

## Joint Statement

**delivered by Azerbaijan on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and the European Union  
at the High-Level Panel on the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Beijing Conference**

**43<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council**

(25 February 2020)

Madame President,

I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement and the European Union. The full version of the statement will be available at the Extranet.

This year marks the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, which have greatly contributed to the progress made towards achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

When we reflect on the accomplishments of the past 25 years, it is clear that global efforts to advance gender equality since 1995 have achieved significant progress in ensuring women's rights in areas such as education, health and nutrition, political representation and decision making and economic empowerment. More girls are in school than ever before. The global maternal mortality ratio has fallen from 370 per 100,000 in 1995<sup>1</sup> to 211 in 2017.<sup>2</sup> Women's political representation has doubled, and gender-responsive budgeting is being implemented in more than half of States.<sup>3</sup> 191 constitutions now contain provisions on equality and non-discrimination and 24 include stand-alone provisions on women's rights.<sup>4</sup>

While it is worth celebrating these achievements, we should also underline the fact that there is still much to be done to eliminate gender inequalities and empower women and girls. Violence against women and girls is a serious universal human rights concern, which results in detrimental impacts on physical and mental health of women and girls. Women continue to have unequal access to economic resources and bear more disproportionate share of unpaid, informal, and care work. Significant efforts to reduce maternal mortality will be necessary if we are to reach Target 3.1 of the 2030 Agenda.<sup>5</sup> While the rights of women and girls have advanced the most in the field of education since 1995,<sup>6</sup> adolescent pregnancy, child, early and forced marriage and lack of adequate sanitation services in schools still disproportionately force adolescent girls out of school. Women and girls who experience multiple forms of discrimination have made the least progress.

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<sup>1</sup> *Trends in Maternal Mortality: 1990 to 2008, Estimates developed by WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA and The World Bank*  
[https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/trends\\_matmortality90-08.pdf](https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/trends_matmortality90-08.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> *Review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly: Report of the Secretary-General* <https://www.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/csw/64/ecn620203advanceversion.pdf?la=en&vs=2303>

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*

Madame President,

The implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the fulfillment of the obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women are mutually reinforcing in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women, and in this regard we invite States, which have not done so, to consider ratifying or acceding to the abovementioned Convention.

We also call upon the United Nations system to continue to support local, national, regional and international efforts for the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and its review at the international, regional, national and local levels.

In closing, we reaffirm our commitment to the full and effective implementation of Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, without which the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development cannot be achieved.

I thank you.