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Advancement of women: implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 18 December 2019

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/74/392)*]

74/128. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the question, including resolution 72/147 of 19 December 2017, and recalling also the section of resolution 64/289 of 2 July 2010 entitled “Strengthening the institutional arrangements for support of gender equality and the empowerment of women”,

Deeply convinced that the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action¹ and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”,² are important contributions to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and must be translated into effective action by all States, the United Nations system and other organizations concerned,

Reaffirming the commitments to gender equality and the advancement of women made at the Millennium Summit,³ the 2005 World Summit,⁴ the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals,⁵ the special event of the General Assembly to follow up efforts made towards achieving the

¹ 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.

² Resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

³ See resolution 55/2.

⁴ See resolution 60/1.

⁵ See resolution 65/1.



Millennium Development Goals,⁶ the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda⁷ and other major United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions, and reaffirming also that their full, effective and accelerated implementation is integral to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals,

Reaffirming also the commitments in regard to gender equality and the empowerment of women in the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus⁸ and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,⁹

Recalling its resolution 71/243 of 21 December 2016 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, in which it called upon all entities of the United Nations development system to continue to promote women's empowerment and gender equality by enhancing gender mainstreaming through the full implementation of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, developed under the leadership of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women),

Reaffirming the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS¹⁰ and the Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: On the Fast Track to Accelerating the Fight against HIV and to Ending the AIDS Epidemic by 2030, adopted at the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS, held in New York from 8 to 10 June 2016,¹¹ which, inter alia, addressed the pursuit of transformative AIDS responses to contribute to gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, and reaffirming also the political declaration on the implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, adopted at the high-level meeting of the General Assembly held in New York on 27 and 28 September 2017,¹²

Welcoming progress made towards achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women, but stressing that challenges and obstacles remain in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session,

Noting with appreciation that 2020 will mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, noting with appreciation also, in this regard, the review activities already undertaken by Governments, and noting the contributions of all other relevant stakeholders to these review activities,

Recalling Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000, 1820 (2008) of 19 June 2008, 1888 (2009) of 30 September 2009, 1889 (2009) of 5 October 2009, 1960 (2010) of 16 December 2010, 2106 (2013) of 24 June 2013, 2122 (2013) of 18 October 2013, 2242 (2015) of 13 October 2015, 2467 (2019) of 23 April 2019 and 2493 (2019) of 29 October 2019 on women and peace and security and resolutions 1882 (2009) of 4 August 2009, 2225 (2015) of 18 June 2015 and 2427 (2018) of 9 July 2018 on children and armed conflict,

⁶ See resolution 68/6.

⁷ See resolution 70/1.

⁸ Resolution 63/239, annex.

⁹ Resolution 69/313, annex.

¹⁰ Resolution S-26/2, annex.

¹¹ Resolution 70/266, annex.

¹² Resolution 72/1.

Reaffirming the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peacebuilding, stressing the need for their participation therein, including at decision-making levels, and noting in this regard that 2020 will mark the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security,

Recalling the Global Leaders' Meeting on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: A Commitment to Action, held in New York on 27 September 2015, and the pledges and commitments to gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls made by Governments at that meeting,

Taking note of the Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment,

Recognizing that the responsibility for the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session rests primarily at the national level and that strengthened efforts are necessary in this respect, and reiterating that enhanced international cooperation is essential for full, effective and accelerated implementation,

Recognizing also the primary role of the Commission on the Status of Women in the follow-up to the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action, in which the work of the Commission is grounded, and stressing that it is critical to address and integrate gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls throughout national, regional and global reviews of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development⁷ and to ensure synergies between the follow-up to the Beijing Platform for Action and the gender-responsive follow-up to the 2030 Agenda,

Welcoming the work of the Commission on the Status of Women in reviewing the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, taking note with appreciation of all its agreed conclusions, and acknowledging the need for their implementation,

Recalling its resolutions 73/294 of 22 May 2019 and 73/340 of 12 September 2019, in which it decided to convene a one-day high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, on 23 September 2020,

Welcoming the strengthening of the capacity of UN-Women and its experience in achieving its mandate,

Commending UN-Women for the continued support provided to intergovernmental processes, including on the linkages between sustainable development, financing for development, migration, climate change and the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls,

Recalling its resolution 64/289, in which it decided that the resources required to service the normative intergovernmental processes should be funded from the regular budget,

Taking note of the ongoing work of the fund for gender equality and the United Nations trust fund in support of actions to eliminate violence against women,

Recognizing that the participation and contribution of civil society, in particular women's groups and organizations and other non-governmental organizations, are important to the successful implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, as well as to the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Reaffirming that gender mainstreaming is a globally accepted strategy for promoting the empowerment of women and achieving gender equality by

transforming structures of inequality, which is relevant to all issues considered by its Main Committees and subsidiary bodies, including in resolutions dealing with issues beyond social, humanitarian, cultural, economic and financial matters,

