

ASIA-PACIFIC **BEIJING+25**
DECLARATION AND REPORT

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United Nations
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

**Asia-Pacific Declaration on
Advancing Gender Equality
and Women's Empowerment:
Beijing+25 Review**





Preamble

- 1 *We, the Ministers and representatives of members and associate members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, gathered at the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on the Beijing+25 Review, held in Bangkok from 27 to 29 November 2019, committed to accelerate efforts to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment, ensuring women's human rights for an equal future in Asia and the Pacific,*
- 2 *Reaffirming the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action¹ and its report and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,² as well as the commitments to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and ensuring women's human rights, made at relevant intergovernmental and United Nations summits and conferences and at the regional and global follow-up to those summits and conferences, which have laid a solid foundation for mutually reinforcing linkages between gender equality and sustainable development,*

1 *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.*

2 *General Assembly resolution 70/1.*

- 3 *Reiterating* that the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,³ the Convention on the Rights of the Child⁴ and the Optional Protocols thereto,⁵ as well as other relevant conventions and treaties, such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,⁶ the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights⁷ and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,⁸ provide an international legal framework and a comprehensive set of measures for realizing gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all women and girls of all ages,
- 4 *Reaffirming* further the importance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,⁹ the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women,¹⁰ the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action¹¹ and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,¹² as well as other international instruments relating to human rights, which are deemed to be universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated, and of the equal rights of men and women in their diversity, and emphasizing the responsibilities of all States to protect and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction of any kind as to race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, disability or other status,
- 5 *Recalling* Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000, 1820 (2008) of 19 June 2008, 1888 (2009) of 30 September 2009, 1889 (2009) of 5 October 2009 and 1960 (2010) of 16 December 2010 on women, peace and security and all relevant Security Council resolutions on children and armed conflict, including resolutions 1882 (2009) of 4 August 2009 and 1998 (2011) of 12 July 2011 on armed conflict and post-conflict situations,
- 6 *Affirming* further the synergies between the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

3 United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

4 *Ibid.*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

5 *Ibid.*, vol. 2131, No. 20378; *ibid.*, vols. 2171 and 2173, No. 27531; and General Assembly resolution 66/138, annex.

6 See General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

7 *Ibid.*

8 United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

9 General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

10 General Assembly resolution 48/104.

11 A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

12 *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5–13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

- 7 *Recognizing* that women play a vital role as agents of development, that the achievement of full human potential and of sustainable development is not possible if one half of humanity continues to be denied its full human rights and opportunities, and that the Sustainable Development Goals should be achieved for all nations and peoples and across all segments of society,
- 8 *Acknowledging* the advances made towards gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in Asia and the Pacific by Governments, particularly in the development, adoption and implementation of laws, regulations and policy frameworks,
- 9 *Welcoming* the major contribution made by civil society, including women's and community-based organizations, feminist groups, women human rights defenders, girls' and youth-led organizations, and trade unions in placing the interest, needs and visions of women and girls, including those living in rural areas, on local, national, regional and international agendas, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It also recognizes the importance of having an open, inclusive and transparent engagement with civil society in the implementation of measures to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls,
- 10 *Noting* megatrends in Asia and the Pacific, including the rising inequalities within and between countries, the unprecedented pace of population ageing, the youth bulge, unplanned and rapid urbanization, the scale and multidimensional nature of migration, the high rates of informal and non-standard forms of employment, technological advancement, the high rates of unemployment among the young population, climate change, the intensity and frequency of extreme weather events, disasters and environmental degradation, and the increasing acts of violence and extremism, all of which have a differentiated and disproportionate impact on women and girls,
- 11 *Expressing concern* that progress has not been consistent across the region, that multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination as well as exploitation, marginalization, oppression and subordination of women and girls still persist, placing them at greater risk, and calling on the Asia-Pacific region to take appropriate action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and to protect and empower women and girls to achieve the full enjoyment of their human rights without discrimination,
- 12 *Stressing* the urgent need to address intersectional barriers and the underlying gender inequalities prevailing in many countries as well as gender-based violence and discrimination against all women and girls, including unequal access to and control of resources, opportunities, information and services, which undermine

inclusive and sustainable development in the region, including in particular continuing low levels of women's labour force participation, a disproportionate number of women working in the informal economy and shouldering an unequal share of unpaid care work, the prevalence of gender-based violence and harmful practices, poor access to quality health-care services, and low levels of representation and participation in decision-making,

A call to action

- 13 *Call upon Governments in Asia and the Pacific, with the support of all relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, to intensify actions to realize women's equal enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms for an equal future by 2030 through the following actions, broadly clustered under the overarching dimensions of equitable and inclusive development, sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action, shared prosperity and decent work; poverty eradication, social protection and social and public services; freedom from violence, stigma, harmful stereotypes and negative social norms; participation; social dialogue, accountability and gender-responsive institutions; peaceful and inclusive societies; environmental conservation, climate action and resilience-building; data and statistics; and partnerships and regional cooperation and coordination;*

Equitable and inclusive development, shared prosperity and decent work

- 14 Ensuring women's economic empowerment and the full integration of women into the formal economy, and extending social and legal protection to women workers in the informal and non-formal economy by, inter alia:
- a Ensuring that all people, in particular women and girls living in poverty and in vulnerable situations, benefit from inclusive economic growth and development, in alignment with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development¹³ and in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

13 General Assembly resolution 69/313, annex.

- b** Taking appropriate measures and removing obstacles to ensure that all women throughout their life cycle have equal opportunities for education, decent work and favourable conditions of work, including wages that provide for an adequate standard of living and equal pay for work of equal value, an enabling work environment, including for rural women, as well as equal opportunities to diversify their educational and occupational choices and career progression into emerging fields and growing economic sectors, such as science, technology, engineering and mathematics, and information and communications technology, as well as clean energy;
- c** Enacting and enforcing laws and regulatory frameworks and enabling environments and policies that ensure substantive equality by upholding the principle of equal pay for equal work or work of equal value, prohibiting discrimination against women, in particular in the world of work, including labour exploitation, and violence against women in all its forms, including protecting all workers regardless of work status and location, and ensuring equal access to justice and legal assistance;
- d** Acknowledging the contributions to gender equality and encouraging Governments to sign and ratify relevant international conventions aiming at the elimination of violence against and harassment of women and girls in the world of work;
- e** Taking measures to facilitate the financial inclusion and financial literacy of women and their equal access to formal financial services, in particular for women entrepreneurs, to start, run and expand their businesses throughout the supply chain, including by adopting or reviewing financial inclusion strategies, policies and laws, encouraging commercial banking systems and remittance service providers to better serve women, encouraging more private investment in women-owned and women-led businesses, and encouraging the use of innovative tools and platforms, while ensuring that attention is also paid to addressing the unintended consequences of some of the financial services, for example microcredit schemes that can result in a double burden for women, and of gender-responsive macroeconomic policies;
- f** Promoting a socially responsible and accountable private sector that engages as a reliable and consistent partner in the development process and takes into account not only the economic and financial but also the development, social, human rights, gender and environmental

implications of their undertakings, including by respecting principles and frameworks such as the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the United Nations “Protect, Respect and Remedy” Framework¹⁴ and the International Labour Organization Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, as well as labour, environmental and health standards;

