



## CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR SIDE EVENTS AND EXHIBITIONS at the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on the Beijing+25 Review

### Background

The year 2020 marks a confluence of the 25th anniversary milestone since the adoption of **the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPfA)** and the 5-year milestone for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda). It is thus a window of opportunity to take stock of progress made and actions required to address barriers to gender equality and implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.

The 2030 Agenda has affirmed the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women as a standalone goal as well as a priority that cuts across all 17 SDGs. **The Beijing+25 review will harness synergies with the 2030 Agenda** to consolidate efforts to accelerate the achievement of key international commitments on gender equality under the following six cluster areas:

- Inclusive development, shared prosperity and decent work
- Poverty eradication, social protection and social services
- Freedom from violence, stigma and stereotypes
- Participation, accountability, gender-responsive institutions
- Peaceful and inclusive societies
- Environmental conservation, climate action and resilience-building

As mandated by ECOSOC Resolution E/RES/2018/8, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) will lead the regional intergovernmental review of BPfA in collaboration with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific and with the support of the Asia-Pacific interagency network.

The regional review will culminate in the **Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on the Beijing+25 Review**, which will take place **from 27 to 29 November 2019**, United Nations Conference Centre, **Bangkok**. The Conference is expected to gather Ministers and senior officials from relevant line Ministries, representatives from civil society organizations and other key stakeholders from around the Asia-Pacific region.

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One key aspect of the Conference is the showcasing of good practices, innovative initiatives and cutting edge thinking to advance gender equality and women's empowerment under the clusters outlined above. Space is thus allocated for side events and exhibitions to share knowledge and experiences as well as promote dialogue during the Conference.

### **Call for proposals:**

This call for proposals for side events and exhibitions is inviting interested Member States, UN partners, Civil Society, Academia and international organizations to submit concept notes using the downloadable concept note template form by **20 August 2019**.

Given the finite number of rooms and conference services available, the organizers are encouraged to work in an integrated manner and ensure thematic coherence. Innovative development solutions for gender equality that use technology are especially encouraged.

Organizers are kindly requested to hold their event in English or make their own interpretation arrangements as interpretation services are not available for side events.

### **A set of key questions that will guide the review and assessment of the proposals received:**

Side events and exhibitions sponsored by Governments will be given priority. In order to ensure that as many organizers can be involved as possible, side event and exhibition proposals should be based on collaborative partnering.

- ✓ *Is the side event/exhibition sponsored by a Member State?*
- ✓ *Is the side event/exhibition a collaboration among a broad range of stakeholders (e.g. UN Agencies, CSOs, Academia, Youth, Private Sector)?*
- ✓ *Is there a High-Level Speaker involved in the side event/exhibition?*

One of the co-organizers of the proposed side event/exhibition should be designated as a lead organizer. A co-organizer should not be the lead organizer of more than one side event/exhibition.

- ✓ *Is the lead organizer involved in other side events/exhibitions?*

The proposed side event/exhibition should make a clear link to one or more of the 12 critical areas of concern of the BPfA. The side event/exhibition should also constitute a potential contribution to the outcome of the Beijing+25 Review as well as provide innovative and original perspectives on achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women in synergy with the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

- ✓ *Which area/s of concern of the following cluster/s does the side event/exhibition touch upon?*

Inclusive development, shared prosperity and decent work	
Poverty eradication, social protection and social services	
Freedom from violence, stigma and stereotypes	
Participation, accountability, gender-responsive institutions	
Peaceful and inclusive societies	
Environmental conservation, climate action and resilience-building	

- ✓ *Does the side event/exhibition put forward innovative ideas and highlight emerging good practices?*
- ✓ *Does the side event/exhibition demonstrate cutting edge thinking and innovation using technology to come up with creative development solutions?*
- ✓ *Does the side event/exhibition provide lessons on synergies and/or multi-stakeholder approaches to advancing the BPfA and the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs?*

The side event/exhibition may outline the opportunities for the regional cooperation to accelerate gender equality and women’s empowerment.

- ✓ *What opportunities for regional cooperation are proposed?*

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