

**Commission on the Status of Women
Fifty-fourth session
1 – 12 March 2010**

**Interactive expert panel on
“Regional perspectives in progress achieved and remaining gaps and challenges in
the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action”**

Thursday, 4 March 2010, 3:00 – 6:00 pm

ISSUES PAPER

I. Introduction

The Beijing Platform for Action called on the regional commissions of the United Nations and other subregional/regional structures to promote and assist the pertinent national institutions in monitoring and implementing the global Platform for Action within their mandates, in coordination with the implementation of the respective regional platforms or plans of action.

In its resolution 1998/46, the Economic and Social Council highlighted the important role of the regional commissions and other regional bodies in implementing the outcome of the major global conferences and noted that their contribution should be reflected in the work of the functional commissions. In 2006, the Council invited the regional commissions to continue to contribute to the work of the Commission on the Status of Women (Council resolution 2006/9). In its resolution on preparations for the fifty-fourth session (Commission resolution 53/1), the Commission noted the relevance of the regional reviews and outcomes of the regional level intergovernmental processes in preparation for the “Beijing plus 15” review.

II. Fifteen-year review and appraisal

In preparation for the fifteen-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, the regional commissions of the United Nations prepared regional review reports. Regional review meetings have taken place in four regions, with the fifth scheduled to take place in July 2010 (see Annex). The regional review processes provided an opportunity to identify trends in implementation as well as achievements and challenges in promoting gender equality, and to identify further actions and initiatives.

III. Format and outcome of the interactive expert panel

The panel will take the form of an interactive dialogue. The Executive Secretaries of the five regional commissions, or their designated representatives, will make introductory presentations of 10 minutes, highlighting the main findings of the regional reviews and outcomes of their intergovernmental processes. Member States, United Nations system entities and non-governmental organizations will be encouraged to share experiences in

implementing the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly at regional levels, and/or respond to the panellists' presentations. Interventions from the floor will be limited to three minutes. A moderator's summary of the dialogue will be prepared and posted on the website of the Division for the Advancement of Women.

IV. Issues for consideration in the interactive dialogue

The dialogue provides an opportunity to share experiences and discuss strategies for enhancing the implementation of the Platform for Action at regional level. The following issues could be considered:

- What are some of the main current challenges in the implementation of the Platform for Action at regional level, and how could those be most effectively addressed?
- What steps and actions have proven successful at regional level towards building partnerships among governments and other stakeholders, such as regional organizations, civil society, including non-governmental organizations and women's organizations, for the effective implementation of the Platform for Action?
- What processes have been effective in linking the implementation of the Platform for Action to efforts for effective follow-up to regional policy instruments?

Annex:

The Committee on Women in the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) held its fourth session from 21 – 23 October 2009 in Beirut, Lebanon. It discussed the recommendations of an expert group meeting to review progress achieved in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action in the Arab region, held from 19 – 20 October 2009 in Beirut, Lebanon, and attended by Government and non-governmental experts. The Committee on Women adopted a resolution on “Follow-up to Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action in the Arab States After Fifteen Years: Beijing +15”.

The “Beijing + 15 Regional Review Meeting” of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe was held from 2-3 November 2009 in Geneva, Switzerland. The meeting focused on “New challenges and opportunities for gender equality in the ECE region: key issues and policy responses”. The meeting unanimously endorsed the Chairperson’s conclusions and agreed to forward them, together with the report of the meeting, to the Commission on the Status of Women. The Chairperson’s conclusions serve as the ECE region’s input to the fifty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) convened a High-level Intergovernmental Meeting to review the regional implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (2000) for the ESCAP region, from 16-18 November 2009 at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok. The meeting adopted the Bangkok Communiqué reaffirming the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly.

The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) held its Eighth Africa Regional Conference on Women (Beijing + 15), from 19 – 20 November 2009, in Banjul, The Gambia. It was preceded by a preparatory meeting held from 16 – 18 November 2009. The Eighth Africa Regional Conference on Women adopted the Banjul Declaration on the Strategies for Accelerating the Implementation of the Dakar and Beijing Platforms for Action – From Commitment to Action.

The regional meeting of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean will take place at the eleventh session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, to be held in Brasilia from 13 to 16 July 2010.

The regional review reports and outcomes are available at:

http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing15/regional_review.html