Reaffirming also the commitment to actively promote the mainstreaming of a gender perspective into the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and social spheres, as well as the commitment to strengthen the capabilities of the United Nations system in the area of gender equality,

Bearing in mind the challenges and obstacles to changing discriminatory attitudes and gender stereotypes, which perpetuate discrimination against women and girls and stereotypical roles of girls and boys and women and men, and stressing that challenges and obstacles remain in the implementation of international standards and norms to address inequality between women and men,

Recognizing the importance of fully engaging men and boys, as agents and beneficiaries of change, in the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and as allies in the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls, as well as in 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,

Expressing serious concern that the urgent goal of 50/50 gender balance in the United Nations system, especially at higher professional grade levels and in non-headquarters locations, with full respect for the principle of equitable geographical distribution, in conformity with Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations, remains unmet, that the representation of women decreases progressively at higher professional grade levels and that the gap in representation is greatest and the rate of change slowest at non-headquarters locations, including in peacekeeping missions, as reflected in the report of the Secretary-General on improvement in the status of women in the United Nations system,¹³

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the measures taken and progress achieved in follow-up to and implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly¹⁴ and of the report of the Secretary-General on improvement in the status of women in the United Nations system;¹³

2. *Reaffirms* the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women¹ and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,² also reaffirms the political declaration on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-ninth session,¹⁵ and affirms its commitment to their full, effective and accelerated implementation;

3. *Also reaffirms* the primary and essential role of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, as well as the catalytic role of the Commission on the Status of Women, in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women, based on the full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, and in promoting and monitoring gender mainstreaming within the United Nations system, and encourages the

¹³ A/74/220.

¹⁴ A/74/222.

¹⁵ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2015, Supplement No. 7 (E/2015/27), chap. I, sect. C, resolution 59/1, annex.

Commission to contribute to the follow-up to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development⁷ in order to accelerate the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls;

4. *Calls upon* Governments and all other stakeholders to systematically mainstream a gender perspective into the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in order to, *inter alia*, contribute to the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and stresses in this regard the importance of ensuring synergies between the follow-up to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the gender-responsive follow-up to the 2030 Agenda;

5. *Reiterates* that the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session is essential to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals;

6. *Recognizes* that the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the fulfilment of the obligations of States parties under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women¹⁶ are mutually reinforcing in respect of achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women, and welcomes in this regard the contributions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to promoting the implementation of the Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session;

7. *Calls upon* States parties to comply fully with their obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Optional Protocol thereto¹⁷ and to take into consideration the concluding observations as well as the general recommendations of the Committee, urges States parties to consider limiting the extent of any reservations that they lodge to the Convention, to formulate any reservations as precisely and narrowly as possible and to regularly review such reservations with a view to withdrawing them so as to ensure that no reservation is incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention, urges all Member States that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Convention to consider doing so, and calls upon those Member States that have not yet done so to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the Optional Protocol;

8. *Reaffirms* that States have an obligation to exercise due diligence to prevent and combat all forms of violence against women and girls, provide protection to the victims and investigate, prosecute and punish the perpetrators of violence against women and girls, and that failure to do so violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms, calls upon Governments to elaborate and implement laws and strategies to eliminate violence against women and girls, encourages and supports men and boys to take an active part in the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence, encourages increased understanding among men and boys of how violence harms girls, boys, women and men and undermines gender equality, encourages all actors to speak out against any form of violence against women, and in this regard encourages Member States to continue to support the Secretary-General's ongoing campaign, "UNiTE to End Violence against Women", its social mobilization and advocacy platform, "Orange the World: End Violence against Women", and the "HeForShe" campaign of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), as well as to support the Secretary-General's voluntary compact on preventing and addressing sexual exploitation and abuse;

¹⁶ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*, vol. 2131, No. 20378.

9. *Reiterates* the importance and value of the mandate of UN-Women, and welcomes the Entity's leadership in providing a strong voice for women and girls at all levels and its efforts to support intergovernmental processes so that they fully contribute to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and the realization of their human rights;

10. *Notes with concern* that UN-Women continues to draw on voluntary contributions in order to enable it to carry out its mandate of servicing normative intergovernmental processes, and emphasizes the need for the full implementation of resolution [64/289](#) in this regard;

11. *Reaffirms* the important role of UN-Women in leading, coordinating and promoting accountability of the United Nations system in its work on gender equality and the empowerment of women;

12. *Notes with appreciation* the important and extensive work of UN-Women for more effective and coherent gender mainstreaming across the United Nations system, and calls upon UN-Women to continue to support gender mainstreaming across the United Nations system as an integral part of its work and of its efforts to accelerate action across the United Nations system;

