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ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON WOMEN ON ITS FOURTH SESSION

Beirut, 21–23 October 2009

**A resolution on the Follow-up to implementation of the
Beijing Platform for Action in the Arab States after
fifteen years: Beijing + 15**

The Committee on Women in the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling General Assembly Resolutions 60/140 of 16 December 2005, 61/145 of 19 December 2006 and 62/136 of 18 December 2007,

Recalling also the Economic and Social Council Resolution 2005/48 of 27 July 2005, on the Role of the Economic and Social Council in the integrated and coordinated implementation of the outcomes of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits,

Cognizant of the reports on the status of Arab women and the appraisal of the progress achieved in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action: + 15 in Arab countries, particularly the Consolidated Arab Report of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia and the League of Arab States,

Noting with appreciation the progress made by the region towards the implementation of obligations under Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, particularly in health and education, as demonstrated in their responses to the questionnaire addressed by the Secretariat of the United Nations to Governments in this regard,

Expressing satisfaction with the achievements made in recent years in the empowerment of women in the Arab region, which included new legislations to the benefit of women and the ratification of nineteen States of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the withdrawal of some states of their reservations on some provisions of the Convention,

Expressing grave concern with regard to the deteriorating security situation and continuing wars and armed conflicts, which adversely affect the status of women in general and empowerment and sustainable human development in particular,

Expressing grave concern also at the continuing low participation of women in the economic and political fields and the continuing challenges hindering empowerment of women, such as the prevalence of illiteracy, high dropout rates of girls from school, poverty, unemployment, violence against women, and discrimination against women in legislations, in addition to some negative cultural traditions and social customs,

Recognizing the need to intensify efforts to promote empowerment of women and gender equality at the level of Governments, civil society, and United Nations organizations,

1. *Adopts* the Consolidated Arab Report on the Progress Achieved in Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action: + 15 of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia and the League of Arab States, submitted to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in New York at its fifty-fourth session in March 2010,

2. *Calls on* member countries to:

(a) Emphasise the importance of political will in supporting and promoting gender equality, equity and justice, mainstreaming gender perspectives in policies, strategies and development programmes, and considering advancement of women to be a priority at both national and regional levels;



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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

BEIJING +15 REGIONAL REVIEW MEETING

Geneva, 2-3 November 2009

Chairperson's Conclusions

On the eve of the thirtieth anniversary of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and as part of the Beijing +15 review, ECE member States renew their commitment to the eradication of all forms of discrimination against women and girls that restrict their full participation in development processes. Member States emphasize that the achievement of gender equality is an essential condition for sustainable economic growth, and reaffirm the centrality of gender equality for the universal achievement of all Millennium Development Goals. In this context, member States welcome the forthcoming United Nations gender entity and call for its prompt establishment including at country level.

1. As regards the ECE region, priority fields for action in the past five years have been:
 - (a) legislation to address gender-based violence, including domestic violence and trafficking;
 - (b) women in the economy, mainly through narrowing the gap between female and male employment rates and adopting specific measures to combat women's poverty; and
 - (c) the development and strengthening of national mechanisms for gender equality and women's empowerment.
2. Notable progress has been achieved in most countries regarding:
 - (a) women's participation in the labour market;
 - (b) women's political participation at local levels;
 - (c) new and/or strengthened legislation on gender-based violence, including domestic violence;
 - (d) institutional mechanisms on gender equality and women's empowerment.
3. The challenges most frequently mentioned included:
 - (a) the gap between legislation and implementation;
 - (b) decent work for women and measures to counteract labour market segregation;
 - (c) the gender pay gap;
 - (d) the situation of migrant women and women belonging to minority groups, who suffer multiple forms of discrimination;
 - (e) the persistence of gender stereotypes, especially in the media and in education;
 - (f) the lack of sex-disaggregated quantitative and qualitative data, and the lack of gender-sensitive indicators;
 - (g) the role of men in advancing gender equality, for example through increased sharing of family responsibilities.

4.

- (d) Mitigate the impact of the crisis on women through promoting gender-sensitive analysis of the impact of the crisis and developing countercyclical policies that place priority on job creation and retention, on social sectors such as education, childcare and health, and on protection schemes which benefit the whole population.

The financial crisis can thus be used as an opportunity to design gender-sensitive stimulus packages and social safety nets that involve affordable, quality childcare, parental-leave reform and efforts to close the gender pay gap.