- g** Recognizing the contribution of migrants, in particular women migrant workers, to global economic growth and sustainable development, by adopting and implementing national gender-responsive migration policies and legislation, facilitating, where feasible, the safe integration of women migrant workers into the labour market and their access to social protection, and supporting the sustainable, safe reintegration of returning migrant women and girls into their local communities;
- h** Recognizing the important role and contribution of women in rural and remote areas, including indigenous women, as critical agents in the eradication of poverty and in enhancing sustainable agricultural and rural development, as well as sustainable fisheries;
- i** Strengthening policies that support diverse economic activities, including smallholder agriculture and livestock and fisheries production, and that ensure improved productive capacities and incomes, with recognition for innovative work approaches in the various sectors, as well as policies that support food security and strengthened resilience, risk management, and the role and the meaningful participation of women in such activities, without distinction of any kind, including by addressing the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and barriers women face, and supporting, inter alia, equal access to, management of and ownership over land resources, marine, and agricultural and fisheries technologies, as well as women’s innovation and women-led start-ups;
- j** Taking appropriate measures to prevent the informalization of formal economy jobs, to address unjust, unsafe and unhealthy working conditions, and to respond to the trafficking of all women and girls for domestic labour purposes, which significantly affect all women and girls, through, inter alia, the development of a harmonized definition of the informal economy and the promotion of occupational safety and health protection for workers in the informal economy;

- k** Scaling up efforts to accelerate the transition of women from informal employment to formal employment, including access to decent work, education and training, improved wages, social protection and quality childcare;
 - l** Recognizing the need to accelerate efforts to reduce and redistribute the disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work shouldered by women of all ages and ensure the representation of caregivers in decision-making on policies that reflect their needs and interests, and further recognizing that failure to do so will inevitably place women engaged in informal domestic work, including migrant workers, in precarious environments;
 - m** Promoting the transition to formal employment for women employed in informal paid work, including home-based and own-account work, seasonal contracts and part-time work, work in micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, and work in the agriculture and fisheries sectors, among others;
- 15** Increasing access to productive resources that enhance women's self-reliance and incomes and the creation of short- and long-term wage employment for women:
- a** Encouraging the gender-responsive recruitment of women and their timely promotion, especially at senior levels, and the elimination of discriminatory attitudes among management, which enhance women's participation;
 - b** Taking all appropriate measures to ensure support for the participation of women with disabilities in the informal and formal economies, with access to financial services, tools and other specifically tailored platforms;
 - c** Refraining from promulgating and applying any unilateral economic, financial or trade measure not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that impedes the full achievement of economic and social development, particularly in developing countries;

Poverty eradication, social protection and social and public services

- 16 Recognizing women as key contributors and vital agents in combating poverty and inequalities, and ensuring gender-responsive and inclusive social protection systems, public services and infrastructure by, inter alia:
- a Establishing and strengthening inclusive, gender-responsive and age-appropriate social protection systems and institutions and social protection floors as well as access to public services that are well coordinated and adequately resourced to ensure full access to social protection and income security for all women and girls of all ages, without discrimination or any kind of social stigma, and taking measures to progressively achieve higher levels of protection towards universal coverage;
 - b Noting the vital importance of birth registration for the realization of all human rights, particularly given the low levels of birth registration among some indigenous women and girls, women and girls with disabilities, migrant women and girls, and women and girls in rural areas, and expressing further concern that all persons without birth registration may be more vulnerable to marginalization, exclusion, discrimination, violence, statelessness, exploitation and abuse, as well as of guaranteeing universal registration of births and ensuring timely registration of marriages, including by removing physical, administrative, procedural and other barriers that impede access to registration and by providing, where lacking, mechanisms for the registration of births and marriages, including customary and religious marriages;
 - c Identifying and removing barriers that constrain women's and girls' access to public services, such as geographic and institutional barriers, which face women in rural and remote areas and indigenous women in particular, in order to guarantee their access to these services on a regular basis and during emergencies;

- d** Promoting the design and implementation of gender-responsive and participatory social protection, public service and infrastructure programmes through transparent assessments of gendered risks and analyses of women's and girls' exclusion from existing social protection schemes, as well as through gender-responsive planning and budgeting and by strengthening monitoring, evaluation and accountability mechanisms;
 - e** Ensuring that public services are safe and that supportive environments are available, accessible, affordable, gender responsive, culturally appropriate and of sustained good quality for all women and girls;
 - f** Prioritizing investments that contribute to the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including through accessible and affordable childcare and other support services;
 - g** Integrating a gender perspective into the planning and use of public spaces, the design and development of smart cities, communities and rural areas and intelligent mobility planning processes, promoting the mobility and empowerment of women and girls, and ensuring that urban, rural and peripheral public transport, including land and water transport systems and infrastructure, are sustainable, accessible, safe, affordable and gender responsive;
- 17** Accelerating progress towards the goal of universal health coverage that comprises universal and equitable access to gender-responsive quality health-care services and quality, essential, affordable and effective medicines for all:
 - a** Accelerating progress towards achieving the goal of universal health coverage for all women and girls of all ages, while ensuring that the use of such services and medicines does not expose the users to financial hardship, including through the provision of social protection;
 - b** Strengthening efforts to achieve universal access to HIV and AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support and provide HIV-sensitive social protection measures, including cash transfers and other multisectoral programmes, as appropriate, to ensure access to health care, education, housing and employment for all women and girls living with, at risk of, or affected by HIV and AIDS, including co-infections and other sexually transmitted infections, and promoting the active and

meaningful participation, contribution and leadership of women of all ages living with HIV in the context of HIV and AIDS responses;

- c** Ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences;
- d** Recognizing that women's rights include their right to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality, including sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the review outcomes, free of coercion, discrimination and violence, as a contribution to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women;
- e** Ensuring the survival, protection, development and advancement of the girl child by enacting and enforcing laws and policies aimed at preventing and ending violence against women in all its forms and harmful practices such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation, and by providing support for married girls, pregnant girls, adolescent mothers and girls in informal unions, to ensure the survival, protection, development and advancement of the girl child;
- f** Addressing mental health issues as an essential step required for women and children who are victims of violence;
- g** Emphasizing the use of media, including national and local media, mainstream broadcast and print media, and electronic digital media, to raise awareness and inform women, and girls appropriately supported by their families and legal guardians, about available health-care services, preventive health information, and sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action;

- 18 Promoting and respecting the right of women and girls of all ages to education at all levels, especially for those who have been left furthest behind, by, inter alia:
- a Ensuring the right of all women and girls to education, removing disparities at all levels by eliminating discriminatory laws and practices, providing universal access to accessible, inclusive, equal and non-discriminatory quality education, including free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education and affordable lifelong learning, and investing in quality public education systems and infrastructure, as consistent with national laws;
 - b Reaffirming that equal access to quality and inclusive education and training at all levels, in particular in business, trade, administration, management, information and communications technology, science, new and existing technologies, engineering, and arts and mathematics, and the elimination of gender inequalities at all levels, are essential for gender equality, the empowerment of women and poverty eradication and for allowing women's full and equal contribution to, and equal opportunity to benefit from, development;
 - c Addressing changing negative social norms and gender stereotypes in education systems, including in curricula, teaching methodologies and resources, and other instructional materials, that devalue girls' education and prevent women and girls from having equal access to education and employment opportunities, and taking all appropriate measures to eliminate all types of violence in educational institutions;
 - d Facilitating the effective transition from education or unemployment to work, including through skills development and lifelong learning opportunities, to enable the active participation of women and girls, particularly rural women and girls, migrant women and girls, women and girls with disabilities and indigenous women, in development, and women's active participation in governance and decision-making at all levels;
 - e Eliminating occupational segregation by addressing structural barriers, gender stereotypes and negative social norms, promoting women's equal access to and participation in labour markets, education and training, supporting women to diversify their educational and occupational choices in emerging fields and growing economic sectors, such as science, technology, engineering and mathematics, and information and communications technology, and recognizing the value of sectors that have large numbers of women workers;

