



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA  
PERMANENT MISSION  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
NEW YORK



## 69th Session Commission on the Status of Women

### **30 Years of Women's Political Participation. Towards Full Parity Side Event**

Organized by Permanent Mission of Slovenia to the UN and Club de Madrid  
Co-sponsored by Permanent Missions of Mexico and Spain to the UN

Monday, 10 March 2025  
11:30 to 12:45  
Conference Room 2, UNHQ New York

#### **Background and objective**

This year we mark the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, a cornerstone for advancing gender equality globally. Adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995, the Declaration emphasized that women's equal and full participation in political decision-making is essential for sustainable development, good governance, and social inclusion. Multilateral institutions, as key arenas for global policy and decision-making, were also recognized as crucial spaces for achieving gender parity.

Progress over the past three decades is evident. The global proportion of women in national parliaments has more than doubled, increasing from 11.7% in 1997 to 27% in 2024. Sixty-seven countries have achieved or exceeded the 30% target for women's representation, with several moving towards gender parity. These gains are largely attributed to deliberate actions such as gender quotas, political financing incentives, and training programs, as outlined in the Beijing Declaration.

Despite some achievements, challenges persist. Structural barriers, gendered norms, sexist hate speech and violence against women in politics, including online, continue to limit equitable representation. The political landscape is further complicated by rising mobilization against gender equality, shrinking civic spaces, and the persistent underrepresentation of women in decision-making processes, including in multilateral leadership and governing bodies. For instance, since 1945 only 13% of all elected multilateral organization leaders have been women.



The 69th Commission on the Status of Women offers a timely opportunity to revisit commitments made in Beijing and to address these barriers. This side event will reflect on the lessons learned from the past 30 years and explore strategies to advance women's political participation globally. The discussion will focus on the role of gender quotas, combating all forms of violence against women in politics, and fostering environments that support inclusive global governance. Through dialogue among policymakers, civil society leaders, and other stakeholders, this event aims to catalyze renewed momentum towards achieving gender parity in political participation and realizing the vision of the Beijing Declaration for future generations.

## Questions for discussion

- How has the agenda for women's political participation evolved since the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action?
- As we mark 30 years since Beijing, what bold, forward-looking strategies are needed to safeguard and accelerate progress toward gender parity in politics?
- In response to rising pushback against gender equality, how can we shift from a defensive stance to proactively drive transformative change and strengthen women's political participation as part of broader democratic resilience efforts?
- What approaches have member states taken to advancing women's political representation? What lessons can be drawn from their successes and challenges?
- What concrete measures should multilateral institutions adopt to ensure gender parity in leadership and decision-making processes?

## Draft programme

The session will follow a roundtable format, there will be an opportunity for a discussion.

## Participants

### Facilitator:

- **María Fernanda Espinosa**, Executive Director of GWL Voices; President of the 73rd Session of the United Nations General Assembly (2018–2019)

### Keynote speech:

- **Michelle Bachelet**, President of Chile (2006–2010, 2014–2018), Vice President of Club de Madrid

### Panelists:

- **Ana Redondo**, Minister of Equality, Spain
- **Dan Juvan**, State Secretary, Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, Slovenia
- **Sima Sami Bahous**, Executive Director of UN Women (TBC)
- **Jokate Urban Mwegelo**, Secretary General of the Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) Youth Wing, United Republic of Tanzania, Member of WYDE Network of Club de Madrid