



# BEIJING+30 REGIONAL REVIEW MEETING

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**"Reviewing 30 Years of Beijing Commitments to Accelerate Gender Equality in the ECE Region"**

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21-22 October 2024, Palais des Nations, Geneva

## CONCEPT NOTE

### I. Background

In the year 2025, the international community will mark the thirtieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995). Ten years will have passed since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In the Beijing Declaration and the 2030 Agenda, UN member States took universal commitments to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls worldwide.

In line with the ECOSOC resolution E/RES/2022/5 of 8 June 2022, the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), at its sixty ninth session in 2025 "will 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". The review will also be an opportunity to discuss the contribution of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for action towards the full realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

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## Gender equality and Women's Empowerment in the ECE Region

Across the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) region, 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.

While the UNECE region has seen some gains made towards the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women, overall progress remains uneven and insufficient to meet the majority of 2030 targets. The UNECE region remains on track to achieve just one of the nine targets of Goal 5 *Achieve Gender Equality*, while data is not yet available for a further five targets. It is an alarming reality that at present, we do not have enough data to assess progress against basic measures, such as equal economic rights or violence against women and girls in the UNECE region.

The development and implementation of legal frameworks and policies that address discrimination and support gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE) are progressing at a pace too slow to achieve substantial change. Gender disparities in time spent on domestic tasks remain significant, with women often shouldering a disproportionate share of unpaid domestic work. These disparities, among other issues, also hinder women's abilities to participate fully in economic activities. Simultaneously, inadequate social protection systems exacerbate poverty, particularly for vulnerable groups such as older women and women with disabilities, and undermine their resilience to economic shocks and other crises. Other areas, such as women's empowerment in technology, are advancing well and likely to meet targets; however, digitalization has brought other challenges that have yet to be effectively addressed, such as technology-facilitated violence against women and girls.

Furthermore, conflict and geopolitical tensions in the region significantly impact GEWE by exacerbating existing gender disparities, increasing women's and girls' vulnerabilities and reducing access to essential services. Women and girls in conflict-affected areas face heightened risks of violence, exploitation and abuse. These challenges which are compounded by disruptions in education and healthcare services, including through the diversion of resources from social programmes and services to security and defense. Conflict and geopolitical tensions also contribute to economic instability, which disproportionately affects women, who are often

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employed in precarious and informal sectors and face higher rates of job loss and reduced income-generating opportunities.<sup>1</sup>

## The Beijing+30 global review

In 2025, the global community will mark the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995)<sup>2</sup>, the 25<sup>th</sup> 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 will be an opportunity to strengthen gender-responsive action and implementation of the 2030 Agenda and other global commitments. This opportunity of the anniversary presents an occasion to engage with gender equality advocates and to bring those who remain on the sidelines into the center 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<sup>3</sup>. 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](#).

In accordance with ECOSOC Resolution E/RES/2022/5, the United Nations regional commissions 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

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<sup>1</sup> [Sustainable Development in the UNECE Region: Facing a Headwind in 2024](#). United Nations, 2024.

<sup>2</sup> [Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women](#), Beijing, 4–15 September 1995, chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

<sup>3</sup> ECOSOC resolution [2022/5](#).

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In accordance with ECOSOC Resolution E/RES/2022/5, UNECE will lead the regional intergovernmental review of the BPfA for the UNECE region, in close collaboration with the UN Women Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia (ECARO).

The regional review aims to assess current and emerging challenges that affect the implementation of the BPfA, 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 UNECE region, and strengthen the 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 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 the Beijing+30 review.

The analytical track of the regional review process will examine progress, gaps and challenges, and identify good practices towards the achievement of the commitments made in the BPfA in the UNECE region. The analytical review will provide the substantive background to consultations and deliberations at the meeting.

## **Stakeholder consultations**

The engagement of and consultation with stakeholders is a vital part of the regional review process and the intergovernmental meeting. 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-

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level reviews with a whole-of-society approach that involves multi-stakeholder participation and contributions.

UNECE and UN Women will facilitate the participation of key stakeholders in the official agenda of the Beijing+30 Regional Review Meeting. Stakeholders will also be invited to organize side events, including in collaboration with UNECE member States, United Nations entities, and others.

## Intergovernmental meeting

UNECE will organize the Beijing+30 Regional Review Meeting, titled "Reviewing 30 Years of Beijing Commitments to Accelerate Gender Equality in the UNECE Region", in collaboration with the UN Women ECARO from 21 to 22 October 2024 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland.

The meeting is expected to reinvigorate political commitment to advance gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in the UNECE region and build regional consensus on priority actions to accelerate the implementation of commitments made in the BPfA. The meeting 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 Beijing+30 Regional Review Meeting will be held from 21 to 22 October 2024 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland.

The meeting will bring together ministers, senior officials, and representatives from relevant ministries, United Nations entities, civil society organizations, youth organizations, academia, independent experts, and other relevant stakeholders from across the UNECE region. Delegations will consist of heads/representatives of national machinery for the advancement of women, representatives of various ministries, experts, parliamentarians, NGOs, etc.



It is expected that NGO and other stakeholders will take an active part in the meeting

## IV. Objectives and expected outcome

The objectives of the meeting are to:

- Assess progress to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in the UNECE region 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 Beijing+30 Regional Review Meeting will follow the rules of procedures of the UNECE. The meeting will center around the 12 critical areas of concern of the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action, highlighting 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.

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The meeting will also hold high-level roundtables to deliberate on priorities that concern gender equality and the empowerment of women in the UNECE 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) Key trends in gender equality dynamics; (ii) Accelerating women’s economic empowerment: the path to peaceful, just and inclusive societies; (iii) Women in leadership and their full and equal participation in decision-making; (iv) Ending violence against women and girls; (v) Leveraging financing for gender equality; (vi) Closing the gender gap: effective policies to deliver on SDGs in the ECE region and (vii) Pathways to accelerate progress in the implementation of the BPfA.

Emerging issues such as backlash against GEWE efforts, unpaid care work, elections and technology-facilitated violence will be given specific attention. Keynote presentations and panel discussions, followed by interventions from member States and key stakeholders, will provide an opportunity for interactive debates.

## VI. Timeline

| Milestone  | Expected timeframe          |
|--|-----------------------------|
| National-level reviews (survey and national reports) | October 2023 – June 2024    |
| Analytical review                                    | December 2023 – August 2024 |
| CSO consultations                                    | May – September 2024        |
| Beijing+30 Regional Review Meeting, Geneva           | 21 - 22 October 2024        |
| CSW69  | 10 - 21 March 2025          |