

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) for the Generation Equality Action Coalitions Commitments Reporting Survey

1. What is the purpose of this survey?

The purpose of this survey is to capture **critical** baseline information on the Generation Equality Action Coalition Commitments, as well as progress made in the implementation of the commitments. The information collected through this exercise is expected to contribute to the monitoring of progress towards commitments; and a better understanding of whether, how, and why commitments are accelerating progress towards gender equality, for women and girls in all their diversity.

2. Who should fill out this survey?

We request that one single person responds to the survey per organization (“Commitment Maker”). For those with multiple commitments, we recommend you designate a point person to coordinate with various relevant stakeholders (sometimes called focal points or coordinators) in your organization and submit the survey on behalf of your organization. The point person who submits the survey should include their own name, title and email in questions 1-3 of the survey. This contact information will not be shared publicly.

Please note that you have access to the survey in [Word](#), [Excel](#), and [PDF](#) forms to facilitate this process. These documents are being provided to facilitate data collection and coordination. Do not record your answers in these documents and send them to UN Women. Only entries in the online survey form will be recorded.

For Commitment Makers with more than 10 commitments, see FAQ #11 below.

For Commitments involving multiple organizations, see FAQ #9 and #12 below.

3. What is a commitment?

A commitment is defined as an intended activity or set of activities, to accelerate progress towards one or multiple Action Coalitions by a specific stakeholder, or set of stakeholders, in a specific time frame. A commitment can be towards a specific community, and/or in a specific region, and/or be of a particular type (e.g., programmatic, advocacy, financial, and/or policy).

4. What is the difference between an internal and external commitment?

- **Internal commitments** seek to advance gender equality within an organization's own employees/staff/members/institutional practices and strategies. *Example: Over the next 5 years, we will commit to closing the gender pay gap in our company by auditing salaries disaggregated by gender and race/ethnicity, sharing those results within the company, and committing to measures to closing the gap.*
- **External commitments** seek to advance gender equality in communities beyond an organization's own employees/staff/members/institutional practices and strategies. *Example: Over the next 5 years, we will commit to closing the gender pay gap by funding Europe-based advocacy and policy organizations challenging the legal, policy, and cultural barriers that enable the gender pay gap to persist.*

- **Many commitments do both – with the internal and external component inter-related to one another.** The survey will prompt you for different types of data based on the type of commitment (internal, external, both).

5. **How should I answer the survey questions?**

We understand that Commitment makers have a vast array of different types of commitments and designed this survey to gather data about the current status of each commitment. For example, Section B of the survey contains questions about the implementation of your commitment. If you are in the process of implementing your commitment, please answer these questions regarding the current status of this implementation process. In some cases, you may have aspirations to expand the scope of your commitment, but the questions should be answered with the current scope in mind only. In other cases, your commitment may be an extension of previous work. You should answer the survey questions considering only activities undertaken since you joined Generation Equality.

6. **How many commitments should I enter at a time?**

Please fill out the survey in its entirety one commitment at a time. For Commitment makers with more than one commitment, we recommend making a list of all of your commitments and crossing off each one once you've submitted a completed survey for that commitment.

7. **Can I preview the survey questions before answering them?**

You can access the full survey in various forms here:

- As a Microsoft [Word document](#)
- As a [PDF](#)
- As an [Excel document](#)

These documents are being provided to facilitate data collection and coordination. Do not record your answers in these documents and send them to UN Women. Only entries in the online survey form will be recorded.

8. **How long do I have to fill out the survey?**

The survey will be open from Monday June 13, 2022, at 5pm ET to Friday July 15, 2022, at 5pm ET.

9. **What is the difference between an Individual, Joint, or Collective Commitment?**

There are different ways to make a commitment:

- **An Individual Commitment** describes a commitment made by one Commitment Maker, with no other organizations involved
- **A Joint Commitment** is a commitment made between two or more Commitment Makers or other partnering institutions or groups
- **A Collective Commitment** refer to a specific set of 29 commitments that have been endorsed under each Action Coalition. See [here](#) for the full list of Collective Commitments.

