



Generation Equality Forum Updates

February 2021

REALIZING WOMEN'S RIGHTS FOR AN EQUAL FUTURE



**GOBIERNO DE
MÉXICO**



In partnership
with civil society
and youth

About the Generation Equality Forum (GEF)



- The GEF is a **multi-stakeholder initiative** that brings together representatives from the Private Sector, Member States, UN Entities and civil society, including youth organizations and networks, to accelerate progress for gender equality around the world. It aims to **centralize the voices of civil society and youth** in promoting gender equality everywhere.
- The GEF was intended to take place in May 2020 (Mexico City) and July 2020 (Paris) in honor of the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. However, due to the COVID 19 outbreak, the Forum has been postponed to **March 2021 (Mexico City) and June 2021 (Paris)**, with a combination of in-person and virtual gatherings.
- Despite the Forum's postponement, **commitment to the GEF remains stronger than ever**. In fact, in a world where socio-economic inequalities are exacerbated by the global health crisis, it is most important than ever to continue pursuing the GEF objectives:
 - 1) Action Coalitions – to accelerate progress towards gender equality through innovative programming on six key thematic areas;
 - 1) Building new, multi-stakeholder partnerships for gender equality



Governance Structure



Core Group

The ultimate decision-making body includes representatives from UN Women, France, Mexico, civil society and the Youth Task Force.

Multi-Stakeholder Steering Committee (MSSC)

Provides strategic advice on the conceptualization and implementation and supports amplifying the GEF and ACs.

Civil Society Advisory Group (CSAG)

Ensures that civil society's priorities are reflected in the Forum's outcomes. It consists of 21 members from diverse constituencies.

Generation Equality Youth Task Force

Supports and guides the engagement of youth across the globe in the Forum's outcome. It consists of 40 members from diverse constituencies.



*The Generation Equality Forum and the Action Coalitions are particularly timely
in a context affected by the COVID 19 pandemic*

- ✓ **Urgency:** The pandemic is deepening pre-existing gender inequalities and exposing gender-based vulnerabilities in social, political and economic systems. This is highlighting the urgency of which we must focus the world's attention to eliminating the gaps and accelerating on gender equality.
- ✓ **Build Back Better:** Into a more equal, inclusive and sustainable world, the GEF aims to highlight that the amidst devastation, the world must take this moment to accelerate the unfinished business of securing gender equality by fueling a **momentous and unique multi-stakeholder coalition** of Member States, private sector leaders, civil society and youth organizations **to accelerate on those areas of gap that were identified in the Beijing +25 review process.**
- ✓ **New Model:** In this context, the GEF is providing a new model of multi-stakeholder partnerships and co-leadership among those actors whose role is critical to achieve gender equality through a collaborative, co-creative and shared agenda for action that will galvanize progress.
- ✓ **Opportunity Moment:** This moment will be critical to call on all of society to critically address gender inequality and achieve concrete, systemic and substantive progress for gender equality in the next 5 years.

GEF Stakeholder Engagement

Who is engaged

- Youth
- Broad spectrum of Civil Society (Feminist movement actors, women's rights organizations, activists)
- Member States
- Private sector and philanthropic actors
- UN agencies

GEF Modalities of Engagement

How are they engaging

Curated Discussions	Public Conversation
GEF Governance & Support Groups + engaged in shared decision-making and advising	Activation Moments (CSW65; GE Voices Festival)
Action Coalitions leadership - 85 entities engaged	Communications channels (social media included) - 2M

~ 1,000 people regularly and directly engaged in the GEF and over 2 million via social media

GEF Stakeholder Engagement: Initiatives



Curated Discussions

Strengthening multi-stakeholder discussion and alliance-building for GEWE and produce recommendations for the GEF

~600 people engaged in depth, including key stakeholders from Government, Private Sector, CSOs and Academia

2 sessions remaining: March 2021 and May 2021 ahead of the two Forums

Public Conversation

An online multi-stakeholder platform to extend the discussions of the GEF to a larger and more diverse audience engaging citizens, activists and advocates in the GEF

Soft Launch tentatively scheduled for end of January

Projected reach: 10,000 people

CSO and Youth Engagement

Additional youth networks engaged: 7,000 youth organizations through the Youth Caucus; 450 young professionals through the Young Professional network; and millions of through ENACTUS, AIESEC, Erasmus, World Merit and others

600 CSO advocates are directly engaged through 21 CSAG members + its advisory group. Millions more through networks (FEMNET, AWID, NGO-CSW and ITUC)

Current Status & Priorities



Lead up to the GEF

- Mobilization and outreach across virtual spaces
- Stakeholder engagement: Public Conversations & Curated Discussions
- Continued centralization of youth voices

Mexico Forum: 29 – 31 March 2021

- 3-day event
- Largely virtual with only key in-person components and participation
- Platform will be able to host up to 50,000 participants

Key current priorities

1. Mexico Forum
2. UN Women Regional Mobilization
3. Alignment and deliverables – Actions, Commitments, Mobilization, Political Engagement

Paris Forum: June 2021 (dates TBC)

- 2-day event
- Largely virtual

From Mexico to Paris



GEF MEXICO

Mexico is the Kickoff and Global Call to Action. It will also be the Awareness-Driver for the need for the Generation Equality agenda.

The Mexico City Forum will make the case for accelerated action on gender equality by highlighting progress and gaps to date on the Beijing Platform for Action as a bridge into making a highly visible global call for action and commitments.

It will be a catalytic moment to initiate public awareness and mobilization, amplifying the case for urgency, especially post COVID-19 and painting a picture of how gender equality can drive the 'Great Re-set'. The event will also energize civil society and movements in the drive towards securing commitments.

GEF FRANCE

France is the Locus for Commitment-Making, Accountability and Sustainability.

The Paris Forum will showcase major commitment announcements from trailblazer governments, corporations and civil society actors.

It will galvanize heads of state and multi-sector actors in the forward leadership of a multi-stakeholder ecosystem to advance gender equality, widening the circle of commitment for equality.

Paris will expand and deepen the case seeded in Mexico City for gender equality as a post COVID-19 driver of equity and transformation. It will showcase and propel implementation, sustainability and accountability.

Communications



Create a major global inflexion point to advance gender equality:

- Drive significant gender equality investments and commitments from countries, corporations and philanthropies*
*(*Aim to define a quantifiable goal for aggregate commitments)*
- Provide opportunities for all actors (individuals, organizations, companies) to take action for gender equality
- Drive awareness of the imperative for action on gender equality, especially in a post COVID Context
- Enlist and showcase the activism of movements and youth working to secure gender equality



