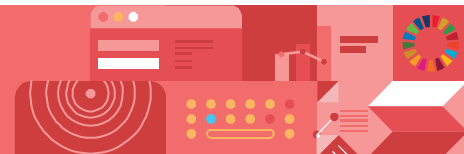


# Policy Paper

5 GENDER  
EQUALITY



## South-East Asia: An Analysis of the Beijing+25 Review Reports



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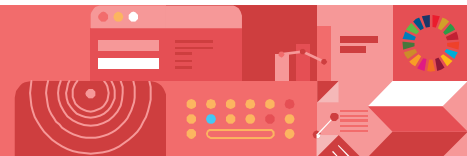
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## Acronyms and abbreviations

ATIP	Anti-Trafficking in Person
COMELEC	Commission on Elections
DERN	Department of Environment and Natural Resources
DWF	Department of Women's Affairs and Family Development
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GBViE	Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies
GeRL	Gender-Responsive Local Government Unit
GRB	Gender-Responsive Budgeting
LWU	Lao Women's Union
MISP	Minimum Initial Service Package




MYP	Malaysian Youth Parliament
NAPVAW	National Action Plan on Violence Against Women
POVAW	Prevention and Protection of Violence Against Women
PRF	Poverty Reduction Funds
SME	Small and Medium Enterprises
SRH	sexual and Reproductive Health
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
UEC	Union Election Commission
VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls
WE-ICT	Women Empowerment-ICT
WPS	Women, Peace and Security

## Introduction

The world is in the throes of the COVID-19 pandemic. Women health workers are at the forefront of the health response to the crisis. With lockdowns and curfews implemented in several parts of the world, the incidence of violence against women and girls has increased. Women are over-represented in sectors hardest hit by the outbreak such as manufacturing, garment, tourism and hospitality sectors. Lastly, but most importantly, the burden of extra care work and domestic chores in light of the pandemic falls on the shoulders of an already over-burdened womenfolk. In short, the pandemic has exacerbated gender inequalities and discriminatory social norms that exist in our society.

The COVID-19 crisis is a wake-up call for our planet. It is relevant that we introspect our policies and deal with the social, economic, and environmental dimensions of development in an integrated manner. The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development are critical resources that member States could use to move forward without leaving anyone behind. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development -with its commitment to leave no one



behind -and the Beijing Platform- with its wide and far-reaching scope- could together forge a more equal, inclusive planet. The synergies need to be harnessed to create a more gender-equal Asia and the Pacific.

## The Asia-Pacific Beijing+25 Review

In 1995, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, was adopted and subsequently endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly. Every five years since 1995, progress in achieving the strategic objectives of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action is reviewed by the Commission on the Status of Women. The fifth review marks the twenty- fifth anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. In its resolution 2018/8, the Economic and Social Council called upon all States to undertake national-level reviews of the progress made and challenges encountered in the implementation of the Platform for Action. Additionally, the resolution encouraged “regional commissions to undertake regional reviews so that the outcomes of intergovernmental processes at the regional level can feed into the 2020 review”.

In accordance with this mandate, ESCAP, in cooperation with the UN-Women and with the support of the Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism Thematic Working Group on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (RCM-TWG-GEEW), undertook in 2019 a [regional review](#) of progress in implementing the Platform for Action in Asia and the Pacific. Out of its 49 member States and 9 associate members, ESCAP received 45 reports. The analytical review encompassed ESCAP member States geographically located in the Asia-Pacific region.

The 25-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in 2020 was the first time that the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action was reviewed with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development fully in place. The Beijing+25 review harnesses the synergies between the Declaration and Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda to consolidate efforts to accelerate the achievement of key international commitments on gender equality.

The 12 critical areas of concern of the Platform for Action have been clustered into six overarching themes that highlight the alignment of the two frameworks ( see table 1) : inclusive development, shared prosperity and decent work; poverty eradication, social protection and social services; freedom from violence, stigma and stereotypes; participation, accountability and gender-responsive institutions; peaceful and inclusive societies; and environmental conservation, climate action and resilience-building. In addition, member States have reported on their key priorities, achievements, and challenges with regard to gender equality; national institutions, processes and partnerships; and data and statistics for advancing the empowerment of women and girls in the region.

The present document contains a summary of the identified achievements, challenges, and key actions taken by the ESCAP members and associate members of the South-East Asia sub-region to advance gender equality and women’s empowerment. The countries that submitted their national review reports<sup>1</sup> and are therefore included in this report are: Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Viet Nam. Brunei Darussalam and Singapore

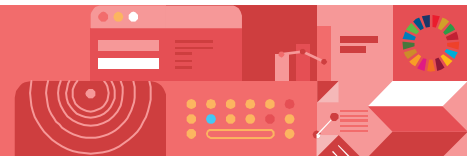
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<sup>1</sup> For the national review reports, see: <https://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw64-2020/preparations> . (accessed 27/10/2020). Unless otherwise specified, all information reported in this document has been taken from the respective national review reports submitted by member States for the Beijing+25 Review.

have not submitted their national review reports. Furthermore, the key priority areas for action for countries in the region for the next five years are identified, with a view to accelerate the achievement of gender equality in the region of progress in implementing the Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda.

