



ESCAP
Economic and Social Commission
for Asia and the Pacific



Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on the Beijing+30 Review

Thirtieth Anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action (1995)
19–21 November 2024, United Nations Conference Center, Bangkok

Concept Note

I. Background

Gender equality and the empowerment of women (GEEW) is fundamental to the eradication of poverty and the achievement of inclusive and sustainable development, which has been affirmed through the systematic integration of gender dimensions into the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).¹ The advancement of gender equality is also a critical component of [Our Common Agenda](#) and the [Decade of Action](#) to deliver the SDGs.

GEEW in Asia and the Pacific

Across Asia and the Pacific, accelerated action is needed to meet the ambitions of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, including SDG 5 on gender equality and all other SDGs.

Despite significant strides in women's education and health, and some progress made in women's political representation in the past three decades, progress towards gender equality and the empowerment of women appears to be stagnating, and even regressing in some areas such as labour force participation. Women and girls in the region continue

¹ General Assembly resolution [70/1](#).

to face discriminatory social norms and gender stereotypes, high levels of gender-based violence, disproportionate unpaid care and domestic work burden, among other challenges. The level of political will to address these issues remains inadequate. Moreover, women and girls have been disproportionately affected by multiple and inter-related crises that are expected to continue or worsen in the absence of accelerated action. For instance, the brunt of the socioeconomic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic, the triple-planetary crisis (climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss), food security and energy crises, growing digital divides and increasing geopolitical tensions are being borne by women, with already marginalized and vulnerable groups being the hardest hit.²

The Beijing+30 global review

In 2025, the global community will mark the 30th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995)³, 25th anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 1325, and the final five years of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals.

This anniversary is the opportunity to strengthen gender-responsive action and implementation of the 2030 Agenda and other global commitments, such as including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1979), the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (1994), the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (2000), the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (2002), the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006); the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (2015); the Paris Agreement on Climate Change (2015), and regional commitments to promote gender equality and women's and girls' rights, such as and the Jakarta Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2023–2032 (2022), among others. This anniversary should be used as the occasion to engage more with the generation of gender equality

² UN Women and UNDESA (2023). Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals: The gender snapshot 2023. www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2023/09/progress-on-the-sustainable-development-goals-the-gender-snapshot-2023.

³ [Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women](#), Beijing, 4–15 September 1995, chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

advocates and to bring those who remain on the sidelines into the centre of a whole-of-government, whole-of-society effort. By joining forces, governments together with society have the capacity to overcome and eradicate the root causes of gender inequality and chart a path forward for genuine, substantive equality, with equal rights and equal opportunities for women and girls.

The sixty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women will take place at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 10 to 21 March 2025.⁴ The main focus of the sixty-ninth session will be on the review and appraisal of the implementation of the [Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action](#) (BPfA) and the outcomes of the [23rd special session of the General Assembly](#). The review will include an assessment of current challenges that affect the implementation of the BPfA and the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and its contribution towards the full realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

ECOSOC Resolution E/RES/2022/5 calls upon member States to undertake comprehensive national-level reviews of the progress made and challenges encountered. The regional commissions of the United Nations have been invited to undertake regional reviews and convene regional intergovernmental meetings. These will feed into the sixty-ninth session of the Commission.

II. Beijing+30 regional review process

In accordance with ECOSOC Resolution E/RES/2022/5, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission (ESCAP) will lead the Asia-Pacific regional intergovernmental review of the BPfA, in close collaboration with UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, and supported by the rest of the United Nations systems under the umbrella of the Asia-Pacific Issue-Based Coalition on Promoting Human Rights, Gender Equality and Women Empowerment.

The regional review aims to assess current and emerging challenges that affect the implementation of the BPfA and the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and its contribution towards the full realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Asia-Pacific region, and strengthen the

⁴ ECOSOC resolution [2022/5](#).

knowledge base on progress and gaps in realizing the rights of women and girls in the region. It aims to build regional consensus on actions needed to accelerate the implementation of commitments made in the BPfA. The Beijing+30 regional review will build upon the regional review conducted by ESCAP and UN Women for Beijing +25 and the resulting Asia-Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment.

The Beijing +30 regional review will consist of three main tracks: analytical, consultative, and intergovernmental.

Analytical review

As part of the Beijing+30 review, member States have been invited to undertake comprehensive national-level reviews that take stock of achievements, identify gaps and setbacks, and outline strategies for addressing those gaps and challenges at the national level. Member States are expected to respond to a survey and submit national reports by 1 June 2024. The national reports will inform the regional reports on Beijing+30 review.

