

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
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WIMUN NEW YORK 2026

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

REVIEW OF THE BEIJING PLATFORM FOR ACTION

Simulation: Commission on the Status of Women

Welcome to WIMUN New York 2026,

We are very pleased to introduce you to the most authentic simulation of the Commission on the Status of Women in the world; and hope to contribute to your understanding of the organisation, its mandate, and its critical role in global affairs.

Through a series of pre-conference webinars that will be offered and documents – like this resource guide – we aim to educate you not only about the global issues on the UN agenda, but also about the ways and means through which those topics are discussed, debated and negotiated by real UN diplomats.

This resource guide will provide you with a head start in doing research to gain a deeper understanding of the global issue that you will be discussing and the actions that the government you have been assigned recommends that the international community should take to address this issue. To make the research process a bit easier, the resource guide has been divided into sections and sub-sections to assist you in researching these two components. We strongly recommend you to give a careful look through the sources listed below so that the interaction with your peers is as exciting as possible.

We wish you all the very best in this journey of learning!

TOPIC DESCRIPTION

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), a functional commission of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) established in 1946, is the main global intergovernmental body dedicated to promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. As a key forum for policy dialogue, negotiation, and norm-setting, the CSW has played a central role in shaping international standards and strategies to advance women's rights for nearly eight decades. The Commission has historically driven progress on some of the most critical and challenging issues facing half the world's population.

The Review of the Beijing Platform for Action marks the 30th anniversary of one of the most significant milestones in the global fight for gender equality. In 1995, the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing, China, brought together 189 Member States and over 17,000 participants, including activists, government representatives, and civil society organizations. The outcome of that historic gathering was the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPfA), a groundbreaking policy framework centered on 12 critical areas of concern. The core issues include the elimination of all forms of violence against women, their full and effective participation in public life and decision-making, and economic empowerment. Recent efforts have emphasized addressing women's poverty, strengthening institutions and financing for gender equality, closing the digital divide, and incorporating a gender perspective to any action, policy, legislation or action that addresses climate change. The Platform remains one of the most ambitious and comprehensive roadmaps for achieving gender equality and women's empowerment ever adopted at the global level.

Thirty years on, the world has seen substantial progress in many areas. Legal reforms in numerous countries have expanded protections against gender-based violence and discrimination. Women's political representation has increased in many national legislatures, and access to education for girls has improved globally. Yet despite these gains, significant challenges persist. Gender pay gaps, underrepresentation in leadership roles, unequal access to digital tools and resources, and inadequate support for unpaid care work continue to reinforce systemic inequalities. Meanwhile, global crises—including climate change, conflict, rising authoritarianism, and digital threats—are creating new risks and widening existing gender gaps.

To mark Beijing+30, the CSW's 69th session in March 2025 saw Member States adopt a new political declaration reaffirming their commitment to the original goals of the Platform. The declaration emphasized the importance of aligning the BPfA with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, especially Sustainable Development Goal 5 (Gender Equality), while calling for stronger action to tackle persistent barriers. Consultations in the lead-up to the session—including regional reviews, expert group meetings, and high-level events—highlighted the need for renewed investments in care infrastructure, digital inclusion, climate resilience, and support for grassroots women's organizations.

Key Points and Main Issues

The 2025 session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) marks a pivotal moment: the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, a landmark agenda adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995. As the most comprehensive global framework for achieving gender equality, it outlined 12 critical areas of concern, ranging from women's education and economic participation to health, political leadership, and violence prevention.

Despite notable progress over the past three decades—especially in girls' education, maternal health, and legal protections—significant gaps persist. Disparities in economic opportunity, unequal access to technology, underrepresentation in leadership, and widespread gender-based violence continue to affect women and girls globally. This year's review provides Member States and stakeholders a vital opportunity to reassess progress, confront setbacks, and reaffirm political commitment to the Platform's full implementation.

Women's Economic Empowerment

- Persistent Labour Gaps

Women's labour force participation remains significantly lower than men's worldwide and Many women are concentrated in low-wage, insecure, or informal jobs with little or no social protection. Structural barriers, such as discriminatory hiring practices and lack of flexible work options, limit women's economic advancement.

- Unpaid and Undervalued Care Work

Women perform around 2.8 times more unpaid care work than men, including childcare, elder care, and household tasks. This limits time available for education, paid work, or political participation. Care work is often excluded from national economic measurements, undervaluing its contribution to society.

- Digital and Financial Inclusion Gaps

Women face higher barriers to accessing technology, mobile banking, and entrepreneurial financing. The digital gender divide is particularly acute in rural and low-income regions. Limited digital literacy further restricts opportunities in emerging economies.