Freedom from violence, stigma, harmful stereotypes and negative social norms

- 19 Strongly condemning all forms of violence against all women and girls, which is rooted in historical and structural inequality and unequal power relations between men and women, re-emphasizing that sexual and gender-based violence against women and girls, in public and private spheres, is a major impediment to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and that it violates and impairs or nullifies their full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and intensifying efforts to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence and discrimination against all women and girls by, inter alia:
- a Reviewing, amending, enacting and enforcing legislation in reference to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other relevant regional and international human rights obligations and treaties, also taking into consideration laws outside the criminal justice sector, including family-oriented policies to prevent and eliminate all forms of discrimination, violence against women and girls and other harmful practices, including women's unequal status in marriage, child, early and forced marriage, female genital mutilation, female infanticide, sexual harassment and victim-blaming in both the public and private spaces, including in the digital context, by strengthening the capacity of legal systems and institutions to translate legislation into implementation that ensures women's and girls' access to justice and effective remedy;
 - b Adopting, implementing, monitoring and evaluating relevant policies that prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls in the public and private spheres, including in digital contexts, and that ensure access to justice, including by ensuring gender-responsive police investigation services that enable completed prosecutions, providing high-quality protection and support services for victims, survivors and witnesses, strengthening data collection and evidence on violence against women and girls, improving rates of reporting, addressing the high attrition rate from reporting to conviction, reinforcing, where appropriate, criminal laws and procedures relating to all forms of violence against women and girls, and countering

the attitudes of gender inequality that perpetuate violence against women, with a focus on prevention, protection, rescue, rehabilitation and effective redress, including access, without stigma, to social and care services for victims and survivors and culturally appropriate interventions developed in consultation with local communities;

- c Devising, strengthening and implementing, as appropriate, comprehensive anti-trafficking legal and regulatory frameworks and strategies in a gender-responsive and age-, culture- and disability-sensitive manner, to combat and eliminate all forms of domestic and cross-border trafficking in persons, as well as to provide access, as applicable, protection, rehabilitation, repatriation and reintegration assistance to victims of trafficking in persons, recognizing the need to protect the confidentiality and the personal data of victims, and enhancing international cooperation, voluntary information-sharing, and legislative and other measures to counter all forms of exploitation of persons, especially women and girls, including online and offline sexual exploitation and forced labour;
- d Establishing, strengthening and promoting comprehensive, coordinated, interdisciplinary, linguistically and culturally accessible and sustained multisectoral services, programmes and responses for all victims of all forms of violence and other forms of abuse, especially migrant women and girls and children, who are even more vulnerable, that are adequately resourced and that include effective and coordinated action by, as appropriate, relevant stakeholders, such as the police and the justice sector, as well as providers of legal aid services, health-care services, shelters, medical and psychological assistance, counselling services and protection, and improving referral systems, as well as, in the case of girl victims, ensuring that such services, programmes and responses take into account the best interests of the child;
- e Strengthening and allocating resources to national machineries for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women;

20 Transforming negative gender norms, discriminatory social attitudes, and adverse social and cultural patterns of conduct, and eliminating structurally unequal power relations that persist between women and men, in order to realize gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls across all areas by, inter alia:

- a** Designing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating appropriate legislation, reforms and domestic policies that aim to transform negative gender norms, stereotypes and discriminatory social attitudes in order to prevent and eliminate, in all public, private and digital spaces and spheres of human interaction, unequal power relations at the individual, structural and systemic levels whereby women and girls are regarded as subordinate to men and boys, especially with regard to the use of media to perpetuate violence against women and girls, namely pornography and child sex abuse materials;
- b** Collaborating with all relevant stakeholders, including civil society organizations, and engaging men and boys and women and girls, to promote non-discriminatory, culturally appropriate and gender-sensitive portrayals of women and men by challenging and eliminating stereotypes and violence against women and girls, including in digital contexts, and by developing and implementing measures, including regulatory frameworks and monitoring mechanisms, to promote the empowerment of women;
- c** Closing the digital gender gap by enhancing women's participation as users, content creators, employees, entrepreneurs, innovators and leaders through, inter alia, gender-responsive digital governance frameworks, and by increasing access of all women and girls to digital technologies;

Participation, social dialogue, accountability and national women's machinery for gender equality and women's empowerment

- 21 Ensuring national gender-responsive institutions as well as participation, accountability and social dialogue by, inter alia:
- a Ensuring the increased inclusive and effective participation of national gender machinery for gender equality and women's empowerment in the formulation and monitoring of inclusive national development strategies that recognize the specific needs of diverse groups of women, including by strengthening the leadership, mandates, status, and human and financial capacities of coordination mechanisms;
 - b Incorporating a gender perspective into the design, resource allocation, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting of programmes, especially national programmes and projects through all national laws, policies and regulations;
 - c Encouraging a gender-responsive approach to public financial management, including planning, budgeting, and auditing and monitoring across all sectors of public expenditure, for gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls;
 - d Taking measures to remove barriers and provide all women with economic empowerment opportunities to achieve full, equal, substantive and effective participation and access to leadership and senior-level positions at all levels and in all spheres;
 - e Recognizing the important role of civil society and human rights institutions and the private sector in promoting and protecting the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all women and girls, and further encouraging open, inclusive, transparent and meaningful engagement and dialogue among civil society and private sector actors and governments;
 - f Strengthening the meaningful engagement and support of civil society organizations, and integrating a gender perspective into the creation of a safe and enabling environment that ensures that violations or abuses are prevented or promptly and properly investigated and that those responsible are held accountable;

- g** Promoting gender equality and providing a gender-responsive, free and fair electoral process that is inclusive, participatory and non-discriminatory;

Peaceful and inclusive societies

22 Accelerating the implementation of the women, peace and security agenda by, inter alia:

- a** Noting the significance of the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and the need to further accelerate the implementation of the women, peace and security agenda at the subnational, national, regional and international levels;
- b** Ensuring the protection of the rights of all women and girls from human rights violations and abuses and ensuring women's and girls' expeditious access to healing and development programmes and services and legal remedies, including transitional and restorative justice mechanisms;
- c** Promoting the appropriate and meaningful participation and leadership of women, in cooperation with civil society organizations, in efforts to implement the women, peace and security agenda, including preventing violence and extremism and countering terrorism in areas affected by escalating and protracted armed conflicts and related humanitarian crises;
- d** Ensuring systematic attention to, recognition of and support for the important role of women in conflict prevention and resolution, their empowerment, access to and control over resources, and decision-making related to the implementation of the women, peace and security agenda in rebuilding, peacebuilding, peacekeeping in armed conflict, post-conflict planning, economic recovery and sustaining peace;
- e** Building the capacity and leadership of women as peacebuilders, including as mediators, negotiators and responders, at the regional, national and local levels, as appropriate;

- f Encouraging States to take measures to address the particular vulnerability and differentiated needs of women and children among displaced persons through prevention, protection and rehabilitation, including when developing and implementing relevant gender-responsive policies, programmes and services, inter alia, health-care services, and social protection, in a manner that takes into consideration areas affected by armed conflict;

Environmental conservation, climate action and resilience-building

- 23 Integrating and mainstreaming a gender perspective into environmental conservation, protection and rehabilitation, and promoting gender-responsive climate action, disaster risk reduction and resilience-building, taking into account that climate change, particularly the crisis facing Pacific small island developing States and other low-lying countries, has differentiated, considerable impacts on all women and girls, including in countries with nomadic cultures, and that they can be more vulnerable to climate impacts, by, inter alia:
 - a Promoting the active role of women as holders of knowledge and as agents of change in efforts to safeguard the environment and the integration of a gender perspective into policies and programmes related to environmental conservation, protection and rehabilitation, including the conservation and sustainable use of oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, disaster risk reduction, humanitarian responses to natural disasters, resilience-building, environmental and natural resource management and governance, and climate change, with full and equal leadership and participation of women at all levels of policymaking and decision-making, and addressing the challenges for all women and girls posed by climate change, including by facilitating women's access to land, water, clean energy and other natural resources consistent with relevant international agreements;

