



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 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 non-governmental organizations and women's organizations. A record number of national reports have been 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. In addition, the five UN Regional Commissions have organized intergovernmental meetings and prepared regional reviews.

The review processes culminates in the 59th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women, to be held in New York from 9 to 20 March 2015. For this purpose, UN Women has prepared the Secretary-General's report on the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action. UN Women has also prepared a flagship report on women's economic and social rights, as part of UN Women's 'Progress of the World's Women' series, as well as a global study on the implementation of the UN Security Council resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. These knowledge products 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

To ensure political commitment to the accelerated implementation of the BpFA and the gender equality goals, targets and indicators of the new post-2015 development framework, UN Women in collaboration with the People's Republic of China will co-organize and co-host a *Global Leaders' Meeting on Achieving Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment* in September 2015, with the participation of Heads of States. The event will provide a platform for stakeholders to recommit, launch new initiatives and mobilize resources to advance gender equality and women's empowerment. On the margins of this event, UN Women will also organize a Global Civil Society Dialogue.

“At the national, regional and global levels we must ignite a movement that is big and broad enough to achieve gender equality, and ensure women’s and girls’ human rights.”

- Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, UN Women Executive Director, speaking at the ECE Beijing+20 Regional Review Meeting.

Throughout the year, 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 are 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.

On the occasion of the 59th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women, in order to involve the general public UN Women will organize a large-scale commemorative evening event in New York City. The event will celebrate the gains and achievements made by the global women's movement over two decades and bring together influential global leaders, international celebrities, strong civil society advocates, private sector and media representatives as well as the general public.



“Empowering Women – Empowering Humanity: Picture It!”

To link these activities together, UN Women has undertaken major communication efforts to raise awareness of the Beijing agenda among decision-makers but also among the general public. In May 2014, UN Women launched its 15-month social mobilization and communication campaign entitled “Empowering Women – Empowering Humanity: Picture It!”. The campaign 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. UN Women has developed a website in three languages, featuring inspiring multi-media content, including videos of women who broke barriers, prominent gender equality champions, as well as reflections by participants to the 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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