GUIDELINES FOR THE GOVERNMENT DELEGATES

The purpose of this document is to assist delegations to prepare for their participation in 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 shared in due course).

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

A. The Conference

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.

The Conference provides an opportunity for participants to share and review good practices, lessons learned, and 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. Governments are invited to present country statements on the first day of the Conference under agenda item 2.

A series of panel discussions under agenda item 3 on the second day of the Conference aim to foster dialogue on four priority thematic areas, including: inclusive development, shared prosperity and decent work, freedom from violence, stigma and stereotypes, accountability, participation and gender-responsive institutions and environmental conservation, climate action and resilience building.

It should be noted that, aside from the delivery of country statements, time will be allocated for interactive discussions under each agenda item to maximize the sharing of national experiences with a view to promoting regional cooperation and consensus.

A working group will be convened parallel to the plenary discussions, following agenda item 1, to finalize the draft outcome document for consideration by the Conference for adoption on the third day of the Conference (29 November 2019).

27 November 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>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</th>
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<td>Time allocation: 4 hours and 50 minutes</td>
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Expected outcome: Participants gain an overview 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, with a focus on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Documentation

Review of the progress and remaining challenges in implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/MCBR/2019/1).

Structure of agenda item: Under this agenda item, a brief presentation will be made by the secretariat on the key findings of regional synthesis of progress and remaining challenges in implementing the Beijing Platform for Action in the Asia-Pacific region. The findings are based on the responses from the national reviews undertaken by Governments. After the presentation, the floor will be open for country statements.

Delegates are requested to deliver their statements during the specific timeslot for country statements, after the presentation under Agenda item 2.

Each delegation is requested to complete the attached speaker request form to deliver the country statements under agenda item 2, and send it to escap-sdd@un.org as soon as possible. It is strongly encouraged to share the country statements through the email address as soon as possible to facilitate easy interpretation.

The country statements may focus on the following:
a) key actions to harness the synergies between the Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls;  
b) policy actions to address the key challenges in advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, from national to local levels; and  
c) regional collaboration and partnerships required to accelerate the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in the region.

Time allocation for country statements: The Heads of delegations at ministerial level will be allotted a maximum of 6 minutes each for their country statements. Other Heads of delegations will be allotted a maximum of 4 minutes each for their statements. Kindly note that, strict adherence to time allocation is required in view of the large number of delegations and the UNHQ instruction to conclude regular sessions of the meeting by 5pm each day.

Longer versions of statements may be submitted to the secretariat for uploading on the website.

Representatives of United Nations entities and intergovernmental organizations will also be given the opportunity to make brief statements on measures and initiatives on gender equality and women’s empowerment. A consolidated statement will be delivered by a designated representative of civil society.
28 November 2019

**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. While country statements are not expected under this agenda item, Government delegates will have the opportunity to make short interventions during the Question and Answer segment of the panel discussion.

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**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. While country statements will not be expected under this agenda item,
Government delegates will have the opportunity to make short interventions during the Question and Answer segment of the panel discussion.

**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. While country statements will not be expected under this agenda item, Government delegates will have the opportunity to make short interventions during the Question and Answer segment of the panel discussion.

**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. While country statements will not be expected under this agenda item, Government delegates will have the opportunity to make short interventions during the Question and Answer segment of the panel discussion.
29 November 2019

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

**Time allocation:** 2 hours and 15 minutes.

**Expected outcome:** The Conference would review the draft outcome document as well as report of the meeting. The Conference may adopt the outcome document which will serve as the Asia Pacific input for the sixty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women on the 25-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action. It may also adopt the report of the Conference.

**Requirements for intervention:** The Conference would review, with a view to adopting the draft outcome document and report of the meeting.

Agenda Item 6: Closing of the Conference

**Time allocation:** 15 minutes

**Expected outcome:** Under this agenda item, closing statements will be delivered by the Chairperson of the Conference, a representative of ESCAP and a representative of UN Women.