



## HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL - 43<sup>rd</sup> SESSION #OnePageFromUN Annual high-level panel discussion on 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Beijing Conference

25 February 2020, 09h00-11h00

*Opening statement: Ms. Michelle Bachelet* – UN High Commissioner for Human Rights:

The adoption of the Beijing platform of action 25 years ago was a transformational milestone to achieve gender equality. Women's rights as human rights is more than a rallying cry, it is the recognition that women have exactly the same rights as men.

**Achievements since Beijing Conference:** Decrease in child marriage; Higher number of women in parliament; rise in women employment; Decrease in gender based violence.

**Challenges to address:** Combat the pushback in women's rights occurring in recent years.

**H.E. Ms. Trine Rask Thygesen** - Secretary of state for Development Policy of Denmark:

The vision laid by the Beijing Conference was a world in which women and girls were equal to men. Denmark has been strongly committed to advancing women and girls rights since then. In order to realize the SDGs and make gender equality a reality by 2030, we cannot accept rolling back on the progress made. It has to be a joint effort between all stakeholders: States, civil society, human rights defenders.

**Challenges to address:** Gender pay gap; Domestic violence; Child marriage.

**H.E. Mr. Chen Xu** – Ambassador and Permanent Representative of China:

25 years ago, the guidelines for improving women's rights were adopted. Today is the occasion to share good practices to improve women's rights. China's women account for one fifth of women in the world. China supports actively policies improving women's rights and gender equality. In the current combat against COVID-19 Chinese women doctors and nurses are showing exemplary strength and commitment.

**Achievements since Beijing Conference:** Access to education; Freedom of marriage; Women's employment.

**Challenges to address:** Women's poverty; Gender-based violence; Women in wars; Women and climate change.

**Ms. Bandana Rana** – Member of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women:

The work of the CEDAW committee has been crucial to monitor the implementation of the Beijing Platform of Action in every country. Women's rights are human rights fostered by the Beijing Platform of Action. The world cannot afford to regress. All stakeholders have to join forces to work together.

**Challenges to address:** Economic empowerment; Freedom from gender-based violence; Participation in decision making; Inclusion in climate action.

**Ms. Magalys Arocha Dominguey** – Expert on Human Rights and Gender Equality:

Latin American and Caribbean women benefited much from Beijing Conference. The outcome of this event was a huge progress for women's rights. But the broad vision of Beijing has not yet been fulfilled. We have to change our thinking to completely achieve gender equality.

**Challenges to address:** Women's poverty; Early pregnancy; Sexual abuses; Harmful practices; Sexual violence.