



Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific**Seventy-sixth session**

Bangkok, 21 May 2020

Item 5 (b) of the provisional agenda*

Review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for**Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific: social development****Report of the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on the
Beijing+25 Review****Note by the secretariat***Summary*

Pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 2018/8, the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on the Beijing+25 Review was convened by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in cooperation with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women in Bangkok from 27 to 29 November 2019. Over 600 representatives of Governments, civil society and the United Nations system were present at the Conference, including those from 47 members and associate members of the Commission.

The representatives discussed progress made, effective policy responses and persisting challenges to achieving the 12 strategic objectives of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. They reaffirmed their commitment to the Platform for Action as the guiding document for gender equality and for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

During the course of the discussions, ESCAP member States identified critical issues and policy responses to accelerate the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in the Asia-Pacific region. They highlighted the importance of: legislative and institutional reforms and initiatives to advance the rights of women; achieving women's economic empowerment through enhanced labour-force participation, decent work and entrepreneurship; promoting gender-responsive social protection systems and accessible, affordable, high-quality health services to mitigate gender-specific risks and vulnerabilities; freedom of women and girls from all forms of violence, stigma and harmful stereotypes; enhancing women's political participation and leadership; supporting women's meaningful participation in environmental conservation and climate change adaptation, mitigation and resilience; and gender-responsive budgeting, planning, monitoring and evaluation as key tools to inform, design and implement law, policies and programmes.

The Conference concluded with the adoption of the Asia-Pacific Declaration on Advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Beijing+25 Review, which is contained in ESCAP/76/8/Add.1 and which outlines priority actions to accelerate the implementation of the Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The Commission is invited to review and endorse the report and provide the secretariat with further guidance.

* ESCAP/76/L.1/Rev.1

I. Matters calling for action by the Commission or brought to its attention

1. The Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on the Beijing+25 Review recommends that the Asia-Pacific Declaration on Advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Beijing+25 Review (ESCAP/MCBR/2019/2/Add.1) be submitted to the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), at its seventy-sixth session, for endorsement.

II. Proceedings

A. Review of the progress made, challenges to address and forward-looking policies to enact in order to accelerate the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in Asia and the Pacific in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

(Agenda item 2)

2. The Conference had before it the note by the secretariat on the review of the progress and remaining challenges in implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/MCBR/2019/1).

3. The Conference took note of the findings in the note by the secretariat.

4. Representatives of the following members and associate members of the Commission made statements: Afghanistan; Armenia; Australia; Azerbaijan; Bangladesh; Bhutan; Cambodia; China; Fiji; India; Indonesia; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Japan; Kazakhstan; Kiribati; Lao People's Democratic Republic; Malaysia; Maldives; Marshall Islands; Mongolia; Myanmar; Nauru; Nepal; New Zealand; Pakistan; Palau; Papua New Guinea; Philippines; Republic of Korea; Russian Federation; Samoa; Solomon Islands; Sri Lanka; Thailand; Timor-Leste; Tonga; Turkmenistan; Tuvalu; United States of America; Uzbekistan; and Viet Nam.

5. The representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations made a statement.

6. The representative of the Asia-Pacific Civil Society Steering Committee on Beijing+25, speaking on behalf of civil society organizations, made a statement.

7. The Conference highlighted the achievements, challenges and priority areas for realizing gender equality and women's empowerment. It also identified the critical issues and policy responses for the effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in the Asia-Pacific region. The Conference reaffirmed its commitment to the accelerated implementation of the Platform for Action, as the guiding document for gender equality and for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

8. Several representatives reiterated their support for the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security as well as other relevant conventions and treaties, such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

9. Many representatives reported on legal reforms, policies, plans of action and institutional mechanisms to mainstream gender and create an enabling environment to achieve the objectives of the Beijing Platform for Action. Some representatives stressed the need to focus on vulnerable groups of women, especially older, rural, indigenous, migrant, displaced and refugee women, female-headed households, and women and girls with disabilities. Some representatives discussed challenges, such as financial limitations, lack of quality sex-disaggregated data and the persistence of harmful traditional practices, which hindered the successful achievement of the Platform for Action. Several representatives also highlighted the threat posed by climate change.

