GUIDELINES FOR CIVIL SOCIETY OBSERVERS

The purpose of this document is to assist civil society observers to prepare for their attendance at the “Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on the Beijing+25 Review”.

The rules of procedure of the Commission, including those pertaining to the decision-making process, shall apply mutatis mutandis to the “Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on the Beijing+25 Review”.

The sessions of the Conference will be conducted in English with simultaneous interpretation in Chinese, French and Russian, which are the working languages of the Commission. All official documentation for the Conference will be available in English, Chinese, French and Russian. The background document and annotated agenda will also be provided in ePub format for accessibility.

Conference-related materials can be accessed from the following website: www.unescap.org/events/asia-pacific-regional-review-B25.

The meeting aims to promote sustainability and will be paper smart. Kindly also note that the UN Compound in Bangkok is single-use plastic free and we would encourage participants to bring their own reusable bottle. We also encourage all participants to complete the online survey on carbon footprint (link to be provided in due course).

In an effort to promote accessibility for persons with disabilities, real-time captioning will be provided during the plenary sessions.

Background Information on ESCAP

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) is the regional arm of the United Nations, playing a unique role as the only intergovernmental
forum for all countries and territories of the Asian and Pacific region. Established in 1947, ESCAP today has 53 members and nine associate members covering over 60 per cent of the world’s population.

ESCAP’s mission is to serve as the regional hub promoting cooperation among member States to achieve inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in the Asia-Pacific region. ESCAP provides the strategic regional link between global, subregional and country-level direction, commitments and programmes. All governments of the Asia Pacific region meet annually at the ministerial level to review and discuss economic and social issues and to set the regional development agenda.

ESCAP is headquartered in Bangkok and has four subregional offices, namely in the Pacific (Suva, Fiji); North-East/East Asia (Incheon, Republic of Korea); North/Central Asia (Almaty, Kazakhstan); and South/South-West Asia (New Delhi, India). ESCAP also has four regional institutions in Beijing, China; Bogor, Indonesia; Incheon, Republic of Korea; New Delhi, India; and Chiba, Japan. The organization reports to the United Nation’s Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). (For more information, please visit the ESCAP website at http://www.unescap.org)

Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on the Beijing+25 Review

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 review of Beijing+25, 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 Regional Coordination Mechanism Thematic Working Group on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women.

The objectives of the Conference are to:

- Assess progress and challenges to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in Asia and the Pacific over the past 5 years;
- Review good practices, lessons learned, priority actions required to realize gender equality and the empowerment of women by 2030, as well as address emerging areas that impact on women’s empowerment;
- Provide a platform to explore policy options and strategies, including innovative approaches, toward realizing gender equality and the empowerment of women;
- Consider and adopt a Ministerial Declaration to realize women’s rights for an equal future, which will serve as the regional input to the 64th session of the Commission on the Status of Women on the global review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

Notes for Observers Concerning Making Interventions
As the Ministerial Conference is an intergovernmental meeting, it is the prerogative of Government delegations to make interventions within the time allocated by the Chairperson. If time permits, the Chairperson, at her/his discretion, may invite interventions from intergovernmental organizations, United Nations bodies, specialized agencies, civil society organizations and other observers after all the government delegations have completed their deliberations on the respective agenda items.

A. The Conference

Notes concerning interventions under specific agenda items:

**Agenda Item 2: Review of the progress made, challenges to address and forward-looking policies to enact in order to accelerate the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in Asia and the Pacific in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

**Time allocation:** 4 hours and 50 minutes

**Requirements for intervention:**

The representative of civil society organizations (CSOs) can make a 4-minute consolidated statement on behalf of the CSOs on the substantive issues in relation to the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action in Asia and the Pacific.

**Agenda Item 3a: Priority issues pertaining to the advancement of gender equality and the empowerment of women in Asia and the Pacific “Realizing gender equality for women and girls in the thematic area of inclusive development, shared prosperity and decent work”**

**Time allocation:** 1 hour and 20 minutes

**Expected outcome:** Under this agenda item, the Conference is provided with an overview of issues on “Game changers” and shared responsibilities in the area of women’s economic empowerment, social protection and public services. This will be done through a moderated panel discussion which will focus on bringing out innovative solutions that have been “game changers” in advancing women’s economic empowerment as well as access to social protection and public services in the region. The panel will comprise high level representatives from Government, private sector as well as women entrepreneurs to provide insights and good practices in promoting women’s economic empowerment.

**Structure of agenda item:** An interactive panel discussion followed by questions and answers.
**Requirements for intervention:** The dialogue during this agenda item is expected to be interactive. During the Question and Answer segment of the panel discussion, opportunities for brief interventions would be provided with priority given to the Government delegates.

