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## Commission on the Status of Women

### Sixty-ninth session

New York, 10–21 March 2025

Item 3 of the provisional agenda\*

**Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”**

**Draft resolution submitted by the Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women on the basis of informal consultations**

**Political declaration on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women**

*The Commission on the Status of Women*

*Adopts the political declaration annexed to the present resolution.*

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\* E/CN.6/2025/L.1.



## Annex

**Political declaration on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women**

*We, the Ministers and representatives of Governments,*

*Having gathered* at the sixty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, in New York, on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the historic Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing in 1995, to undertake a review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action<sup>1</sup> and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”,<sup>2</sup> including an assessment of current challenges and gaps that affect the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the achievement of 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 throughout their life course and its contribution towards the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>3</sup> as well as to ensure the acceleration of the implementation of the Platform for Action, with a commitment to ensuring the mainstreaming of a gender perspective into the preparations for and the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to all the major United Nations conferences and summits in the development, economic, social, environmental, humanitarian and related fields so that they effectively contribute to the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls,

1. *Reaffirm* the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and the declarations of the Commission on the Status of Women on the tenth, fifteenth, twentieth and twenty-fifth anniversaries of the Fourth World Conference on Women<sup>4</sup> and commit to their full, effective and accelerated implementation;

2. *Emphasize* that the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the fulfilment of the obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women<sup>5</sup> are mutually reinforcing in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and the full and equal enjoyment of all their human rights and fundamental freedoms, and call upon States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the Convention and the Optional Protocol thereto;<sup>6</sup>

3. *Recognize* that 2025 provides a momentous opportunity to bring Member States together to intensify action to achieve the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, with the convergence of the thirtieth

<sup>1</sup> *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.

<sup>2</sup> General Assembly resolution [S-23/2](#), annex, and resolution [S-23/3](#), annex.

<sup>3</sup> General Assembly resolution [70/1](#).

<sup>4</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 7* and corrigendum ([E/2005/27](#) and [E/2005/27/Corr.1](#)), chap. I, sect. A, and Economic and Social Council decision 2005/232; *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2010, Supplement No. 7* and corrigendum ([E/2010/27](#) and [E/2010/27/Corr.1](#)), chap. I, sect. A, and Economic and Social Council decision 2010/232; *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2015, Supplement No. 7* ([E/2015/27](#)), chap. I, sect. C, resolution [59/1](#), annex; and *ibid.*, 2020, *Supplement No. 7* ([E/2020/27](#)), chap. I, sect. A.

<sup>5</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 2131, No. 20378.

anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and other major platforms and processes;

4. *Reiterate* that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,<sup>7</sup> the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocols thereto,<sup>8</sup> as well as other relevant conventions and treaties, such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,<sup>9</sup> the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,<sup>10</sup> the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,<sup>11</sup> the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination<sup>12</sup> and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families,<sup>13</sup> provide an enabling international legal framework for realizing gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and the full and equal enjoyment of all their human rights and fundamental freedoms throughout their life course;

5. *Reaffirm* the need to respect, protect and promote all human rights and fundamental freedoms, civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights, including the right to development, for all women and girls throughout their life course, without distinction of any kind, while upholding the rule of law, the principles of equality, non-discrimination, and ensuring equal access to justice, freedom from violence and removal of all structural barriers to the empowerment of all women and girls, taking into consideration the diverse situations, contexts and conditions of women and girls;

6. *Also reaffirm* that gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls are essential for sustainable development and fulfilling our pledge to leave no one behind, and emphasize the mutually reinforcing relationship between the achievement of gender equality and the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits;

7. *Welcome* the progress made towards the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action through concerted policy action at the national, regional and global levels and the review activities undertaken by Governments in this context, further welcome the convening of the regional reviews undertaken by the United Nations regional commissions, in the context of the thirtieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, acknowledging the important contributions made by civil society and all other relevant stakeholders, such as national human rights institutions where they exist, and look forward to the high-level meeting of the General Assembly at its eightieth session as an opportunity to identify concrete actions for further accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls;

8. *Recognize* that, 30 years after the Fourth World Conference on Women, no country has fully achieved gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and express concern that, overall, progress in the implementation of commitments under the 12 critical areas of concern of the Beijing Platform for Action has been slow and uneven, that major gaps and obstacles remain, inter alia, structural barriers, discriminatory laws and practices, gender stereotypes and negative social norms, all

<sup>7</sup> General Assembly resolution [217 A \(III\)](#).

