

Technical Note: Explaining the Dollar Valuation of Generation Equality Commitments

The Generation Equality Forum in Paris concluded in July 2021 with the announcement of bold gender equality commitments, including policy, programmatic, advocacy and financial commitments. The value totalled nearly \$40 billion in support of actions outlined in the [Generation Equality Global Acceleration Plan](#). By the close of the Forum, governments and public sector institutions had committed \$21 billion to gender equality investments, the private sector \$13 billion and philanthropy \$4.5 billion. United Nations entities and international and regional organizations committed an aggregate of \$1.3 billion. In addition to these bold investments, many organizations made strong policy and programme commitments, including 440 civil society organizations and 94 youth-led organizations.¹

There have been many questions from stakeholders regarding the composition of the commitments, which organizations and governments are benefiting, and if any progress has been made on implementation.

The Generation Equality Commitments Reporting Survey provided an opportunity to ask commitment-makers to provide information to answer these important questions. Many commitments were pledges that require either raising resources or approving a budget. Therefore, the survey asked commitment-makers to confirm the total financial value and supply additional details on how they intend to disburse funds – for example, through grants, loans, internal budget allocations or other mechanisms. To report on progress, the survey also asked how much funding commitment-makers have secured for implementation.

Survey results confirm the ambitious commitments made in the lead-up to the Paris Forum

The survey results reflect a limited but representative sample across all Action Coalitions, covering approximately 31 per cent of all commitments made as of October 2021. The data largely show, however, that commitment-makers are taking their commitments seriously, with many affirming their original pledges and others joining with new pledges of support.

Based on the survey data, commitment-makers who responded reported \$24 billion as the dollar-value of their Generation Equality commitments. With more reporting, including from large commitment-makers, this amount expected to rise significantly, potentially above the \$40 billion reported in Paris. Although there might be interest in comparing this figure with the \$40 billion announced in Paris, key differences prevent doing so. First, due to limited survey completion rates, the data reflect only a subset of all commitments. Second, new commitments were recorded after the Paris Forum until October 2021. Third, several commitment-makers used the survey to revise their commitments, including in some cases their estimated value.

What is the nature of the \$40 billion announced in Paris, and how do commitment makers intend to disburse these funds?

There are many questions about the \$40 billion alongside misconceptions that this represents a singular new source of funding that will directly solve the chronic underfunding of organizations working on

¹ UN Women, 2021. [Summary of Generation Equality Paris Forum Achievements](#).

gender equality, including UN Women. This is not the case. Commitments are diverse and include not only financial commitments but also policy, programme and advocacy ones.

While many commitment-makers indicated in the survey that it was either too early to tell (21 per cent) or that they could not disclose financial information based on internal policies (3 per cent), the limited data available show that a significant \$16.7 billion (68 per cent) of reported commitments reflect new or scaled-up funding.

The modality for fund disbursement varies across commitment-makers. In the case of the private sector, P&G for example, made a pledge to advance women's economic justice and rights through its global value chain by directing \$10 billion towards women-owned and women-led businesses through 2025. Other commitments, including by philanthropic entities are in the form of grants to organizations, governments and institutions. A description of the majority of commitments is accessible in the [Action Coalitions Commitments Dashboard](#), which all commitment-makers can use the Dashboard as a transport tool to learn more about every commitment made.

A higher survey response rate is critical for promoting accountability

UN Women recognizes the importance of tracking all Generation Equality commitments, particularly financial ones. Given the centrality of accountability to drive results on the Global Acceleration Plan, it is critical that all commitment-makers respond to the annual survey so that baseline data may be finalized, to continuously monitor implementation. For this reason, UN Women is extending the [Generation Equality Commitments Reporting Survey](#) until the end of October 2022 to promote a higher response rate. As more data become available, UN Women will continue to provide periodic updates of commitments and the status of implementation through the online Accountability Platform [online accountability platform](#).

This publicly accessible website platform allows for transparency and, ultimately, tracking of all commitments for Generation Equality. The Online Accountability Platform captures the four elements of the Accountability Framework: commitments, blueprint targets, transformative process, and stories of impact. It showcases through the Commitments Dashboard, the full detail of the over 2,500 commitments, and provides information on key data, gaps and trends across the Action Coalitions thematic areas and the dashboard of actions for the Women, Peace, & Security and Humanitarian Action Compact.