

## UN Women's Flagship Side Event at CSW69 Reflections and Resolve: Civil Society Pathways to Push Forward for Gender Equality

Thursday, 13 March 2025, 15:00 - 16:15 EST  
Conference Room 2, UN Secretariat

### Concept Note

#### Background

In 2025, the international community will mark the thirtieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. In both the Beijing Declaration and the 2030 Agenda, UN Member States made universal commitments to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls worldwide. The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), at its sixty-ninth session in 2025, “will undertake a review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (PfA) and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly.” The review will include an assessment of current challenges that affect the implementation of the Platform for Action and its contribution to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and the full realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In preparation for the commemoration, all States were called upon to undertake comprehensive national-level reviews of the progress made and challenges encountered in the implementation of the Beijing PfA and of the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly. Governments were called upon to collaborate with relevant stakeholders at all levels on the preparations for the 2025 review to benefit from and reflect their experience and expertise. The United Nations Regional Economic Commissions in partnership with UN Women were tasked to convene regional reviews to build regional consensus on actions needed to accelerate the implementation of commitments made in the Beijing PfA. The outcomes of intergovernmental processes at the regional level were then fed into the global review.

Civil society organizations, especially women's rights organizations, play a crucial role in ensuring governments deliver their commitments under the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action by actively monitoring implementation, providing critical feedback on progress, advocating for the inclusion of women's and girls' perspectives in policymaking at national, regional and global levels, and driving actions to advance gender equality and women's rights. Civil society acts as independent watchdogs, highlighting gaps in implementation, urging governments to address persistent inequalities, as well as providing frontline services to women and girls and championing gender equality agenda worldwide.

Recognizing the critical role of civil society, regional reviews included civil society consultations or forums to gather inputs from civil society, as well as to provide space for civil society to dialogue, mobilize, collectively strategize, and advocate. Regional Civil Society Steering Committees were established to facilitate and steer civil society engagement in the regional review process. Regional Civil Society Committees were composed of members of civil society organizations and youth leaders representing diverse constituencies in their respective regions.

UN Women's flagship side-event at CSW69 will bring together Regional Civil Society Steering

Committees including youth leaders from all regional Beijing+30 reviews to collectively reflect on processes and outcomes of the regional reviews and consultations, in order to contribute to the implementation of the Beijing+30 Action Agenda and CSW revitalization process.

## Objectives

This side-event offers an invaluable opportunity to unite civil society voices across the regions, including Generation Equality stakeholders, harness shared experiences, and build a stronger, more resilient movement capable of advancing the Beijing Platform for Action agenda and driving meaningful change for women and girls around the world. The side-event will also bring together youth leaders and activists, adolescent leaders, drawing on the Youth Forums that accompanied some of the regional convenings.

The side-event will:

1. Reflect on the level, quality, and impact of civil society engagement with intergovernmental processes, and how the engagement effectively contributes to regional and global agenda setting for gender equality;
2. Share lessons learned on how to effectively work across different constituent groups to ensure meaningful, inclusive and equitable participation;
3. Discuss and offer concrete recommendations for CSW revitalization, particularly in terms of participation and inclusion, working methods, substantive focuses, and accountability processes; and
4. Foster networks of solidarity and support to collectively push forward for women’s rights.

## Proposed agenda

Time	Item	Modality
1500-1515 (15mn)	<b>Framing the event</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UN Women Executive Director <i>reflects on the setting up of the regional civil society steering committees and the value of this engagement for Beijing+30</i></li> <li>• Representative of a UN Regional Economic Commission <i>reflects on the Regional Civil Society Steering Committees added value to the Beijing+30 regional implementation agenda</i> (6mn each)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interview format</li> <li>• Speakers interviewed by young (under 30) member of a CSO Steering Committee</li> </ul>
1515-1550 (35mn)	<b>Discussion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Representatives of Regional Civil Society Steering Committees to               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>reflect on the level, quality, and impact of civil society engagement in the Beijing+30 intergovernmental processes;</i></li> <li>2. <i>share lessons learned on how to effectively work across different constituent groups to ensure meaningful, inclusive and equitable participation; and</i></li> <li>3. <i>offer concrete recommendations for CSW revitalization, particularly in terms of participation and inclusion, working method, substantive focuses, and accountability processes.</i></li> </ol> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Panel dialogue</li> <li>• Panel moderated by a moderator</li> </ul>

	(5mn each)	
1550-1610 (20mn)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guest respondents from Audience to <i>complement the panel discussion</i></li> </ul>	
1610-1615 (5mn)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ECOSOC Chair or a Co-Facilitator of CSW Revitalization to <i>share reflection on how to bring the inputs from today’s conversation forward to inform the CSW revitalization process and beyond</i> (5mn)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interview format</li> <li>• Speaker interviewed by young (under 30) member of a CSO Steering Committee</li> <li>•</li> </ul>

**Proposed speakers**

- ECOSOC Chair (Canada) or a Co-Facilitator of CSW Revitalization (Boswana or Ireland)
- UN Women Executive Director
- A Representative of a UN Regional Economic Commission
- Civil society and youth members that participated in Regional Civil Society Steering Committees in 5 regions (ECA, ECE, ECLAC, ESCAP & ESCWA)