13. *Welcomes* the commitment of UN-Women to support Member States in their efforts to develop and strengthen norms, policies and standards on gender equality and the empowerment of women, as well as to integrate gender perspectives into sectoral policy and normative frameworks, in line with its mandate, encourages the Entity to continue to promote the need to mainstream and strengthen a gender perspective in the work of intergovernmental bodies and processes, to raise awareness of the opportunities therein and to provide policy analysis and information in support of intergovernmental deliberations in order to provide technical assistance, at the request of Member States, in strengthening a gender perspective in resolutions and other outcomes, and in this regard recognizes the need to continue to strengthen the capacity of UN-Women to carry out its normative support function;

14. *Recognizes* the important role of UN-Women in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and the central role that it plays in supporting Member States, in coordinating the United Nations system and in mobilizing civil society, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders, at all levels, in support of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and calls upon UN-Women and the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, to continue to support the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action at the international, regional, national and local levels, including through systematic gender mainstreaming, the mobilization of resources to deliver results and the monitoring of progress with data and robust accountability systems;

15. *Urges* Member States to increase funding for the budget of UN-Women by providing, when legislative and budgetary provisions allow, core, multi-year, predictable, stable and sustainable voluntary contributions, recognizing the importance of adequate funding in enabling UN-Women to implement its strategic plan promptly and effectively, and that the mobilization of financial resources for achieving its goals still remains a challenge;

16. *Also urges* Member States to take further concrete action to ensure the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, including through strengthened implementation of laws, policies, strategies and programme activities for all women and girls; strengthened and increased support for institutional mechanisms for gender equality and the empowerment of women and

girls at all levels; the transformation of discriminatory norms and gender stereotypes and the promotion of social norms and practices that recognize the positive role and contribution of women and eliminate discrimination against women and girls; significantly increased investment to close resource gaps, including through the mobilization of financial resources from all sources, including domestic resource mobilization and allocation and increased priority on gender equality and the empowerment of women in official development assistance to build on progress achieved and ensure that official development assistance is used effectively to contribute to the implementation of the Platform for Action; strengthened accountability for the implementation of existing commitments; and enhanced capacity-building, data collection, monitoring and evaluation, and access to and use of information and communications technologies;

17. *Calls upon* Governments and the organs, relevant funds and programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, other international and regional organizations, including financial institutions, and all relevant actors of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to intensify and accelerate action to achieve the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and of the outcome of the twenty-third special session, including by contributing to the celebrations of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, as appropriate;

18. *Looks forward* to the sixty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, in 2020, when the Commission will undertake a review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, and also to the Generation Equality Forum, to be convened by UN-Women and co-chaired by France and Mexico, in partnership with civil society;

19. *Encourages* all actors, including Governments, the United Nations system, other international organizations and civil society, to continue to support the work of the Commission on the Status of Women in fulfilling its central role in the follow-up to and review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session and, as applicable, to carry out the recommendations of the Commission, welcomes in this regard the Commission's continued sharing of experiences, lessons learned and good practices in overcoming challenges to the full implementation at the national and international levels and the evaluation of progress in the implementation of priority themes, and encourages the intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations system, as appropriate, to incorporate the outcomes of the Commission into their work;

20. *Requests* the entities of the United Nations system to systematically and strategically incorporate the outcomes of the Commission on the Status of Women into their work, within their mandates, and, *inter alia*, to ensure effective support for the efforts of Member States towards the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and in this regard encourages UN-Women to continue to use concrete results-based reporting mechanisms and to ensure coherence, consistency and coordination between the normative and operational aspects of its work;

21. *Encourages* States and all stakeholders to strengthen the mainstreaming of a gender perspective into all sectors and in all areas of development;

22. *Reiterates its call upon* the United Nations system, including the main organs, their main committees and subsidiary bodies, through forums such as the high-level political forum on sustainable development and functions such as the annual ministerial review and the Development Cooperation Forum of the Economic

and Social Council and the funds and programmes and the specialized agencies, to increase efforts to fully mainstream a gender perspective into all issues under their consideration and within their mandates, as well as into all United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions and their follow-up processes;

23. *Calls upon* States to ensure that intergovernmental processes consistently address gender perspectives in their preparatory processes and outcomes;

24. *Encourages* its Main Committees and subsidiary bodies, as well as the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions, particularly in the light of the analysis contained in the report of the Secretary-General¹³ and of the cross-cutting nature of gender equality and the empowerment of women, to intensify their efforts to make further progress in the integration of a gender perspective into their work, including, as appropriate, into their resolutions within the respective mandates of the General Assembly and each of its Main Committees and subsidiary bodies and the Economic and Social Council and each of its functional commissions, and invites the Bureaux, as appropriate, to encourage such efforts;