- b** Enhancing women’s and girls’ resilience to climate change and their participation in decision-making through education and the sustainable use of natural resources, further integrating gender perspectives into policies and programmes related to environmental conservation, including the sustainable use of oceans and marine resources, and ensuring the leadership and full participation of women and girls in climate change mitigation, adaptation and resilience and in environmental conservation activities in accordance with the Paris Agreement;¹⁵
- c** Adopting and implementing gender-responsive strategies on climate change mitigation and adaptation to support the resilience and adaptive capacities of women and girls to respond to and recover from the adverse impacts of climate change, including through the promotion of equal access to essential infrastructure and climate-smart agricultural technology, clean-energy-appropriate financing and technology, humanitarian assistance, food and nutrition, safe drinking water and sanitation, waste management, health-care services, education and training, adequate housing and decent work, social security, and gender-sensitive forecast and early warning systems, with a special focus on women in remote and rural areas;
- d** Identifying and addressing the specific needs of all women and girls through strategies and mechanisms that promote their equal and full participation and leadership, as well as in the gender-responsive planning, delivery, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of holistic disaster risk reduction and management efforts and humanitarian responses to slow-onset events attributed to climate change disasters at all levels, including natural disasters, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030;¹⁶
- e** Further examining the synergies between environmental conservation and the protection of human rights, and strengthening the evidence base for and awareness about gender-specific environmental and health hazards, which disproportionately affect women and children, especially women with disabilities, elderly women and girls, with particular attention paid to the protection and preservation of the knowledge and practices of women in indigenous and local communities;

15 See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.

16 General Assembly resolution 69/283, annex II.

Data and statistics

- 24 Strengthening gender-responsive national statistical systems and data collection, analysis and use by, inter alia:
- a Integrating a gender-responsive approach into national follow-up to and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, including by strengthening national statistical capacities to design, collect, access and publicly disseminate high-quality, reliable and timely data disaggregated by sex, age, income and other characteristics relevant to national contexts, as well as by promoting blended research methodologies using qualitative and quantitative approaches for an enhanced understanding of gender gaps and leveraging the opportunities offered by innovation and technology to measure progress, in collaboration with all relevant stakeholders;
 - b Continuing to develop and enhance standards, methodologies and indicators at the national and international levels to improve data collection, analysis and report writing with regard to gender statistics, and the use and dissemination thereof, as well as information management and coordination, including through data repositories as well as technical and financial collaboration between countries, and leveraging the opportunities offered by innovation and technology to measure progress in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action as well as the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

Partnerships and regional cooperation

- 25 Engaging all relevant stakeholders to promote international and regional cooperation and collaboration by, inter alia:
- a Inviting member States to enhance North-South, South-South, North-North and triangular cooperation as well as responsible public-private partnerships, while noting that national ownership, leadership and capacity-building to implement commitments are indispensable for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls;

- b** Urging developed countries to fully implement their respective official development assistance commitments to achieve development goals and targets;
- c** Calling on the international community and all relevant stakeholders to provide financial resources to assist Governments, upon their request, in their efforts to meet the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 5 on gender equality, as well as other development goals, targets and benchmarks related to gender equality and women's empowerment agreed upon at relevant intergovernmental and United Nations special sessions, meetings, conferences and summits;

26 *Request* the Executive Secretary of the Commission, in cooperation, as appropriate, with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and other relevant United Nations entities, to take the following measures:

- a** To attach significance to the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and of the commitments contained in the present Declaration in the programme of work of the Commission, in line with its mandate to promote and assist the pertinent national institutions in monitoring and implementing the Platform for Action;
- b** To continue to promote regional and subregional dialogue and cooperation among members and associate members of the Commission to support multisectoral policies, strategies and programmes and the sharing of best practices in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of subsequent reviews;
- c** To provide members and associate members of the Commission with support, upon their request, in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and of the commitments contained in the present Declaration at the regional and national levels, including technical assistance to national women's machinery;
- d** To assist members and associate members of the Commission, upon their request, in mainstreaming, as appropriate, the outcomes of the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on the Beijing+25 Review into the implementation of the regional road map for implementing the 2030

Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific¹⁷ and other key regional processes for the review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Asia-Pacific Forum for Sustainable Development;

- e To fully mainstream a gender perspective into relevant Commission activities on data and statistics, including in existing regional statistical programmes and statistical and qualitative training programmes, as well as other relevant programmes of the Commission;
- f To continue to strengthen coordination with regional civil society through, inter alia, existing regional civil society engagement mechanisms;
- g To convene a regional intergovernmental conference in 2024, subject to the appropriate Economic and Social Council mandate, to review regional progress by members and associate members of the Commission, with the participation of representatives of civil society as observers, in the further implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and in the implementation of the commitments contained in the present Declaration;
- h To submit the present Declaration to the Commission on the Status of Women at its sixty-fourth session and to the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific at its seventy-sixth session.

Report of the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on the **Beijing+25 Review**



I. Matters calling for action by the Commission or brought to its attention

- 1 The Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on the Beijing+25 Review recommends that the Asia-Pacific Declaration on Advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Beijing+25 Review be submitted to the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), at its seventy-sixth session, for endorsement.

II. Proceedings

A. 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 (Agenda item 2)

- 2 The Conference had before it the note by the secretariat on the review of the progress and remaining challenges in implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/MCIBR/2019/1).
- 3 The Conference took note of the findings in the note by the secretariat.
- 4 Representatives of the following members and associate members of the Commission made statements: Afghanistan; Armenia; Australia; Azerbaijan; Bangladesh; Bhutan; Cambodia; China; Fiji; India; Indonesia; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Japan; Kazakhstan; Kiribati; Lao People's Democratic Republic; Malaysia; Maldives; Marshall Islands; Mongolia; Myanmar; Nauru; Nepal; New Zealand;



Pakistan; Palau; Papua New Guinea; Philippines; Republic of Korea; Russian Federation; Samoa; Solomon Islands; Sri Lanka; Thailand; Timor-Leste; Tonga; Turkmenistan; Tuvalu; United States of America; Uzbekistan; and Viet Nam.

- 5 The representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations made a statement.
- 6 The representative of the Asia-Pacific Civil Society Steering Committee on Beijing+25, speaking on behalf of civil society organizations, made a statement.
- 7 The Conference highlighted the achievements, challenges and priority areas for realizing gender equality and women's empowerment. It also identified the critical issues and policy responses for the effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in the Asia-Pacific region. The Conference reaffirmed its commitment to the accelerated implementation of the Platform for Action, as the guiding document for gender equality and for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- 8 Several representatives reiterated their support for the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security as well as other relevant conventions and treaties, such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- 9 Many representatives reported on legal reforms, policies, plans of action and institutional mechanisms to mainstream gender and create an enabling environment to achieve the objectives of the Beijing Platform for Action. Some representatives stressed the need to focus on vulnerable groups of women,

especially older, rural, indigenous, migrant, displaced and refugee women, female-headed households, and women and girls with disabilities. Some representatives discussed challenges, such as financial limitations, lack of quality sex-disaggregated data and the persistence of harmful traditional practices, which hindered the successful achievement of the Platform for Action. Several representatives also highlighted the threat posed by climate change.