- Recommended Actions
 - Invest in affordable childcare, parental leave, and elder care infrastructure.
 - Introduce gender-responsive labour laws to close wage and participation gaps.
 - Expand women's access to digital skills training, mobile technology, and microcredit schemes.
 - Mainstream gender considerations into all national economic recovery strategies.

Key Points and Main Issues (cont.)

Gender Based Violence and Legal Protections

- High Prevalence of Violence

Nearly one in three women globally experiences physical or sexual violence in her lifetime. Online abuse and harassment are escalating, particularly targeting women in public life.

- Barriers to Justice

Survivors face stigma, fear of retaliation, and lack of trust in institutions. Weak law enforcement responses often lead to low conviction rates.

- Data and Enforcement Gaps

Gender-based violence remains underreported; fewer than half of countries have robust data systems. Disaggregated data by age, location, and disability status is often unavailable.

- Recommended Actions
- Strengthen and enforce comprehensive laws addressing all forms of gender-based violence.
- Train police, judiciary, and health workers in gender-sensitive protocols.
- Invest in national data collection systems to inform prevention and response strategies.

Climate Change and Gender

- Disproportionate Impact

Climate change worsens food insecurity, water scarcity, and health risks, particularly for women in rural and coastal communities. Displacement from disasters increases exposure to poverty and gender-based violence.

- Gender Gaps in Response

Women remain underrepresented in environmental decision-making and climate policy spaces. Many national climate strategies lack gender-specific measures or targets.

- Resilience and Innovation

Community-driven women's groups often respond faster and more effectively to local climate impacts. Integrating women's traditional knowledge strengthens resilience in vulnerable regions.

- Recommended Actions
- Ensure gender-responsive climate policies and budgets.
- Increase women's participation in environmental governance at all levels.
- Provide targeted funding and resources for women-led climate adaptation projects.

Key Points and Main Issues (cont.)

Technology and the Digital Gender Divide

- Digital Skills

Women are underrepresented in STEM education and ICT-related training programs. Lack of digital literacy restricts their participation in the growing online economy and girls often face cultural and social barriers that discourage them from pursuing tech-related careers.

- Online Harassment

Women experience higher rates of cyberbullying, doxxing, and online sexual harassment. Threats and abuse online can discourage women from engaging in political, professional, and civic activities.

- Recommended Actions
 - Integrate digital literacy and STEM training into national education systems, with targeted programs for girls.
 - Enforce laws and regulations to combat online gender-based violence, including clear reporting mechanisms.
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Normative aspects of the work of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women: Report of the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (E/CN.6/2025/2)

2025

Summary: This is the official CSW69 review report on the Beijing Platform. It includes global data, trends, policy progress and gaps in all 12 critical areas. It is an essential primary source to ground arguments.

Women's Rights in Review: 30 Years After Beijing

2025

Summary: This report presents a comprehensive assessment of global progress and challenges in implementing the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action over the past 30 years. Drawing on reviews from 159 countries, it highlights gains in areas such as anti-discrimination employment laws, gender-responsive climate policy, and legal reforms. However, it also highlights persistent structural barriers - gender discrimination deeply embedded in societies - and calls for renewed action through UN Women's "Beijing+30 Action Agenda."

Beijing+30 Action Agenda: For ALL Women and Girls

2025

Summary: This brochure outlines the Beijing+30 Action Agenda, which builds on the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and charts a course for accelerating gender equality over the next decade. It lays out core areas of commitment across rights, resources, institutions, and leadership, emphasizing intersectionality, accountability, and inclusion of marginalized groups. The document aims to mobilize governments, civil society, and other stakeholders to transform vision into concrete policy, financing, and normative action.

[Preparations for CSW69 / Beijing+30](#)

2025

Summary: This page outlines the preparatory processes for the 69th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW69), which will serve as the global review and appraisal of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (Beijing+30). It typically provides key event timelines, thematic focus areas, guidelines for national reports and stakeholder submissions, modalities for regional and thematic dialogues, and logistics for panels and side events. The aim is to guide Member States, civil society, and UN entities in aligning their contributions to achieve accountability, progress tracking, and transformative action in gender equality.

[East and Southern Africa Beijing+30 National Review Reports | Publications | UN Women](#)

2024

Summary: This collection of national reports for East and Southern Africa provides essential input into continental and global assessments of progress on the social, political, and economic rights of women and girls - forming the basis of the Beijing+30 action agenda that will guide future policy and funding priorities across Africa and globally.