Commitment Makers may have more than one commitment and may have a combination of Individual, Joint and Collective commitments. You will enter information for each commitment separately in the survey. When submitting your first commitment, you will be asked how many commitments you will be reporting on in total. Include the combined total number of Individual, Joint and Collective commitments your organization has made.

10. What is the difference between multiple activities within a commitment and multiple commitments?

Please note that multiple activities within a commitment are not the same as multiple commitments. One commitment may be comprised of multiple activities that contribute to the overall commitment goal. The graphic below contains further guidance.



11. My organization/institution/government has over 10 commitments of different types with different partners, and therefore reporting on each in a single survey presents a particular burden. Do we need to fill the survey for all of these? Where can we access support?

Yes, we would request you to fill the survey for every commitment your organization has made. However, recognizing the complexity of this ask:

- If your organization has more than 10 commitments, we will accept responses from multiple people within your organization to distribute the burden of response. We recommend that the

focal points for each commitment/set of commitments within the organization complete this survey separately.

- Survey length and complexity varies substantially by Commitment type and we have made every effort to minimize the questions needed to answer per commitment based on its context, especially for commitments involving multiple organizations, see FAQ #8 below.

Should you require additional support, please reach out to ac.coalitions.survey@gmail.com.

12. I am part of a commitment with other Commitment Makers who may also be completing the survey. Should I still complete the survey? Should all of us complete the Survey?

Yes. The survey will prompt you for different types of data based on the type of commitment and your role in the commitment. For organizations who are part of Joint or Collective Commitments that have a dedicated coordinator (some do, many don't), most information will be collected from the coordinator/designated reporting organization. If there is no dedicated coordinator or you are unsure, you will be asked to report on **your own** organization's actions to fulfill the commitment.

Should you require additional support, please reach out to ac.coalitions.survey@gmail.com.

13. How will data collected in this survey be used? What are the expectations around data privacy and confidentiality?

Data collected in this survey will be used to inform the annual Monitoring and Accountability Framework report on the Action Coalition commitments, including to analyze patterns across the commitments to better understand how implementation is unfolding overall. Where relevant, it will also be used to update the commitments dashboard.

Commitments are public and information regarding their implementation is also intended to be public. Therefore, please do not enter anything into the survey you/your organization would not be comfortable having in the public domain.

14. How will this data be verified?

The data submitted to this survey will not be validated through any additional processes by UN Women. Other organizations may in the future seek to verify the impact of various commitments or sets of commitments.

15. Why is the survey so long? Why is there some redundancy between this survey and the commitment submission/intake form?

In addition to generating an understanding of how commitments are being implemented, this survey is designed to capture critical baseline information where there may have been gaps and inconsistencies in the original commitment intake form. Once collected, the baseline information will not be asked for in 2023 and beyond; therefore, future iterations of the survey will be shorter. Additionally, as this survey has been tailored to capture a variety of different commitments from a diverse group of commitment makers, survey length will vary by entry.

16. Why do I need to resubmit the form and reenter my contact information for each additional commitment?

Due to limitations of the survey platform, separate commitments—even from the same Commitment Maker—will need to be recorded as separate survey entries to record the individual impact of each commitment. Commitment Makers recording multiple commitments will not need to re-enter institutional information and other details in Section A. However, the name, title, and email of each respondent will be used to match multiple commitments with the same Commitment Maker.

17. Why do I have to write in my institutional affiliation/commitment title, rather than selecting from a prepopulated list?

Section A of the survey asks for your institutional affiliation. Please enter your institutional name in the provided text box. In order to avoid respondents sorting through a dropdown of 1000+ institutional affiliations, we have opted for a short-answer format, the most user-friendly interface available in the survey platform.

