



# BEIJING+30 REGIONAL REVIEW MEETING

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"Reviewing 30 Years of Beijing Commitments to Accelerate Gender Equality in the ECE Region"

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21-22 October 2024, Palais des Nations, Geneva

## SIDE EVENT CONCEPT NOTE TEMPLATE

Please submit this form to [ece-beijing30@un.org](mailto:ece-beijing30@un.org) [eca.partnerships@unwomen.org](mailto:eca.partnerships@unwomen.org) by the 1st of **October**. If needed the information can be updated after the deadline. Please also feel free to create your own concept note; **however, ensure that all the information requested in this template is included.**

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Event title:

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Voices of Resilience: Afghan Girls' Journey Through Struggle and Survival

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Background and Rationale

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*Please provide a brief background on the topic under discussion (max. 250 words). Outline the relevance of the topic to the region and draw connections to the 30th Anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the 12 key areas of concern of the Beijing Declaration. Discuss the theme of this year's Regional Review Meeting: "Reviewing 30 Years of Beijing Commitments to Accelerate Gender Equality in the ECE Region."*

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Afghan girls face immense challenges in accessing education, worsened by political instability and restrictive cultural norms. With the Taliban's resurgence, many girls are now denied the right to attend school, escalating an already critical gender inequality issue. These barriers not only impact education but also significantly strain the mental health and well-being of Afghan girls. International efforts to protect their rights remain crucial, with global organizations working to support their empowerment.

This discussion is timely as we mark the 30th Anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, which stressed gender equality and education. The Declaration's 12 key areas of concern, including women's rights and access to education, are particularly relevant to the challenges Afghan girls face today. While progress has been made globally, the situation in Afghanistan highlights the need for continued efforts to address gender inequality in conflict-affected regions.

The theme of this year's Regional Review Meeting, “*Reviewing 30 Years of Beijing Commitments to Accelerate Gender Equality in the ECE Region*,” calls for reflection on both successes and challenges over the past three decades. Addressing the struggles of Afghan girls is vital to fulfilling the commitments made in the Beijing Declaration, ensuring their rights to education, mental well-being, and empowerment are prioritized in the global fight for gender equality.

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## Session objectives and expected outcomes

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*Please outline the objective and expected outcomes of the side event, and whether the results will serve as an input for another event (max. 200 words).*

The side event aims to spotlight the challenges Afghan girls face in accessing education, mental health support, and overcoming societal barriers. It will amplify their voices, share personal stories, and explore strategies for empowering Afghan girls locally and globally, while encouraging international collaboration.

Expected outcomes include raising awareness, identifying actionable steps to support Afghan girls, and encouraging global stakeholders to engage in advocacy and resource mobilization. The



event will also highlight successful initiatives that can be expanded to further empower Afghan girls.

The results will contribute to future global gender equality discussions, particularly related to the 30th Anniversary of the Beijing Declaration, offering insights on how to accelerate progress in conflict-affected regions like Afghanistan.

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#### Organizers

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*Please list the lead organizers and contributing agencies of your side event.*

**Lead organizers:** Girls Toward Leadership (G2L) Organization

**Contributors:** None

**Focal points:** None

**Email:** Mursalina.amin@girlstolead.org / Mursali.amin2002@gmail.com

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#### Agenda and Structure

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*Please provide the agenda for the side event.*

*It is not the finalized one.*

13:30 pm – 13:40 pm – Ice breaker/Video/Art exhibition

13:40 pm – 14:20 pm – Panel Discussion

14:20 pm – 14:45 – Q/A – networking

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#### List of Panellists

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The panelists for this event, unlike many other UN events will be all Afghan girls from inside Afghanistan. Moderator: Mursalina Amin, Panelists: Marwa Ali, Mursal Sharifi,, Shukria Naseri, Zuhail Sherzad

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#### Picture & Promotional Materials

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## Voices of Resilience

Afghan Girls' Journey Through Struggle and Survival

Virtual Side Event

13:30 Geneva Time  
16:00 Kabul Time

October 21, 2024



**MODERATOR**  
**MURSALINA AMIN**  
Founder and President of Girls Toward Leadership (G2L)



**PANELIST**  
**MARWA ALI**  
Co-founder of Afghan Parkour Society (APS) and Student



**PANELIST**  
**SHUKRIA NASERI**  
Student and Activist - Founder of Baran Omid Club



**PANELIST**  
**MURSAL SHARIFI**  
Founder of Afghan Youth EduReach and Co-founder of Jvanah



**PANELIST**  
**ZUHAL SHERZAD**  
Women and Youth's Rights Activist



**UNECE**



**UN WOMEN**

**BEIJING+30 REGIONAL REVIEW MEETING**

**REFLECTING ON PROGRESS:**  
30 YEARS OF BEIJING COMMITMENTS  
AND 10 YEARS OF AGENDA 2030  
TO ACCELERATE GENDER EQUALITY

**GENEVA**  
**21-22 OCTOBER 2024**

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Sign-up / Registration Link

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<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/voices-of-resilience-afghan-girls-journey-through-struggle-and-survival-tickets-1037227674897?aff=oddtcreator>

Kindly indicate your event time slot (please highlight in yellow):

- Monday, 21 October, 8:45 – 9:45
- Monday, 21 October, 13.30 -14.45
- Tuesday, 22 October, 8:45 – 9:45
- Tuesday, 22 October, 13.30 -14.45