

MEDIA ADVISORY

UNITED NATIONS TO REVIEW PROGRESS OF WOMEN, 15 YEARS AFTER BEIJING AGREEMENTS

WHAT:

Dozens of government ministers and more than 2,000 women activists will gather at UN Headquarters in New York to examine progress since the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995, which remains the most comprehensive global policy framework to achieve the goals of gender equality, development and peace.

During the 54th session of the Commission on the Status of Women, government officials and representatives of civil society and the private sector will assess what has been achieved since the Beijing Conference, share experiences and good practices, and discuss priority actions to deal with persistent obstacles and new challenges.

WHEN: 1-12 March 2010**WHERE:** United Nations Headquarters, New York**HIGHLIGHTS:**

- The **high-level opening of the 54th session of the Commission on the Status of Women** will take place from 10am to 1pm on Monday 1 March in Conference Room 1.
- A **commemorative meeting of the General Assembly** will be held at 10am on Tuesday 2 March in Conference Room 1.
- A **press conference to launch the UNAIDS action plan for women and HIV** will be held in the Dag. Ham. Auditorium at 2pm on Tuesday, 2 March, with UNAIDS Executive Director Michel Sidibé, Singer and HIV activist Annie Lennox, and Suksma Ratri, a woman living with HIV from Malaysia.
- The **official observance of International Women's Day** will take place at 10am on Wednesday 3 March in Conference Room 1, with opening remarks by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.
- A **press conference to mark International Women's Day and the 15th anniversary of the Beijing Platform** will be held in the Dag Hammarskjöld Auditorium following the noon briefing on Wednesday, 3 March (participants to include Rachel Mayanja, Special Adviser to the UN Secretary-General on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, a government official, and NGO representatives).
- Sarah Jones will perform "**Women Can't Wait**", with remarks by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and an introduction by Meryl Streep, at 1.15pm on Friday 5 March in Conference Room 1.
- Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon will make opening remarks at a panel discussion on the theme of "**UNiTE to End Violence against Women**" at 10am on Thursday 11 March in Conference Room 1.

SUMMARY OF KEY EVENTS FOLLOWS BELOW

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For **additional press materials**, visit: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing15/participation.html#press>

For the **provisional list of speakers** at the 54th CSW session, visit:

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing15/docs/CSW54.Prov.List-of-Speakers.25Feb09.2000hrs.pdf>

For **UN press accreditation**, visit: <http://www.un.org/media/accreditation/> or contact: +1 212 963-6934.

Event	Time	Venue	Attendance
Monday 1 March			
<p>Opening of the 54th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)</p> <p>High-level opening:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ambassador Garen Nazarian (Armenia), CSW Chair • UN Deputy Secretary-General Asha-Rose Migiro • Ambassador Hamidon Ali (Malaysia), ECOSOC President • UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs Sha Zukang <p>Introductory statements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rachel Mayanja, Special Adviser to the UN Secretary-General on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women • Ines Alberdi, UNIFEM Executive Director • Naela Gabr, CEDAW Chair 	10am-1pm	Conf. Room 1, GA Building (overflow in Conf. Room 2)	Delegations, accredited media, accredited NGOs
Tuesday 2 March			
<p>General Assembly commemorative meeting to mark the fifteenth anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Platform for Action.</p> <p>Remarks by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ali Abdussalam Treki (Lybia), President of the UN General Assembly • UN Deputy Secretary-General Asha-Rose Migiro • Representatives of five regional groups • Representative of host country 	11.50am	Conf. Room 1, GA Building (overflow in Conf. Room 2)	Delegations, accredited media, accredited NGOs
<p>Press conference to launch UNAIDS action plan for women and HIV, with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNAIDS Executive Director Michel Sidibé • Annie Lennox, Singer and HIV activist • Suksma Ratri, woman living with HIV from Malaysia 	2pm	Dag Hammarskjöld Auditorium	Accredited media
Wednesday 3 March			
Official observance of International Women's Day	10am-noon	Conf. Room 1,	Delegations,