10. Several representatives emphasized the importance of achieving women's economic empowerment and reported on measures taken to promote women's labour force participation and decent work. Some representatives also reported on collaboration with the private sector to provide microfinance and create conducive environments for women to stay in the workforce after childbirth, through measures such as extended maternity and paternity leave, day-care facilities, lactation rooms and flexible working hours. Other representatives spoke about expanding public childcare facilities and care for older persons to help to reduce and redistribute unpaid and domestic care. Despite these efforts, some representatives reported persisting barriers to women's participation in the labour force. The Conference recognized that more efforts were required to tackle the high rates of informal work and ensure that women in the informal sector were covered by social protection.

11. Several representatives reported on efforts with regard to women's entrepreneurship, noting that women were often leading small and medium-sized enterprises, as well as support extended to women in agriculture and women artisans.

12. The Conference recognized that some women faced additional challenges in the workforce. Several representatives emphasized efforts to create inclusive environments for women with disabilities, through inclusive education and disability-inclusive policies. Several representatives reported on concrete plans to address sexual harassment of women in the workplace. Representatives also highlighted policies to assist single mothers.

13. While living standards had increased across the region, poverty persisted and affected women more than men. Several representatives reported that more gender-responsive social protection systems had been developed by investing in maternity protection, child grants, social insurance for women in the informal sector and conditional cash transfers.

14. The Conference stressed the importance of providing accessible, affordable, high-quality health services for all women and girls throughout the life cycle. Several representatives shared information on efforts to promote universal health coverage, including for refugees. Representatives also reported having expanded access to sexual and reproductive health services and efforts to reduce the unmet need for contraception. Several representatives reported on the provision of safe abortion services to protect the health of women, while one representative noted that abortion was not a method of family planning.

15. The Conference noted that the region had made notable achievements in education, reaching near gender parity in primary and secondary education and high levels of female participation in tertiary education. Several representatives highlighted policies that had facilitated those outcomes, including the provision of quality education and conditional cash transfers.

Other representatives spoke about focusing on diversifying women's educational and occupational choices as well as career progression for women, particularly in sectors such as science, technology, engineering and mathematics, information and communications technology, and agricultural technology.

16. The Conference affirmed its commitment to freedom of women and girls from all forms of violence, stigma, harmful stereotypes and negative social norms. Several representatives highlighted laws, policies and strategies to prevent and respond to gender-based violence and to protect survivors and their children through comprehensive and coordinated support services for survivors of all forms of violence. Ending child marriage and female genital mutilation were highlighted as key priorities by several representatives.

17. Several representatives noted that gender sensitization programmes and national campaigns to raise awareness of women's rights and efforts to engage men and boys and youth, as well as police participation and better data, were essential to ending violence against women.

18. The Conference noted the initiatives of several members to enhance women's political participation through capacity development, leadership training and mentorship, as well as legislative and policy changes. Promoting women's leadership was recognized as integral to increasing women's political participation. Some representatives reported on the use of quotas for women in political parties, representative institutions at all levels and private companies.

19. The Conference also emphasized the importance of gender mainstreaming in national policies and development plans, including through the creation of coordination mechanisms. Some representatives mentioned the existence of mechanisms to monitor the gendered impacts of policies such as gender-responsive budgeting and gender evaluation mechanisms.

20. Several representatives highlighted the role and contribution of civil society to gender equality and the importance of maintaining an open and transparent dialogue with different stakeholders.

21. Sexual harassment was identified as a factor constraining women's participation, and several representatives reported on measures to address sexual harassment in the workplace and online.

22. Several representatives reported on law and policy reforms and initiatives to combat trafficking in women and children and to strengthen the capacity of security sector institutions with regard to human rights and the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence in conflict to promote peaceful and inclusive societies. Representatives highlighted the importance of expanding access to social services in conflict and emergency settings. Several representatives noted that their countries hosted large refugee populations of women and girls and outlined efforts to provide support and protection to those populations.

23. Some representatives noted the significance of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security, and the forthcoming twentieth anniversary of that resolution, as well as Security Council resolution 1820 (2008) with regard to sexual violence in war, and subsequent resolutions, and general recommendation No. 30 (2013) on women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. Representatives recognized the negative effects that conflict had on efforts to achieve the rights of women and girls as

envisioned in the Beijing Platform for Action. One representative emphasized the negative impact of unilateral sanctions on the achievement of gender equality.

24. Some representatives noted the development and implementation of national action plans regarding women, peace and security. Representatives reported on measures to support the increased and meaningful participation and leadership of women in conflict prevention and peacebuilding processes. Representatives reported that their Governments had also recognized the importance of women's representation and leadership in peacekeeping.

