

再聚北京

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纪念第四次世界妇女大会 周年会议

Meeting Again in Beijing, Shaping the Future Together

The Tenth Anniversary Commemoration of the Fourth World Conference on Women

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Foreword

n the autumn of 1995, more than 40,000 delegates from 189 countries and regions and international, non-governmental and United Nations organizations gathered in Beijing for the United Nations' Fourth World Conference on Women. That conference has been a lasting memory. It continues to inspire me, especially whenever I think about the solemn moment when the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action (BPFA) were adopted. It still warms my heart whenever I think about the 3,000 women, of all nationalities, standing hand-in-hand in the rain singing Auld Lang Syne—in their own languages—to bid farewell to each other. Equality, development and peace, as the common pursuit of all women and men, has guided us, and given us indefinite inspirations to accomplish more and never to abandon the struggles we face.

In the past 10 years, the world has witnessed many profound changes, many of which have been the result of the concerted efforts of governments and women's organizations. The world has increasingly recognized the significance of gender equality to peace and development. Women from all countries have not only recognized they have rights, but also learned to exercise and safeguard their rights. Women's steps forward have been distinct—and determined.

Today, in the golden harvest season, friends from all regions of the world have arrived in Beijing, again, to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, and to discuss strategies for the further promotion of gender equality and common development. The delegates participated in broad and in-depth discussions, and shared their experiences regarding the advancement of women. The Beijing+10 Declaration was also adopted. Common understanding—about strengthening cooperation and realizing gender equality, peace and development—was reached. The conference provided a platform for friends around the world to share information and exchange opinions. Friendships were strengthened. The conference was a great success.

Let us take the Tenth Anniversary Commemoration of the Fourth World Conference on Women as an opportunity, and work hard for women's sustainable development, the civilization and progress of human beings around the globe, and create a more beautiful future.

Gu Xiulian Vice-Chairperson of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of China President of the All-China Women's Federation



削青

1995年金秋时节,来自全球189个国家和地区以及联合国机构、国际组织、非政府组织的代表共4万余人相聚北京,举行了联合国第四次世界妇女大会。10年前的大会是难以忘怀的记忆。《北京宣言》和《行动纲领》通过的那个庄严而神圣的时刻至今还让人激动不已;3000名肤色各异的妇女手挽手肩并肩,在丝丝细雨中用不同语言唱着"友谊地久天长"的告别场面仍然历历在目;平等、发展、和平的共同心声始终激励我们为之奋斗。

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10年来,在各国政府和非政府妇女组织的共同努力下,两性平等和妇女事业发生了深刻变化:全世界越来越认识到两性平等对和平、发展至关重要;各国妇女姐妹不仅意识到自己拥有的权利,而且学会了行使和维护自己的权利,妇女前进的步伐清晰而坚定。

今天,在这个金秋送爽、大地飘香的季节里,中外朋友们再次汇聚北京,共同纪念联合国第四次世界妇女大会召开10周年。来自五大洲的代表围绕"促进性别平等,实现共同发展"的主题进行了广泛、深入的讨论,充分交流了各国促进妇女发展、实现性别平等的经验和作法;大会通过了《北京+10宣言》,在加强全球团结合作,实现性别平等、发展与和平等方面达成了广泛共识。本次会议为各国的朋友们提供了分享信息、加强交流的平台,加深了各国朋友之间的友谊,取得了圆满成功。

让我们以纪念第四次世界妇女大会10周年会议为契机,为全球妇女事业的持续发展,为整个人类的文明进步而努力奋斗,共同开创更加美好的未来!

顾多莲

2005, 10.12

中国全国人民代表大会常务委员会副委员长中 华 全 国 妇 女 联 合 会 主 席







Before the opening ceremony, Hu Jintao, President of the People's Republic of China, meets some leaders from other countries, who are participating in the Tenth Anniversary Commemoration of the Fourth World Conference on Women 开幕式前,中国国家主席胡锦涛会见出席纪念联合国第四次世界妇女大会 10 周年会议的部分外国领导人和代表



The Tenth Anniversary Commemoration of the Fourth World Conference on Women convenes in the Great Hall of the People 纪念联合国第四次世界妇女大会 10 周年会议在北京人民大会堂开幕





Meeting
Again in Beijing.
Shaping
the Future
Together

再聚北京共创未来



Hu Jintao, President of the People's Republic of China, delivers a speech at the opening ceremony of the Tenth Anniversary Commemoration of the Fourth World Conference on Women in the Great Hall of the People 中国国家主席胡锦涛在开幕式上致辞

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Address by Hu Jintao, President of the People's Republic of China, at the Opening Ceremony of the Tenth Anniversary Commemoration of the Fourth World Conference on Women

中华人民共和国主席胡锦涛在纪念第四次世界妇女大会 10 周年会议开幕式上的讲话

Distinguished Guests,
 Friends,
 Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are gathered here in Beijing in this beautiful season to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women. First of all, on behalf of the Chinese Government and people, and also in my own name, I would like to extend my warm congratulations on the convocation of this meeting, my sincere welcome to the honored guests and all participants coming from afar, and my best wishes to all the women around the world.

