

# BACKGROUND ON GENERATION EQUALITY

## BACKGROUND

The year 2020 is pivotal for the accelerated realization of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. The global community is marking many anniversaries, amongst them--the 25th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and its historic Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted by 189 governments, considered one of the most comprehensive blueprints for women's rights to date.

The **Generation Equality Forum (GEF)** was originally intended as a global gathering to celebrate this milestone year, taking stock of the significant progress achieved and charting a course of action to tackle the challenges that remain. This will be done through two main objectives: (a) Building a strengthened movement for gender equality and (b) launching a set of visionary Action Coalitions that are multi-stakeholder partnerships that will drive high-level public and private investment and political leadership from various actors over the next five years.

## CURRENT SITUATION

Originally intended to kick-off in Mexico City and culminate in Paris in 2020, the GEF will be postponed to the first half of 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The new dates will be announced in the coming months. In the period leading to the Forum, a series of virtual engagements will be organized in collaboration with partners to foster continued momentum, participation and commitment of all stakeholders. The transformative vision of the GEF and the Action Coalitions to achieve systemic change assumes even more relevance in the context of building back better after COVID-19.

## GEF BODIES AND GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

The Generation Equality Forum is convened by UN Women and co-hosted by the governments of France and Mexico in close partnership with civil society. A secretariat has been set up within UN Women to support the delivery of the GEF. The governments of Mexico and France have also established national secretariats which coordinate the planning and execution of the GEF events in each country. Civil Society has also established a dedicated Civil Society Advisory Group (CSAG) to ensure that the vision and perspectives of civil society are strongly reflected in the Forum, while a Youth Task Force ensures the voice and decision making of youth are incorporated throughout. The GEF is structured as a hybrid partnership model that unites civil society, the UN, Member States, private sector, and other stakeholders, in an agenda that aims to push for transformative action that brings the world closer towards gender equality. This innovative multi-stakeholder partnership model is reflected in the Forum's governance structure, including:

- **A Core Group:** which is the GEF's decision-making body. It is composed of UN Women, the Governments of France and Mexico, representatives from the CSAG and Youth Task Force.
- **Civil Society Advisory Group:** Established following a participatory and inclusive civil society-led selection process,<sup>[1]</sup> the CSAG includes 21 members that represent broad and diverse constituencies.<sup>[2]</sup> The Group has a rotating seat (among Global North and South) in the Core Group and supports its decision-making, ensuring that civil society's priorities are reflected in the GEF's outcomes.

- **The Beijing+25 Youth Task Force:** is a group of 40 members representing youth in all its diversity and across intersectional complexities to support and guide UN Women's efforts to place young people at the centre of the Beijing+25 process and the GEF. It is also leading the GEF to drive momentum on youth engagement for gender equality on a global level while also exchanging expertise and knowledge with other young people that are working towards the same goals.
- **Multi-Stakeholder Steering Committee:** comprises civil society, Member States, the private sector, and other key actors to help contribute to the GEF's design, planning, and implementation and support outreach and awareness raising efforts.

## ACTION COALITIONS

Action Coalitions are one of the outcomes of the Generation Equality Forum and they reflect one of the key objectives: to achieve tangible results on gender equality during the [UN Decade of Action](#) (2020-2030) to help deliver the [Sustainable Development Goals](#).

**Action Coalitions** are global, innovative, multi-stakeholder partnerships that will mobilize governments, civil society, international organizations, and the private sector to catalyze collective action, spark global and local conversations among generations, drive increased public & private investment, and deliver concrete, game-changing results across generations for girls and women.

The six selected themes include: Gender-Based Violence, Economic Justice and Rights, Bodily Autonomy and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), Feminist Action for Climate Justice, Technology and Innovation for Gender Equality, and Feminist Movements and Leadership. An additional [Compact on Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action](#) will work to drive action and resources toward this agenda. Each Coalition will also feature a specific action or intervention on the rights of adolescent girls as well as that of young women. Adolescent girls and young women will be actively engaged in setting priorities and in monitoring for results.

The Action Coalitions will accelerate a transformative agenda of generational change through a threefold approach:

1. A global multi-generation and multi-stakeholder platform to ensure strong alignment and a financial and strategic commitment to a set of concrete, impactful and timed actions
2. An evidence-based approach to define a set of specific actions leveraging international best practices
3. An efficient delivery and accountability model based on clear commitments, regular monitoring, evaluation and adjustment.

UN Women, with the support of the whole UN System, is the global convener of the Action Coalitions with a dedicated secretariat team to guide and support the co-design, implementation, monitoring and oversight. Each Action Coalition will be led by a group of partners from the Global South and North, including Member States, women's movement and civil society actors, adolescent girls and young women, and private sector entities, who are all required to make a game-changing commitment in the action area they wish to lead. [Sixty-five initial leaders](#) have been selected with further appointments forthcoming, particularly to youth-led and adolescent-girl led organizations. Membership of the Action Coalitions is open to all who meet the [membership criteria](#), and will be vital to a strong, vibrant and results-driven Coalition of partners.

## CONTACT US:

For more information, please visit <https://forum.generationequality.org/>

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