



THE BEIJING +25 PROCESS

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Discussion in Tunis focussed on the moment of hope, of diversity, and mobilization of feminist groups for global coordination and action for promoting women's rights, that was Beijing in 1995. It was noted that this moment was also strategic for the mobilization of funds and political commitments. Since then, the world has witnessed the erosion of human rights issues and women's rights. This erosion has evolved into a backlash to gender equality. In addition, the era of the war against terror, combined with the global economic crisis, and related austerity measures have created a momentum undermining and attacking women's rights.

Concerns were raised that the lack of democracy and inclusiveness has created space for fundamentalists that have created their own narrative on gender equality making the debate on gender equality in society challenging. To reclaim this space Beijing +25 needs to be inclusive, to focus on intersectionality and include new developments including on technology that were not present 25 years ago.

Civil society should have access to government reports on the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action. CSOs should also play a key part in producing parallel reports which should include the views of all parts of society, including young people.

RECOMMENDATIONS

General

- Expand the definition of gender beyond the binary framework used at Beijing. This needs to be addressed and expanded in the Beijing+25 process. A broader concept of gender (beyond women's rights) has to be disseminated.
- The Beijing +25 process needs to be inclusive and promote feminist intersectionality as a strategy to ensure no one is left behind. Promoting feminist intersectionality also means advocating for the collection of intersectional disaggregated data at every level, and to conceive the concept of intersectionality through a research lens (different identities=different challenges).
- Feminist knowledge generation and dissemination should be a priority in the Beijing+25 process. Explicit efforts need to be made to engage the younger generation of feminists in the Beijing+25 process. The conversations about the Beijing +25 process must go beyond those connected/participating in feminist work. Broad outreach beyond the usual constituencies is critical, including using modern communication technologies to bring Beijing to the grassroots level.
- Measures to tackle patriarchal attitudes that prevent women's full access to rights should be defined, adequately funded and implemented. The Beijing+25 process should focus on the de-patriarchalization of social relations and the feminization of the social contract, which means changing the mainstream and not just integrating gender equality within it.
- Beijing +25 is the opportunity to enhance accountability for women's rights and government's gender equality commitments at large, strengthening the important links between CEDAW, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security.
- Work with policy makers to lift all reservations on international treaties, conventions and resolutions and build the capacities of gender advocates to work for the full implementation of all treaties.
- Beijing+25 should establish global and regional coalitions or global campaigns of action on specific themes to confront the backlash and advance women's rights.
- Promote coordinated campaigns between civil society, women's rights institutions and Youth Ministries and Women's national councils.
- Beijing +25 should recognise recent attacks on women's rights, defend hard-won achievements, and pledge to bolster their defence. Under women's leadership, build bridges and create long-term partnerships for gender equal communities as well as for enhancing accountability to women's rights.
- The Beijing generation ought to invest in learning new communication technologies and pass on knowledge to be communicated by the youth through this technology, creating for example, platforms for educating the younger generation about historical events such as ICPD (1994) and Beijing (1995).
- Funding is needed to facilitate capacity building, organization and engagement of youth in the Beijing+25 process.

Tackle broaden inequalities

- Sexual and reproductive rights are the non-negotiables of the Beijing +25. If the protections, services and awareness of rights are not in place, gender equality will continue to be a challenge. Gender equality and a human rights approach to curriculum development on Sexual Rights as Human Rights is a critical minimum for the Beijing +25.
- Challenge inequalities of wealth, ownership and distribution including re-directing public funds to childcare, healthcare, education and care of seniors (key areas usually covered by women's unpaid care work). Recognition, retribution and redistribution of care work would enable women to engage meaningfully in other aspects of society and live the broad opportunities of development.
- States should be encouraged to provide social and economic support to financially vulnerable women, to ensure equality before the law.
- Judges should be trained on international norms and should enforce limits on child marriage laws without exception.
- Enhance the professional and technical skills of women for the objective of mainstreaming gender justice in all public and private institutions.
- Parliaments must ensure that all public budgetary units apply gender responsive budgeting.
- Bearing in mind new emerging threats to the safety and security of women in politics, Parliaments to promote informed policy development and immediate measures to assure women's political participation at international, local, sub-national and national levels.