The analytical track of the regional review process will examine progress, gaps and challenges, and identify good practices towards achievement of the commitments made in the BPfA in the Asia-Pacific region. The analytical review will provide the substantive background to consultations and deliberations at the conference. Specifically, two parliamentary papers will be prepared in advance of the conference. The first parliamentary paper will review the state of gender equality and the empowerment of women in Asia and the Pacific, drawing on official data and statistics, and States Parties' reports submitted to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Universal Periodic Review under the Human Rights Council, and Voluntary National Reviews under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The second parliamentary paper will be based on the analysis of survey findings collected through the comprehensive national-level reviews.

Furthermore, a regional synthesis report will be prepared to more comprehensively take stock of priority issues, progress, gaps, and challenges, as well as recommendations for priority actions. Along with the national reports, the regional synthesis report will feed into a global synthesis report that UN Women will submit to the sixty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women to be held in March 2025.

Stakeholder consultations

The engagement of and consultation with stakeholders is a vital part of the regional review process and the intergovernmental conference. A steering committee will be established to coordinate the consultation with civil society organizations comprising women's organizations, academia, and other key stakeholders in the regional review process. Meanwhile, Governments are encouraged to complement the whole-of-government approach for comprehensive national-level reviews with a whole-of-society approach that involves multi-stakeholder participation and contributions.

ESCAP and UN Women will facilitate the participation of key stakeholders in the official agenda of the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on the Beijing+30 Review, *inter alia*, through: (a) participation as expert roundtable panelists, and (b) enabling oral interventions in line with the rules of procedure of the Commission. For the intergovernmental conference, joint statements by CSO stakeholders are encouraged. Stakeholders will also be invited to organize side events, including in collaboration with ESCAP member States, United Nations entities, and others.

Intergovernmental conference

ESCAP will organize the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on the Beijing+30 Review, in collaboration with UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific from 19 to 21 November 2024.

The conference is expected to reinvigorate political commitment to advance gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in Asia and the Pacific and build regional consensus on priority actions to accelerate the implementation of commitments made in the BPfA. The conference will act as a platform for sharing knowledge and information on progress made, gaps and challenges encountered in realizing gender equality and the rights of women and girls in the region. The outcome will serve as the region's input to the deliberations at the 69th session of the Commission on the Status of Women in 2025.

III. Date, venue and participation

The Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on the Beijing+30 Review will be held from 19 to 21 November 2024 at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok, Thailand.

The conference will bring together ministers, senior officials and representatives from relevant ministries, community-based organizations, civil society organizations, youth organizations, academia, the private sector, United Nations entities, independent experts and other relevant stakeholders from across the Asia-Pacific region.

IV. Objectives and expected outcome

The objectives of the conference are:

- To assess progress to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in Asia and the Pacific over the past five years;
- Review current and emerging challenges, good practices, lessons learned, and priority actions required to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and its contribution towards the full realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- Provide a platform for member States and stakeholders to explore policy options and strategies, including innovative approaches and good practices, toward realizing gender equality and the empowerment of women;
- Build regional consensus on priority actions to accelerate the implementation of commitments made in the BPfA
- Consolidate regional inputs to the sixty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women which will focus on the review and appraisal of the implementation of the [Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action](#) and the outcomes of the [23rd special session of the General Assembly](#).

V. Structure, format and accessibility support

The Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on the Beijing+30 Review will follow the rules of procedures of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. The conference will center around the critical areas of the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action, that highlight the importance of comprehensive and sustainable solutions in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Member States will be invited to make national statements outlining progress, challenges, lessons learned and emerging issues with regard to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action. Time permitting, civil society representatives will also have the opportunity to make statements.

The conference will also hold high-level roundtables to deliberate on priorities that concern gender equality and the empowerment of women in the Asia-Pacific region, for the purposes of reinvigorating political commitment and building regional consensus on priority actions going forward. The proposed themes for the roundtables include: (i) Advancing women's economic empowerment, social protection and decent work; (ii) Boosting women's leadership, representation and political participation; (iii) Strategies to end discrimination and violence against women; (iv) Closing the gender gaps in key transitions for accelerating implementation of the SDGs (energy and climate action, education, digitalization, etc.). Keynote presentations and panel discussions, followed by interventions from member States and key stakeholders will provide an opportunity for interactive debates.

Accessibility support will be provided to assist participants with disabilities, including through the provision of real-time captioning and sign language interpretation.

VI. Timeline

Milestone	Expected timeframe
National-level reviews (survey and national reports)	October 2023 – June 2024
Analytical review	December 2023 – September 2024
CSO consultations	May – November 2024
Expert group meeting on the regional synthesis report	July 2024
Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on the Beijing+30 Review	19-21 November 2024
CSW69	10- 21 March 2025