

High-level side event

Draft

Title: "Beijing+30: towards achieving gender equality, the rights and empowerment of women and girls"

Background

2025 will mark the thirtieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995), as well as the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

These anniversaries not only provide an opportunity to review the progress made in advancing the gender equality agenda, but also offer a platform to bolster global action towards gender equality and a gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda and other global commitments. These include those under Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and subsequent resolutions on women, peace, and security; the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (2015); the Paris agreement on climate change (2015); the ongoing review of progress on the implementation of the UNFCCC Gender Action Plan; and regional commitments to promote gender equality and the rights of women and girls, among others. As well as the implementation of the Pact for the Future, the Global Digital Compact and the Declaration on Future Generations.

Accelerating the fulfillment of global commitments to gender equality is crucial. Since the Beijing conference, significant strides have been made in securing legal and institutional frameworks for gender equality. Notably, 69% of countries now have specialized bodies to address gender discrimination, 78% provide budgetary commitments for services addressing violence against women (VAW), and 85% subsidize childcare. We have seen the impressive resilience of the women's movement, the emergence of feminist philanthropy, stronger engagement by the private sector to advance gender equality, and an increase in the dedicated resources to gender equality, rights and the empowerment of women, young women and girls, including the historic Spotlight Initiative to end violence against women and girls. However, in a context where, more than halfway to the endpoint of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, not a single country has achieved gender equality, thereby putting the achievement of the entire agenda at risk. The gender gap in decision-making and leadership positions, including the challenges towards an equal and inclusive representation of women in decision-making systems, remains entrenched, and, at the current rate of progress, gender parity will not be reached in national legislatures before 2063, or among Heads of Government before 2150 - another 130 years away. No country is close to eradicating violence against women and girls, including intimate partner violence, with an estimated 736 million - almost one in three - subjected to violence at least once in their lifetime. According to the latest ['Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals: The gender snapshot 2023'](#) report from UN DESA and UN Women, if current trends continue, more than 340 million women and girls will still live in extreme poverty by 2030, and close to one in four will experience moderate or severe food insecurity. The next generation of women will still spend on average 2.5 more hours per day on unpaid care and domestic work than men, which will not only jeopardize the full realization of their human rights but also compromise their equal access to labor market and economic and financial autonomy.

Therefore, delivering the promise of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, through accelerated country level impact, galvanized civil society and youth movements, and a determined multilateral system to realize women's rights & gender equality for all is essential.

In preparation for CSW69, Member States are conducting national reviews to assess progress in the implementation of the Platform for Action, based on a guidance note to facilitate comprehensive national-level reviews.¹ UN-Women, together with the five regional commissions, is supporting Member States in their national review and appraisal processes that will culminate in Beijing+30 regional meetings in the Fall of 2024. These reports will also be the basis of the Secretary-General's global report assessing the implementation of the BPfA in the current context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and make recommendations for accelerating progress towards gender equality, empowerment and rights of women, young women and girls.

In this context, between September 2024 and September 2025 a groundbreaking multi-stakeholder - Governments, UN System, youth, CSOs, private sector, etc. - and multi-pronged process at the national, regional and global levels will be rolled out, focusing on the 12 critical areas of concern of Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the respective SDGs. Additionally, a mobilization and engagement campaign to reach out to young people will be in place, fostering inclusive spaces, where young women and girls as rights holders are empowered to lead conversations, create content, and engage actively in the discussions related to the Beijing +30 process and in the global women's rights and gender equality movement.

Objectives

The side event will 'kick-off' the Beijing+30 process, aiming at achieving three specific objectives:

1. Highlight the progress achieved on gender equality and underscore the persistent global and regional challenges, based on data and evidence;
2. Lay out the UN Women Beijing+30 strategic vision
3. Build energy, momentum and positive engagement on the Beijing+30 process across all stakeholders and countries.