Ten years ago, the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women was held in Beijing. Centering on the theme of "Action for Equality, Development and Peace," the Conference addressed the global strategy to promote gender equality and adopted the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action. As an important milestone in the history of the global women's movement, that conference went a long way towards promoting social justice and social undertakings in countries all over the world. Its significance and role have since been made more and more evident by the advances of women's causes worldwide.

Today, 10 years later, at the Beijing+10 commemorations, we will focus on the theme of "Promoting Gender Equality for Common Development," rekindle the spirit of the Fourth World Conference on Women, bear witness to the commitments of the world's national governments to gender equality, world peace and development, review the achievements of global women's causes and explore new ways to ensure its greater development. This is indeed highly meaningful.

This year coincides with the 60th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations. We are pleased to see that ever since its inception, the United Nations has worked tirelessly for and contributed significantly to raising the status

of women, promoting gender equality and advancing women's causes worldwide. In particular, the four World Conferences on Women held by the UN since 1975 have exerted a profound and far-reaching impact on global women's causes. In 2000, as the new millennium dawned, the UN held a special session of the General Assembly on Women's Issues, urging national governments and communities around the world to honor their commitments to higher status for women. Also in 2000, the UN Millennium Summit signed the Millennium Declaration, making gender equality and empowerment of women, among others, the key components of the Millennium Development Goals. Thanks to the efforts of the United Nations, the important messages of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action have been increasingly reflected in governments' programs and actions, and the concepts relating to gender equality have become gradually incorporated into their decisions. Mechanisms have been set up to promote women's causes, and conditions enjoyed by women in livelihood, rights to development and social status have improved to varying degrees. Gender equality has received wider and greater attention worldwide. People have come to realize more clearly that the issues of women are closely linked to political, economic, cultural and social development of the world. Action for Equality, Development and Peace represents the heartfelt wishes of the women of all lands. It is also the shared aspiration of all the people around the world and the common pursuit of the international community.

China has all along attached great importance to women's roles and vigorously promoted women's causes. China makes equality of men and women a basic State policy in explicit terms, giving expression to its firm commitment to gender equality and the protection of women's rights and interests. In the past ten years, China has abided by the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action, formulated

Meeting Ajair: m Beijing, Shaping the Future Togother 再聚北京 共创天平 and implemented China's Program for Women's Development, and incorporated women's development into the overall national program of economic and social development. China has also introduced and improved the framework of laws and regulations, a system of operation and organization to promote women's development and protect their rights and interests, and an effective national mechanism for greater gender equality, thus putting in place a favorable situation where society as a whole gives care and support to women's causes.

China endeavors to ensure that women enjoy equal rights with men in politics, the economy, culture, and social and family life, and works to steadily push forward women's development on all fronts. We have paid attention to women's roles in the political life of China, enabling them to participate more and more in democratic elections. democratic decision-making, democratic management and democratic supervision. We have moved to promote gender equality in employment, improving job opportunities and the employment structure for women. We have worked to narrow the educational gap between men and women, improving remarkably the overall educational level of women. We have attached importance to legislation, law enforcement and judicial work on the protection of women's rights and interests, and have been firm in safeguarding their legitimate rights and interests. We have also paid attention to women's health and livelihood, reducing significantly the number of women under the poverty line in rural areas, providing effective help to low-income women in urban areas, and steadily improving the health and life quality of Chinese women.

On the other hand, we are also aware that China is a developing country with 1.3 billion people and a low level of productivity and education. Therefore, the subsistence, development and the protection of the rights and interests of Chinese women need to be further improved. Their equal rights in participating in political affairs, employment, education, family and marriage need to be further strengthened. Efforts to eradicate violations against women's rights and interests also need to be further strengthened. While we work to promote economic and social development, we will adopt more effective policies, take more specific steps, and move vigorously to settle the existing problems with a view to achieving new and pragmatic results.

As we entered the 2lst century, we identified a grand goal of building a moderately prosperous society in an all-

round way in the first 20 years of this century. We emphasize the scientific concept of development that is people-oriented, well-coordinated and sustainable. We should work to push forward the comprehensive development in material, political and spiritual civilization and a harmonious society, and endeavor to further safeguard and promote the fundamental interests of the overwhelming majority of the Chinese people. Not only has this raised new requirements for the development of women's causes in China, but has also provided a better environment, more opportunities and richer resources for that matter. Women's causes in China face a bright future of accelerated development.