<sup>8</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vols. 1577, 2171, 2173 and 2983, No. 27531.

<sup>9</sup> See General Assembly resolution [2200 A \(XXI\)](#), annex.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>11</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 660, No. 9464.

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 2220, No. 39481.

forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls, including domestic violence, armed conflict and the feminization of poverty, and that significant levels of inequality persist globally, including underrepresentation in decision-making at all levels, and that many women and girls experience multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, vulnerability and marginalization throughout their life course, which may affect, inter alia, African women and girls and women and girls of African descent, women and girls living with HIV and AIDS, women and girls living with rare diseases, rural women and girls and those living in remote and maritime areas, Indigenous women and girls, women and girls belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, women and girls living in situations of armed conflict, pregnant women, women and girls with disabilities, migrant, internally displaced and refugee women and girls and older women;

9. *Also recognize* poverty, global economic inequality and the lack of equitable distribution of development gains within and among countries as fundamental challenges to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action;

10. *Further recognize* that women and girls play a vital role as agents of change and 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;

11. *Recognize* the contributions of all women and girls, including adolescent girls, to their societies, and the opportunities to strengthen these contributions in decision-making processes and as agents of change, as well as ensure their equal access to safe, accessible and affordable digital technology and to inclusive and equitable quality education, including physical education and sports, and promote lifelong learning as well as access to healthcare services and to empower them and fulfil all their human rights and fundamental freedoms, and end all forms of violence and discrimination against them;

12. *Also recognize* the positive role of young women as leaders, peer influencers, mentors and innovators and their full, equal and meaningful participation and engagement in policy and decision-making processes, and the need for intergenerational dialogue in order to safeguard the needs and interests of current and future generations, in a free and just society in which all women and girls can fulfil their full potential, free from discrimination, harassment, violence and harmful practices, including female genital mutilation and child, early and forced marriage;

13. *Further recognize* the importance of men and boys fully engaging as strategic partners and allies, as well as agents and beneficiaries of change for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, including their economic empowerment, and the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the need to design and implement national policies and programmes to fully engage men and boys in efforts to achieve the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, including by addressing the root causes of gender inequality, such as negative social norms and gender stereotypes, and eliminating all forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls;

14. *Reaffirm* the need to ensure adequate, predictable, sustainable and long-term funding, including transparent and impactful allocation of resources, as a means to eliminate structural inequalities as fundamental challenges to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, including by creating and providing meaningful opportunities for all women and girls, women's inclusion in formal financial systems as well as investments in decent work for women, universal, accessible and sustainable social protection systems and public services and fostering

sustainable development, and recognize the urgent need to mobilize domestic and international resources to empower all women and girls through innovative, equitable and effective mechanisms, such as improving tax systems, increasing public investments, strengthening North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, as well as public-private partnerships, and meeting official development assistance commitments, and by reorienting fiscal and monetary policies and adopting systematic gender-responsive budgeting and developing disaggregated and gender-sensitive measures of progress on sustainable development;

15. *Recognize* that new challenges have emerged, and strongly reaffirm our political will and firm commitment to tackle the existing and emerging challenges and remaining implementation gaps in all 12 critical areas of concern, namely, women and poverty, education and training of women, women and health, violence against women, women and armed conflict, women and the economy, women in power and decision-making, institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women, human rights of women, women and the media, women and the environment, and the girl child, and recommit to taking further concrete action to ensure the full, effective and accelerated implementation and resourcing of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, which can contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, including by:

