From Beijing+20 to Beijing+25: Asia-Pacific High-level Meeting on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment

Ms. Cai Cai, Chief, Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Section, ESCAP
25 years on from Beijing: Gender inequalities persist in Asia and the Pacific

Economic growth has not benefitted women equally: For every 10 men in employment, there are only 6 women in work

Progress on key indicators is slow: the representation of women parliamentarians grew at an annual average rate of 2.18 per cent since 1998.

Female parliamentary representation (1998 and 2018)

GDP growth rate (Million US dollars)

Female (aged 25 and above) % of labour force participation

ESCAP Statistical Database, 2019

ESCAP: calculations
25 years on from Beijing: Gender inequalities persist in Asia and the Pacific

1 in 2 women have experienced physical and/or sexual violence from an intimate partner in the last 12 months

Women and girls spend as much as 11 times more of their day on unpaid care and domestic work

ADB, UN Women: Women’s time spent on unpaid care and domestic work (as ratio of men’s time) 2018
Beijing+20: Building on commitments made

- In 2014, over 700 delegates representing 49 governments, 30 UN entities, 7 IGOs, 187 CSOs gathered for the Beijing+20 review.

- Adopted the “Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Advancing Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment”
  - Reinforced commitments and consolidating gains in 12 critical areas of BPfA.
  - Identify key means of implementation to forge way forward:
    - Strengthening institutions
    - Increasing financing
    - Enhancing accountability
    - Forging stronger partnerships
    - Strengthening regional cooperation

Member States requested ESCAP to convene an intergovernmental conference in 2019 and undertake regional reviews.

(58 (g) Asia-Pacific Ministerial Declaration Beijing+20; ECOSOC E/RES/2018/8)

Launch of process: Setting agenda and key priorities for Asia-Pacific

• What is holding back progress in Asia-Pacific, 25 years on from Beijing? How do we maintain a momentum for change and reinvigorate irreversible progress.

• What have been the successful strategies and good practices moving the region towards change, in alignment with the SDGs?

• What are the priorities or key drivers for accelerating gender equality and empowerment of women and girls, including in the context of the 2030 Agenda?
Beijing+25 in Asia-Pacific: Roadmap of Critical Actions

Intended Outcome: Ministerial Declaration

• Building on commitments made at Beijing+20
• Importance of mandate at regional level, with focus on actions
• Reflecting specificities of the region, e.g.
  • Demographic context
    • 693 million youth, but also rapidly ageing society.
  • Emerging issues and spaces
    • Technological disruptions; digital spaces
• How invigorate the Beijing+25 process?
Beijing+25 in Asia-Pacific: Key Considerations

Stronger together: Synergies with SDGs

- 2030 Agenda: Holistic, interlinkages, and measurable goals and targets
- Alignment with SDGs is important as we move BPfA forward

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<th>Beijing Platform for Action 12 Critical Areas</th>
<th>National Review Clusters</th>
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<td>• Inclusive development, shared prosperity and decent work</td>
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<td>• Poverty eradication, social protection and social services</td>
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<td>• Freedom from violence, stigma and stereotypes</td>
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<td>• Participation, accountability and gender-responsive institutions</td>
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<td>• Peaceful and inclusive societies</td>
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<td>• Environmental conservation, protection and rehabilitation</td>
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Beijing+25 Review: Outcome Document

Outcome Document Review Process

- Zero Draft: June
- 1st Draft: Sept
- 2nd Draft: Oct
- SOS: 25-26 Nov
- Ministerial Declaration: 27-28 Nov
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