25. Several representatives noted the damaging impacts of climate change, which disproportionately impacted women, including through reduced food security, displacement-related loss of identity, reduced agricultural production, and threats to livelihood and well-being. The Conference affirmed the critical role of women in safeguarding the environment and the need to integrate women's leadership and participation into policies and programmes on disaster risk reduction, climate change mitigation, adaptation and resilience, environmental resource management and governance to ensure a gender perspective. Some representatives highlighted the importance of climate justice and meeting the needs of vulnerable groups, such as persons with disabilities, children, older women, and minority, indigenous and rural populations in disaster response strategies.

26. Several representatives highlighted the importance of sex-disaggregated data and data on sexual and reproductive health, unpaid care, and domestic violence to support evidence-based policymaking on gender equality. Several representatives also discussed initiatives to strengthen gender statistics through the development of coordination mechanisms, knowledge products on gender statistics and new surveys and called for further cooperation to build capacities.

27. Several representatives reported on national indicators to monitor progress on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and had initiated data collection for the gender-related Goals.

28. The representative of the Asia-Pacific Civil Society Steering Committee on Beijing+25 emphasized the need for partnership on gender equality based on equality, human rights and international texts such as the Charter of the United Nations and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The representative called for a fair distribution of costs on the basis of equity and social justice and suggested the convening of a regional forum on women on a biennial basis.

B. Priority issues pertaining to the advancement of gender equality and the empowerment of women in Asia and the Pacific

(Agenda item 3)

29. The Conference had before it document ESCAP/MCBR/2019/1.

30. The Conference reviewed emerging and priority areas for action in order to provide recommendations for the acceleration of the implementation of the commitments contained in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in the context of the 2030 Agenda and with regard to realizing gender equality for women and girls within the following four thematic areas: (a) inclusive development, shared prosperity and decent work; (b) realizing freedom from violence, stigma and stereotypes; (c) realizing accountability, participation and gender-responsive institutions; and (d) environmental conservation, climate action and resilience-building.

Realizing gender equality for women and girls in the thematic area of inclusive development, shared prosperity and decent work

(Agenda item 3 (a))

31. The Conference benefited from a panel discussion moderated by Mr. Srinivas Tata, Director, Social Development Division, ESCAP, with the following panellists: Mr. Leao Talalelei Tuitama, Minister, Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development, Samoa; Ms. Durreen Shahnaz, founder and Chief Executive Officer, Impact Investment Exchange Asia (IIX) and the IIX Foundation; Mr. Jayesh Ranjan, Principal Secretary, Industries and Commerce Department, Information Technology, Electronics and Communications Department, Government of Telangana, India; Ms. Nadira Mohd Yusoff, Woman Entrepreneur, Association of Southeast Asian Nations Women Entrepreneurs Network, Malaysia; and Ms. Estrella “Esther” Penunia, Secretary-General, Asian Farmers’ Association for Sustainable Rural Development.

32. Panellists discussed good practices and efforts from public and private sector perspectives to promote women’s access to finance, provide entrepreneurial support and increase the use of technology to exploit new opportunities for women, including in the care economy and in rural areas. The potential for greater involvement of private financing through innovative social bonds was emphasized, and the role of women-focused innovation hubs and the virtuous cycle of women’s engagement in entrepreneurship were highlighted. Panellists stressed the need for flexible working arrangements and partnerships to unlock the potential of women.

33. Representatives of the following members and associate members made statements: China; Indonesia; Japan; New Zealand; and Papua New Guinea.

34. The representative of the Asia-Pacific Civil Society Steering Committee on Beijing+25 made a statement.

35. Representatives noted laws, action plans and incentives for public and private bodies to increase women’s employment, reduce the gender pay gap and address discrimination in the formal and informal economy. Measures to promote entrepreneurship among women and specific initiatives to provide funding through microfinance and access to government funding were highlighted.

36. The representative of the Asia-Pacific Civil Society Steering Committee on Beijing+25 emphasized the need to regulate the private sector effectively, recognize the value of unpaid work, ensure social protection for women workers and address the gender pay gap, especially for women in the informal sector, women working from home, domestic workers and migrant and refugee women.

Realizing gender equality for women and girls in the thematic area of freedom from violence, stigma and stereotypes

(Agenda item 3 (b))

37. The Conference benefited from a panel discussion moderated by Ms. Bandana Rana, Vice-Chair, Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, Nepal, with the following panellists: Ms. Hoang Thi Thu Huyen, Vice-Director, Gender Equality Department, Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs, Viet Nam; Ms. Kim Henderson, Director of Policy and Evaluation, OurWatch, Australia; and

Ms. Veronica Fonova, founder of the youth Kaz-Fem group and feminist activist, Kazakhstan.