Section B of the survey asks for the existing title of your commitment, which will be entered as a text response. If you are not sure of your commitment name, please refer to the [Commitments Dashboard](#). Similar to the institutional affiliation, to avoid respondents sorting through a dropdown of thousands of commitment titles, we have opted for a short-answer format.

Once filled out, it is likely that these fields will not need to be manually filled out again in future iterations of the survey. We appreciate your help as we seek to build a more robust and consistent dataset of commitments.

18. Can I change elements of my commitment?

If you/your organization have adjusted any elements of your commitment (e.g., title, description, funding, time period, etc.) this survey is an opportunity to report on those changes. Changes entered in this survey will override the information you provided in your original commitment submission/intake form.

19. How do I select a primary Action Coalition? How can a commitment map to multiple Action Coalitions?

In Section C of the survey, you will be asked to choose a primary Action Coalition for your commitment. You will have an opportunity in the next question to indicate if your commitment touches on other Action Coalitions. If so, you will be asked to select other Action Coalitions that are relevant to your commitment. If your commitment cuts across multiple Action Coalitions, *please ensure all are selected in the same survey response, rather than submitting the survey multiple times.*

To determine which Action Coalition should be your primary choice, Commitment Makers can think about the primary outcome that the commitment is trying to produce and map it to the Action Coalition theme list to find the closest match. For example, if your commitment invests in the next generation of tech leaders tackling gender-based violence, this would map most closely to the Technology & Innovation Action Coalition and the priority action area within which focuses on increasing female leaders in the technology sector.

20. What are the different types of commitments?

There are four different types of commitments: advocacy, policy, financial, and programmatic.

- **Advocacy commitments** seek to amplify and mobilize support for transformative change to achieve the goals of the Action Coalition
- **Policy commitments** seek to demonstrate how an action can be translated to concrete policy change in the context of a government, company, or organization (*note: this option should only be selected if your commitment is to make a policy change whether it be internal or external. However, the development of a toolkit on policy best practices for example would fall under “programmatic”, whereas a campaign to support policy change would fall under “advocacy”*)
- **Financial commitments** seek to support, through the investment or dispersion of funds, the realization of an action to advance gender equality results
- **Programmatic commitments** seek to deliver programs, services, research, or other actions, with a focus on scale

21. What are the tactics of commitments? How do they differ from the types of commitments?

Tactics are defined as the means or strategy for success. There are a range of different potential tactics, including:

- Data & Accountability
- Education/Capacity Building
- Financing
- Laws & Policies
- Leadership
- Norms Change
- Participation
- Service Delivery

These tactics are different than the types of commitments (see above). For example, a commitment focused on policy change (the *type* of commitment) may be brought about through the employment of different *tactics* including investing in education, norms change etc.

22. What constitutes a strong title for an Individual /Joint Commitment? Why is this important?

Titles of Individual/Joint Commitments should be clear, concise, and capture the primary activity/activities of the commitment. They may reference the country/region of implementation, and/or the thematic focus or relevant Action Coalition.

Illustrative examples include:

- *“Scaling Up Gender-Based Violence Services in Nigeria”*
- *“Protecting Feminist Freedom of Expression in the Digital Age”*
- *“Internal Gender-Responsive Policing Initiative”*
- *“Expanding Family Planning Options Across Central America”*

Strong titles give immediate insight into the commitment and easily identify its key features. Please note the length of the commitment title is limited to 150 characters.

Individual and Joint Commitment Makers are welcome to change the title of their commitment; Section B of the survey will provide an opportunity to do so. Please note that if you change the title of your commitment, the survey platform will continue displaying your original title in prompts throughout the survey. However, in updating the Commitments Dashboard after survey responses have been received, the new title you submitted will be reflected.

Please note that the titles of Collective Commitments are not subject to change. In the case of Joint Commitments please coordinate with your partner(s) if you decide to change the title of your Joint Commitment so that the revised title is reflected in their survey submission as well.