[Inclusive National Planning | UN Women – Headquarters](#)

2024

Summary: The work centers on integrating gender equality into national planning, budgeting, and governance systems to ensure that development strategies actively reflect and finance women's needs and priorities. This includes designing national and sectoral development plans with strong gender analysis, clear targets, and correctly cost implementation measures.

Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference: Beijing+30 Review

2024

Summary: This event is the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference convened as part of the Beijing+30 review process, focusing on assessing progress in gender equality and the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action across the Asia-Pacific region. The conference gathers government ministers, regional bodies, civil society actors, and UN agencies to share regional review findings, exchange good practices, identify gaps, and commit to priority actions (policy, financing, capacity) for accelerating gender equality in the coming years.

Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action — ESCWA

2024

Summary: This ESCWA page provides an overview of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995) as a foundational framework for women's rights and gender equality, emphasizing its continued relevance in addressing social, political, economic, and cultural inequalities. ESCWA describes its role in supporting Arab States: facilitating national audits, coordinating regional reviews, preparing regional reports, and organizing consultations with civil society and stakeholders. The page also outlines strategic partnerships (e.g. with UN-Women, League of Arab States), and highlights related publications, events, and policy briefs tied to the Beijing +30 review in the region.

Women in local government in Latin America and the Caribbean

2023

Summary: The brief shows that in Latin America and the Caribbean, women still hold far fewer local government seats than men - about 27.2 % of local positions in 2023, versus 35.5 % globally. The brief explains that this slow change is due to structural barriers: discriminatory norms, weak laws, and power imbalances. The document highlights that laws like gender quotas (especially well-designed ones) have helped a few countries make gains. It calls for stronger laws, better data, support for women's political training, and removal of obstacles so that gender parity at the local level can become real.

HC Türk pledges to advance the rights and equality of women and girls in every society.

2023

Summary: The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Türk, says that women's equality is essential for justice, peace, and development. He explains that societies cannot grow if women and girls are denied education, jobs, or participation in decisions. Türk condemns efforts around the world to limit women's rights, especially their control over their bodies and choices. He also warns about online abuse and calls for digital spaces to become safer for women. The speech ends with a clear message: women's equality strengthens families, cultures, and societies - it is central to human dignity and freedom.

Women in politics: 2023

2023

Summary: The Women in Politics: 2023 Map by UN Women and the Inter-Parliamentary Union shows that women remain underrepresented in leadership worldwide. As of January 2023, they held only 26.5 percent of parliamentary seats and 22.8 percent of ministerial positions, with just 31 countries led by a woman as head of state or government. Women are more likely to oversee social or equality portfolios, while men dominate finance and defense. The report calls for stronger gender-balance measures to close these gaps.

Engaging Parliaments in Gender Responsive Budgeting

2022

Summary: This guide shows how parliaments can help make budgets fairer for all genders. It explains how to add gender perspectives in each part of the budget process—from planning to auditing. The kit gives examples, steps, and tips for lawmakers and advocates to push for equity in public spending. It also includes ideas for training, partnerships, and rules to support gender-responsive budgeting.

Women's Representation in Local Government: A Global Analysis

2021

Summary: This paper reviews how women's representation at the local level compares with national parliaments and the impact of legislated gender quotas and electoral systems on local-level outcomes.

Asia-Pacific Declaration on Advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Beijing +25 Review

2020

Summary: Adopted at the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference in November 2019, this Declaration provides a regional assessment of progress made five years after the Beijing Declaration, known as Beijing+25. It synthesizes national-level reviews from Asia-Pacific governments into a unified regional declaration and roadmap to accelerate gender equality and women's empowerment.

Gender Responsive Budgeting in the Asia-Pacific Region: A Status Report

2020

Summary: The report shows how gender-responsive budgeting can turn gender equality goals into real government spending. It acts as a guide for improving policies, public budgets, and gender equality programs in the region. It also points out ways to make gender analysis a regular and stronger part of budget planning.

[A Short History of the Commission on the Status of Women](#) 2019

Summary: The document traces the work of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) from its start in 1946. At first, the CSW focused on legal frameworks to end discrimination, helping draft conventions like CEDAW. Over the decades, its work expanded to promoting women's participation in development, spotlighting violence against women, and integrating gender equality into UN programs. Since 2015, CSW has helped monitor progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals and guide national policies for women's rights.

