

***Joint Statement on behalf of the Nordic States, Geneva 29 October 2019.
Beijing+25 Regional Review Meeting 29 – 30 October 2019.***

Mrs Chair,

I would like to thank the panelists for this valuable discussion

I have the honor to deliver this Statement on behalf of the Nordic Countries; Denmark, Finland, Sweden, Norway and Iceland.

The anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action creates a momentum to review both our progress and challenges, as well as an opportunity to strengthen our efforts for the full and effective implementation of both the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action and the SDGs.

We have come a long way. Yet, we are constantly reminded that human rights have not followed a linear path, and we have seen backlashes in many areas. Currently, previous achievements on women's reproductive rights are under threat. Online hate speech and sexism are serious threats to women and girls' wellbeing and their full and equal participation in society. Women do not have equal opportunities in management and leadership.

Many women and girls with disabilities, women and girls who belong to ethnic or religious minorities or indigenous people face intersecting forms of discrimination and violence.

Furthermore, LGBTI people face discrimination in their private and professional life. It is our common responsibility to address the challenges that still prevent progress on gender equality and to ensure that no one is left behind.

Therefore, we commit to innovative collaboration around paid and shared parental leave; universal and affordable, high quality childcare; flexible working hours and arrangements; promotion of gender balance in company boards and gender equality in leadership positions, and equal pay for women and men.

We are deeply committed to actively end all forms of gender based and sexual violence as well as discrimination. Policies and legislation for sexual and

reproductive health and rights (SRHR) are also crucial in pushing gender equality forward.

Moreover, we commit to advancing and reinforcing the role of men and boys in achieving gender equality as key players in transforming gender stereotypes and traditional gender roles. Their participation in promoting and ensuring gender equality is essential to accelerate progress.

The international obligations and ratified legal frameworks have played a decisive role for the Nordic countries to make lasting progress in the overall level of peace and prosperity. The Nordic countries reaffirm their full commitment to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action as well as the Generation Equality Forum. Here at the brink of Beijing+25 we are as committed as ever to elevate the Nordic voice for gender equality and share our understanding of how to advance the action and progress towards the realisation of SDG5.

We owe it to ourselves and to future generations – we cannot wait another 25 years before achieving gender equality.

Thank you.