- 10 Several representatives emphasized the importance of achieving women's economic empowerment and reported on measures taken to promote women's labour force participation and decent work. Some representatives also reported on collaboration with the private sector to provide microfinance and create conducive environments for women to stay in the workforce after childbirth, through measures such as extended maternity and paternity leave, day-care facilities, lactation rooms and flexible working hours. Other representatives spoke about expanding public childcare facilities and care for older persons to help to reduce and redistribute unpaid and domestic care. Despite these efforts, some representatives reported persisting barriers to women's participation in the labour force. The Conference recognized that more efforts were required to tackle the high rates of informal work and ensure that women in the informal sector were covered by social protection.
- 11 Several representatives reported on efforts with regard to women's entrepreneurship, noting that women were often leading small and medium-sized enterprises, as well as support extended to women in agriculture and women artisans.
- 12 The Conference recognized that some women faced additional challenges in the workforce. Several representatives emphasized efforts to create inclusive environments for women with disabilities, through inclusive education and disability-inclusive policies. Several representatives reported on concrete plans to address sexual harassment of women in the workplace. Representatives also highlighted policies to assist single mothers.
- 13 While living standards had increased across the region, poverty persisted and affected women more than men. Several representatives reported that more gender-responsive social protection systems had been developed by investing in maternity protection, child grants, social insurance for women in the informal sector and conditional cash transfers.
- 14 The Conference stressed the importance of providing accessible, affordable, high-quality health services for all women and girls throughout the life cycle. Several representatives shared information on efforts to promote universal

health coverage, including for refugees. Representatives also reported having expanded access to sexual and reproductive health services and efforts to reduce the unmet need for contraception. Several representatives reported on the provision of safe abortion services to protect the health of women, while one representative noted that abortion was not a method of family planning.

- 15 The Conference noted that the region had made notable achievements in education, reaching near gender parity in primary and secondary education and high levels of female participation in tertiary education. Several representatives highlighted policies that had facilitated those outcomes, including the provision of quality education and conditional cash transfers. Other representatives spoke about focusing on diversifying women's educational and occupational choices as well as career progression for women, particularly in sectors such as science, technology, engineering and mathematics, information and communications technology, and agricultural technology.
- 16 The Conference affirmed its commitment to freedom of women and girls from all forms of violence, stigma, harmful stereotypes and negative social norms. Several representatives highlighted laws, policies and strategies to prevent and respond to gender-based violence and to protect survivors and their children through comprehensive and coordinated support services for survivors of all forms of violence. Ending child marriage and female genital mutilation were highlighted as key priorities by several representatives.
- 17 Several representatives noted that gender sensitization programmes and national campaigns to raise awareness of women's rights and efforts to engage men and boys and youth, as well as police participation and better data, were essential to ending violence against women.
- 18 The Conference noted the initiatives of several members to enhance women's political participation through capacity development, leadership training and mentorship, as well as legislative and policy changes. Promoting women's leadership was recognized as integral to increasing women's political participation. Some representatives reported on the use of quotas for women in political parties, representative institutions at all levels and private companies.
- 19 The Conference also emphasized the importance of gender mainstreaming in national policies and development plans, including through the creation of coordination mechanisms. Some representatives mentioned the existence of mechanisms to monitor the gendered impacts of policies such as gender-responsive budgeting and gender evaluation mechanisms.

- 20 Several representatives highlighted the role and contribution of civil society to gender equality and the importance of maintaining an open and transparent dialogue with different stakeholders.
- 21 Sexual harassment was identified as a factor constraining women's participation, and several representatives reported on measures to address sexual harassment in the workplace and online.
- 22 Several representatives reported on law and policy reforms and initiatives to combat trafficking in women and children and to strengthen the capacity of security sector institutions with regard to human rights and the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence in conflict to promote peaceful and inclusive societies. Representatives highlighted the importance of expanding access to social services in conflict and emergency settings. Several representatives noted that their countries hosted large refugee populations of women and girls and outlined efforts to provide support and protection to those populations.
- 23 Some representatives noted the significance of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security, and the forthcoming twentieth anniversary of that resolution, as well as Security Council resolution 1820 (2008) with regard to sexual violence in war, and subsequent resolutions, and general recommendation No. 30 (2013) on women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. Representatives recognized the negative effects that conflict had on efforts to achieve the rights of women and girls as envisioned in the Beijing Platform for Action. One representative emphasized the negative impact of unilateral sanctions on the achievement of gender equality.
- 24 Some representatives noted the development and implementation of national action plans regarding women, peace and security. Representatives reported on measures to support the increased and meaningful participation and leadership of women in conflict prevention and peacebuilding processes. Representatives reported that their Governments had also recognized the importance of women's representation and leadership in peacekeeping.
- 25 Several representatives noted the damaging impacts of climate change, which disproportionately impacted women, including through reduced food security, displacement-related loss of identity, reduced agricultural production, and threats to livelihood and well-being. The Conference affirmed the critical role of women in safeguarding the environment and the need to integrate women's leadership and participation into policies and programmes on disaster risk reduction, climate change mitigation, adaptation and resilience, environmental

resource management and governance to ensure a gender perspective. Some representatives highlighted the importance of climate justice and meeting the needs of vulnerable groups, such as persons with disabilities, children, older women, and minority, indigenous and rural populations in disaster response strategies.

- 26 Several representatives highlighted the importance of sex-disaggregated data and data on sexual and reproductive health, unpaid care, and domestic violence to support evidence-based policymaking on gender equality. Several representatives also discussed initiatives to strengthen gender statistics through the development of coordination mechanisms, knowledge products on gender statistics and new surveys and called for further cooperation to build capacities.
- 27 Several representatives reported on national indicators to monitor progress on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and had initiated data collection for the gender-related Goals.
- 28 The representative of the Asia-Pacific Civil Society Steering Committee on Beijing+25 emphasized the need for partnership on gender equality based on equality, human rights and international texts such as the Charter of the United Nations and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The representative called for a fair distribution of costs on the basis of equity and social justice and suggested the convening of a regional forum on women on a biennial basis.

B. Priority issues pertaining to the advancement of gender equality and the empowerment of women in Asia and the Pacific (Agenda item 3)

- 29 The Conference had before it document ESCAP/MCBR/2019/1.
- 30 The Conference reviewed emerging and priority areas for action in order to provide recommendations for the acceleration of the implementation of the commitments contained in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in the context of the 2030 Agenda and with regard to realizing gender equality for women and girls within the following four thematic areas: (a) inclusive development, shared prosperity and decent work; (b) realizing freedom from violence, stigma and stereotypes; (c) realizing accountability, participation and gender-responsive institutions; and (d) environmental conservation, climate action and resilience-building.

Realizing gender equality for women and girls in the thematic area of inclusive development, shared prosperity and decent work (Agenda item 3 (a))

- 31** The Conference benefited from a panel discussion moderated by Mr. Srinivas Tata, Director, Social Development Division, ESCAP, with the following panellists: Mr. Leao Talalelei Tuitama, Minister, Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development, Samoa; Ms. Durreen Shahnaz, founder and Chief Executive Officer, Impact Investment Exchange Asia (IIX) and the IIX Foundation; Mr. Jayesh Ranjan, Principal Secretary, Industries and Commerce Department, Information Technology, Electronics and Communications Department, Government of Telangana, India; Ms. Nadira Mohd Yusoff, Woman Entrepreneur, Association of Southeast Asian Nations Women Entrepreneurs Network, Malaysia; and Ms. Estrella “Esther” Penunia, Secretary-General, Asian Farmers’ Association for Sustainable Rural Development.
- 32** Panellists discussed good practices and efforts from public and private sector perspectives to promote women’s access to finance, provide entrepreneurial support and increase the use of technology to exploit new opportunities for women, including in the care economy and in rural areas. The potential for greater involvement of private financing through innovative social bonds was emphasized, and the role of women-focused innovation hubs and the virtuous cycle of women’s engagement in entrepreneurship were highlighted. Panellists stressed the need for flexible working arrangements and partnerships to unlock the potential of women.
- 33** Representatives of the following members and associate members made statements: China; Indonesia; Japan; New Zealand; and Papua New Guinea.
- 34** The representative of the Asia-Pacific Civil Society Steering Committee on Beijing+25 made a statement.
- 35** Representatives noted laws, action plans and incentives for public and private bodies to increase women’s employment, reduce the gender pay gap and address discrimination in the formal and informal economy. Measures to promote entrepreneurship among women and specific initiatives to provide funding through microfinance and access to government funding were highlighted.
- 36** The representative of the Asia-Pacific Civil Society Steering Committee on Beijing+25 emphasized the need to regulate the private sector effectively, recognize the value of unpaid work, ensure social protection for women

workers and address the gender pay gap, especially for women in the informal sector, women working from home, domestic workers and migrant and refugee women.

