

UN Women wishes to congratulate the PF and the newly elected chairperson on her new role on the occasion of this 18th Session.

We also recognize the efforts and achievements of all IW, including those present at this session of the Forum.

Madam chair, March 2020 will mark the 25th anniversary and global review of the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, which consists of 12 areas of critical concern to all women and girls around the world.

As we play our part as UN Women, we encourage member states and other stakeholders to support the participation of IW in this land mark event and to ensure that their voices are reflected in national reports which UN Women will in turn use in the production of a SG report.

Indigenous women are critical pillars of development. In many communities, they are the main transmitters of traditional knowledge across generations. They are the glue that binds our past, present and future. This important resource must be fully sustained and supported as an essential ingredient of peaceful, just, resilient societies and institutions.