



# Action Coalitions

## **GLOBAL ACCELERATION PLAN**



MEXICO 2021

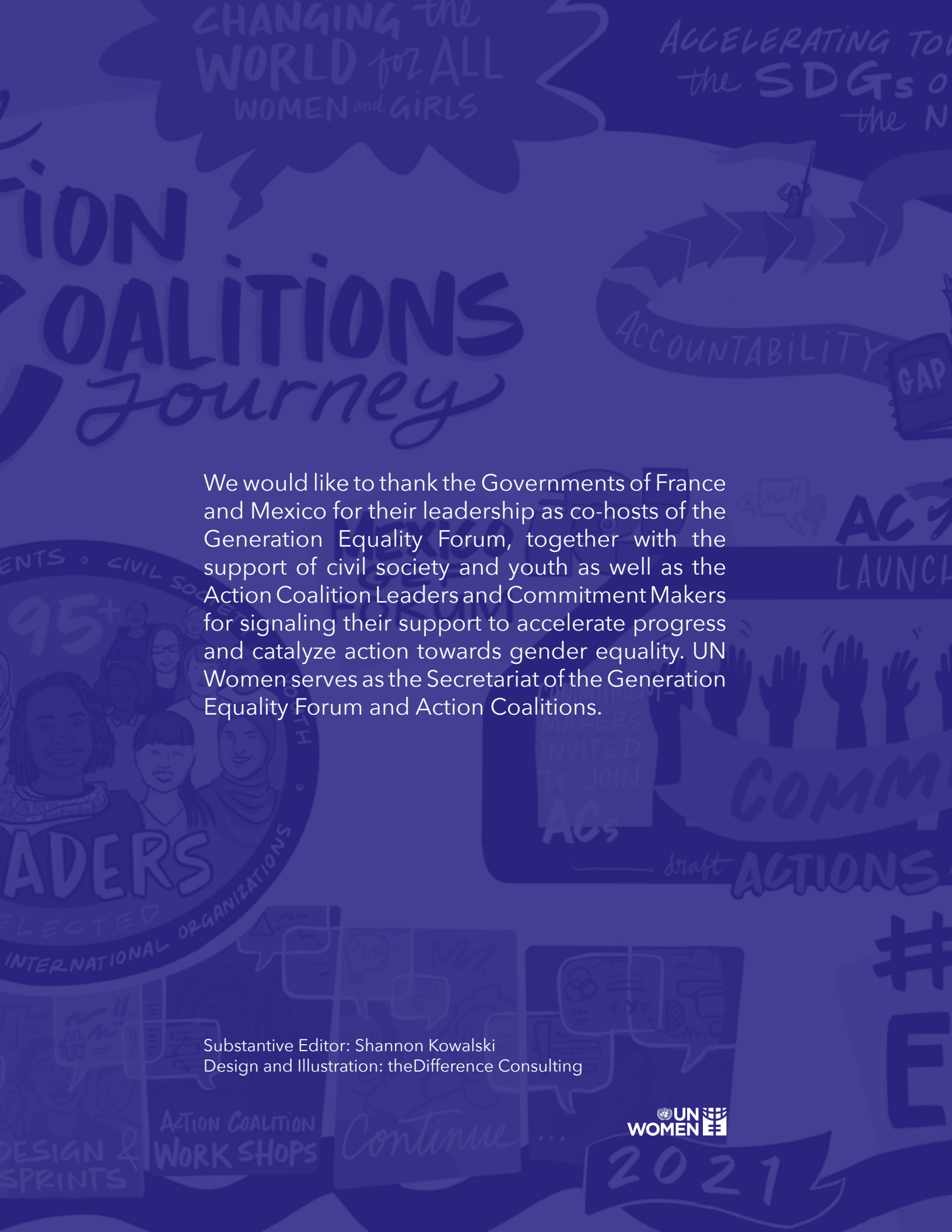


GENERATION  
EQUALITY  
FORUM

PARIS 2021

The  
ACTION  
COALITIONS  
Journey





We would like to thank the Governments of France and Mexico for their leadership as co-hosts of the Generation Equality Forum, together with the support of civil society and youth as well as the Action Coalition Leaders and Commitment Makers for signaling their support to accelerate progress and catalyze action towards gender equality. UN Women serves as the Secretariat of the Generation Equality Forum and Action Coalitions.