Realizing gender equality for women and girls in the thematic area of freedom from violence, stigma and stereotypes (Agenda item 3 (b))

- 37 The Conference benefited from a panel discussion moderated by Ms. Bandana Rana, Vice-Chair, Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, Nepal, with the following panellists: Ms. Hoang Thi Thu Huyen, Vice-Director, Gender Equality Department, Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs, Viet Nam; Ms. Kim Henderson, Director of Policy and Evaluation, OurWatch, Australia; and Ms. Veronica Fonova, founder of the youth Kaz-Fem group and feminist activist, Kazakhstan.
- 38 The panellists discussed good practices to address violence against women and girls. Sexual harassment and sexual violence were widespread in public spaces, such as schools and workplaces, and the panellists outlined measures and tools to counter them. They highlighted the importance of survivor-centred responses, justice and prevention and the need for coordinated and systemic approaches to strengthen collaboration between different sectors, including the justice, police, social and health sectors. Data collection and the effective use of indicators, reporting and markers of progress to measure impact were critical. Panellists also emphasized the need to advocate for longer-term processes addressing structural barriers that led to the gender pay gap, a scarcity of women in decision-making roles and harmful stereotypes around masculinity.
- 39 The perspectives of youth were shared, together with their actions, through solidarity, to challenge gender norms, stigma and stereotypes and address underlying structures that perpetuated all forms of violence against women and girls.
- 40 Representatives of the following members and associate members made statements: Australia; Bangladesh; China; France; Indonesia; Japan; Kazakhstan; Lao People's Democratic Republic; Myanmar; Pakistan; Papua New Guinea; and Tajikistan.
- 41 The representative of the Asia-Pacific Civil Society Steering Committee on Beijing+25 made a statement.

- 42 Representatives reported on good practices in the form of laws, action plans and services to prevent violence against women and girls, protect and support survivors, and engage greater participation of men and boys. Representatives also noted that commitments needed to be translated into comprehensive implementation, requiring funding and action plans.
- 43 The representative of the Asia-Pacific Civil Society Steering Committee on Beijing+25 emphasized the need to expand the definition of violence against women, uphold the absence of consent as the legal standard in laws on rape, focus on restorative justice and support for survivors of violence, ensure alignment of policies with Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security, and uphold sexual and reproductive rights of women and access to information.

Realizing gender equality for women and girls in the thematic area of accountability, participation and gender-responsive institutions (Agenda item 3 (c))

- 44 The Conference benefited from a panel discussion moderated by Ms. Cai Cai, Chief, Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Section, Social Development Division, ESCAP, with the following panellists: Ms. Masoumeh Ebtekar, Vice-President for Women and Family Affairs, Vice-Presidency for Women and Family Affairs, Islamic Republic of Iran; Ms. Lee Jung Ok, Minister, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family, Republic of Korea; Ms. Ing Kantha Phavi, Minister, Ministry of Women's Affairs, Cambodia; Ms. Zhang Haidi, Vice-Chair of the State Council Working Committee on Disability and Chair of the China Disabled Persons' Federation and Ms. Mossarat Qadeem, Founder and Executive Director, Paiman Alumni Trust.
- 45 The panellists shared their experiences in institutionalizing gender mainstreaming at the national and local levels. They emphasized that political will, promoting women's leadership and collaboration among ministries were essential for the successful mainstreaming of gender equality, together with the inclusion, support and collaboration of stakeholders and partners. Gender-responsive budgeting, planning, and monitoring and evaluation were highlighted as key tools to inform, design and monitor legal and policy progress in gender equality and women's empowerment, underpinned by quality sex-disaggregated data.

- 46 Representatives of the following members and associate members made statements: Australia; China; Indonesia; Mongolia; Papua New Guinea; and Republic of Korea.
- 47 The representative of the Asia-Pacific Civil Society Steering Committee on Beijing+25 made a statement.
- 48 Representatives shared good practices, highlighting legislative changes and national action plans implemented to mainstream gender equality, build gender-responsive institutions and make progress with regard to gender-responsive budgeting. To achieve these goals, some representatives noted the need to collaborate with stakeholders such as the private sector and the media, and the necessity of increasing parliamentary oversight of these policies.
- 49 The representative of the Asia-Pacific Civil Society Steering Committee on Beijing+25 emphasized the responsibility of the State and its institutions to provide security, protection and safety to women and girls and called for more and better laws, policies and data to address rising violence against women and girls throughout their life cycle.

Realizing gender equality for women and girls in the thematic area of environmental conservation, climate action and resilience-building (Agenda item 3 (d))

- 50 The Conference benefited from a panel moderated by Ms. Anna-Karin Jafors, Deputy Regional Director, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, which comprised the following panellists: Mr. Mizan R. Khan, Deputy Director, International Centre for Climate Change and Development, and Programme Director, Least Developed Countries Universities Consortium on Climate Change, Bangladesh; Ms. Amelia M. Nairoba, Acting Principal Research Officer, Research, Policy and Monitoring Unit of the Department for Women, Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Fiji; Mr. Joe Mari S. Francisco, Development Management Officer, National Commission for Climate Change, Philippines; Ms. Seblewongel Negussie, Gender and Social Specialist, Division of Country Programming, Green Climate Fund, Republic of Korea; and Mrs. Nguyen Ngoc Ly, Director, Centre for Environment and Community Research, Viet Nam.

- 51 The panellists highlighted initiatives to support women’s meaningful participation in environmental conservation and climate change adaptation, mitigation and resilience, including through gender mainstreaming in climate action plans and mainstreaming climate into gender policies. There was a need for quality data to measure the impacts of climate change on women. Examples were provided of concrete projects that supported the participation of disadvantaged women in environmental management, thereby raising their standard of living while protecting the environment. The importance of mainstreaming gender into national adaptation plans and nationally determined contributions was also discussed.
- 52 Noting that gender-based violence and human trafficking, including of children, often increased after disasters, the panellists stressed the need to sensitize local communities and emergency respondents to those risks. They also highlighted the importance of women’s preparedness against climate and disaster risks, including through appropriate early warning systems and access to family’s savings and financial services in general.
- 53 Representatives of the following members and associate members made statements: Bhutan; Indonesia; Japan; Mongolia; and Myanmar.
- 54 The representative of the Asia-Pacific Civil Society Steering Committee on Beijing+25 made a statement.
- 55 Several representatives emphasized the importance of preparedness in disaster risk reduction and recovery, paying attention to the different needs and capacities of men and women, and taking into account concerns regarding sexual and reproductive health. The results of gender analyses presented revealed little recognition of the impact of climate change on women. The contribution of women and girls to increasing societal awareness and cooperation for climate action was noted.
- 56 The representative of the Asia-Pacific Civil Society Steering Committee on Beijing+25 highlighted that urgent action was needed to prioritize human and environmental well-being.

C. Other matters (Agenda item 4)

- 57 There were no other matters addressed by the Conference.

