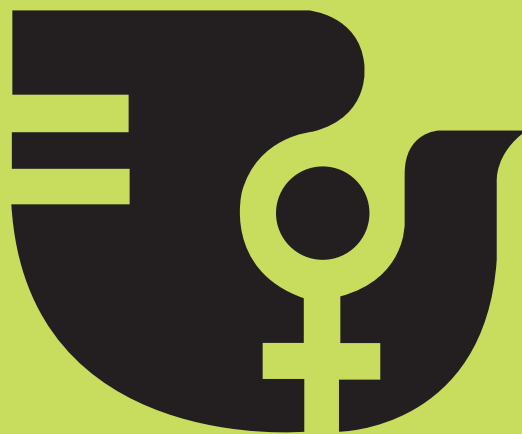


**Outcome Document of
the Asia-Pacific High-level
Intergovernmental Meeting to
Review Regional Implementation of
the Beijing Platform for Action
and Its Regional and
Global Outcomes**



**BANGKOK
DECLARATION ON
BEIJING+15**

BANGKOK DECLARATION ON BEIJING+15



Introduction

The Beijing Platform for Action, adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women (1995) is an agenda for women's empowerment. Building on the strategies and priority areas identified at previous United Nations conferences on women, it covers twelve critical areas of concern. Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action has been reviewed every five years.

The Asia-Pacific High-level Intergovernmental Meeting to Review Regional Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and Its Regional and Global Outcomes was held in Bangkok from 16 to 18 November 2009 to review implementation of the Platform for Action fifteen years after its adoption. The theme of the Meeting was "Accountability and Implementation: Making Change Happen through the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action." It was organized by ESCAP in partnership with the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM).

The Bangkok Declaration on Beijing +15, adopted by the Asia-Pacific High-level Intergovernmental Meeting, reaffirms the commitment of countries in the region to implement the Platform for Action¹.

While progress has been made in a number of areas, key areas of concern highlighted in the Declaration included: the impact of the economic crisis on women; the low level

¹ The following countries attended the Meeting: Afghanistan; Armenia; Australia; Azerbaijan; Bangladesh; Bhutan; Brunei Darussalam; China; France; Indonesia; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Japan; Kazakhstan; Kiribati; Kyrgyzstan; Lao People's Democratic Republic; Malaysia; Maldives; Mongolia; Myanmar; Nepal; New Zealand; Pakistan; Palau; Philippines; Samoa; Singapore; Solomon Islands; Sri Lanka; Thailand; Timor-Leste; Tonga; Tuvalu; United States of America; Vanuatu; and Viet Nam.

of representation of women in politics; the need to close wage and employment opportunity gaps between men and women; high ratios of maternal mortality; violence against women; human trafficking and laws that discriminate against women.

The Declaration also called upon the secretariat of ESCAP to continue its support to member States for implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and to continue to play a coordinating role as well as to provide members, upon request, with technical assistance to strengthen their capacity to mainstream a gender perspective and a rights-based approach in all programmes, through such mechanisms and processes as gender budgeting, gender auditing, sex-disaggregated data and monitoring and performance indicators.

**BANGKOK
DECLARATION
ON BEIJING+15**



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We, the Representatives of the members and associate members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, meeting in Bangkok from 16 to 18 November 2009 for the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting to Review Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and Its Regional and Global Outcomes, organized as part of the Asia-Pacific regional preparatory process, adopt the following declaration:

Reaffirming the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action², adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women, and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly³, and deeply convinced that the Beijing Declaration is an important contribution to the advancement of women worldwide in the achievement of gender equality which must be translated into effective actions by all States, the United Nations system and other relevant organizations,

Affirming that gender equality and the promotion and protection of the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all are essential to advance development, peace and security,

Acknowledging the call for the promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women and girls, as set forth in the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration⁴,

Also recalling Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000, 1820 (2008) of 19 June 2008, 1888 (2009) of 30 September 2009, and 1889 (2009) of 5 October 2009

² 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.

³ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-third Special Session, Supplement No.1 (A/S - 23/13).

⁴ See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

on women, peace and security and other relevant United Nations resolutions,

Also recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,⁵ the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,⁶ the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,⁷ the International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination,⁸ the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,⁹ the Convention on the Rights of the Child,¹⁰ and other relevant human rights instruments,

Noting the participation of civil society organizations in the preparations for the Asia-Pacific Review of Regional Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action;

Commending the Executive Secretary of ESCAP for re-establishing the Regional Coordination Mechanism's Thematic Working Group on Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women, which has contributed to enhanced coordination and coherence among regional United Nations partners in the advancement of women and gender equality as a means to promote sustainable and inclusive development in the region;

Welcoming the proposed changes in the United Nations gender architecture to support progress on gender equality and women's empowerment at the global level, and noting the need for the new global entity to cooperate closely with ESCAP at the regional level, through, among other things, the Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism;

⁵ General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

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

⁷ See General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

⁸ See General Assembly resolution 2106 (XX) of 21 December 1965.

⁹ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

¹⁰ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 1577, No. 27531.



Expressing concern that:

- (a) While the region has established itself as an economic powerhouse and experienced rapid economic growth, inequalities have grown in many countries and women have disproportionate representation among the poor, and this has been exacerbated during the recent financial crisis;
- (b) While women make strong economic contributions, they also comprise the majority of temporary, low paid, and low-skilled workers in the region, often working without any form of social protection, which increases their vulnerability to discrimination;
- (c) Women continue to bear the major responsibility for unpaid work, particularly care giving work, and this contributes to weaker labour market attachment for women, weaker access to social security benefits and less time for education/training, leisure and self-care and political activities;
- (d) While gender parity has been achieved by some countries in girls and women's education, there is still a substantial need for progress in large parts of the region;
- (e) Improvements in girls and women's education have not been systematically translated into greater economic opportunities for many women in the region, and women on average are paid considerably less than men and underemployed;

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