



## Economic and Social Council

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### Commission on the Status of Women

Sixty-fourth session

9–20 March 2020

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”

### Statement submitted by Young Professionals Forum, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council\*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being  
circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council  
resolution 1996/31.

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\* The present statement is issued without formal editing.



## Statement

Young Professionals Forum has reviewed the priorities of the sixty-fourth session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, March 2020, the main focus of which will be on the 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.

Young Professionals Forum has analyzed the Fourth World Conference on Women and adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and identified some clusters of the 12 critical areas of concern that needs highlighting in alignment with the 2023 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The six clusters are as follows:

1. Inclusive development, shared prosperity, and decent work
2. Poverty eradication, social protection, and social services
3. Freedom from violence, stigma, and stereotypes
4. Participation, accountability and gender-responsive institutions
5. Peaceful and inclusive societies
6. Environmental conservation, protection, and rehabilitation.

These six clusters best represent the lessons learned that could further help the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, which was declared in the year 1995. Since the declaration in 1995, the situations and issues women face have not improved. Women today are still faced with violence, inequality, poverty, and other issues that haven't been resolved.

Young Professionals Forum supports the declaration because more strategy and work need to be put in place in terms of planning and implementation to establish more projects and programmes that will help achieve the declaration. More resources could be used to address the challenges of women's issues and get all stakeholders engaged. There has been some implementation challenges that have delayed the achievement of all aspects of the expectations from the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

Young Professionals Forum has also reviewed the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015. This agenda shows a blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals, which are an urgent call for action by all countries – developed and developing – in a global partnership. They recognize that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand in hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth – all while tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests. With the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action working together, this effort will have a positive impact on women. The challenges that women are facing today are a result of the failure by governments and countries to pay close attention to how to implement and achieve the expected goals.

During the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, a mission statement was also included: “The success of the Platform for Action will require a strong commitment on the part of governments, international organizations, and institutions at all levels.” This mission statement highlights the need for governments to be strongly committed and engaged, so that the goals of Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action will be accomplished.

The Young Professionals Forum reaffirms that in order to overcome challenges and better the lives for women and girls, there has to be a more systematic approach focused on implementing, adopting, and driving the realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

The Young Professionals Forum acknowledges the importance of commitment by all parts of governments, international organizations, and institutions at all levels to uphold women's advancement by pledging to facilitate and implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

The Young Professionals Forum proposes that a new era of global collaboration among governments and other stakeholders be established based on a spirit of partnership, fairness, and gender-sensitive policymaking. This will help foster the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

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