**Table 1. Linkages between the Beijing+25 Review, the Beijing Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda**

Beijing +25 Clusters	Critical Areas of Concern	Sustainable Development Goals
<i>Inclusive development, shared prosperity, and decent work</i>	A. Women and poverty F. Women and the economy I. Human rights of women L. The girl child	SDGs 1, 2, 5, 8, 9 and 17
<i>Poverty eradication, social protection, and social services</i>	A. Women and poverty B. Education and training of women C. Women and health I. Human rights of women L. The girl child	SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5
<i>Freedom from violence, stigma, and stereotypes</i>	D. Violence against women I. Human rights of women J. Women and the media L. The girl child	SDG 5
<i>Participation, accountability, and gender-responsive institutions</i>	G. Women in power and decision-making H. Institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women I. Human rights of women J. Women and the media L. The girl child	SDGs 5, 16 and 17
<i>Peaceful and inclusive societies</i>	E. Women and armed conflict I. Human rights of women L. The girl child	SDGs 5, 10, 16, 17
<i>Environmental conservation, protection and rehabilitation</i>	K. Women and the environment I. Human rights of	SDGs 5, 6, 7, 11, 12, 14, 15 and 17



women  
L. The girl child

## Achievements and challenges

*“It is time to stop trying to change women, and start changing the systems that prevent them from achieving their potential. Our power structures have evolved gradually over thousands of years. One further evolution is long overdue. The 21st century must be the century of women’s equality”*

*-UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres<sup>2</sup>*

The following section lists the key achievements of the countries in the sub-region with respect to advancing gender equality over the last five years and challenges faced in its pursuit.


## Achievements

### Adoption of laws, regulations, action plans and policies

Countries in the sub-region adopted laws, regulations, action plans, and policies to advance gender equality and empowerment of women and girls. All countries in the sub-region have ratified the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). Furthermore, several countries have adopted progressive legislations to prevent violence, promote women’s economic participation and leadership, and provide land rights.

Countries adopted landmark laws, policies, and action plans to advance gender equality. Cambodia has reported that the first draft of the National Gender Policy has been formulated. In Lao PDR, over the last five years, the following laws were adopted: the Law on Development and Protection of Women, Law on Lao Women’s Union, Law on Preventing and Combatting Violence Against Women and Children, Law on State Budget, Law on Statistic, and the Law on Gender Equality. In Indonesia, the

<sup>2</sup> ‘Make this the century of women’s equality’. See <https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/02/1058271> (accessed 27/10/2020)



Marriage Law on the minimum age for marriage has been amended, thereby increasing the age of marriage for girls to 19, at par with boys.

A National Strategy for the Prevention of Child Marriage has been developed in 2019. In Malaysia, the Domestic Violence Act (DVA) (Amendment) Act 2017 was passed which expanded the definition of domestic violence to include, inter alia, communicating with the victim with intent to insult the victim's modesty through any means, electronic or otherwise.<sup>3</sup>The country also adopted the Sexual Offences Against Children Act 2017. In Myanmar, the National Committee on Women was re-structured making it inclusive of different government, civil society organizations, and national level women's networks.

Thailand adopted important laws such as the Gender Equality Act B.E. 2558 (2015) which prohibits unfair gender-based discrimination against all persons including male, female, and LGBT persons; the Labour Protection Act (No.7) B.E. 2562 (2019) which tackles the gender pay gap and extends maternity protection; the Act on the Promotion of Family Institution Development and Protection, the Act for Prevention and Solution of the Adolescent Pregnancy Problem Act B.E. 2559 (2016).

The Philippines made critical interventions in upholding the rights and dignity of Filipino women through the implementation of policies on sexual and reproductive health services, universal health care, support programs for maternal neonatal child health and nutrition in the first 1000 days, the increase in maternity leave from 60 to 105 days, and the expansion of the definition of sexual harassment and its concomitant sanctions through the Safe Spaces Act.

In Timor-Leste, two major Land Laws were approved in 2017 that entitled men and women to equal rights of property ownership and heritage. Furthermore, the Law No. 3/2017 on Prevention and Elimination of Human Trafficking has been adopted. Election laws at the municipal levels have been reinforced to support women's political participation.

In Viet Nam, a revised Labor Code was passed by the National Assembly of Viet Nam in mid-November 2019 with lots of progressive contents on gender equality, such as reducing the gender gap in the retirement age from 5 to only 2 years. The new Labor Code has also supplemented the definition of sexual harassment at the workplace and regulates the prevention and control of the matter.

## Women's economic empowerment

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

[https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5\\_566](https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_566)