(a) Ensuring women's economic empowerment by promoting women's access to credit and entrepreneurship as well as capacity-building, financial inclusion and financial literacy for women and girls, and enhancing cooperation with all relevant stakeholders, and by promoting, respecting, protecting and fulfilling women's rights to work and rights at work, taking into account obligations under relevant International Labour Organization conventions, enhancing women's full access to and equal opportunities in the labour market and decent work, taking effective action against discrimination, including based on maternity, as well as violence and harassment in the world of work, enforcing labour rights, including the right to organize and bargain collectively, promoting equal pay for work of equal value, providing social security, supporting the transition from informal to formal work in all sectors, adopting all necessary measures to reduce labour market segregation, and closing the pay and pension inequality;

(b) Recognizing, reducing and redistributing women's and girls' disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work by promoting the equal sharing of responsibilities between men and women within the household and promoting work-life balance, inter alia, through prioritizing public investments to develop and expand integrated care systems, including care leave policies, the provision of universal care and support services throughout the life course and the proper recognition, representation, remuneration and reward of care workers;

(c) Harnessing the potential of technology and innovation and closing the digital divides within and between countries, including the gender digital divide, as well as expanding digital learning, literacy and capacity-building opportunities and addressing the risks and challenges emerging from the use of technologies, with full respect for the human rights of all women and girls, both online and offline, and mainstreaming a gender perspective in policy decisions and the frameworks that guide the development of digital technologies, including artificial intelligence;

(d) Recognizing that women and girls are at greater risk of poverty, and therefore taking comprehensive and targeted measures to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, the feminization of poverty, multidimensional and intergenerational poverty, as well as structural inequalities among and within countries in the distribution of and access to services, resources

and infrastructure, as well as access to food, water, health, quality education, training and opportunities for employment and decent work in urban and rural, remote and maritime areas and other human settlements in order to break the cycle of poverty and vulnerability, and removing structural barriers in this regard;

(e) Ensuring that all women throughout their life course, including women working in the informal economy and in precarious work and low-paid sectors and women heads of households, enjoy equal access, both in law and in practice, to gender-responsive comprehensive and universal social protection systems, including floors, public and financial services, productive resources, sustainable infrastructures, markets and networks, as well as affordable technologies;

(f) Promoting, respecting and protecting the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health for all women and girls, throughout their life course and without distinction of any kind, towards the achievement of universal health coverage, including safe, available, affordable, accessible, quality and inclusive healthcare services, as well as maternal and neonatal health, menstrual health and hygiene management and all communicable and noncommunicable diseases;

(g) Promoting, protecting and fulfilling the right to education as a key driver of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and the achievement of sustainable development, by ensuring access to inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all women and girls through, inter alia, eliminating structural barriers that hinder their participation, strengthening international cooperation, investing in public education systems and infrastructure, and providing training and skills development, including in science, technology, engineering and mathematics and in information and communications technologies;

(h) Ensuring women's and girls' food security, nutrition and well-being, including through engaging with grassroots women's organizations, and supporting women and girls in rural areas, Indigenous women, women smallholders and farmers, accelerating efforts towards the eradication of poverty, hunger and inequality and supporting the transition to more sustainable agrifood systems;

(i) Adopting, funding and implementing national action plans to prevent, eliminate and respond to violence against all women and girls in all its forms and manifestations, in public and private spaces, online and offline, including through multisectoral and coordinated approaches to investigate, prosecute and punish the perpetrators of violence and end impunity, and taking appropriate measures to create a safe, enabling and violence-free environment for women and girls;

(j) Adopting a comprehensive approach to eliminating violence that occurs through or is amplified by the use of technology, including in its design, development and deployment, by combating the use of digital tools, such as social media and online platforms and artificial intelligence, for the purpose of harassment, racism, trafficking in persons and all forms of sexual exploitation and abuse of women and girls;

(k) Ensuring victims and survivors of all forms of violence against women and girls, including sexual and gender-based violence and sexual violence in conflict, have prompt and universal access to quality social and healthcare services such as psychological and counselling services, as well as access to justice, including legal services, to end impunity;

(l) Mobilizing and strengthening communities, institutions and all relevant stakeholders to prevent, eliminate and respond to all forms of violence against all women and girls as well as its underlying root causes;

(m) Accelerating progress towards women's full, equal and meaningful participation in leadership and decision-making, across sectors and at all levels, including through, as appropriate, temporary special measures, and ensuring a safe and enabling environment for women and girls and removing any structural barriers that prevent their participation;