Economic Empowerment

- Create partnerships with financial institutions and other non-bank partners to inform the development of SME loan products (funding of small and medium-sized enterprises) specifically geared towards the needs of women-owned SMEs.
- Design unique programmes for women's economic empowerment, with a core focus on intersectionality, leadership and the status of women in their different communities. Focus on leadership training as a first step in women's economic empowerment through the introduction of well-designed and well-run youth development programs to promote youth leadership by involving the youth in needs assessment, planning, implementation, and evaluation.
- Better implement and enforce laws which encourage women's economic empowerment.

Promote approaches to women's transformative leadership

- Acknowledge the role of transformative leadership in setting a course for movement building that drives progression from individual capacity development into wider,

collective action. It fosters women's leadership as part of a social movement for the collective transformation of beliefs, attitudes, normativity and institutions

- Acknowledge and enhance women leadership in every context and setting. Transformative leadership is a route towards gender equality where women champion change in their communities – as decision-makers, activists, facilitators, visionaries, and as constituents
- Promote transformative women's leadership to assure the sustained empowerment of women through recognition of their commitments, vision and courage to act, sometimes in impossible circumstances and amplify their efforts globally.
- Encourage leadership of women from an intersectional point of view, connecting with different women movements, including indigenous women, women with disability, rural women, among others, involving them on how Beijing+25 is important in their lives.
- Consider grass roots movements as a unique "pool of women leaders" with capacity to transform, adjust, unite, produce new values, strike, demand accountability, build bridges and create long-term partnerships.
- Challenge and thoroughly address the push-back against women in decision making through bottom-up and top-down strategies.
- Institutionalize gender parity. Push for equal participation for women in all sectors, ensuring women are empowered through access to education. Governments should provide access to university.
- To promote women's leadership promote access to quality healthcare and social benefits on an equal basis to men and promote the sharing of care responsibilities within the household and care services provision.
- Partner with men in women's empowerment and leadership

De-monopolize data collection and analysis

- Gender segregated data should be collected at local, city and country level by the government to result in data-driven policies, programs and infrastructure investment. The facts and figures will be used as support in evidence-based policy making.
- Governments should collect data on mobility patterns, education and health to point out women and girls' concerns in accessing municipal services. This would help us gain a gender perspective in the planning of a city, its public spaces and transport services.
- Develop wide partnership with national stakeholders, including statistical offices, and civil society organization to ensure bold progress in terms of securing quality and timely gender disaggregated data.
- Encourage sex disaggregated data collection especially basic information such as birth, death and marriage declarations to be able track population changes.
- Take into account the data produced by grass-roots movements and widen data ownership across different sectors.

Connect to other solidarity movements

- Feminist and women's rights groups have paved the way for women leaders, at all levels, to come together towards achieving much needed social change. There is a need to continue to work collaboratively to generate synergies for social change. Promote beyond women and girls the importance of togetherness and support each other.
- Emphasise that the human rights approach is the common platform that unites and strengthens one another. Gender equality is recognized as a precondition for sustainable development and included into the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development as a development goal.

Enhance the work with masculinities and men and boys

- When working on masculinities work with women's organizations, to ensure accountability towards women's rights, and respect the principles of do no harm.
- Contextualize interventions and use less sensitive issues as entry points for engaging men and boys and move towards a gender transformative approach. Men need to see the gains and positive impact in their lives and communities of gender equality.
- Address gender equality and harmful forms of masculinities from a life-cycle approach with a wide range of individuals, parents, community and institutions (education, religious institutions, governments, etc.).
- Encourage men to take leadership in addressing levels of political violence against women.
- Promote inclusive education that does not promote gender roles. Education should have an encompassing curriculum which will expose boys and girls to basic human rights including gender equality.