D. Adoption of the outcome document and report of the Conference (Agenda item 5)

- 58 The Conference had before it the document entitled “Asia-Pacific Declaration on Advancing Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment: Beijing+25 Review” (ESCAP/MCBR/2019/L.4/Rev.1).
- 59 A working group was established to finalize the draft outcome document in parallel with the plenary sessions of the Conference. Ms. Rhodora M. Bucoy, Chairperson, Philippine Commission on Women (Philippines) was elected Chair. Ms. Fathimath Yumna, Deputy Minister of Gender, Family and Social Services (Maldives) was elected Vice-Chair. The outcome document and report would serve as the Asia-Pacific regional input to the Commission on the Status of Women at its sixty-fourth session on the 25-year review of progress in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and would be submitted for the consideration and endorsement of the Commission at its seventy-sixth session, in 2020.
- 60 The Asia-Pacific Declaration on Advancing Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment: Beijing+25 Review was adopted on 29 November 2019 by a recorded vote of 37 to 1, with no abstentions. The voting was as follows:
- a In favour: Afghanistan; Armenia; Australia; Azerbaijan; Bangladesh; Bhutan; Cambodia; China; Fiji; India; Indonesia; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Japan; Kazakhstan; Kiribati; Lao People’s Democratic Republic; Malaysia; Maldives; Marshall Islands; Mongolia; Myanmar; Nepal; New Zealand; Pakistan; Palau; Papua New Guinea; Philippines; Republic of Korea; Russian Federation; Samoa; Solomon Islands; Tajikistan; Thailand; Timor-Leste; Tonga; United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; and Viet Nam;
 - b Against: United States of America.
- 61 The representative of the United States of America stated that his delegation had called for a vote on the Asia-Pacific Declaration on Advancing Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment: Beijing+25 Review due to the specific references to “sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights”. The representative noted that the United States of America did not accept references to “sexual and reproductive health”, “sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights”, “safe termination of pregnancy” or other language that suggested or explicitly

stated that access to legal abortion was necessarily included in the more general terms of “health services” or “health care services” in particular contexts concerning women. He noted that there was no international right to abortion, nor was there any duty on the part of States to finance or facilitate abortion. Furthermore, consistent with the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action and the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and their reports, the representative of the United States of America stated that the United States did not recognize abortion as a method of family planning, nor did it support abortion in its global health assistance.

- 62 Representatives of a number of countries expressed strong support for the adoption of the Asia-Pacific Declaration on Advancing Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment: Beijing+25 Review by consensus. The Declaration reflected the solidarity and consensus of the Commission achieved through a thorough, very hard and long-fought negotiation. Representatives expressed ownership of the outcome document that was a representation of the realities in the Asia-Pacific region. The representative of France was not in the plenary at the time of voting but subsequently expressed his delegation’s support for the Declaration.
- 63 Some representatives expressed reservations to paragraphs of the Declaration. China expressed a reservation on the term “women human rights defenders” in paragraph 9, noting that there was no international consensus on the definition of women human rights defenders and that the term was not well defined. India expressed a reservation on the term “indigenous” in paragraphs 14 (h), 16 (b), 16 (c), 21 (d) and 26 (e) because India considered its entire population as indigenous and that there were no separate indigenous groups. The Islamic Republic of Iran expressed reservations on paragraph 22 concerning the women, peace and security agenda. In particular, the Islamic Republic of Iran highlighted that all provisions, concepts and terminologies in the outcome document, particularly those concerning the section on women, peace and security, were implemented in accordance with its national laws, regulations, priorities and commitments. It further reaffirmed its commitment to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in full respect of its religious, cultural and moral values.
- 64 A statement delivered by the representative of the Asia-Pacific Civil Society Steering Committee on Beijing+25 highlighted the need for transformative and structural change and the inclusion of civil society in the intergovernmental process. It further stressed the imminent threats resulting from the climate crisis, which would not wait for the next five years.

III. Organization

A. Opening, duration and organization of the Conference

- 65 The Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on the Beijing+25 Review was held in Bangkok from 27 to 29 November 2019.
- 66 The Executive Secretary of ESCAP, the Deputy Executive Director of UN-Women and the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, delivered opening statements. a representative of the civil society organizations also delivered a statement.

B. Attendance

- 67 The Conference was attended by representatives of the following members and associate members: Afghanistan; Armenia; Australia; Azerbaijan; Bangladesh; Bhutan; Cambodia; China; Cook Islands; Fiji; France; India; Indonesia; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Japan; Kazakhstan; Kiribati; Lao People's Democratic Republic; Macao, China; Malaysia; Maldives; Marshall Islands; Mongolia; Myanmar; Nauru; Nepal; New Zealand; Pakistan; Palau; Papua New Guinea; Philippines; Republic of Korea; Russian Federation; Samoa; Solomon Islands; Sri Lanka; Tajikistan; Thailand; Timor-Leste; Tonga; Turkey; Turkmenistan; Tuvalu; United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; United States of America; Uzbekistan; and Viet Nam.
- 68 Representatives of the following Permanent Observers to ESCAP attended: Austria; Egypt; Italy; Mexico; and Switzerland. In addition, representatives of Finland and Sweden attended as observers.
- 69 Representatives of the following United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and funds attended: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; International Labour Organization (ILO); United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; United Nations Human Settlements Programme; Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS; United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); UN-Women; and World Health Organization.

- 70 Representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations attended: Asian Development Bank; Pacific Community; Pacific Islands Forum secretariat; and South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation.
- 71 Representatives of the following non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and other entities attended: Aahung; Aaprabasi Mahila Kamdar Samuha Nepal; Academic Centre for Education, Culture and Research; ACT Alliance - Action by Churches Together; Adivasi Mahila Maha Sangh; Anglican Church in Aotearoa New Zealand and Polynesia; Area Networking and Development Initiative; Asia Justice and Rights; Asia Pacific Alliance for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights; Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development; Asia Pacific Network of Sex Workers; Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women; Asia-Pacific Human Rights Information Center; Asia-Pacific Women's Watch; Association for the Advancement of Feminism; Association of Southeast Asian Nations-United States Agency for International Development Partnership for Regional Optimization within the Political-Security and Socio-Cultural Communities (PROSPECT); Bandhu Social Welfare Society; Bangladesh Mahila Parishad; Beyond Beijing Committee Nepal; Blind Women Association, Nepal; Cambodian Non-governmental Organization Committee on the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women; CARE International; Center for International Forestry Research; Centre for Human Rights and Development; Centre for Refugee Research; Centre for Women's Resources; Church's Auxiliary for Social Action; cnlgbtdata.com; Communication Forum of Community with Special Needs in Aceh; Community Care for Emergency Response and Rehabilitation; Deccan Development Society; Dem-Ololt; Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era; Development Learning Together; Disabled Peoples' International, Asia Pacific region; Ecoforum of Non-Governmental Organizations of Uzbekistan; Equality Rights Alliance; FemAgora; Feminist Dalit Organization; Feminist League; Fiji Council of Social Services; Fiji Women's Rights Movement; Ford Foundation; Forum for Dignity Initiatives; Forum of Women's Non-governmental Organizations of Kyrgyzstan; Girl Determined; Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women; Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand; Gramya Resource Centre for Women; Guahan Coalition for Peace and Justice; Haus of Khameleon; HerStory Foundation; Hong Kong Federation of Women's Centres; Indonesian Association of Women with Disabilities; Institute for Woman's Empowerment; International Centre for Research on Women; International Community of Women Living with HIV Asia and Pacific; International Council of Women; International Drug Policy Consortium; International Federation of Business and Professional Women; International Planned Parenthood Federation; International Planned

