



WHAT IS THE *Beijing* **Platform** FOR ACTION?

The Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA) was the resulting document of the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, China in September 1995 and adopted in consensus by the United Nations (UN).

The BPfA is a blueprint for advancing women's rights which aims to remove all the obstacles to women's active participation in all spheres of public and private life, through ensuring women a full and equal share in economic, social, cultural, and political decision-making.

It imagines a world where each woman and girl can exercise her freedoms and choices, and realize all her rights, such as to live free from violence, to go to school, to participate in decisions, and to earn equal pay for equal work. It is also a necessary and fundamental prerequisite for equality, development and peace.



Women in Power and Decision-making

Inequality between men and women in the sharing of power and decision-making at all levels

- 1 Take measures to ensure women's equal access to and full participation in power structures and decision-making
- 2 Increase women's capacity to participate in decision-making and leadership

Human Rights of Women

Lack of respect for and inadequate promotion and protection of the human rights of women

- 1 Promote and protect the human rights of women, through the full implementation of all human rights instruments, especially the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
- 2 Ensure equality and non-discrimination under the law and in practice
- 3 Achieve legal literacy



Education^{and} Training of Women

Inequalities and inadequacies in and unequal access to education and training

- 1 | Ensure equal access to education
- 2 | Eradicate illiteracy among women
- 3 | Improve women's access to vocational training, science and technology, and continuing education
- 4 | Develop non-discriminatory education and training
- 5 | Allocate sufficient resources for and monitor the implementation of educational reforms
 - a. Promote life-long education and training for girls and women



Women and the Media

Stereotyping of women and inequality in women's access to and participation in all communication systems, especially in the media

- 1 Increase the participation and access of women to expression and decision-making in and through the media and new technologies of communication
- 2 Promote a balanced and non-stereotyped portrayal of women in the media

Women and the Environment

Lack of respect for and inadequate promotion and protection of the human rights of women

- 1 Promote and protect the human rights of women, through the full implementation of all human rights instruments, especially the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
- 2 Ensure equality and non-discrimination under the law and in practice
- 3 Achieve legal literacy

The Girl Child

Persistent discrimination against and violation of the rights of the girl child

- 1** | Eliminate all forms of discrimination against the girl child
- 2** | Eliminate negative cultural attitudes and practices against girls
- 3** | Promote and protect the rights of the girl child and increase awareness of her needs and potential
- 4** | Eliminate discrimination against girls in education, skills development and training
- 5** | Eliminate discrimination against girls in health and nutrition
- 6** | Eliminate the economic exploitation of child labour and protect young girls at work
- 7** | Eradicate violence against the girl child
- 8** | Promote the girl child's awareness of and participation in social, economic and political life
- 9** | Strengthen the role of the family in improving the status of the girl child



Violence against Women

- 1 | Take integrated measures to prevent and eliminate violence against women
- 2 | Study the causes and consequences of violence against women and the effectiveness of preventive measures
- 3 | Eliminate trafficking in women and assist victims of violence due to prostitution and trafficking

Insufficient mechanisms for the advancement of Women at all levels

- 1 | Create or strengthen national machineries and other governmental bodies
- 2 | Integrate gender perspectives in legislation, public policies, programmes and projects
- 3 | Generate and disseminate gender-disaggregated data and information for planning and evaluation





Women and Armed Conflict

The effects of armed and other types of conflict on women, including those living under foreign occupation

- 1** | Increase the participation of women in conflict resolution at decision-making levels and protect women living in situations of armed and other conflicts or under foreign occupation
- 2** | Reduce excessive military expenditures and control the availability of armaments
- 3** | Promote non-violent forms of conflict resolution and reduce the incidence of human rights abuse in conflict situations
- 4** | Promote women's contribution to fostering a culture of peace
- 5** | Provide protection, assistance and training to refugee women, other displaced women in need of international protection and internally displaced women
- 6** | Provide assistance to the women of the colonies and non-self governing territories



Women and Health

Inequalities and inadequacies in and unequal access to health care and related services

- 1** Increase women's access throughout the life cycle to appropriate, affordable and quality health care, information and related services
- 2** Strengthen preventive programmes that promote women's health
- 3** Undertake gender-sensitive initiatives that address sexually transmitted diseases, HIV/AIDS, and sexual and reproductive health issues
- 4** Promote research and disseminate information on women's health
- 5** Increase resources and monitor follow-up for women's health





Persistent and increasing burden of poverty on women

- 1** | Review, adopt and maintain macroeconomic policies and development strategies that address the needs and efforts of women in poverty
- 2** | Revise laws and administrative practices to ensure women's equal rights and access to economic resources
- 3** | Provide women with access to savings and credit mechanisms and institutions
- 4** | Develop gender-based methodologies and conduct research to address the feminization of poverty.



Women and the Economy

Inequality in economic structures and policies, in all forms of productive activities and in access to resources

- 1 | Promote women's economic rights and independence, including access to employment, appropriate working conditions and control over economic resources
- 2 | Facilitate women's equal access to resources, employment, markets and trade
- 3 | Provide business services, training and access to markets, information and technology, particularly to low-income women
- 4 | Strengthen women's economic capacity and commercial networks
- 5 | Eliminate occupational segregation and all forms of employment discrimination
- 6 | Promote harmonization of work and family responsibilities for women and men

