Asia-Pacific Regional Multi-stakeholder Preparatory Meeting on the seventy-first session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW71)

Priority Theme: Accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

10 December 2026, from 9:30 to 15:00
11 December 2026, from 9:30 to 16:00
(Thailand Standard Time)

United Nations Conference Centre, Conference Room 3, Bangkok, Thailand

Concept Note

1. Introduction

The seventy-first session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW71) will take place from 8 to 19 March 2027 and bring together representatives of member States, UN entities, and ECOSOC-accredited non-governmental organizations from across the world to discuss the priority theme: "*Accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*."[1]

CSW71 will convene with five years remaining to achieve the ambitions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In 2015, the 2030 Agenda introduced a new comprehensive, integrated, human rights-based and universal framework for global development, centering sustainability – across its economic, social and environmental dimensions – as a global public good to be achieved by all countries and for all people. Informed by an unprecedented level of participation and consultation, through a process that strengthened national ownership, the resulting Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) enabled countries to adapt and integrate the SDGs into their own development plans, institutional frameworks and policy priorities in ways that reflect local contexts and aspirations.

The participatory approach to developing the 2030 Agenda also contributed to the adoption of a 'twin track' approach to gender equality which, in line with the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, combined a strong stand-alone goal (SDG 5) with robust gender mainstreaming across all other goals and targets. Gender equality and women's rights are necessary conditions for the eradication of poverty and hunger, the achievement of good health, quality education, and full and decent employment for all, among others. SDG 5, therefore, is both an accelerator and catalyst of all the goals, underlining the interconnectedness between the standalone goal and the mainstreaming approach.

In Asia and the Pacific, achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has supported important gains in poverty reduction, health and well-being,

1. The CSW71 will also discuss the Review theme: Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes.

and industrialization. However, at the current pace of progress, Asia and the Pacific is projected to miss, 103 of 117 measurable SDG targets, or 88 per cent, by 2030.

Significant gender statistics and sex disaggregated data gaps continue to constrain the effective monitoring of progress across all 14 SDG 5 indicators in Asia and the Pacific. Data remain particularly limited on gender-based violence and harmful practices, including non-partner sexual violence and female genital mutilation/cutting, as well as on women's agency in sexual and reproductive health and rights, unpaid care and domestic work, agricultural land ownership and public budget allocations for gender equality. These gaps limit not only the assessment of regional progress, but also evidence-based policymaking, programming and financing for gender equality. Disaggregated data needed to assess intersectional inequalities—including by sex, age, race, ethnicity, disability, geographic location, indigenous identity, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation and gender identity, also remain insufficient, obscuring the experiences of women and girls facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and exclusion.

However, the Asia-Pacific Regional Review of Beijing+30 highlighted that, while advances have been made since 2015 across SDGs—including through strengthened legal frameworks, increased women's parliamentary representation, and improved access to education for girls and women, progress has been uneven across and within countries, and progress towards gender equality within each SDG, as well as the achievement of SDG 5 itself, remains insufficient.

Significant challenges persist in addressing gender-based violence (GBV), women's disproportionate burden of unpaid care and domestic work, gender disparities in and persistent gender inequalities in labour markets, where women's labour force participation rate among those aged 15 to 64 in Asia and the Pacific remain at 51.3% in 2026.[2] Progress in increasing women's representation in managerial and political decision-making positions remains slow.

The diversity of the Asia-Pacific region also underscores the importance of examining how progress has been achieved across different national and subregional contexts. Countries are at different stages of implementation and face differing demographic, economic, social and environmental conditions, yet share many structural barriers to gender equality. Regional dialogue can help identify common challenges, surface effective and adaptable approaches, and strengthen regional cooperation around the policies and enablers needed to accelerate progress.

The upcoming CSW 71 session provides an important opportunity for Asia-Pacific stakeholders to take stock of the progress made on the ground for gender equality, the empowerment of all women and girls and the full realization of their human rights; and to draw forward-looking lessons for accelerating implementation to 2030 and informing discussions on a future development framework beyond 2030.

The Asia-Pacific preparatory meeting will be jointly convened by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP) and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Bangkok Regional Hub, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, and the World Health Organization (WHO) South-East Asia Regional Office.