Parenthood Federation/East and South East Asia and Oceania Region; International Women's Development Agency; International Women's Health Coalition; Jagori; Jagriti Mahila Maha Sangh; Japan Accountability Caucus for the Beijing Conference; Japanese Organization for International Cooperation in Family Planning; Karduk Business and Entrepreneurship Consultancy Center; Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Commission on the Status of Women; Kongres Wanita Indonesia; Korea Women's Associations United; Korean Women's Development Institute; Landesa Rural Development Institute; La'o Hamutuk; LovelsDiversity; Mahila Dakshata Samiti; Mahila Jan Adhikar Samiti; Media Monitor for Women Network; Mitra Perempuan; Monfemnet National Network; Musawah; Muslim Personal Law Reform Action Group, Sri Lanka; Naripokkho; National Alliance of Women; National Indigenous Women Forum; National Rural Women's Coalition; Nazariya: a Queer Feminist Resource Group; Nepal Mahila Ekata Samaj; Nirantar Trust; OutRight Action International; OxYGen Foundation for Protection of Youth and Women Rights; Pacific Disability Forum; People's Health Institute, Korea; Perkumpulan Pemberdayaan Perempuan untuk Keadilan Gender (Institute for Women's Empowerment); Plan International; Public Organization of Otif; Q Space; Qbukatabu; Rede Feto Timor-Leste; Regional Community Forestry Training Centre; Research Centre for Gender, Family and Environment in Development; Respect Empowerment Networking and Employment for Women Foundation; Rising Flame; Rural Women's Association "Alga"; SAHAYOG; SAHR WARU Women's Action and Resource Unit; Samoa Umbrella for Non-Governmental Organizations Inc.; Save the Children; Settlement Services International; Shirakat – Partnership for Development; Shirkat Gah - Women's Resource Centre; Shobujer Ovijan Foundation; Sightsavers; Sister in Islam; Society for Rural Education and Development; Society for Women's Action and Training Initiatives; Solidaritas Perempuan; Solomon Ports; Soroptimist International; Special Talent Exchange Program; Tamilnadu Women's Forum; TEDxAbayStWomen; Timor-Leste People with Disability Association; Tonga Leitis Youth Department; United Filipinos in Hong Kong; Uthema; Voice for Change; VPRIDE; We and Equality; Wings of Liberty; Women for Change; Women Forum for Women Nepal; Women's International League for Peace and Freedom – Australia; Women in Governance North-East India; Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management; Women With Disability Advocacy Network; Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights; Women's Health Foundation; Women's Major Group; Young People Independent Alliance; YP Foundation; Yunnan Gender and Development Research Centre, Yunnan Academy of Social Science; and Zonta International.

C. Election of officers

72 The Conference elected the following officers:

Chair: Ms. Mereseini Vuniwaqa (Fiji)

Vice-Chairs: Ms. Nabila Musleh (Afghanistan)

Ms. Zhanna Andreyan (Armenia)

Ms. Fazilatunnesa Indira (Bangladesh)

Ms. Ing Kantha Phavi (Cambodia)

Ms. Xia Jie (China)

Ms. Zhang Haidi (China)

Ms. Sri Danti Anwar (Indonesia)

Ms. Masoumeh Ebtekar (Islamic Republic of Iran)

Mr. Taoaba Kaiea (Kiribati)

Ms. Bouachanh Syhanath (Lao People's Democratic Republic)

Ms. Shidhatha Shareef (Maldives)

Ms. Amenta Matthew (Marshall Islands)

Mr. Win Myat Aye (Myanmar)

Mr. Wake Goruson Goi (Papua New Guinea)

Ms. Lee Jung Ok (Republic of Korea)

Mr. Leao Talalelei Tuitama (Samoa)

Ms. Freda Tuki Soriocomua (Solomon Islands)

Mr. Chuti Krairiksh (Thailand)

Mr. Vatau Mefi Hui (Tonga)

Mr. Le Quan (Viet Nam)

D. Agenda

73 The Conference adopted the following agenda:

- 1 Opening of the Conference:
 - a Opening statements;
 - b Election of officers;
 - c Adoption of the agenda.
- 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.
- 3 Priority issues pertaining to the advancement of gender equality and the empowerment of women in Asia and the Pacific:
 - a Realizing gender equality for women and girls in the thematic area of inclusive development, shared prosperity and decent work;
 - b Realizing gender equality for women and girls in the thematic area of freedom from violence, stigma and stereotypes;
 - c Realizing gender equality for women and girls in the thematic area of accountability, participation and gender-responsive institutions;
 - d Realizing gender equality for women and girls in the thematic area of environmental conservation, climate action and resilience-building.
- 4 Other matters.
- 5 Adoption of the outcome document and report of the Conference.
- 6 Closing of the Conference.

E. Side events and special sessions

74 The following side events and special sessions were held in conjunction with the Conference:

- a 27 November 2019: Rewriting the narrative – commemoration of the 16 days of activism against gender-based violence;
- b 27 November 2019: Pathways to influence: promoting the role of women’s transformative leadership to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific;
- c 28 November 2019: Gender equality and online violence against women: experiences from South Korea and Asia, organized by Korean Women’s Development Institute, UN-Women and the Republic of Korea;
- d 28 November 2019: Celebrating the twentieth anniversary of Security Council resolution 1325: identifying good practices on women, peace and security across ASEAN, organized by the ASEAN secretariat and UNWomen;
- e 28 November 2019: Female-headed households: a pathway to inclusion, organized by the Islamic Republic of Iran;
- f 28 November 2019: From Cairo to Beijing: accelerating the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action, 2019, organized by UNFPA, the Philippine Commission on Women and the International Planned Parenthood Federation;
- g 28 November 2019: Why IT matters: gender digital divides in the Asia-Pacific region, organized by the United Nations University Institute on Computing and Society in Macao, China; ESCAP; the Macao Foundation; and the International Telecommunication Union;
- h 28 November 2019: Borderless youth forum showcase: innovation and gender justice, organized by the Thailand Institute of Justice, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and UN-Women;

- i 28 November 2019: Champions for change: women fighting for climate action, organized by United Nations Environment Programme, the ACT Alliance and UN-Women;
- j 28 November 2019: Generation equality forum: towards a global pact for gender equality, organized by the Government of France;
- k 29 November 2019: The time is now: partnerships and innovative financing to close the gender gap, co-hosted by UN-Women;
- l 29 November 2019: Transforming the future of work for gender equality, organized by UNDP, the Contact Base and ILO;
- m 29 November 2019: Building feminist movements and achieving Beijing accountability: feminist participatory action research, organized by Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development and Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women;
- n 29 November 2019: Girls count: girls' rights and gender data in the Asia-Pacific region, organized by UNICEF, the Plan International, UNFPA, UNDP and UN-Women;
- o 29 November 2019: Unlocking opportunities for empowerment with gender-sensitive infrastructure, organized by United Nations Office for Project Services and UN-Women;
- p 29 November 2019: 25 years after Beijing: promising practices and successful measures in enhancing safe migration for women workers in ASEAN, organized by ILO, UN-Women and the Delegation of the European Union to Thailand.

Annex

List of documents

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
General series		
ESCAP/MCBBR/2019/1	Review of the progress and remaining challenges in implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in Asia and the Pacific	2 and 3
ESCAP/MCBBR/2019/2/Rev.1	Report of the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on the Beijing+25 Review	
ESCAP/MCBBR/2019/2/Add.1	Asia-Pacific Declaration on Advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Beijing+25 Review	
Limited series		
ESCAP/MCBBR/2019/L.1	Provisional agenda	1 (c)
ESCAP/MCBBR/2019/L.2	Annotated provisional agenda	1 (c)
ESCAP/MCBBR/2019/L.3	Draft report of the Conference	5
ESCAP/MCBBR/2019/L.4/Rev.1	Asia-Pacific Declaration on Advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Beijing+25 Review	5
Information available online		
www.unescap.org/events/asia-pacific-regional-review-B25	Information for participants	
www.unescap.org/events/asia-pacific-regional-review-B25	List of participants	
www.unescap.org/events/asia-pacific-regional-review-B25	Tentative programme	

