



Concept Note

Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action plus 30 National Review

1. Background

In 2025, the global community will mark the thirtieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995), and 10 years of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals. On the thirtieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women will, in March 2025, undertake a review and appraisal of progress made in implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and accelerate the realisation of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.

The Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA) underscores commitment made at a global, regional, sub regional and national levels to ending discrimination, promoting women's rights and advancing gender equality and women's empowerment. These tenets have been acceded to in various instruments including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the Convention on the elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and people's on the rights of Women in Africa Ica (Maputo Protocol) to name a few. The Beijing Declaration was a statement of the political commitment by Governments to work towards Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE). The BPfA outlines strategic objectives and actions in twelve critical areas of concern. The Beijing Declaration called for commitment at the highest political level to support its implementation and urged Governments to take the leading role in coordinating, monitoring and assessing progress in the advancement of women.

This anniversary is also the opportunity to strengthen gender-responsive action and implementation of the 2030 and 2063 Agendas and other global and regional commitments, such as those under Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and subsequent resolutions on women and peace and security; the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (2015); the Paris agreement on climate change (2015), and regional commitments to promote GEWE such as the AU Strategy on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa, among others.

2. Objectives of Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action plus 30 Review



All States are called upon to undertake comprehensive national-level reviews of the progress made and challenges encountered in the implementation of the BDPfA and of the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly held in 2000. Governments are called upon to collaborate with relevant stakeholders at all levels on the preparations for the 2025 review to benefit from their experience and expertise. The United Nations Regional Economic Commissions are invited to undertake regional reviews so that the outcomes of intergovernmental processes at the regional level can feed into the 2025 BPfA global review.

In Africa, continental regional reviews for BPfA have been undertaken under the leadership and coordination of UNECA and the support of UN Women and the African Union Commission, Women, Gender and Youth Directorate (AUC-WGYD). Since adoption of the BPfA, member States have used five-year reviews to critically assess progress made and provide a roadmap of actions to be undertaken to accelerate implementation. To date, African member States have undertaken periodic reviews of progress in 5-year intervals; 1999 (Beijing+5), 2004 (Beijing+10), 2009 (Beijing+15), 2014 (Beijing+20), 2019 (Beijing+25) and 2024 (Beijing +30).

In line with the commitments made in the [Political Declaration adopted in 2020](#), a series of additional cross-cutting measures aiming at accelerating the implementation of the BDPfA were identified, namely: review progress on laws, policies and strategies; institutional mechanisms for gender equality; the transformation of discriminatory norms and gender stereotypes; investments to close resource gaps; accountability for existing commitments and capacity building, data collection, monitoring and evaluation. Countries are encouraged to conduct evidence-based assessments of achievements, opportunities, setbacks and challenges in these areas with a focus on 2020 onwards.

The Africa regional review will take place in October 2024 against the backdrop described above, where a synthesis regional report drawn from *55 AU Member States* will be discussed and tabled for adoption. Consultations with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Youth have been suggested to incorporate civil society and Youth perspectives into this process. Additionally, consultations with Experts and Ministers from Ministries in Charge of Gender and Women's Affairs are envisaged as integral components of the process leading to regional report. These consultations are currently scheduled back-to-back with the Specialized Technical Committees on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (STC on GEWE) scheduled for the last week of October 2024 in Addis Ababa.

The current Africa regional review in 2024 will inform the global report to be presented to the sixty ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW69) in March 2025, session that will focus precisely on BPfA, and will cover the extent to which countries have met their commitments to implementing the BPfA particularly highlighting progress made, opportunities that exist, challenges faced and remaining gaps in addressing the twelve critical areas of concern. The BPfA review will provide the required introspection for the continent to synergise their efforts to optimise their achievements.



The regional review report will be Africa's contribution to the global report highlighting both collective and individual country experiences.

3. Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action plus 30 Review expected outcomes

The anticipated outcomes of the Beijing+30 review process are as follows:

- Review of commitments made by AU MS and their adherence to these commitments, with a focus on accountability for both progress and shortcomings.
- Actionable recommendations are made for governments and stakeholders to address identified challenges and accelerate further implementation of the GEWE agenda across the African continent, including around the formulation and strengthening of policy and legislative frameworks, monitoring and accountability mechanisms, capacity building.
- Adoption of the Common Africa Position (CAP) on CSW 69 regarding Beijing+30.

