

The Commission decided this year, in light of the current concerns regarding coronavirus disease that the 64th session of the Commission would convene on 9 March for a procedural meeting.

The meeting included opening statements, followed by **the adoption of the draft Political Declaration and action on any other draft resolutions.**

The session then suspended until further notification, No general debate took place and all side events planned by Member States and the UN system in conjunction with CSW64 were cancelled,

In the Political Declaration, Member States welcomed the progress made towards the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, but expressed concern that overall, progress has not been fast or deep enough. In some areas, progress has been uneven, and some structural barriers, discriminatory practices and the feminization of poverty persist.

As leaders reaffirm their political will for action, they also recognize that new challenges have emerged that require concerted and intensified efforts, including in regard to:

- Realizing the right to education for all women and girls, with attention to areas where they are underrepresented such as STEM
- Ensuring full, equal and meaningful participation, representation and leadership of women at all levels and in all spheres of society
- Ensuring women's economic empowerment, for instance, access to decent work, equal pay, provision of social security and access to finance
- Tackling the disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work of women and girls
- Addressing the disproportionate effect of climate change and natural disasters on women and girls
- Ending all forms of violence and harmful practices against all women and girls
- Protecting women and girls in armed conflicts and ensuring women's participation in peace processes and mediation
- Realizing the right to health for women and girls, with emphasis on universal health coverage
- Addressing hunger and malnutrition among women and girls.

Leaders also identified specific means for tackling these gaps and challenges. Some of these include eliminating all discriminatory laws; breaking down structural barriers, discriminatory social norms and gender stereotypes including in the media; matching commitments to gender equality with adequate financing; strengthening institutions to promote gender equality; harnessing the potential of technology and innovation to improve women's and girls' lives; regularly collecting, analyzing and using gender statistics; and strengthening international cooperation to implement commitments to gender equality.

The Declaration also reaffirms that gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls will make a crucial contribution to progress across all the Sustainable Development Goals, as we begin the UN Decade of Action.

For the 64th session, the UN Secretary General presented a comprehensive report that is based on an extensive, participatory stock-taking exercise on women's rights, combined with global data and analysis. 171 Governments submitted national reports, and hundreds of civil society activists contributed to the national and regional reviews. Building on the UN Secretary-General report, UN

Women published the **Women's rights in Review 25 years after Beijing Report**, examining progress and obstacles in women's rights since the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in 1995.

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