

Terms of Reference for the Beijing+25 Youth Task Force

1. Background

While great progress has been made since 189 governments adopted the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPfA) in 1995, many young women and girls continue to be amongst the most marginalized and vulnerable. They face multiple barriers including violence, limited or unequal access to resources, persistent inequalities and stereotypical cultural norms. Breaking the trajectories of gender inequality has been a particularly difficult and slow process. At the current pace of change, it will take 50 years to achieve parity in political participation and 118 years for true pay equality – unless we act now.

2020 will be a pivotal year for this urgent action and a defining moment that might determine whether we are going to achieve gender equality by 2030. It is undeniable that unless young people unite and mobilize to empower women and girls, the realization of gender equality by 2030 will not be possible.

It is within this context that UN Women is making a call for the composition of a time-limited (August 2019- September 2020) Youth Task force

2. Role of the Youth Task Force

The successful meaningful involvement of young people in the Beijing+25 review processes depends on young people driving the preparatory and implementation stages of the review processes. The role of the youth task force is to work closely with UN Women on a voluntary basis to ensure that young people are mobilized, engaged and contribute to all stages and aspects of the global review processes.

The Youth Task Force will offer guidance and support to UN Women's efforts to ensure the meaningful engagement of youth in Beijing+25 review processes focusing on the 64th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women, the Global Forum for Gender Equality and the 75th session of the General Assembly.

3. Composition

The Youth Task Force will consist of 30 young people from broad youth-led global networks and organisations and civic movements. It will seek a composition that represents young people in all their diversity and across intersectional complexities including marital status, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, indigenous and ethnic identities, and refugee or migrant status. Nomination to the task force will happen according to a set of objective criteria that can be found in the original call.

4. Membership and frequency of meetings

Members of the task force are expected to the extent possible participate in bi-weekly online coordination meetings that will take place on Fridays 9 am EST. Members will be invited to serve on thematic committees where they have expertise. The work of the task force will be remote. Given the voluntary nature of the task force, we are mindful of the busy schedules of the members, but we would encourage applicants to commit to it for its full duration, to ensure consistency. Meetings will be held in English.

5. Thematic Committees

UN Women will create an enabling environment for young people to co-lead in the Beijing +25 preparatory and implementations processes. Based on consultations with young people gathered throughout CSW63 Youth Dialogue and during the event “Youth Mobilizing Spaces” on March 15th, 2019, UN Women drafted a strategy on how to meaningfully involve young people throughout the Beijing+25 processes.

The following committees will support the implementation of this strategy carrying out different roles. The specific focus of the committees will be developed further in collaboration with its members.

I. Policy and Drafting Committee

The Policy and Drafting Committee will in close collaboration with UN Women draft concept notes, position papers and develop a road map of time-bound tasks leading up to the key events of the global Beijing+25 review processes. The committee will in collaboration with the Outreach and Communication Committee coordinate online consultations and identify other areas of synergies with other committees. The committee will also be responsible for the formulation of clear action points following each bi-weekly meeting.

II. Outreach and Communication Committee

Based on the Beijing+25 Youth Strategy and in collaboration with the UN Women Communication team, the Outreach and Communication Committee will work on a communication plan, develop promotional material and carry out media campaigns. The committee will also reach out to different youth networks for more inclusive consultations.

III. Capacity building Committee

The Capacity building Committee will focus on designing and planning how to best prepare young people and build their capacity ahead of involvement in preparatory organs as well as key events of Beijing+25.

IV. The Logistics Committee

The Logistics Committee will in collaboration with UN Women focus on logistical tasks such as the planning of youth related events that are part of the Beijing+25 process, including (but not limited to) CSW 64, the Global Forum for Gender Equality and the 75th session of the General Assembly.

6. Timeline

The deadline for the submission of applications is 15 July 2019, 12 p.m. EST (DST). The nomination process is expected to be finalized by 30 July 2019. Successful candidates will shortly hereafter receive a letter of acceptance. The work of the task force is expected to commence on 1 August 2019. The following are the known key dates for the global events of the Beijing+25 processes:

CSW64: 9-20 March 2020

Global Forum for Gender Equality: Summer of 2020 (the specific dates will be announced at a later stage).

The 75th session of the General Assembly: September 2020

7. Outputs

The Youth Task Force will be an opportunity for young people to:

- Support and guide UN Women's efforts to place young people at the center of the Beijing+25 processes.
- Be part of a network of young supporters that will foster momentum on youth engagement for gender equality on a global level.
- Exchange expertise and knowledge with young people that are working towards the same objective.
- Recognition of contribution.