We will adhere to the basic State policy of gender equality, and constantly promote gender equality and harmonious development between men and women. We will continue to use various measures—economic, legal and administrative as well as public opinions—to implement the basic State policy of gender equality in every aspect of economic and social development and social life. We will give full attention to the imbalance, inadequacy and disharmony in women's development, focus on such key areas and issues as poverty alleviation, employment and health, and increase policy support to protect fully the legitimate rights and interests of women and steadily enhance women's capacity for self-development.

We will continue to implement the scientific concept of development, and seek to advance women's causes in the process of developing our economy and society. The question of women, in essence, is an issue of development, and it can only be solved through development. We will always take the fundamental interests of the overwhelming majority of the people as the starting point and goal of all our work, and ensure that all Chinese people, women included, benefit from our development. We will take effective measures to narrow the gap between men and women in the possession of development resources and the distribution of development benefits. We will give full play to women's enthusiasm, initiative and creativity, and encourage them to take part in the great development of China, and to use their wisdom to live a better life and promote social progress through hard work.

We will strengthen international exchanges and cooperation and jointly advance women's causes worldwide. The improvement of women's status and role necessitates unremitting efforts from governments and peoples of the world as well as active international cooperation. For a long

time, women's causes in China have enjoyed support from the international community, and that has, in turn, helped the development of women's causes of the world. China will take an active part in international activities on women following the principles of mutual respect, seeking common ground while shelving differences and strengthening cooperation. We will, as always, act on the purposes of the Fourth World Conference on Women, and continue to work for the comprehensive implementation of the Beijing Declaration, the Platform for Action and the Millennium Development Goals.

In today's world, peace, development and cooperation have already become irresistible trends of the times, which provide a rare opportunity for development and progress of humanity, including women. On the other hand, we must realize that destabilizing factors and uncertainties affecting world peace and development still exist, local conflicts arise from time to time, the North-South gap is widening and problems, such as transnational crimes, environmental degradation and acute infectious diseases, are becoming increasingly serious. All these pose a serious challenge to the lofty cause of peace and development and put constraints on the cause of women, particularly in developing countries. Women's lot is deeply connected to world peace and development. All countries should enhance cooperation and exert efforts to maintain world peace and promote common development, thereby creating more favorable conditions for advancing women's causes.

Peace is the first and foremost precondition for women's causes. It is women and children who suffer most from wars and armed conflicts. Only an environment of stability and peace can enable women to truly enjoy all the rights and interests and realize self-fulfillment and development. All countries should establish a new concept of security featuring mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality and cooperation, stick to dispute settlement through dialogue, and cooperation rather than the use or threat of force, thereby creating an international environment of peace for twomen's development.

Development provides the material basis of women's advancement. Women's causes advance as material and spiritual civilizations advance. Continued economic and social development holds the key to raising the standards and quality of women's life and their social status. All countries should formulate development strategies suited to their national conditions, so as to promote economic, political,

cultural and social development, which in turn will give strong material and technical support to the promotion of gender equality and the protection of women's rights and interests.

Cooperation is an important approach to the promotion of women's causes. Unity is strength and cooperation brings mutual benefit. Women's causes in the world are common causes for women in all countries and for the entire human race. It requires close cooperation and concerted efforts of women and people of the world. All countries should strictly adhere to the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, earnestly act on the spirit of the World Conference on Women and jointly advance women's causes on the basis of mutual respect, equal-footed consultation, sincere cooperation and seeking common ground while shelving differences

Women represent a major force in maintaining world peace and promoting common development. They should and could play a bigger role in advancing the lofty cause of peace and development.

China will hold high the banner of peace, development and cooperation, unswervingly pursue a path of peaceful development, vigorously enhance exchanges and cooperation with the international community and work with other countries and peoples to advance women's causes to the benefit of all women and people in the world.

Women are a great source of strength in creating human civilization. The promotion of gender equality and the protection of women's rights and interests bear on the immediate interests of women, and decide whether human beings can fully develop their potential and whether the productive forces can be fully emancipated. We should pay closer attention to women's aspirations and pursuit of a better life. In particular, we should give special attention to the status of many women living in the strife of war and poverty, offer them sincere care and practical help and make strenuous efforts to enable all of our sisters in the world to live a life of peace, tranquility and prosperity.

Let us carry forward the spirit of the Fourth World Conference on Women, share the dignified duty of promoting gender equality and protecting women's rights and interests, and make fresh and greater contributions to the development of women's causes and progress of human civilization!

In conclusion, I wish this meeting a complete success and all the participants a wonderful time in Beijing.

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Wu Yi. Vice-Premier and Chairperson of the National Working Committee on Women and Children under the State Council of China, presides over the opening ceremony 中国国务院副总理、国务院妇女儿童工作委员会主任吴仪主持开幕式