Run of show

Beijing+30: towards achieving gender equality, the rights and empowerment of women and girls

Opening

- Opening remarks by the moderator renowned journalist and UN Women Good Will Ambassador Karen Davila (5 minutes)
- UN Women's strategic vision for Beijing+30: The status and cost of gender inequality (in the Gender Snapshot Report) highlights of concrete accelerators with proven at-scale results and laying out the 3 pillars of UN Women's Beijing+30 strategy and its vision of an equal, just and secure world (7 minutes)
 - Speaker: UN Women's Executive Director (confirmed)

¹[Guidance note for comprehensive national-level reviews](#), September 2023. UN Women.

Panel

Moderator sets the tone of the dialogue by highlighting the three parts of discussion: “Then”, “Now”, and “Future”. The sequence of three segments aims to highlight the fight towards gender equality is a continuous journey, carried from one generation to another. [Moderator- 10 minutes for opening and transitions, each speaker- 5 mins]

Part 1: “Beijing Platform of Action – Then” to emphasize the start of global momentum and what has changed since then.

- ***Beijing PfA: What are the challenges and opportunities for the younger generations and how can BDPFA still be foundational to address these new and emerging challenges?***
[Focus: What areas have emerged after Beijing in the last 30 years (women and Climate, AI and digital technologies, Trafficking, Protracted humanitarian crisis etc.)
 - Speaker: Ayshka Najib- youth climate Justice activist (confirmed)
- ***A Platform for Action to which all are accountable*** [Focus: Renew the commitments and strengthen accountability at the national, regional and global levels]
 - Speaker: President of the National Institute for Women, Ms. Nadine Gasman (confirmed)

Part 2: “Beijing Platform of Action – Today” Moderator, to highlight the importance of actions to take place now (today) to address gaps and to renew commitments as discussed in the previous speakers.

- ***Fulfill and respect rights and freedom from violence, stigma, and stereotypes*** [Focus: measures that need to be adopted to prevent and eliminate SGBV and protect the rights of women and girls]
 - Speaker: Head of delegation Denmark (TBC)
- ***Accelerate meaningful and effective leadership and participation of women and girls at decision making levels.*** [Focus: gender parity in leadership national and local government, leadership in the just transition of green economies and on peace and security matters]
 - Speaker: Head of delegation Kenya (TBC)
- ***Increase Women’s Economic Empowerment towards a world free from poverty*** [Focus: Economic empowerment, poverty alleviation and close gender digital gaps]
 - Speaker: Head of delegation China (tbc)

Part 3: “Beijing Platform of Action – Tomorrow”. Moderator notes that reflection from the past, actions of today, are all critical, however given the urgency, a stronger commitment and effort is needed. Commitment that is centered in acceleration, inclusion, and high-impact actions.

- ***A coordinated approach that delivers for gender equality*** [*Focus: Gender Equality Acceleration Action Plan a tool to support MS in delivering the commitments made in Beijing*]
 - Speaker: Deputy Secretary General (confirmed)
- ***Role of women and girls' organizations*** in securing that gender equality, rights, non-discrimination, and non-violence are front and center of Member States commitments and that they are accountable for.
 - Speaker: Sascha Gabizon, Women's Major Group (confirmed)
- ***Well-resourced high-impact actions towards the full implementation of Beijing PfA*** [*Focus: finance the gender equality/action agenda*]
 - Speaker: Head of delegation France (TBC)
 - Speaker: Representative from Private Sector/Philanthropy (TBC)
- Engagement from the floor – 7 speakers who can present one or two actions/commitments for Beijing+30 [total 10 minutes]
 - Albania- H.E Igli Hasani, Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs (confirmed)
 - Brazil- Ambassador Vanessa Dolce de Faria, High Representative for Gender Issues at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brazil (confirmed)
 - India (TBC),
 - Canada (TBC)
 - South Africa (TBC)
 - young person (TBC)
 - CSO (TBC)
- Closing remarks by the moderator (3 mins)

Location: Conference Room 2 and webcast

Date: September 21, 2024

Time: 14:30-15:45

Duration: 1 hour and 15 minutes

Co-sponsors:

Confirmed: China, Mexico, Denmark, Kenya, UN Women, France and WMG