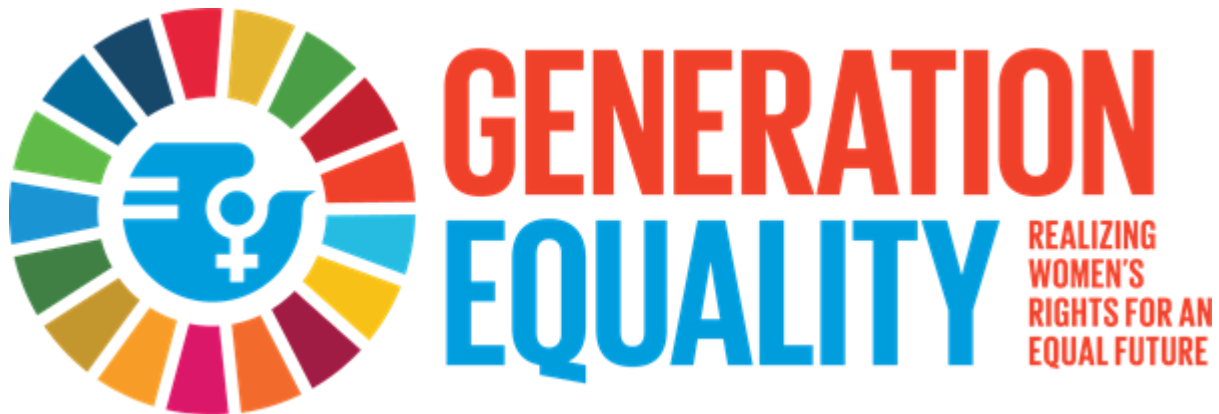


Africa regional review of twenty-five years of implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPfA)



The Year 2020 will mark 25 years since the world signed the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPfA). In the same year the global community will be marking 5th Anniversary of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. The two commitments provide a framework for achievement of irreversible and measurable progress towards gender equality and women's empowerment without leaving anyone behind. The BPfA underscores commitment made at global, regional and sub regional levels to ending discrimination, promoting women's rights and advancing gender equality and women's empowerment.

In 2020, the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) will carry out a review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform, 25 years after its adoption in 1995. The Africa regional review will take place in 2019 against the backdrop describe above, where a synthesis regional report drawn from 54 national reports will be discussed and tabled for adoption. The ECA like all Regional Commissions is mandated to follow-up progress and report on Africa's implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action. The current African review in 2019, will inform the global report to be presented to the CSW in 2020 and will cover the extent to which countries have met their commitments to implementing the BPfA, particularly highlighting progress made and challenges remaining in addressing the twelve critical areas of concern. This review is particularly important as it coincides with the reviews of Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development +5 (ICPD+25) as well as Agenda 2030 +5 reviews. The three reviews will provide a comprehensive picture of progress made in advancing gender equality broadly and particularly in the population and development arena. The BPfA review will provide the required introspection for the continent to synergise their efforts to optimize their achievements. The regional review report will be Africa's contribution to the global report highlighting both collective and individual country experiences. This in line with the "resolution E/RES/2013/18, the United Nations Economic and Social Council calling upon all States to undertake comprehensive national-level reviews of the progress made and challenges encountered in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly".

ECA in collaboration with UN Women and AUC is conducting the fifth review of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA) on the African continent. The objective is to assess the progress made and challenges encountered in the implementation of the BPfA as well as serving as an opportunity for awareness raising and consultation at the national level with a broad range of stakeholders within and outside government. The review will inform the 2020 Global report on Beijing Plus 25 so that the Africa perspective is captured. In collaboration with UN Women, ECA is

facilitating the Africa region's review of twenty-five years of the implementation of the BPFA. The Review is based on a Guiding Note produced by UN Women in partnership with all the five UN regional commissions including ECA. The national review and production of a national report will be guided by the Guiding Notes and emphasis is on the implementation and impact with evidence to support the review. The review has two parts and the questionnaire has 3 sections organized around the 12 critical areas of concern in BPFA with clear instructions of what to include in each section.