23. What should I include in the description of my commitment?

You will be asked to provide a description of your commitment in Section B of the survey. If you are part of a Joint or Collective Commitment, this should be the description of your organization's specific contribution to that commitment.

The description of a commitment may include:

- The thematic focus of the commitment
- The specific activity /activities within the commitment
- The country /countries /region /regions of implementation
- The timeframe of the commitment
- The community /communities of primary beneficiaries
- The funding required to implement the commitment, if applicable
- Any key partners, if applicable

As an illustrative example: *Over the next 5 years, we will commit \$1 million USD to opening and operating up to 5 centers providing comprehensive services for survivors of gender-based violence, including housing and sexual and reproductive healthcare, in states across Nigeria.*

Please note you may revise your original commitment description based on the guidance above. The limit for the description is 500 characters for internal commitments, 500 characters for external commitments, and 1000 characters for commitments that span both internal and external work.

24. What is a priority action area?

Section B of the survey will ask you about how your commitment connects to relevant priority action areas. At the Generation Equality Forum in Paris last June 2021, each Action Coalition launched a defined a targeted set of four priority action areas to secure change. Priority action areas are concrete, game-changing, measurable and require multi-stakeholder collaboration. They have been informed by a rigorous analysis of threats and challenges to women's and girls' human rights, as well as evidence about what strategies and tactics are effective in securing change. The priority action areas under each Action Coalition can be found in this [document](#).

During the survey, you will be asked to identify a primary priority action area for your commitment. While many commitments will relate to more than one priority action area, for the purposes of the current survey, we ask that you choose the priority action area that most closely relates to your

commitment. We ask that you focus on one primary priority area in this first reporting cycle to limit the time it takes to complete the survey. In subsequent years, more detailed questions across priority areas will be included.

25. What are the different types of targets that map to each priority action within an AC?

Section B of the survey will ask you about how your commitment connects to relevant Action Coalition blueprint targets. The blueprint targets are global and, in some cases, include sub-targets. Featured in the [Action Coalitions Global Acceleration Plan](#) report, the Action Coalition blueprint targets were launched at the Generation Equality Forum in Paris last June 2021.

- **(Global) AC blueprint targets** are specific, measurable objectives whose attainment will contribute in a major way to achieving one or more of the Action Coalition priority actions. AC Blueprint targets have an evidence-based link to the priority action, speak to all relevant stakeholders and are time-bound. They are global, aspirational, yet attainable
- Sub-targets are found in some ACs but not all. **Sub-targets** are specific, measurable objectives whose attainment will contribute to achievement of the principal target(s) in a given priority action area. Sub-targets are relevant and linked to the AC tactics and priority action. They are aspirational, yet attainable. **Where can I find more background information on the Generation Equality Forums and Action Coalitions?**

The Generation Equality Action Coalitions represent a unique opportunity to make concrete change for millions of women and girls and accelerate results on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Commitment Makers form a powerful coalition working towards this opportunity through three types of commitments - Individual, Joint, and Collective Commitments aligned with six Action Coalitions. Over 2,000 Commitments have already been made by Commitment Makers across the world at or after the Generation Equality Forum in Mexico and Paris. More information and context on the Commitments can be found [here](#).

26. What does ____ mean?

Please find a glossary of additional terms used in the survey below.

- **Intersectional lens:** an approach that takes into account differentiated needs and interests of women and girls with different identities and recognizes that social identities (gender, poverty, race, disability, etc.) can and do overlap to create compounding experiences of discrimination and inequity
- **Feminist leadership:** an approach or activity that enables diverse women, girls and young people and their organizations and other partners to lead, co-create, influence their work, and hold each other to account
- **Power dynamics:** unequal systems, structures, and power relations within and between communities and countries that reinforce inequalities

27. Who should I contact with additional concerns or questions?

Please reach out to ac.commitments.survey@gmail.com for support.