[UN Women, 2015. Handbook on Costing Gender Equality](#) 2015

Summary: This handbook gives a clear, step-by-step method to figure out how much money is needed to make gender equality policies real. It helps governments and organizations identify the interventions needed, collect data, calculate costs, and insert those costs into budgets. The guide also shows how to use the results for advocacy, planning, and monitoring progress. It includes real-life case studies to illustrate how costing works in different settings.

National Statement at CSW69 - Sweden Abroad **2025**

Summary: Sweden reaffirmed its commitment to gender equality, human rights, and the Beijing Declaration 30 years later. The country emphasized that progress must include women in crisis, war, and poverty. Sweden's priorities include protecting reproductive rights, passing a constitutional guarantee of abortion access, and promoting women's economic and political power. It also stressed the need to combat violence, support LGBTIQ rights, and involve men and boys in gender equality efforts.

Statement by Minister Marci Ien on **2025** **International Women's Day - Canada.ca**

Summary: This statement made on International Women's Day celebrates women's communities and the achievements made in terms of equality. However, it also mentions the barriers women face in education, career advancement, and in income.

Office for Equality and Opportunity to break **2024** **down barriers to opportunity - GOV.UK**

Summary: The United Kingdom government has launched the Office for Equality and Opportunity within the Cabinet Office. Its mission is to add equality and opportunity across all government agendas, tackling barriers related to gender, race, disability, LGBT+ rights, and socio-economic background.

Statement by the Swiss Federal Commission **2022** **for Women's Issues FCWI to the UN** **Committee on the Elimination of** **Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)**

Summary: In October 2022, Switzerland's FCWI presented its oral statement at CEDAW's 83rd session, highlighting three key concerns: the lack of a national Human Rights Institution, gender-equitable digitalisation and gendered lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Council for Gender Equality (The Prime Minister in Action). | Prime Minister's Office of Japan **2021**

Summary: During the 65th meeting of the Council for Gender Equality at the Prime Minister's Office, the participants engaged in discussions on the formulation of the Intensive Policy for Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality 2022 (Basic Policies Related to Women). The Prime Minister followed with a statement reiterating the four pillars discussed, including the integration of men to help promote a more equitable society, such as encouraging more male workers to take childcare leave.

Gender Equality Strategy 2030 - Home **2021**

Summary: Switzerland's Gender Equality Strategy 2030 is the country's first national plan focused on promoting equality between women and men. It contains 332 measures spread across four main action areas: work and public life; balancing work and family; gender-based violence; and combating discrimination and stereotypes. The strategy is coordinated by the Federal Office for Gender Equality and involves cooperation across federal, regional, and municipal levels.

[Joint EESC-AU ECOSOCC Declaration for the UN Commission on the Status of Women \(CSW69\) / Beijing+30](#)

2025

Summary: The European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) and the African Union's ECOSOCC renew their commitment to the goals of the 1995 Beijing Declaration for women's rights. They acknowledge that, despite progress, many structural, cultural, economic, and political barriers still block full gender equality. The declaration demands stronger action across multiple fronts: better representation of women in politics, ending violence against women including in digital spaces, closing the digital gender gap, promoting women's economic participation (especially in the green economy), recognizing unpaid care work, and ensuring women's participation in peace and security processes. It also calls for better gender data, accountability, and meaningful civil society involvement to make sure policy becomes reality.

[Women in parliament 1995-2025 | Inter-Parliamentary Union](#)

2025

Summary: The Inter-Parliamentary Union's "Women in Parliament: 1995–2025" report reviews 30 years of progress since the Beijing Platform for Action. It highlights major gains in women's representation - rising from 11.3% to 26.9% globally - while noting regional disparities and persistent barriers. The report emphasizes the importance of quotas, political will, and systemic reform to achieve parity and sustain progress.

[Gender Statistics Database](#)

2019

Summary: The European Institute for Gender Equality's (EIGE) Gender Statistics Database provides comprehensive, EU-wide data on gender equality across sectors like employment, education, health, decision-making, and violence. It supports policy analysis and monitoring by offering interactive tools, detailed indicators, and country comparisons. The database helps track progress toward gender equality goals and supports evidence-based policymaking. This is a great tool to easily find data for research.

10 actions for Gender Equality | Inter-Parliamentary Union

2025

Summary: The Inter-Parliamentary Union's "10 Actions for Gender Equality" outlines practical steps parliaments can take to advance gender equality. These include legal reforms, gender budgeting, supporting women's leadership, and combating gender-based violence. The guide emphasizes accountability, data-driven decision-making, and building inclusive political institutions.

Women, Business, and the Law 2024

2024

Summary: The latest Women, Business, and the Law report offers a comprehensive picture of the obstacles that women face in entering the global workforce. The analysis adds two indicators that can be critical in opening up or restricting women's options: safety from violence and access to childcare services. When those measures are included, women on average enjoy just 64% of the legal protections that men do.

