



Summit of the Future Action Days Side Event

Beijing+30: Achieving Gender Equality, Rights and Empowerment for All Women and Girls

21 September, 14:30 – 15:45, CR2 at UNHQ

Organized by: China, Denmark, France, Kenya, Mexico, UN Women, Women's Major Group

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Background on the event (one paragraph)

As the 30th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action approaches, a high-level event titled “Beijing+30: Achieving Gender Equality, Rights and Empowerment for All Women and Girls” was held at the United Nations headquarters in New York. This event took place on the sidelines of the Summit of the future and the 79th session of the UN General Assembly, bringing together global leaders, activists, youth, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders to discuss and shape the global gender equality agenda.

The governments of China, Denmark, France, Kenya, and Mexico, as previous hosts of landmark women's conferences, in collaboration with UN Women and the Women's Major Group (WMG), organized this event. The discussions focused on fulfilling the global commitments made to implement the Beijing Platform for Action, highlighting progress, addressing persistent and emerging challenges, and building momentum towards achieving equal rights and opportunities for women and girls worldwide.

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

Speakers at the “Beijing+30: Achieving Gender Equality, Rights and Empowerment for All Women and Girls” event emphasized several critical issues:

1. **Slow Progress on Gender Equality:** Despite significant strides, progress on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls remains slow.
2. **Economic Impact of Gender Gaps:** UN Women’s “Gender Snapshot 2024” report highlights that closing gender gaps in education and skills could add \$10 trillion to the global economy, ending the digital gender divide could save over \$500 billion, and investing in the care economy could create nearly 300 million jobs.
3. **Global Development Gaps:** Speakers pointed out that the global landscape is evolving rapidly, with widening development gaps and risks of regression in women’s development. 1 in 10 women live in extreme poverty, and nearly 600 million live in conflict-affected areas.
4. **Need for a Gender and Intersectional Perspective:** Speakers called for a “Pact of the Future” with a gender and intersectional perspective to ensure a healthy, peaceful, and secure world for future generations.
5. **Combating Violence Against Women and girls:** It was stressed that there can be no equality as long as violence against women and girls persists. Speakers advocated for preventing and eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls.
6. **Financing for Gender Equality:** Speakers expressed hope that the outcomes of Beijing+30, Summit of the Future and the International Conference on Financing for Development would lead to strong international commitments to place financing for gender equality at the core.
7. **The Need to Pushforward:** Speakers expressed concern regarding the ongoing pushback against the rights of women and girls globally and reaffirmed the need to pushforward, in order to avoid back sliding of the hard won gains and ensure the promotion and protection of the rights of women and girls.

Key recommendations for action (5 - 6 bullet points)

[At the event, UN Women Executive Director highlighted six priority areas of action](#) and investment that put women and girls and youth at the center of all efforts to unlock the biggest impact and finally deliver the promises made to women and girls.

1. Accelerate gender parity in national and local government by applying temporary special measures to rapidly increase women’s shares of decision-making positions.
2. Adopt and fund national action plans to end violence against women, and support and coordinate with community-led mechanisms to extend the reach of services.

3. Centre women and girls in a global just transition to green economies by prioritizing them in developing new skills and gaining green jobs.
4. Bridge the digital gender gap by providing women with equal access to technology and its benefits, including mobile phones and the Internet.
5. Transform the care economy to support women's economic empowerment by increasing national budgets for equitable, quality public care services.
6. Drive accountability for the women, peace and security agenda and gender responsive humanitarian action by adopting fully financed national action plans and funding local women's organizations leading responses to crises and conflicts.

Webpage to find more information:

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2024/09/brochure-equal-is-greater-time-to-act-for-gender-equality-and-womens-empowerment-and-rights>