



Brief



BEIJING+25: Accelerating the realization of Gender Equality and the Empowerment of All Women and Girls

CONTEXT

In 1995 when the Fourth World Conference on Women, took place in Beijing, it was one of the largest-ever gatherings of gender equality advocates that the world had ever seen. And it took place at a moment of great global optimism, when a new world order of cooperation was emerging, on the heels of the end of the Cold War, the dismantling of Apartheid and the emergence of new democracies. In this moment of optimism, the Beijing Platform for Action set in place a set of global commitments to gender equality, anchored in fundamental human rights, with a clear statement about State responsibility in delivering on the commitments that were made and high expectations for the realization of those commitments.

25 years later, in 2020, we will be marking the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Conference and of the adoption of its outcome Beijing Platform for Action at a time when the attention to gender equality is very high and in a context that has seen many gains for gender equality. But 25 years after the Beijing Conference and its promise of equality, we are in a world where no country has yet achieved gender equality. Moreover, while we have seen much progress in the intervening years, we are also seeing deep regression and polarization of the gender equality agenda in some contexts, and challenges in many places to the ideas of equality, plurality and global solidarity.

So, the 25th anniversary commemoration of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, will celebrate progress, most certainly, but will also need to confront deep chasms of gender-based inequality and discrimination and violence.

At the same time, 2020 will also be following a spate of heightened feminist advocacy and women's activism that has profoundly challenged long held behaviors of male privilege and generational sexism;

this galvanized feminist mobilization has been intersectional, intergenerational and worldwide, gaining momentum and force, and support from public and private spheres.

2020 will be a confluence of anniversaries. We will mark Beijing+25, the 20th anniversary of Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women Peace and Security, the 5th anniversary of the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals, and the 10th anniversary of the creation of UN Women.

Drawing upon the strength of feminist activism, this set of anniversary celebrations in 2020, of inspired multilateralism and commitment to equality and justice, provides a generational opportunity to mobilize all stakeholders to create the momentum to achieve a gender equal world in our lifetime.

WHAT DO WE WANT TO ACHIEVE AND HOW?

- Rapid and irreversible progress towards gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls everywhere
- Identifying deficits in implementation and strengthening accountability to plugging the gaps

Focus on key drivers of change:

- Stronger laws and policies
- Increased support for gender equality mechanisms at all levels
- Transformed social norms and attitudes and an end to gender stereotypes
- Significantly increased resources for gender equality
- Strengthened accountability for the implementation of commitments
- Better data, monitoring and evaluation
- Revitalized public debate, social mobilization and awareness-raising
- The next generation of gender equality advocates – including **YOUTH** – is on board
- A strengthened feminist movement.

WHAT IS THE PROCESS?

Mandate for Beijing + 25 - CSW 64 in March 2020:

- To 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
- To assess current challenges that affect the implementation of the Platform for Action and the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women
- To contribute towards the full realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through a gender perspective.

This involves that:

- States undertake comprehensive national-level reviews of the progress achieved and challenges encountered, with an **All-of-government, all-of-society approach**, by 1 May 2019
- Governments collaborate with relevant stakeholders at all levels
- Regional commissions undertake regional reviews in late 2019 – early 2020
- The outcome of intergovernmental processes at national and regional level feeds into CSW 64
- CSW 64 conducts the Beijing+25 review and appraisal in March 2020
- UN General Assembly convenes a one-day high-level meeting in the margins of the general debate in September 2020

UN Women supports Beijing +25 processes at national, regional and global level to:

- Mobilize, convene, coordinate
- Support comprehensive national-level reviews
- Collaborate in regional reviews
- Engage with civil society and support multi-stakeholder consultations
- Foster collaboration across the UN system
- Communicate for Beijing + 25
- Mobilize resources for accelerating gender equality results
- Build the evidence and chart the way forward
- Lead global preparations and conduct CSW 64, UNGA 2020
- Support and coordinate UN system engagement through collaboration across the system for better results at national, regional, global level on Beijing+25

UN WOMEN'S ENGAGEMENT WITH CIVIL SOCIETY

- Multi-stakeholder consultations at the national and regional levels
- Strengthen social mobilization to expand the constituencies of gender equality advocates.
- Safeguard an intersectional perspective by ensuring the participation of a diversity of voices
- Support and engage youth leaders from an intergenerational perspective

MULTI-STAKEHOLDER GLOBAL WOMEN'S FORUM - JUNE 2020

- Unique multi-stakeholder Global Women's Forum convening with satellite sessions across the world.
- Owned, created and implemented by champion States, Civil Society and UN Women, with support from other stakeholders.
- Collective mobilization moment with civil society at its core, to galvanize all stakeholders to implement **urgent actions** that remove the most egregious barriers to gender equality and women's rights.
- The outcome will not be an intergovernmental negotiated document as this is not an intergovernmental event.
- The Forum is intended to bring the voices of women and gender equality from across the world at the center to drive the gender equality agenda forward.
- **Outcome:** A Roadmap for strengthened implementation and accountability so that change can be swift, palpable and visible in the time from 2020 – 2025 and by 2030.
- It will articulate a strong, transnational, public discourse of substantive gender equality, solidarity and mobilization that can counter the erosion of democratic voice and space.
- The outcome will feed into the General Assembly high-level event on Beijing+25 in September 2020.
- This will be followed by the Women, Peace and Security week and the 20th year commemoration of Security Council resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, and the accelerated roadmap will be part of these discussions.
- The roadmap will then be carried through to the World Economic Forum in 2021 and the CSW 2021.
- The roadmap then continues through to 2025 which will mark the 10-year review of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals and on to 2030, the end point of the SDGs.

ROAD TO BEIJING + 25

National level/Process and highlights:

- September 2018: Launch of national preparations (circulation of Guidance Note)
- October 2018 – July 2019: national-level reviews: consultations, stakeholder activities, preparation of national reports to be ready **by 1 May** and thereafter.
- July 2019 – March 2020: continuation of national-level activities, e.g. development of commitments, joint activities, etc.

Regional preparations:

- May – August 2018: UN Women collaborates with regional commissions on Guidance note for comprehensive national-level reviews
- Regional inter-governmental meetings: between September 2019 and February 2020. Tentative dates *ECE 29-30 October 2019, Geneva; ECLAC 4-8 November 2019, Santiago, Chile; ECA mid-November 2019, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; ESCAP November 2019, Bangkok, Thailand; ESCWA February 2020, Beirut, Lebanon.*

Global level/Process and highlights:

- May – September 2018: Finalization of a [Guidance note for comprehensive national-level reviews](#) (addressed to States)
- March 2019: briefing of Member States on preparations (tentative)
- April – November/December 2019:
 - Complete all substantive preparations for CSW64, in particular Secretary General's report and other documentation
 - April 2019 – March 2020: CSW Bureau prepares session
- 9-20 March 2020: CSW64 conducts Review and appraisal
- June 2020: Global Women's Forum
- September 2020: one-day high-level meeting of the General Assembly