38. The panellists discussed good practices to address violence against women and girls. Sexual harassment and sexual violence were widespread in public spaces, such as schools and workplaces, and the panellists outlined measures and tools to counter them. They highlighted the importance of survivor-centred responses, justice and prevention and the need for coordinated and systemic approaches to strengthen collaboration between different sectors, including the justice, police, social and health sectors. Data collection and the effective use of indicators, reporting and markers of progress to measure impact were critical. Panellists also emphasized the need to advocate for longer-term processes addressing structural barriers that led to the gender pay gap, a scarcity of women in decision-making roles and harmful stereotypes around masculinity.

39. The perspectives of youth were shared, together with their actions, through solidarity, to challenge gender norms, stigma and stereotypes and address underlying structures that perpetuated all forms of violence against women and girls.

40. Representatives of the following members and associate members made statements: Australia; Bangladesh; China; France; Indonesia; Japan; Kazakhstan; Lao People's Democratic Republic; Myanmar; Pakistan; Papua New Guinea; and Tajikistan.

41. The representative of the Asia-Pacific Civil Society Steering Committee on Beijing+25 made a statement.

42. Representatives reported on good practices in the form of laws, action plans and services to prevent violence against women and girls, protect and support survivors, and engage greater participation of men and boys. Representatives also noted that commitments needed to be translated into comprehensive implementation, requiring funding and action plans.

43. The representative of the Asia-Pacific Civil Society Steering Committee on Beijing+25 emphasized the need to expand the definition of violence against women, uphold the absence of consent as the legal standard in laws on rape, focus on restorative justice and support for survivors of violence, ensure alignment of policies with Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security, and uphold sexual and reproductive rights of women and access to information.

Realizing gender equality for women and girls in the thematic area of accountability, participation and gender-responsive institutions

(Agenda item 3 (c))

44. The Conference benefited from a panel discussion moderated by Ms. Cai Cai, Chief, Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Section, Social Development Division, ESCAP, with the following panellists: Ms. Masoumeh Ebtekar, Vice-President for Women and Family Affairs, Vice-Presidency for Women and Family Affairs, Islamic Republic of Iran; Ms. Lee Jung Ok, Minister, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family, Republic of Korea; Ms. Ing Kantha Phavi, Minister, Ministry of Women's Affairs, Cambodia; Ms. Zhang Haidi, Vice-Chair of the State Council Working Committee on Disability and Chair of the China Disabled Persons' Federation and Ms. Mossarat Qadeem, Founder and Executive Director, Paiman Alumni Trust.

45. The panellists shared their experiences in institutionalizing gender mainstreaming at the national and local levels. They emphasized that political will, promoting women's leadership and collaboration among ministries were essential for the successful mainstreaming of gender equality, together with the inclusion, support and collaboration of stakeholders and partners. Gender-responsive budgeting, planning, and monitoring and evaluation were highlighted as key tools to inform, design and monitor legal and policy progress in gender equality and women's empowerment, underpinned by quality sex-disaggregated data.

46. Representatives of the following members and associate members made statements: Australia; China; Indonesia; Mongolia; Papua New Guinea; and Republic of Korea.

47. The representative of the Asia-Pacific Civil Society Steering Committee on Beijing+25 made a statement.

48. Representatives shared good practices, highlighting legislative changes and national action plans implemented to mainstream gender equality, build gender-responsive institutions and make progress with regard to gender-responsive budgeting. To achieve these goals, some representatives noted the need to collaborate with stakeholders such as the private sector and the media, and the necessity of increasing parliamentary oversight of these policies.

49. The representative of the Asia-Pacific Civil Society Steering Committee on Beijing+25 emphasized the responsibility of the State and its institutions to provide security, protection and safety to women and girls and called for more and better laws, policies and data to address rising violence against women and girls throughout their life cycle.

Realizing gender equality for women and girls in the thematic area of environmental conservation, climate action and resilience-building

(Agenda item 3 (d))

50. The Conference benefited from a panel moderated by Ms. Anna-Karin Jafors, Deputy Regional Director, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, which comprised the following panellists: Mr. Mizan R. Khan, Deputy Director, International Centre for Climate Change and Development, and Programme Director, Least Developed Countries Universities Consortium on Climate Change, Bangladesh; Ms. Amelia M. Nairobi, Acting Principal Research Officer, Research, Policy and Monitoring Unit of the Department for Women, Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Fiji; Mr. Joe Mari S. Francisco, Development Management Officer, National Commission for Climate Change, Philippines; Ms. Seblewongel Negussie, Gender and Social Specialist, Division of Country Programming, Green Climate Fund, Republic of Korea; and Mrs. Nguyen Ngoc Ly, Director, Centre for Environment and Community Research, Viet Nam.