[2] ILO, Labour force participation rate by sex and age (%) – Annual, ILOSTAT. Available at https://rshiny.ilo.org/dataexplorer06/?lang=en&segment=indicator&id=EAP_DWAP_SEX_AGE_RT_A&channel=ilostat (accessed on 3 September 2026).

2. Objectives and outcomes

The objective of the multi-stakeholder regional preparatory meeting is to provide an interactive forum for 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 to:

(a) take stock of progress and remaining gaps in advancing gender equality, the empowerment of all women and girls, and the realization of their human rights in the Asia-Pacific region under the 2030 Agenda;
(b) identify effective policies, institutions, partnerships and implementation approaches, including in financing, governance, monitoring and accountability, that can enable accelerated progress;
(c) and agree on forward-looking regional priorities and suggested actions to accelerate action towards 2030 and beyond, and to inform the CSW71 process.

The regional preparatory meeting will focus on cross-cutting principles and enablers of implementation of the 17 SDGs, within which regional thematic priorities will be addressed.

Discussions will be structured around three interrelated areas: progress, setbacks and lessons from implementation of the SDGs; financing and partnerships for gender equality and sustainable development; and governance, monitoring and accountability, with a forward-looking focus on accelerating action towards 2030 and informing discussions on the development framework beyond 2030.

Specifically, this preparatory meeting will facilitate the exchange of knowledge and ideas among multi-stakeholder participants in order to:

- Assess the impact of the 2030 Agenda on gender equality and the rights and empowerment of all women and girls, including progress, gaps, setbacks, promising practices and lessons learnt from implementation, through discussions highlighting enabling approaches that can be scaled up or adapted across the region, including in ensuring that intersecting inequalities are addressed.
- Examine how financing and partnerships can be strengthened and adapted to accelerate gender equality and sustainable development under the 2030 Agenda and beyond, including through evolving public and private financing approaches.
- Identify how governance, monitoring, data and accountability can be strengthened, including through gender mainstreaming and gender-responsive institutions and SDG localization, to translate commitments into action and inform a future development framework beyond 2030.
- Gather insights to inform the global multi-stakeholder hearing planned ahead of CSW71.
- Generate forward-looking suggested actions for Member States, the United Nations system and other stakeholders to accelerate implementation, financing, accountability and partnerships for gender equality, while building regional understandings to inform Asia-Pacific contributions to the CSW71 process and discussions on a post-2030 development framework.

The outcome of the Asia-Pacific regional preparatory meeting for CSW71 will be a set of suggested actions for accelerated progress, in line with the Priority Theme for CSW71. The suggested actions will feed into CSW71 and can inform membership contributions to the Agreed Conclusions.

3. Participants

This multistakeholder regional preparatory meeting 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, and others, with relevant expertise on gender equality, women's empowerment and other key areas relevant to advancing gender equality across the SDGs.

4. Modality

The multistakeholder regional preparatory meeting will be convened in a hybrid format i.e. in-person at the UN Conference Centre premises (Conference Room 3) with the option for online participation via the Zoom platform. It will take place on 10 December 2026, from 9:30-15:00 Hours and 11 December 2026, from 9:30-16:00 (Thailand Standard Time). To the extent possible, efforts will be made to ensure that each session will have representation from across sectors related to the priority theme and geographical representation.

5. Contact

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The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) *provides an inclusive intergovernmental platform for governments and other stakeholders in the region to accelerate the implementation of global gender equality commitments, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the outcomes of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the Beijing Platform for Action, as well as the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. ESCAP works to ensure that gender equality is addressed holistically in order to develop forward-looking strategies and contribute to efforts towards gender equality, poverty reduction and economic growth in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Goals.*

The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women*), grounded in the vision of equality enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, works for the elimination of discrimination against women and girls; the empowerment of women; and the achievement of equality between women and men as partners and beneficiaries of development, human rights, humanitarian action and peace and security. UN Women supports UN Member States as they set global standards for achieving gender equality and works with governments and civil society to design laws, policies, programmes and services to ensure that the standards are effectively implemented and benefit women and girls worldwide. UN Women's Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific located in Bangkok, covers a total of 42 countries and exercises its triple mandate and functions at a regional level and in support of UN Women's offices and UN Country Teams in 24 countries across the region.*