(n) Ensuring effective and well-resourced national machineries to promote, coordinate, implement and evaluate policies and programmes to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and the full and equal enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms;

(o) Adopting and implementing a comprehensive approach to mainstreaming a gender perspective in planning, budgeting and funding processes, including through gender-responsive budgeting and tracking across all sectors;

(p) Promoting safe and enabling environments for civil society actors, especially women's, young women's, girls', grass-roots and community-based organizations, rural, Indigenous and feminist groups, women of African descent, women journalists and media professionals and trade unions, for the defence, protection and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and prevent discrimination, violations and abuses against these actors, and, in accordance with national priorities, promoting access to flexible, sustainable and long-term funding and capacity-building, to promote close cooperation between civil society and decision makers, in the context of promoting gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls;

(q) Strengthening the protection of all women and girls in armed conflict and ensuring women's full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership at all levels of decision-making and in all stages of peace processes and mediation efforts, prevention and resolution of armed conflicts, peacebuilding, post-conflict reconstruction, and in humanitarian action, as an essential factor for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security, and encouraging the development, implementation and financing of national action plans, as well as support for local women's organizations and peacebuilders, in conflict prevention, peacebuilding and sustaining peace;

(r) Mainstreaming a gender perspective into environmental, climate change and disaster risk reduction policies, recognizing the disproportionate effect of climate change and natural disasters on women and girls, in particular those in vulnerable situations, strengthening the resilience and adaptive capacities of women and girls to respond to the adverse impacts of climate change and natural disasters, and promoting women's participation and leadership in decision-making on environmental and climate change issues;

16. *Reaffirm* the primary responsibility of the Commission on the Status of Women for the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and recall the follow-up work of the Commission in that regard, also reaffirm its catalytic role in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, in promoting and monitoring gender mainstreaming within the United Nations system, and in coordinating the implementation and monitoring of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, in which it is recognized that the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms of all women and girls is essential for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and take note of the commitment in the Pact for the Future<sup>14</sup> to explore options to revitalize the Commission on the Status of Women, through an inclusive intergovernmental

<sup>14</sup> General Assembly resolution 79/1.

process with the participation of all Member States, while reaffirming the mandate of the Commission;

17. *Strengthen* the capacity and coordination of national statistics and data production offices, government institutions and other research organizations by providing financial, technical and human resources, including for developing countries, to improve the ethical collection, analysis, production, dissemination and use of gender statistics and data disaggregated on the basis of income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, marital status, migration status, disability, geographical location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts, while safeguarding privacy rights and data protection, to inform the conception, design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes that are evidence-based, and to identify gaps, inform actions, monitor and evaluate progress on gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls;

18. *Acknowledge* the fifteenth anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and reaffirm its important role in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and in supporting Member States and coordinating the United Nations system and mobilizing civil society, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders, at all levels, in support of the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

19. *Call upon* the United Nations system to continue to support the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, including through systematic gender mainstreaming, multi-stakeholder partnerships, the mobilization of resources to deliver results and the monitoring and assessment of progress with disaggregated data and robust accountability systems, and in this regard take note of the Secretary-General's system-wide strategy on gender parity, the United Nations System-wide Gender Equality Acceleration Plan and the zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment;

20. *Encourage* Member States to consider nominating women as candidates during the next and in subsequent selection processes for the Secretary-General position and as candidates for the position of President of the General Assembly;

21. *Welcome* the contributions made by civil society, including non-governmental organizations and women's and community-based organizations, youth-led organizations and all other stakeholders such as national human rights institutions where they exist to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and pledge to continue supporting with increased, flexible and sustainable resources, at the local, national, regional and global levels, civil society efforts for the advancement and promotion of 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, including by promoting and ensuring a safe and enabling environment for them, and recognize the importance of having an open, inclusive and transparent engagement with civil society as a contribution to achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls;

22. *Renew our commitment* to the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and the declarations of the Commission on the Status of Women, which can contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by strengthening our collective efforts towards achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, including full enjoyment of their human rights.