51. The panellists highlighted initiatives to support women's meaningful participation in environmental conservation and climate change adaptation, mitigation and resilience, including through gender mainstreaming in climate action plans and mainstreaming climate into gender policies. There was a need for quality data to measure the impacts of climate change on women. Examples were provided of concrete projects that supported the participation of disadvantaged women in environmental management, thereby raising their standard of living while protecting the environment. The importance of

mainstreaming gender into national adaptation plans and nationally determined contributions was also discussed.

52. Noting that gender-based violence and human trafficking, including of children, often increased after disasters, the panellists stressed the need to sensitize local communities and emergency respondents to those risks. They also highlighted the importance of women's preparedness against climate and disaster risks, including through appropriate early warning systems and access to family's savings and financial services in general.

53. Representatives of the following members and associate members made statements: Bhutan; Indonesia; Japan; Mongolia; and Myanmar.

54. The representative of the Asia-Pacific Civil Society Steering Committee on Beijing+25 made a statement.

55. Several representatives emphasized the importance of preparedness in disaster risk reduction and recovery, paying attention to the different needs and capacities of men and women, and taking into account concerns regarding sexual and reproductive health. The results of gender analyses presented revealed little recognition of the impact of climate change on women. The contribution of women and girls to increasing societal awareness and cooperation for climate action was noted.

56. The representative of the Asia-Pacific Civil Society Steering Committee on Beijing+25 highlighted that urgent action was needed to prioritize human and environmental well-being.

C. Other matters

(Agenda item 4)

57. There were no other matters addressed by the Conference.

D. Adoption of the outcome document and report of the Conference

(Agenda item 5)

58. The Conference had before it the document entitled "Asia-Pacific Declaration on Advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Beijing+25 Review" (ESCAP/MCBR/2019/L.4/Rev.1).

59. A working group was established to finalize the draft outcome document in parallel with the plenary sessions of the Conference. Ms. Rhodora M. Bucoy, Chairperson, Philippine Commission on Women (Philippines) was elected Chair. Ms. Fathimath Yumna, Deputy Minister of Gender, Family and Social Services (Maldives) was elected Vice-Chair. The outcome document and report would serve as the Asia-Pacific regional input to the Commission on the Status of Women at its sixty-fourth session on the 25-year review of progress in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and would be submitted for the consideration and endorsement of the Commission at its seventy-sixth session, in 2020.

60. The Asia-Pacific Declaration on Advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Beijing+25 Review was adopted on 29 November 2019 by a recorded vote of 37 to 1, with no abstentions. The voting was as follows:

(a) In favour: Afghanistan; Armenia; Australia; Azerbaijan; Bangladesh; Bhutan; Cambodia; China; Fiji; India; Indonesia; Iran (Islamic

Republic of); Japan; Kazakhstan; Kiribati; Lao People's Democratic Republic; Malaysia; Maldives; Marshall Islands; Mongolia; Myanmar; Nepal; New Zealand; Pakistan; Palau; Papua New Guinea; Philippines; Republic of Korea; Russian Federation; Samoa; Solomon Islands; Tajikistan; Thailand; Timor-Leste; Tonga; United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; and Viet Nam;

(b) Against: United States of America.

61. The representative of the United States of America stated that his delegation had called for a vote on the Asia-Pacific Declaration on Advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Beijing+25 Review due to the specific references to "sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights". The representative noted that the United States of America did not accept references to "sexual and reproductive health", "sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights", "safe termination of pregnancy" or other language that suggested or explicitly stated that access to legal abortion was necessarily included in the more general terms of "health services" or "health care services" in particular contexts concerning women. He noted that there was no international right to abortion, nor was there any duty on the part of States to finance or facilitate abortion. Furthermore, consistent with the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action and the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and their reports, the representative of the United States of America stated that the United States did not recognize abortion as a method of family planning, nor did it support abortion in its global health assistance.

62. Representatives of a number of countries expressed strong support for the adoption of the Asia-Pacific Declaration on Advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Beijing+25 Review by consensus. The Declaration reflected the solidarity and consensus of the Commission achieved through a thorough, very hard and long-fought negotiation. Representatives expressed ownership of the outcome document that was a representation of the realities in the Asia-Pacific region. The representative of France was not in the plenary at the time of voting but subsequently expressed his delegation's support for the Declaration.

