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Commission on the Status of Women

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Agenda item 3 (a)

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”: implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives: review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution [2022/5](#))

High-level interactive dialogue with regional commissions: outcomes of the 30-year regional reviews of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and next steps

Chair’s summary

1. On 10 March 2025, the Commission on the Status of Women held a high-level interactive dialogue with regional commissions on the outcomes of the 30-year regional reviews of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. Undertaken by all United Nations regional commissions in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution [2022/5](#), these reviews were aimed at informing the Commission’s 2025 review and appraisal processes. They were preceded by multi-stakeholder civil society and youth meetings, as appropriate.
2. The Minister for the Status of Women of Costa Rica, Cindy Quesada Hernández, chaired the interactive dialogue and delivered the opening statement. The Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), Anacláudia Rossbach, and the Deputy Executive Director for Normative Support, United Nations System Coordination and Programme Results at the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women UN Women, Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda, moderated the session. The Chairs of the regional meetings presented key outcomes from their regions, while the Executive Secretaries of the regional commissions or their representatives outlined strategies for future



implementation. Nineteen Member State representatives and nine civil society and youth speakers proposed next steps. The Chair made closing remarks.

Dialogue with the Economic Commission for Europe

3. The Economic Commission for Europe regional review, held in Geneva on 21 and 22 October 2024, served to highlight both progress and challenges. The Co-Chairs of the regional meeting and the Executive Secretary of the Commission highlighted advancements in women's economic empowerment but stressed the need for further progress. Economic insecurities for older women underscore the need for stronger social protection. While legislative reforms have improved political participation, social and cultural changes are still required. Participants stressed that the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls, including sexual and gender-based violence and technology-facilitated violence, remain critical. Armed conflicts have also exacerbated gender-based violence and economic insecurity. In addition, the gender digital divide and the need to address intersectionality and LGBTIQ+ rights were underscored.

4. Participants recommended addressing challenges, such as unpaid care work, implementing gender-responsive budgeting, promoting financial inclusion and closing the gender pay gap. They stressed the need for social protection systems that addressed the needs of women and gender-responsive climate and environmental policies. Calls were made for stronger support services for victims of gender-based violence and for the ratification and full implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence and the Violence and Harassment Convention, 2019 (No. 190). The importance of multi-stakeholder partnerships and the critical role played by civil society and young people in accelerating progress were also highlighted.

Dialogue with the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

5. The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia held its high-level conference on the progress made over the previous 30 years in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in Muscat on 9 December 2024. Speakers highlighted the significant progress made, including in education and women's political participation, but also identified the persistent challenges that are further exacerbated by ongoing conflicts in the region. Key concerns included violence against women and girls, persistent gender inequalities, the structural barriers faced by rural and marginalized communities and women's disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work.

6. Speakers emphasized the importance of combating gender stereotypes, ensuring women's access to justice and promoting their economic empowerment, as well as their meaningful participation and leadership in political processes. They highlighted the need for strong political will and men's active engagement, as well as the role of technology, innovation and regional best practices. They also emphasized the need for integrated financing and strengthened collaboration among national machineries, United Nations agencies and civil society to support the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

Dialogue with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

7. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean held its 30-year regional review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in Santiago on 4 and 5 December 2024, to highlight the progress made towards achieving women's economic empowerment and political participation. Participants highlighted improvements in the areas of care policies, maternity standards

and time-use measurement. While women's political participation has increased, challenges remain at the local level. National action plans for women and peace and security have been adopted, but women's participation in these spaces remains limited. The implementation of gender parity and femicide laws remains a challenge. Violence, including femicide, domestic violence and technology-facilitated gender-based violence, continues, with climate change and migration exacerbating inequalities. The gender digital divide and gender pay gap remain a concern.

8. Participants called for the acceleration of women's economic empowerment by recognizing unpaid care work, addressing financial barriers and improving financial inclusion. They recommended the strengthening of social protection systems and the implementation of policies and specialized services to address sexual and gender-based violence. The importance of sexual and reproductive health and rights, including access to abortion, was emphasized. Participants also highlighted the need for diversity, including LGBTIQ+ rights, and called for gender-responsive climate and environmental policies and the implementation of agreements such as the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean. Participants called for equal access to education and commitment to the implementation of the Santiago Declaration.

Dialogue with the Economic Commission for Africa

9. The African regional review of 30 years of implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action was held on 30 and 31 October and 6 November 2024. The review served to highlight the progress made in girls' education, women's economic and political participation and their inclusion in peace and security frameworks. However, significant challenges persist, in particular due to insufficient institutional strengthening and funding for gender equality. Speakers expressed concern about the backlash against gender equality initiatives, which can be worsened by economic and physical violence, climate change, limited data and unequal access to land, all contributing to women's poverty.

10. Speakers called for the full implementation of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, stronger healthcare infrastructure and prevention strategies for gender-based violence and improved access to services for survivors. They also underscored the need to close the gender data gap, expand women's access to finance, implement gender-responsive budgeting and ensure women's leadership, including in climate action and resilience-building. They emphasized the need to strengthen multi-stakeholder partnerships and accountability mechanisms, as well as the necessity for strong political will and enforcement, in order to ensure sustained progress on gender equality.

Dialogue with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

11. At the Asia-Pacific ministerial conference on the 30-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, held from 19 to 21 November 2024, participants highlighted ongoing challenges, despite progress, such as systemic barriers to economic empowerment, limited political participation and persistent violence. They recognized that, while women's economic participation was crucial for inclusive growth, challenges like the gender pay gap, unpaid care work, access to decent work and climate impacts persisted. Despite the adoption of stronger legal frameworks on gender-based violence, intimate partner and technology-facilitated gender-based violence continued. Women's parliamentary representation had increased but remained below the global average. The gender digital divide, the need for more women in the areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics and gender data gaps were also emphasized.

12. Participants called for the strengthening of social protection, investment in care systems and public infrastructure, the improvement of data collection and the scaling up of prevention strategies to address gender-based violence. They also called for the strengthening of accountability mechanisms and the provision of survivor-centred support services for victims and survivors of violence, including technology-facilitated violence. They emphasized the importance of affirmative action, gender-responsive financing, climate policies and inclusive digital strategies for addressing challenges caused by digitalization, climate change and demographic shifts. The need to address gender data gaps in policymaking and involve civil society, the private sector and international organizations in systemic change was also highlighted.