25. *Strongly encourages* Governments to continue to support the role and contribution of civil society, in particular non-governmental organizations and women's organizations, in the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session and in the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

26. *Calls upon* Governments and the United Nations system to encourage women's groups and other non-governmental organizations specializing in gender equality and the empowerment of women to participate in intergovernmental processes, including through increased outreach, funding and capacity-building;

27. *Calls upon* the intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations system to systematically request the inclusion of a gender perspective in reports of the Secretary-General and other inputs to intergovernmental processes;

28. *Requests* that reports of the Secretary-General submitted to the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council and their subsidiary bodies continue to systematically address gender perspectives through gender-sensitive analysis, the provision of data disaggregated by sex and age and the reflection of the impact of proposed policies and programmes on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and that conclusions and recommendations for further action address the different situations and needs of women and men and girls and boys in order to facilitate gender-responsive policy development, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to convey the importance of reflecting a gender perspective to all stakeholders who provide input to his reports;

29. *Encourages* Member States, with the support of, as appropriate, United Nations entities, including UN-Women, international and regional organizations and other relevant actors, to prioritize the strengthening of national data collection and monitoring capacities with regard to statistics disaggregated by sex and age, as well as national tracking indicators for gender equality and the empowerment of women, through multisectoral efforts and partnerships;

30. *Calls upon* all parts of the United Nations system to continue to play an active role in ensuring the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session through, *inter alia*, the maintenance of gender specialists in all entities of the United Nations system, as well as by ensuring that all personnel, especially those in the field, receive training and appropriate follow-up, including tools,

guidance and support, for accelerated gender mainstreaming, and reaffirms the need to strengthen the capabilities of the United Nations system in the area of gender;

31. *Commends* the Secretary-General for his leadership and efforts towards creating an enabling environment for and accelerating progress towards the goal of 50/50 gender balance at all levels throughout the United Nations system, including the goal of reaching parity at the highest levels by 2021 and at all levels throughout the United Nations system by 2028, as set out in his system-wide strategy on gender parity launched in September 2017, and in this regard commends the Secretary-General for the recent achievements towards this goal among resident coordinators, Under-Secretaries-General and Assistant Secretaries-General;

32. *Requests* the Secretary-General to further accelerate his efforts to achieve the goal of 50/50 gender balance at all levels throughout the United Nations system, including in the field and in peacekeeping missions, with full respect for the principle of equitable geographical distribution, in conformity with Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations, considering, in particular, women from the developing and the least developed countries, countries with economies in transition and unrepresented or largely underrepresented Member States, and to ensure the implementation of measures with clear targets and timelines, including temporary special measures, as well as the strengthening of the implementation of policies and measures related to creating an enabling environment, including for work-life balance, and to prevent and address discrimination, harassment, including sexual harassment, and abuse of authority in the workplace, so as to accelerate progress, and managerial and departmental accountability with respect to attaining gender parity within the shortest feasible period;

33. *Calls upon* the entities of the United Nations system to significantly increase their efforts towards achieving the goal of 50/50 gender balance through a comprehensive range of actions, *inter alia* as outlined in the Secretary-General's system-wide strategy on gender parity and supplementary guidance in support of the system-wide strategy, as well as the recommendations contained in the Enabling Environment Guidelines for the United Nations System, to continue to collaborate with UN-Women and with the active support of gender focal points and focal points for women and to annually provide up-to-date statistics, including on the number and percentage of women and their functions and nationalities throughout the United Nations system, as well as information on the responsibility and accountability of the offices of human resources management and the secretariat of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for promoting gender balance;

34. *Strongly encourages* Member States to identify and regularly submit more women candidates for appointment to positions in the United Nations system, especially at more senior, decision-making and policymaking levels, including in peacekeeping operations;

35. *Encourages* increased efforts by Governments and the United Nations system to enhance accountability for the implementation of commitments to gender equality and the empowerment of women at the international, regional, national and local levels, including through improved monitoring and reporting on progress in relation to policies, strategies, resource allocations and programmes and by achieving gender balance;

36. *Reaffirms* that Governments bear the primary responsibility for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and that international cooperation has an essential role in assisting developing countries in progressing towards the full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action;

37. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to bring to the attention of the United Nations system the findings of his reports in order to strengthen follow-up on these findings and to accelerate the implementation of the present resolution;

38. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide an oral report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its sixty-fourth and sixty-fifth sessions and to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-sixth session on the improvement in the status of women in the United Nations system and on progress made and obstacles encountered in achieving gender balance, under the item entitled “Advancement of women”;

39. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-sixth session, under the item entitled “Advancement of women”, on the follow-up to and progress made in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session.

*50th plenary meeting
18 December 2019*