63. Some representatives expressed reservations to paragraphs of the Declaration. China expressed a reservation on the term "women human rights defenders" in paragraph 9, noting that there was no international consensus on the definition of women human rights defenders and that the term was not well defined. India expressed a reservation on the term "indigenous" in paragraphs 14 (h), 16 (b), 16 (c), 21 (d) and 26 (e) because India considered its entire population as indigenous and that there were no separate indigenous groups. The Islamic Republic of Iran expressed reservations on paragraph 22 concerning the women, peace and security agenda. In particular, the Islamic Republic of Iran highlighted that all provisions, concepts and terminologies in the outcome document, particularly those concerning the section on women, peace and security, were implemented in accordance with its national laws, regulations, priorities and commitments. It further reaffirmed its commitment to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in full respect of its religious, cultural and moral values.

64. A statement delivered by the representative of the Asia-Pacific Civil Society Steering Committee on Beijing+25 highlighted the need for transformative and structural change and the inclusion of civil society in the intergovernmental process. It further stressed the imminent threats resulting from the climate crisis, which would not wait for the next five years.

III. Organization

A. Opening, duration and organization of the Conference

65. The Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on the Beijing+25 Review was held in Bangkok from 27 to 29 November 2019.

66. The Executive Secretary of ESCAP, the Deputy Executive Director of UN-Women and the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, delivered opening statements. A representative of the civil society organizations also delivered a statement.

B. Attendance

67. The Conference was attended by representatives of the following members and associate members: Afghanistan; Armenia; Australia; Azerbaijan; Bangladesh; Bhutan; Cambodia; China; Cook Islands; Fiji; France; India; Indonesia; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Japan; Kazakhstan; Kiribati; Lao People's Democratic Republic; Macao, China; Malaysia; Maldives; Marshall Islands; Mongolia; Myanmar; Nauru; Nepal; New Zealand; Pakistan; Palau; Papua New Guinea; Philippines; Republic of Korea; Russian Federation; Samoa; Solomon Islands; Sri Lanka; Tajikistan; Thailand; Timor-Leste; Tonga; Turkey; Turkmenistan; Tuvalu; United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; United States of America; Uzbekistan; and Viet Nam.

68. Representatives of the following Permanent Observers to ESCAP attended: Austria; Egypt; Italy; Mexico; and Switzerland. In addition, representatives of Finland and Sweden attended as observers.

69. Representatives of the following United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and funds attended: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; International Labour Organization (ILO); United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; United Nations Human Settlements Programme; Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS; United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); UN-Women; and World Health Organization.

70. Representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations attended: Asian Development Bank; Pacific Community; Pacific Islands Forum secretariat; and South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation.

71. Representatives of the following non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and other entities attended: Aahung; Aaprabasi Mahila Kamdar Samuha Nepal; Academic Centre for Education, Culture and Research; ACT Alliance - Action by Churches Together; Adivasi Mahila Maha Sangh; Anglican Church in Aotearoa New Zealand and Polynesia; Area Networking and Development Initiative; Asia Justice and Rights; Asia Pacific Alliance for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights; Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development; Asia Pacific Network of Sex Workers; Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women; Asia-Pacific Human Rights Information Center; Asia-Pacific Women's Watch; Association for the Advancement of Feminism; Association of Southeast Asian Nations-United States Agency for International Development Partnership for Regional Optimization within the Political-Security and Socio-Cultural Communities (PROSPECT); Bandhu Social Welfare Society; Bangladesh Mahila Parishad; Beyond Beijing Committee Nepal; Blind Women Association, Nepal;