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ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

**HIGH-LEVEL INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETING TO REVIEW REGIONAL
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BEIJING PLATFORM FOR ACTION AND ITS
REGIONAL AND GLOBAL OUTCOMES**

Bangkok, 16-18 November 2009

**Bangkok Declaration on
Beijing +15**

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 Action,¹ adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women, and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,² 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

Welcoming the proposed changes in the United Nations gender architecture to support progress on gender equality and women's empowerment at

(k) Not all countries in the region are parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;

(l) Discriminatory practices, violations of women's and girl's rights and impunity – especially with regard to violence – persist in countries of the region, and enactment and implementation of domestic laws to address discrimination and violence against women should remain a priority;

(m) While information and communication technologies (ICTs) have brought considerable benefits to women in the region, women still lack equal access, and these technologies have also aided the proliferation of pornography and sexualized, disparaging and violent imagery of women on the Internet, and are creating new forms of exploitation of women, including its use in facilitating and organizing the trafficking of women and children;

(n) While women are largely responsible for natural resource management in the household, they have been excluded from devel

(aa) To increase partnerships with civil society and the private sector for the promotion of gender equality, and to support the role and contribution of civil society, in particular non-governmental organizations and women's organizations, in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly;

(bb) To review regularly the further implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and, in 2015, to bring together all relevant stakeholders, including civil society, to assess progress and challenges, specify targets and consider new initiatives as appropriate twenty years after the adoption of the Beijing Platform for Action;

(cc) To strengthen regional and subregional dialogue and cooperation among members and associate members of the Commission as well as other relevant stakeholders on policy options and issues crucial to the region and for conveying the regional voice of Asia and the Pacific in global processes;

3. Request the Executive Secretary of ESCAP making effective use of the existing resources and mobilizing additional voluntary resources as necessary to:

(a) Strengthen the role of ESCAP in supporting members and associate members in implementing the Beijing Platform for Action, as well as the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, and the recommendations of the Asia-Pacific High-level Intergovernmental Meeting to Review Regional Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and Its Regional and Global Outcomes;

(b) Mainstream gender dimensions into all subprogrammes under the ESCAP programme of work;

(c) Provide members and associate members, upon request, with technical assistance to build national capacity to mainstream a gender perspective and a rights-based approach in all programmes, through, among other things, mechanisms and processes, such as gender budgeting, gender auditing, sex-disaggregated data and monitoring and performance indicators;

(d) Support members and associate members in ratification/acceding to and/or implementing the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;

(e) Mobilize the Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism to further develop mechanisms and plans to promote action to combat violence against women and trafficking in women and children, including a coordinated regional response and follow-up activities on the Secretary-General's Campaign UNiTE to End Violence against Women;



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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

EIGHTH AFRICA REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON WOMEN (BEIJING + 15)

Banjul, The Gambia, 19 – 20 November 2009

**Banjul Declaration on the Strategies for Accelerating
the Implementation of the Dakar and Beijing Platforms
for Action**

From Commitment to Action

We, African Ministers Responsible for Gender and Women's Affairs, meeting in Banjul (Gambia) from 19 to 20 November 2009 for the *fifteen-year* review of the implementation of the Dakar and Beijing Platforms for Action under the overall theme "*From Commitment to Action*";

Building on the 1999 and 2004 reviews of the Dakar and Beijing Platforms for Action which led to the adoption of subregional and national action plans to redress gender imbalances, and which emphasized the need for gender-sensitive, participatory and inclusive poverty reduction strategies and the promotion and protection of the human rights of women, with emphasis on the definition, development and implementation of legal and policy frameworks;

Acknowledging the progress that has been achieved, in particular in women's representation in decision-making, and gender parity in education;

Endorsing the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the fifteen-year review of the implementation of the Dakar and Beijing Platforms for Action made by the expert session held from 16 to 18 November 2009 in Banjul, The Gambia during the Eighth Africa Regional Conference on Women (Beijing + 15), which confirm that progress in the implementation of the 12 critical areas of concern has been uneven;

Inspired by international, regional and subregional declarations, protocols and conventions, including the 2000 Millennium Declaration, which aim to promote and strengthen women's empowerment and accelerate the attainment of gender equity and equality as part of overall human rights;

Recognizing the interrelationships among gender equality, women's empowerment, human rights, economic growth and sustainable development;

Further recognize the Meeting of the African Union experts responsible for gender and women's affairs and take note of outcomes of the African Women's NGOs Consultative Meeting held on the margins of the Eighth African Regional Conference on Women (Beijing + 15);

Concerned that new challenges posed by climate change and environmental degradation; food and energy crises; financial and economic crises; and the feminization of trafficking and migration can negatively affect the progress made;

Recognizing that progress towards gender equality, gender equity and women's

as capacities for analysing linkages between gender and economic development by focusing on sex-disaggregated data collection, production, analysis and dissemination; and undertaking studies on the formal, informal and agricultural sectors.

