



## Sixty-Ninth Session of the Commission on the Status of Women

A side event on **Reigniting the Beijing+30 Agenda: Strengthening Financial Accountability and Partnerships through Inter-Agency Pooled Funds and the Gender Equality Marker**

**20 March 2024**  
**3:00 a 4:15 p.m. EST**  
**Room CR-12**

### 1. Background

Thirty years after the **Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action**, the world stands at a critical juncture. The commitments made in 1995 to advance gender equality remain as urgent as ever. Yet, progress is at risk. Since 2020, global financing for gender equality has alarmingly declined, exposing a troubling disconnect between commitments and action. This funding gap threatens to stall the transformative vision of Beijing at a time when accelerating progress is essential to achieving the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.

A key strategy to close this gap is **pooled funding mechanisms**. By consolidating resources from multiple donors and agencies, **inter-agency pooled funds** create economies of scale, reduce fragmentation, and direct financing toward high-impact initiatives. They ensure catalytic gender programs receive sustained, predictable, and well-coordinated support while reinforcing accountability and alignment with global commitments.

To ensure funds—and broader UN financing—drive gender equality, the **Gender Equality Marker (GEM)** plays a crucial role. Endorsed in 2022 as a **UN Data Standard**, the GEM enables UN entities and pooled funds to **track, report, and improve** resource allocation for gender equality. By mandating transparency, it helps identify gaps, enhance program quality, and direct resources toward transformative, results-driven action.

With **Beijing+30 and the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4) coinciding this year**, the urgency to finance gender equality has never been clearer. FfD4 will be pivotal in determining whether the world meets its commitments by mobilizing resources, reforming the international financial architecture, and ensuring gender equality remains central to development financing.

The **Beijing vision remains within reach—but only with bold, strategic investments and reinforced accountability**. The choices made today will decide whether gender equality remains a promise or a fully funded, transformative reality.



## 2. Objectives of the Proposed Event

1. **Showcase Lessons and Innovations:** Demonstrate how UN entities, Member States, and partners effectively track and drive investments that advance gender equality and women’s and girls’ rights and empowerment, in line with Beijing Platform for Action.
2. **Reignite Beijing+30 Commitments:** Highlight the enduring relevance of the Platform for Action and the urgency to increase financing for gender equality.
3. **Strengthen Multi-Stakeholder, Inclusive Collaboration:** Forge renewed alliances among UN agencies, civil society organizations, and Member States to accelerate gender-responsive financing.
4. **Enhance Accountability:** Stress the importance of robust monitoring and accountability frameworks to deliver tangible, evidence-based results for women and girls.

## 3. Organization of the Event

Organized in the form of a panel discussion, the event will include opening remarks by UN Women Director of the UN System Coordination Division, Ms. Aparna Mehrotra, and panel discussion from speakers including, Representatives of the Government of Spain and Bolivia; a Representative of a Peacebuilding Fund; and a Representative of Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (UNDP).

### 2. Agenda

Time	
3:00-3:10	<b>Welcoming remarks and Moderator</b> Aisha Sabar, Deputy Executive Coordinator, Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office, UNDP
3:10 – 3:20	<b>Opening remarks</b> Aparna Mehrotra, Director of UN System Coordination Division, UN Women
3:20 – 3:45	<b>The role of inter-agency pooled funds to promote gender equality</b> - Francisco Javier López Lorenzana, Permanent Mission of Spain to the UN - Diego Pacheco Balanza, Permanent Mission of Bolivia to the UN - Bushra Hassan, Peacebuilding Fund - Heewoong Kim, Joint SDG Fund
3:45 – 4:05	<b>Q&amp;A</b>
4:05 - 4:15	<b>Closure</b>