



FACT SHEET

Beijing Declaration And Platform for Action Prepared by IFUW Working Group on the Girl Child



The Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA) is the outcome document of the Fourth World Conference on Women (1995), where governments and NGOs took the historic step of setting a global agenda for achieving gender equality and women's human rights.

In 1995 United Nations Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali stated that the commitments made in Beijing were not only the result of diplomatic negotiations. The strong and organized power of the women's movement and the entire continuum of global conferences and summits shaped the growing influence, passion and intellectual conviction of women.

The Commission on the Status of Women was one of the first functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council established by the United Nations after its founding. World conferences in Mexico City, Copenhagen and Nairobi contributed to the progressive strengthening of women's legal, economic, social and political rights.

The message of the Beijing Declaration is that there is still much to be done. Gender disparities and unacceptable inequalities persist in all countries. We must "Look at the world through women's eyes". The fundamental objectives of the Beijing Conference - equality, development and peace - are as real today as they were in 1995. The Platform for Action remains a powerful agenda for the empowerment of women.

The then UN Secretary General emphasized the important role of civil society in ensuring the implementation of the goals, objectives and measures outlined in the Platform. Effective mechanisms to ensure partnership between governments and civil society will contribute significantly to the implementation of policies and programs called for in the Platform.

The Platform is a call for concrete action to make a difference in the lives of women and to address critical concerns worldwide. It calls for:

- Action to protect and promote the human rights of women and girl children as an integral part of universal rights
- Action to eradicate the persistent and increasing burden of poverty on women
- Action to remove the obstacles to women's full participation in public life and decision-making at all levels – including the family
- Action to eliminate all forms of violence against women
- Action to ensure equal access for girl children and women to education and health services
- Action to promote economic autonomy for women and ensure their access to productive resources, and
- Action to encourage an equitable sharing of family responsibilities

Women's rights are human rights. Women's empowerment and their full participation on the basis of equality in all spheres of society, including participation in decision-making processes and access to power, are fundamental for the achievement of equality, development and peace.

The participation and contribution of all actors of civil society, particularly women's groups and networks and other non-governmental organizations and community based organizations with full respect for their autonomy, in cooperation with Governments are important to the effective implementation and follow-up of the Platform for Action.

It's important to recognize the leading role of women in peace processes and to take positive steps to ensure peace as a factor in the advancement of women and work actively towards general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control.

Equal access to and equal treatment of women, girls, men and boys in education and health care is critical to women's equality. Women and girls must be free to develop their potential to the fullest.

Equitable social development that recognizes empowering the poor, particularly women living in poverty and care for the environment is a necessary foundation for sustainable development.

More information on: www.ifuw.org/advocacy/beijing/

Reference:

[Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action](#)
[Beijing +5 Political Declaration and Outcome Document](#)