2. Peace, security and development

- 2.1 Develop and implement a comprehensive action plan that will include domestication of relevant international and regional resolutions and protocols, including United Nations Security Council resolutions S/RES/1325 (2000), S/RES/1820 (2008), S/RES/1888 (2009), and S/RES/1889 (2009) on women, peace and security; advocacy for change using the media and traditional communication channels; reform of legal and judicial systems and security institutions; research; and adoption of an early warning system;
- 2.2 Promote capacity-building and peer-learning in conflict prevention and resolution, and in human rights protection and promotion for government officials, parliamentarians, women, men, youth, media, security services, the judiciary, and community leaders;

violence against women. Development of relevant indicators and set baseline as well as undertake national prevalence surveys to assist in measuring progress and ensuring accountability.

4.

of obstetric fistula and early detection of reproductive cancers at all levels of health-care delivery systems;

- 5.4 Mainstream gender into integrated maternal and child health services, including sexually transmitted infections and HIV and AIDS programmes, to address the vulnerability of women and girls, ensure their access to prevention, treatment and care, and facilitate access to and use of female and male condoms.

6. Climate change and food security

- 6.1 Develop gender-responsive policies on climate change which focus on agriculture, water resource management, energy, forest use and management, as well as transportation and technology transfer for improved food security.
- 6.2 Develop agricultural policies and programmes that address the differentiated impacts of climate change, in particular the impact on women.
- 6.3 Support the integration of gender into existing and upcoming scientific research on climate change with a particular focus on the collection and use of sex- and gender-disaggregated data, and the development of knowledge-sharing and peer-learning networks at subregional and regional levels.
- 6.4 Call on the upcoming Copenhagen Conference on Climate Change to take full account of gender dimensions and come up with gender-responsive measures.

7. Financing for gender equality

- 7.1 Institutionalize gender-responsive budgeting aligned with national development priorities and poverty reduction programmes, to support the financing of gender equality at subnational and national levels.
- 7.2 Develop financing mechanisms, including alternative sources of funding, and ensure the allocation of funds at subnational and national levels; establish a stimulus package that targets women; and monitor the effective utilization and impact of financing on gender equality.
- 7.3 Develop capacity-building programmes for the training and mentoring of parliamentary and government authorities on gender-responsive budgeting.
- 7.4 Strengthen national gender mechanisms by transforming gender focal points into gender teams that perform planning, budgeting, implementation and monitoring functions for the mainstreaming of gender equality into all activities of ministries at subnational and national levels.

In undertaking the above actions:

- (i) We call on our Governments to allocate adequate resources to accelerate the implementation of the Dakar and Beijing Platforms for Action.
- (ii) We call on our international partners, both bilateral and multilateral, including organizations of the United Nations system, to provide adequate technical and

financial support for our development efforts and to move swiftly to implement their commitments from the Accra Agenda for Action on Aid Effectiveness.

- (iii) We call on the African Union Commission, the United Nations system, the African Development Bank and the Regional Economic Communities to strengthen their coordination and harmonization processes with regard to the implementation of the priorities identified in this Ministerial Declaration, including that of facilitating South-South collaboration and exchange of experiences and best practices.
- (iv) We further call on the African Union Commission and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa to annually monitor and report on progress made in implementing the relevant development programmes and plans, and to ensure that the follow-up to the Dakar and Beijing Platforms for Action is included in the work plan of the Committee on Women and Development of the Economic Commission for Africa.
- (v) We call on the United Nations Secretary-General to swiftly implement General Assembly resolution A/RES/63/311 related to the establishment of a new gender entity through the consolidation of four entities, namely the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW), and the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women (OSAGI), to enable countries to receive the necessary technical and financial support to achieve gender equality.

In preparation for the 20th anniversary of the Dakar and Beijing Platforms for Action, we will assess the implementation of these two instruments, taking into account any relevant procedures that will be established.

We pledge to implement these commitments in order to achieve our development goals within the next five years.