**Agenda Item 3b: Priority issues pertaining to the advancement of gender equality and the empowerment of women in Asia and the Pacific “Realizing gender equality for women and girls in the thematic area of freedom from violence, stigma and stereotypes”**

**Time allocation:** 1 hour and 20 minutes

**Expected outcome:** Under this agenda item, the Conference is provided with an overview of the issues and solutions to end violence, stigma and stereotypes in the region. This will be done through a moderated panel discussion which will focus on the underlying causes of violence against women and highlight the measures to be taken to accelerate efforts to eliminate violence against women. The panel will comprise government and civil society representatives who will share their insights on the issues of violence, stigma and stereotyping.

**Structure of agenda item:** An interactive panel discussion followed by questions and answers.

**Requirements for intervention:** The dialogue during this agenda item is expected to be interactive. During the Question and Answer segment of the panel discussion, opportunities for brief interventions would be provided with priority given to the Government delegates.

**Agenda Item 3c: Priority issues pertaining to the advancement of gender equality and the empowerment of women in Asia and the Pacific: “Realizing gender equality for women and girls in the thematic areas of accountability, participation and gender-responsive institutions”**

**Time allocation:** 1 hour and 20 minutes

**Expected outcome:** Under this agenda item, the Conference is provided with an overview of forward-looking strategies to foster accountable gender-responsive institutions. This will be done through an moderated panel discussion, where panelists from Government and civil society from the region will share their ideas and experience on measures that strengthen gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls through enhancing accountability, participation and gender-responsive institutions as well as highlight the prevailing challenges and national priorities.

**Structure of agenda item:** An interactive panel discussion followed by questions and answers.
Requirements for intervention: The dialogue during this agenda item is expected to be interactive. During the Question and Answer segment of the panel discussion, opportunities for brief interventions would be provided with priority given to the Government delegates.

Agenda Item 3d: Priority issues pertaining to the advancement of gender equality and the empowerment of women in Asia and the Pacific “Realizing gender equality for women and girls in the thematic area of environmental conservation, climate action and resilience building”

Time allocation: 1 hour and 20 minutes

Expected outcome: Under this agenda item, the Conference is provided with an overview of issues on progress made in the region and identify challenges and opportunities to realise gender equality in the areas of environmental conservation, climate action and resilience building. Panelists from Government, research organizations and development partners will highlight social, economic and fiscal constraints faced by women and girls and identify key opportunities and solutions to ensure gender inclusive climate resilient societies.

Structure of agenda item: A panel discussion followed by questions and answers.

Requirements for intervention: The dialogue during this agenda item is expected to be interactive. During the Question and Answer segment of the panel discussion, opportunities for brief interventions would be provided with priority given to the Government delegates.

Agenda Item 5: Adoption of the outcome document and report of the meeting

Time allocation: 2 hours and 15 minutes.

Requirements for intervention:

As the report of the Conference is an account of the proceedings of an intergovernmental process, interventions during the adoption of the report are made by Government delegates.

Should there be a need to revise any section of the report pertaining to a statement delivered by civil society, the matter should be brought to the attention of the secretariat, preferably before the start of the consideration of the agenda item.
### Annex: ESCAP Membership

#### EAST AND NORTH-EAST ASIA
- China
- Democratic People’s Republic of Korea
- Hong Kong, China* 
- Japan
- Macao, China* 
- Mongolia
- Republic of Korea

#### NORTH AND CENTRAL ASIA
- Armenia
- Azerbaijan
- Georgia
- Kazakhstan
- Kyrgyzstan
- Russian Federation
- Tajikistan
- Turkmenistan
- Uzbekistan

#### SOUTH-EAST ASIA
- Brunei Darussalam
- Cambodia
- Indonesia
- Lao People’s Democratic Republic
- Malaysia
- Myanmar
- Philippines
- Singapore
- Thailand
- Timor-Leste
- Viet Nam

#### PACIFIC
- American Samoa*
- Australia
- Cook Islands*
- Fiji
- French Polynesia*
- Guam*
- Kiribati
- Marshall Islands
- Micronesia (Federated States of)
- Nauru
- New Caledonia*
- New Zealand
- Niue*
- Northern Mariana Islands*
- Palau
- Papua New Guinea
- Samoa
- Solomon Islands
- Tonga
- Tuvalu
- Vanuatu

#### SOUTH AND SOUTH-WEST ASIA
- Afghanistan
- Bangladesh
- Bhutan
- India
- Iran (Islamic Republic of)
- Maldives
- Nepal
- Pakistan
- Sri Lanka
- Turkey

* Associate members