Gender in environment and climate change | European Institute for Gender Equality

2019

Summary: This document dives into the relevance of gender in climate protection policies and provides a detailed introduction to the topic. It provides information on gender equality policy goals at the EU and international levels.

[African women are leading, but more support is needed](#) | [Africa Renewal](#) **2025**

Summary: This article from Africa Renewal highlights the increasing visibility and impact of African women in politics, peacebuilding, entrepreneurship, and climate action. Despite progress, women still face systemic barriers, underfunding, and limited access to leadership spaces.

[Violence and sexist harassment against female MPs 'rife across Asia-Pacific'](#) | [Global development](#) | [The Guardian](#) **2025**

Summary: In a new Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) report, 150 women MPs and parliamentary staff across 33 Asia-Pacific countries shared their experiences of abuse. Around 76% said they faced psychological violence, 60% had been targeted online with hate speech and disinformation, and one in four reported sexual violence. More than half the harassment occurred inside parliamentary buildings and involved male parliamentarians. The report warns this common sexism damages democracy and discourages women from entering politics.

[Joint-Statement-Beijing-30-58th-Session-UN.pdf](#) **2025**

Summary: This is a joint statement that was made by Women Deliver, an advocacy and youth oriented NGO during the 58th Session of the Human Rights Council on behalf of over 100 other NGOs present at the Session.

[Global: UN member states recommit to gender equality amid backlash against human rights - Amnesty International](#)

2025

Summary: UN member states agreed again to support gender equality through a new political declaration based on the 1995 Beijing Platform for Action. The declaration includes plans to help survivors of gender-based violence, make budgets fair for women and men, and support civil society groups that work for equality. Some countries tried to remove key gender terms during the talks, but they did not succeed. Amnesty International asks governments to now take real action - by changing unfair laws, protecting rights, and supporting women who defend human rights.

[CSO Beijing+30 Report: Global NGO / CSW-NY Submission](#)

2025

Summary: This report is a civil society / NGO parallel submission to UN Women, produced by the NGO Committee on the Status of Women, New York (NGO/CSW/NY), offering a critical perspective on the 30-year implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action. It highlights gaps, challenges, and promising practices from global civil society, emphasizing accountability, intersections of discrimination, grassroots voices, and recommendations for more transformative commitments. The document seeks to complement official reports by amplifying marginalized perspectives and pushing for stronger mechanisms of follow-up and remedy in the Beijing+30 review process.

[NGO CSW69 Forum Report \(Report 2\)](#)

2025

Summary: This report is a document produced by the civil society stakeholders convened during CSW69, capturing the outcomes, deliberations, perspectives, and recommendations from the NGO Forum associated with the 69th session of the Commission on the Status of Women. It includes thematic discussions, key messages voiced by NGOs, priority actions for the Beijing+30 implementation, and input intended to inform and influence governmental and UN decision-making. The report amplifies grassroots voices, emphasizes accountability, and proposes concrete steps for advancing gender equality post-Beijing+30.

Words and Deeds: Holding Governments Accountable in the Beijing+30 Review Process

2025

Summary: This report examines the gap between commitments and action in the 30 years since the Beijing Platform for Action. It documents how many governments have failed to repeal or amend sex-discriminatory laws, highlights trends of legal backsliding (e.g. in reproductive or LGBTQ+ rights), and provides country-level examples of enduring inequalities. Through a Call to Action, it urges states, international bodies, and civil society to accelerate legal reforms, strengthen accountability, and safeguard rights against regression.

Challenges and priorities for delivering on the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action 25 years on - The Lancet

2020

Summary: This Lancet commentary reflects on progress and challenges 25 years after the 1995 Beijing Declaration on gender equality. It highlights how COVID-19 has deepened inequalities - through increased unpaid care burdens, lost economic opportunities, and rising violence - and calls for renewed global commitment to equality amid new challenges like climate change, social unrest, and rising nationalism.

NGO Guidance for Beijing +25 National Parallel Reports

2019

Summary: This guidance document provides a template and process advice for NGOs and civil society to prepare parallel (non-governmental) reports ahead of the 25-year Beijing review (Beijing +25). It explains how NGOs can document achievements, challenges, and proposals across the 12 Critical Areas of Concern, add intersectional perspectives, and coordinate stakeholder input. It emphasizes that such reports should not simply critique governments ("shadow reports") but "praise and raise" positive innovations while offering informed recommendations.