Cambodian Non-governmental Organization Committee on the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women; CARE International; Center for International Forestry Research; Centre for Human Rights and Development; Centre for Refugee Research; Centre for Women's Resources; Church's Auxiliary for Social Action; cnlgbtdata.com; Communication Forum of Community with Special Needs in Aceh; Community Care for Emergency Response and Rehabilitation; Deccan Development Society; Dem-Ololt; Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era; Development Learning Together; Disabled Peoples' International, Asia Pacific region; Ecoforum of Non-Governmental Organizations of Uzbekistan; Equality Rights Alliance; FemAgora; Feminist Dalit Organization; Feminist League; Fiji Council of Social Services; Fiji Women's Rights Movement; Ford Foundation; Forum for Dignity Initiatives; Forum of Women's Non-governmental Organizations of Kyrgyzstan; Girl Determined; Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women; Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand; Gramya Resource Centre for Women; Guahan Coalition for Peace and Justice; Haus of Kameleon; HerStory Foundation; Hong Kong Federation of Women's Centres; Indonesian Association of Women with Disabilities; Institute for Woman's Empowerment; International Centre for Research on Women; International Community of Women Living with HIV Asia and Pacific; International Council of Women; International Drug Policy Consortium; International Federation of Business and Professional Women; International Planned Parenthood Federation; International Planned Parenthood Federation/East and South East Asia and Oceania Region; International Women's Development Agency; International Women's Health Coalition; Jagori; Jagriti Mahila Maha Sangh; Japan Accountability Caucus for the Beijing Conference; Japanese Organization for International Cooperation in Family Planning; Karduk Business and Entrepreneurship Consultancy Center; Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Commission on the Status of Women; Kongres Wanita Indonesia; Korea Women's Associations United; Korean Women's Development Institute; Landesa Rural Development Institute; La'o Hamutuk; LoveIsDiversity; Mahila Dakshata Samiti; Mahila Jan Adhikar Samiti; Media Monitor for Women Network; Mitra Perempuan; Monfemnet National Network; Musawah; Muslim Personal Law Reform Action Group, Sri Lanka; Naripokkho; National Alliance of Women; National Indigenous Women Forum; National Rural Women's Coalition; Nazariya: A Queer Feminist Resource Group; Nepal Mahila Ekata Samaj; Nirantar Trust; OutRight Action International; OxYGen Foundation for Protection of Youth and Women Rights; Pacific Disability Forum; People's Health Institute, Korea; Perkumpulan Pemberdayaan Perempuan untuk Keadilan Gender (Institute for Women's Empowerment); Plan International; Public Organization of Otif; Q Space; Qbukatabu; Rede Feto Timor-Leste; Regional Community Forestry Training Centre; Research Centre for Gender, Family and Environment in Development; Respect Empowerment Networking and Employment for Women Foundation; Rising Flame; Rural Women's Association "Alga"; SAHAYOG; SAHR WARU Women's Action and Resource Unit; Samoa Umbrella for Non-Governmental Organizations Inc.; Save the Children; Settlement Services International; Shirakat – Partnership for Development; Shirkat Gah - Women's Resource Centre; Shobujer Ovijan Foundation; Sightsavers; Sister in Islam; Society for Rural Education and Development; Society for Women's Action and Training Initiatives; Solidaritas Perempuan; Solomon Ports; Soroptimist International; Special Talent Exchange Program; Tamilnadu Women's Forum; TEDxAbayStWomen; Timor-Leste People with Disability Association; Tonga Leitis Youth Department; United Filipinos in Hong Kong; Uthema; Voice for Change; VPRIDE; We and Equality; Wings of Liberty; Women for Change; Women Forum for Women Nepal; Women's International League for Peace and Freedom – Australia; Women in Governance North-East India; Women

Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management; Women With Disability Advocacy Network; Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights; Women's Health Foundation; Women's Major Group; Young People Independent Alliance; YP Foundation; Yunnan Gender and Development Research Centre, Yunnan Academy of Social Science; and Zonta International.

C. Election of officers

72. The Conference elected the following officers:

Chair:	Ms. Mereseini Vuniwaqa (Fiji)
Vice-Chairs:	Ms. Nabila Musleh (Afghanistan)
	Ms. Zhanna Andreasyan (Armenia)
	Ms. Fazilatunnesa Indira (Bangladesh)
	Ms. Ing Kantha Phavi (Cambodia)
	Ms. Xia Jie (China)
	Ms. Zhang Haidi (China)
	Ms. Sri Danti Anwar (Indonesia)
	Ms. Masoumeh Ebtekar (Islamic Republic of Iran)
	Mr. Taoaba Kaiea (Kiribati)
	Ms. Bouachanh Syhanath (Lao People's Democratic Republic)
	Ms. Shidhatha Shareef (Maldives)
	Ms. Amenta Matthew (Marshall Islands)
	Mr. Win Myat Aye (Myanmar)
	Mr. Wake Goruson Goi (Papua New Guinea)
	Ms. Lee Jung Ok (Republic of Korea)
	Mr. Leao Talalelei Tuitama (Samoa)
	Ms. Freda Tuki Soriocomua (Solomon Islands)
	Mr. Chuti Krairiksh (Thailand)
	Mr. Vatau Mefi Hui (Tonga)
	Mr. Le Quan (Viet Nam)

