

Asia-Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for CSW 63

“Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls”

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Closing Remarks

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Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As we close the Asia-Pacific Preparatory Meeting for the 63rd session of the Commission on the Status of Women, I wish to thank all speakers and participants for your constructive discussion on the challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in Asia and the Pacific. In particular, we wish to thank the Chairs who have ably steered the discussions.

Through this meeting, we have been acquainted with the challenges, achievements, and good practices in the implementation of the social protection systems, public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. In doing so, a spectrum of cross-cutting issues have been highlighted, on which we have developed a unique regional perspective.

The recommendations reflect the urgent need to harnesses the synergies between social protection, public services and infrastructure through coordinated policy responses, including strengthening policy and legislative frameworks. The Meeting called for a more comprehensive approach to address social and economic vulnerabilities within a broader development policy framework. We also discussed the importance of establishing innovative financing means to fund expenditure on social protection, public services and infrastructure. Furthermore, the recommendations stress the need for improved availability of data and generation of gender statistics to enhance evidence-based policy making for gender equality and women empowerment. By addressing the issues of social protection, infrastructure and public services in an integrated and gender-responsive manner it is possible to bring about transformative changes which enable women to access economic, community and leisure activities.

Moving forward, these recommendations will be carried to New York and will feed directly into CSW's global dialogue next month. The outcomes of this preparatory meeting will help ensure that the challenges and opportunities faced at the national level and across the Asia-Pacific region – closely inform the imminent global dialogue.

I am confident that this meeting has given member States ideas for the development of policy responses and strategies for strengthening social protection, public services and infrastructure, thereby enabling women and girls to reach their full potential and contribute to the achievement of gender equality and women's empowerment in Asia and the Pacific.

This year's meeting, apart from discussing the priority theme of CSW for this year, served as an opportunity to launch the regional Beijing+25 review. I thank all our Member States for actively presenting updates on their national review processes and good practices associated with it and, the challenges and drivers of gender equality in your respective countries. We look forward to your active collaboration in the run-up to the High-Level Intergovernmental Meeting in November this year.

On behalf of the UN system, allow me also to thank our partners UN WOMEN, with whom we have jointly convened this meeting, as well as UNFPA, UNDP, and FAO for their hard work in organizing this successful meeting. I also express my appreciation to my colleagues at ESCAP.

With that, I hereby close the Meeting. Let me thank you all once again for your participation. I wish you a safe trip home. Thank you!