<p>Opening segment (10am-10.45am)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon • Meng Xiaosi, Minister and Vice-Chairperson of the National Committee on Women and Children, People’s Republic of China • Audun Lysbakken, Minister for Gender Equality and Children’s Affairs, Norway <p>Interactive panel: “Beijing at 15: The Unfinished Agenda” (11am-noon)</p> <p>Moderator: Maria Hinojosa, Senior correspondent PBS/ Anchor “Latina USA”, National Public Radio</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN Deputy Secretary-General Asha-Rose Migiro • Gertrude Mongella, Secretary-General, Fourth World Conference on Women • Patricia Licuanan, Chair of Asia Pacific NGO Forum/Former Chair of CSW • Tarcila Rivera Zea, Enlace Intercontinental de Mujeres Indígenas • Amy, representative of “Because I am a Girl” Initiative, Plan 		GA Building	accredited media, accredited NGOs
<p>Press conference on the occasion of International Women’s Day with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rachel Mayanja, Special Adviser to the UN Secretary-General on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women • Audun Lysbakken, Minister for Gender Equality and Children’s Affairs, Norway • Ambassador Garen Nazarian (Armenia), CSW Chair • Tarcila Rivera Zea, Enlace Intercontinental de Mujeres Indígenas 	12.30pm	Dag Hammarskjöld Auditorium	Accredited media
Thursday 4 March			
<p>Panel discussion: Linkages between implementation of the Platform for Action and achievement of the MDGs</p> <p>Chair/Moderator: Takashi Ashiki (Japan), Vice-Chair of CSW</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eva Rathgeber (Canada) • Gulden Turkoz-Cosslett, UNDP RR and RC in Albania • Zo Randriamaro (Madagascar) 	10am-1pm	Conf. Room 1, GA Building	Delegations, accredited media, accredited NGOs

<p>Lunchtime Panel: Access and participation of women and girls to education, training, science and technology</p> <p>Chair: Roberto Storaci (Italy), Vice-Chair of CSW</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monazza Aslam (Pakistan) • Annette Williams (UK) • Codou Diaw (Senegal) 	1pm-3pm	Conf. Room 1, GA Building	Delegations, accredited media, accredited NGOs
<p>Panel discussion: Regional perspectives in progress achieved and remaining gaps and challenges in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action</p> <p>Chair/Moderator: Julio Peralta (Paraguay), Vice-Chair of CSW</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lalla Ben Barka, UN Economic Commission for Africa • Jan Kubis, UN Economic Commission for Europe • Sonia Montano, UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean • Noeleen Heyzer, UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific • Bader Al-Dafa, UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia 	3pm-6pm	Conf. Room 1, GA Building	Delegations, accredited media, accredited NGOs
Friday 5 March			
<p>“Women Can’t Wait”, written and performed by Sarah Jones, with an introduction by Meryl Streep and remarks by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.</p>	1.15pm-2.30pm	Conf. Room 1, GA Building	Delegations, accredited media, accredited NGOs and registered guests (rsvp to beldo@un.org)
<p>Panel discussion: Commemorating 30 years of CEDAW</p> <p>Chair/Moderator: Takashi Ashiki (Japan), Vice-Chair of CSW</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dubravka Šimonović (Croatia) • Andrew Byrnes (Australia) • Sapana Pradhan Malla (Nepal) 	3pm-6pm	Conf. Room 1, GA Building	Delegations, accredited media, accredited NGOs
Monday 8 March			
<p>Panel discussion: Women’s economic empowerment in the context of the global economic and financial crises</p> <p>Chair/Moderator: Leysa Sow, Vice-Chair of CSW</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alma Espino (Uruguay) • Mona Khalaf (Lebanon) 	3pm-6pm	Conf. Room 1, GA Building	Delegations, accredited media, accredited NGOs

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rania Antonopoulos (Greece) 			
Tuesday 9 March			
<p>Preparatory Panel Discussion for the UN Economic and Social Council Annual Ministerial Review 2010: Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regards to gender equality and empowerment of women</p> <p>Chair/Moderator: Ambassador Garen Nazarian, Chair of CSW</p> <p>Opening Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ambassador Hamidon Ali, ECOSOC President • Deputy Secretary-General Asha-Rose Migiro <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gita Sen (India) • Agnes Quisumbing (Philippines) • Leymah Roberta Gbowee (Liberia) 	3pm-6pm	Conf. Room 1, GA Building	Delegations, accredited media, accredited NGOs
Thursday 11 March			
<p>Panel discussion: UNiTE to End Violence against Women</p> <p>Chair/Moderator: Roberto Storaci (Italy), Vice-Chair of CSW</p> <p>Opening comments: Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dean Peacock (South Africa) • Susanna Chiarotti (Argentina) • Walter Füllemann (ICRC) 	10am-1pm	Conf. Room 1, GA Building	Delegations, accredited media, accredited NGOs
<p>Panel discussion: The evolving status and role of national mechanisms for gender equality</p> <p>Chair/Moderator: Takashi Ashiki (Japan), Vice-Chair of CSW</p> <p>Panellists to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rounaq Jahan (Bangladesh) • Mary Rusimbi (Tanzania) 	3pm-6pm	Conf. Room 1, GA Building	Delegations, accredited media, accredited NGOs