
- Revitalizing public debate through social mobilization and awareness-raising;
- Strengthening evidence-based knowledge;
- Enhancing resources to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment.

UN Women has carried out a wide programme of activities and engages with multiple stakeholders to promote the accelerated and effective implementation of the BPfA.

## National, regional and global reviews

Governments were called upon to conduct national reviews, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, in particular with civil society organizations. A record number of 164 national reports were submitted to the respective regional commissions and to UN Women. The reports provide important insights about achievements and challenges in relation to gender equality and women's empowerment. They also provide a basis for decision-makers to take further concrete actions to accelerate progress. The five UN Regional Commissions organized intergovernmental meetings and undertook regional reviews with strong outcomes documents.

The review process culminated in the 59<sup>th</sup> session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), New York, from 9 to 20 March 2015. UN Women prepared the Secretary-General's report on the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action. Other key documents by UN Women include a flagship report on women's economic and social rights, as part of UN Women's 'Progress of the World's Women' series, and a global study on the implementation of the UN Security Council resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. These are targeted to decision-makers to inform policies and actions to accelerate progress towards gender equality, especially in the context of the post-2015 development framework.

## High-level and global thematic events

Based on the recommendations emerged from the review process, UN Women is leading multiple initiatives to galvanize urgent action towards the implementation of the BPFfA.

In September 2015, in collaboration with the People's Republic of China, UN Women will co-organize a *Global Leaders' Meeting on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: A Commitment to Action* with the participation of Heads of States and Governments. In the lead-up to the event, UN Women launched a "Planet 50-50 by 2030: Step it Up for Gender Equality" campaign, calling upon Governments to make concrete commitments to advance gender equality and women's empowerment in the post-2015 development framework. The September high-level meeting will provide Member States with an opportunity to announce their commitments and initiatives. On the margins of this event, UN Women will also organize a Global Civil Society Dialogue.

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**"2015 must mark the beginning of the end of gender inequality, with 2030 as the expiry date."**

- Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, UN Women Executive Director.

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Throughout the Beijing+20 commemoration, UN Women has organized and co-hosted a series of global thematic events focusing on the 12 critical areas of concern of the Beijing Platform for Action. The events have been instrumental in bringing together experts, decision-makers, activists and global leaders to share cutting-edge experience and knowledge on each critical area of concern. UN Women Country and Regional Offices around the world have also actively engaged in this process and organized national and regional events on the critical areas of concern.

In New York, on the occasion of CSW59 and International Women's Day 2015, UN Women organized two major public events under the umbrella campaign "Planet 50-50 by 2030: Step it Up for Gender Equality": a street march and a celebratory evening event. Both events celebrated the gains and achievements made by the global women's movement over two decades and urged for global action to achieve gender equality no later than 2030.



**"Empowering Women – Empowering Humanity: Picture It!"**

Since May 2014, UN Women has undertaken major communication efforts to raise awareness of the Beijing agenda among decision-makers and the general public. Its social mobilization and communication campaign "Empowering Women – Empowering Humanity: Picture It!" engages a wide range of constituencies on the 12 critical areas of concern of the Platform for Action, highlighted in monthly editorial and online features. The campaign website, in three languages, features inspiring multi-media content, including videos of women who broke barriers, prominent gender equality champions, as well as reflections by participants to the 1995 Beijing conference. Efforts are also made to target youth to fire up a new generation of gender equality and women's rights advocates as well as men and boys through specific platforms, such as our HeforShe campaign.

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