4. Participants

Facilitated by African Union Commission's Women, Gender and Youth Directorate (AUC-WGYD) in partnership with, UN Women, UNECA, UNDP and UNFPA, the meeting will be attended by :

- AU Ministers in Charge of Gender and Women's Affairs
- Experts from Ministries in charge of Gender and Women's Affairs
- AU Organs
- AU Specialized agencies
- Africa Group Representative in New York
- African Union New York Office (AUNYO)
- Regional Economic Communities (RECs)
- UN Agencies
- Development Partners
- Civil Society Organizations
- Women-led Organisations
- Youth-led Organisations
- Diaspora
- Academia and other technical experts
- Media

5. Key dates



The consultation will take place back to back to Specialized Technical Committee on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (STC on GEWE) and the dates are as follow:

Youth and Civil Society Organizations Consultations (in parallel)

- 30th-31st October 2024: Youth Consultation on B+30 and CSW69 Africa Pre Consultation. Venue: AU Headquarters, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- 30th-31st October 2024, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) Consultation on B+30 and CSW69 Africa Pre-Consultation. Venue: AU Headquarters, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Experts Segments

1st - 2nd November 2024: B+30 and CSW69 Africa Pre Consultation. Venue: Day 1: Africa Hall, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Day 2: UN Conference Center, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Ministerial Meetings

6th November 2024: B+30 and CSW69 Africa Pre Consultation. Venue: AU Headquarter

6. Consultations

6.1 Youth consultations

Since August 2024, a series of virtual and hybrid workshops have been conducted under the theme "Reclaiming Rights: Youth and Adolescent Leadership in Advancing the Beijing Platform for Action" in collaboration between FEMNET and UN Women. These events aim to position young people at the forefront of implementing the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA). Youth from across the African continent participate in these workshops, gaining the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the Beijing review process and engage in discussions on gender-related issues, contextualising them to their own experiences and realities.

By grounding this initiative in regional contexts and acknowledging the diverse, intersecting identities of the participants, UN Women aims to cultivate a new generation of leaders who can assert their rights and drive meaningful progress. Through targeted engagement initiatives, including monthly deep dives and quarterly meetings, the perspectives of youth are not only included but are integral to shaping the global discourse on gender equality. The BPfA will be actively championed by those whose futures it seeks to protect, thereby ensuring its continued relevance and impact.

Upon the conclusion of this series of workshops and hybrid events, young women and men will have the opportunity to participate in the in-person youth consultations scheduled to take place in Addis Ababa from October 30 to 31, 2024. During this consultation, participants will have the chance to articulate their experiences related to gender equality and women's empowerment into a youth position paper. This document will reflect the perspectives of young people, ensuring that their voices from across the continent are heard. The report will be presented during the Experts Group Meeting.



Participants will be selected to represent all five regions of Africa through a call for proposals. Among the 100 youth chosen to attend the in person youth consultations, 10 individuals will also have the opportunity to participate in the Experts Group Meeting and Ministerial Meeting.

6.2 CSOs consultations

In collaboration with FEMNET, virtual meetings and consultations with civil society organisations from across the continent have been organised to ensure civil society is equipped to engage meaningfully in the Beijing+30 review process, equipping participants with the knowledge necessary to leverage the Beijing+30 platform for advancing gender equality and women's empowerment, while also providing an opportunity to share CSOs' experiences within their respective contexts of expertise.

Through a call for applications, 50 representatives from all five regions of the continent will be selected to participate in the in-person consultations for CSOs to be held in Addis Ababa from October 30 to 31, 2024. During this two-day consultation, the CSOs will develop a position paper that will be presented at the Experts Group Meeting. Furthermore, among the 50 participants attending the CSOs consultation, 10 individuals will have the opportunity to also participate in the Experts Group Meeting and Ministerial Meeting.

6.2 Experts Group Meeting (EGM)

On November 1 and 2, 2024, experts from national governments across Africa will convene in Addis Ababa for the Experts Group Meeting (EGM) to address the pre-CSW on Beijing+30 review process. During this meeting, the experts will review and critically examine the Synthesis Regional Report, assessing the findings of the report in relation to the 12 priority areas of the Beijing Platform for Action - grouped into six clusters, namely:

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

To facilitate in-depth discussions around the priority areas, sessions will be organised to further explore the related issues and challenges, address best practices and recommendations, alongside breakout rooms. To ensure that the discussions address all dimensions in the context of gender equality and women's empowerment, experts from diverse backgrounds will be invited to share their expertise through presentations. These will include experts from government, civil society, the private sector, the United Nations, academia, and the African Development Bank (AfDB).



Furthermore, UN Women will present the findings of the study on the level of implementation of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) Agreed Conclusions, as well as the Africa pre-CSW common position document. Additionally, both youth representatives and CSOs will present their position papers.

This two-day meeting will result in the adoption of the Common Africa Position (CAP) on CSW 69 regarding Beijing+30. This document will subsequently be presented to and endorsed by the Ministerial Segment.

6.3 Ministerial Group Meeting

On November 6, Ministers from across the African continent will convene in Addis Ababa to discuss the Beijing+30 review process. The meeting will be organised into three main sessions. Specifically, the Common Africa Position (CAP) on CSW 69 regarding Beijing+30, developed by experts, will be reviewed and endorsed. Additionally, there will be a reflection on the level of implementation of the CSW Agreed Conclusions based on the study conducted by UN Women. Finally, the strategy for civil society participation at CSW 69 will also be discussed.

7. Languages

The meeting will be conducted in four African Union languages (Arabic, English, French and Portuguese).

8. Contacts

For additional information, please reach out to the designated contacts below:

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