D. Agenda

73. The Conference adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the Conference:
 - (a) Opening statements;
 - (b) Election of officers;
 - (c) Adoption of the agenda.
2. Review of the progress made, challenges to address and forward-looking policies to enact in order to accelerate the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in Asia and the Pacific in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
3. Priority issues pertaining to the advancement of gender equality and the empowerment of women in Asia and the Pacific:
 - (a) Realizing gender equality for women and girls in the thematic area of inclusive development, shared prosperity and decent work;

- (b) Realizing gender equality for women and girls in the thematic area of freedom from violence, stigma and stereotypes;
 - (c) Realizing gender equality for women and girls in the thematic area of accountability, participation and gender-responsive institutions;
 - (d) Realizing gender equality for women and girls in the thematic area of environmental conservation, climate action and resilience-building.
- 4. Other matters.
 - 5. Adoption of the outcome document and report of the Conference.
 - 6. Closing of the Conference.

E. Side events and special sessions

74. The following side events and special sessions were held in conjunction with the Conference:

(a) 27 November 2019: Rewriting the narrative – commemoration of the 16 days of activism against gender-based violence;

(b) 27 November 2019: Pathways to influence: promoting the role of women’s transformative leadership to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific;

(c) 28 November 2019: Gender equality and online violence against women: experiences from South Korea and Asia, organized by Korean Women’s Development Institute, UN-Women and the Republic of Korea;

(d) 28 November 2019: Celebrating the twentieth anniversary of Security Council resolution 1325: identifying good practices on women, peace and security across ASEAN, organized by the ASEAN secretariat and UN-Women;

(e) 28 November 2019: Female-headed households: a pathway to inclusion, organized by the Islamic Republic of Iran;

(f) 28 November 2019: From Cairo to Beijing: accelerating the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action, 2019, organized by UNFPA, the Philippine Commission on Women and the International Planned Parenthood Federation;

(g) 28 November 2019: Why IT matters: gender digital divides in the Asia-Pacific region, organized by the United Nations University Institute on Computing and Society in Macao, China; ESCAP; the Macao Foundation; and the International Telecommunication Union;

(h) 28 November 2019: Borderless youth forum showcase: innovation and gender justice, organized by the Thailand Institute of Justice, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and UN-Women;

(i) 28 November 2019: Champions for change: women fighting for climate action, organized by United Nations Environment Programme, the ACT Alliance and UN-Women;

(j) 28 November 2019: Generation equality forum: towards a global pact for gender equality, organized by the Government of France;

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- (k) 29 November 2019: The time is now: partnerships and innovative financing to close the gender gap, co-hosted by UN-Women;
- (l) 29 November 2019: Transforming the future of work for gender equality, organized by UNDP, the Contact Base and ILO;
- (m) 29 November 2019: Building feminist movements and achieving Beijing accountability: feminist participatory action research, organized by Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development and Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women;
- (n) 29 November 2019: Girls count: girls' rights and gender data in the Asia-Pacific region, organized by UNICEF, the Plan International, UNFPA, UNDP and UN-Women;
- (o) 29 November 2019: Unlocking opportunities for empowerment with gender-sensitive infrastructure, organized by United Nations Office for Project Services and UN-Women;
- (p) 29 November 2019: 25 years after Beijing: promising practices and successful measures in enhancing safe migration for women workers in ASEAN, organized by ILO, UN-Women and the Delegation of the European Union to Thailand.

Annex

List of documents

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
<i>General series</i>		
ESCAP/MCBR/2019/1	Review of the progress and remaining challenges in implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in Asia and the Pacific	2 and 3
ESCAP/MCBR/2019/2/Rev.1	Report of the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on the Beijing+25 Review	
ESCAP/MCBR/2019/2/Add.1	Asia-Pacific Declaration on Advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Beijing+25 Review	
<i>Limited series</i>		
ESCAP/MCBR/2019/L.1	Provisional agenda	1 (c)
ESCAP/MCBR/2019/L.2	Annotated provisional agenda	1 (c)
ESCAP/MCBR/2019/L.3	Draft report of the Conference	5
ESCAP/MCBR/2019/L.4/Rev.1	Asia-Pacific Declaration on Advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Beijing+25 Review	5
<i>Information available online</i>		
www.unescap.org/events/asia-pacific-regional-review-B25	Information for participants	
www.unescap.org/events/asia-pacific-regional-review-B25	List of participants	
www.unescap.org/events/asia-pacific-regional-review-B25	Tentative programme	