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



## IT IS TIME TO MOVE FROM RHETORIC TO ACTION

26 years after the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, **too little has changed.** There, and in multiple forums since, including in the Sustainable Development Goals, world leaders have pledged to eliminate gender inequalities and realize women's and girls' human rights. Yet, public commitments have not been met with the action, financing or implementation of laws, policies and programs needed to meet these goals.

**At current rates of progress, more than 2.1 billion women and girls will live in countries that will not reach any key gender equality targets by 2030. And no woman or girl will live in a country that meets all of them.<sup>1</sup>**

COVID-19 has made the situation worse. In country after country women and girls have been disproportionately impacted: they make up the majority of frontline health and other essential workers and have experienced surges in violence, poverty, and unpaid work. Government responses have been insufficient: only a small fraction of social protection, labour market and fiscal policies to address COVID-19 are gender-sensitive.<sup>2</sup>

In this **UN Decade for Action on Gender Equality**, it is time for change. It is time to move from rhetoric to action. Through the Generation Equality Forum, which kicked off in Mexico and culminated in France, we are building a powerful, global movement for gender equality that will deliver progress for women and girls, in all their diversity.

The Generation Equality Action Coalitions take on six critical issues that underpin gender equality: i) Gender-Based Violence; ii) Economic Justice and Rights; iii) Bodily Autonomy and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR); iv) Feminist Action for Climate Justice; v) Technology and Innovation for Gender Equality; and vi) Feminist Movements and Leadership.

<sup>1</sup> Equal Measures 2030, 2020. Bending the Curve Towards Gender Equality by 2030. Surrey, United Kingdom: Equal Measures 2030, p. 7.

<sup>2</sup> See UNDP and UN Women. 2020. COVID-19 Global Gender Response Tracker. <https://data.undp.org/gendertracker/>. Of 3,112 policy measures in response to COVID-19 in 219 countries and territories, only 1,299 across 187 countries and territories are gender sensitive. Most focus on addressing violence against women and girls (832 in 149 countries), whereas measures to strengthen women's economic security (287) and address unpaid care work (180) are much fewer in number.

26 YEARS AFTER THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN,

# TOO LITTLE HAS CHANGED

COVID-19 HAS EXACERBATED THE GENDER INEQUALITY CRISIS

**640M+**  
women have experienced  
physical and sexual  
violence at the hands of  
their intimate partner<sup>1</sup>

**3X**  
the amount of unpaid  
care work women do  
compared to men<sup>3</sup>

**19%**  
of girls are married  
before the age of 18<sup>5</sup>

**<1%**  
of global DAC aid  
for gender equality  
goes to women  
rights organizations<sup>7</sup>

**190M**  
women who wanted  
to avoid pregnancy  
did not use any  
contraceptive method<sup>2</sup>

**2/3**  
of women are in the workforce  
compared to 90% of men, which  
remains largely unchanged for  
the last 3 decades<sup>4</sup>

**135.6**  
estimated years before  
women will achieve  
pay or leadership  
equity with men<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> World Health Organization, 2021. Violence Against Women Prevalence Estimates 2018. Geneva: World Health Organization, p.12.  
<sup>2</sup> UN Women, 2020. Gender equality: Women's rights in review 25 years after Beijing. New York: UN Women, p. 2. Refers to women of reproductive age.  
<sup>3</sup> UN Women, 2019. Progress of the World's Women: Families in a Changing World. New York: UN Women, p. 146.  
<sup>4</sup> World Economic Forum, 2021. Global Gender Gap Report 2021. Geneva: World Economic Forum  
<sup>5</sup> UN Women, 2020. Gender equality: Women's rights in review 25 years after Beijing. New York: UN Women.  
<sup>6</sup> World Economic Forum, 2021. Global Gender Gap Report 2021. Geneva: World Economic Forum  
<sup>7</sup> OECD DAC Network on Gender Equality, July 2020. "Aid Focused on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: A snapshot of current funding and trends over time in support of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action." Paris: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.



# WORKING TOGETHER TO DRIVE CHANGE

The Action Coalitions are bringing together governments, women’s, feminist and youth-led organizations, international organizations, foundations and businesses to drive change. Through blueprints for action co-created by Action Coalition leaders, they are catalyzing collective commitments; sparking global and local conversations between generations and across communities; and driving substantial increases in public and private funding.

# ACTION COALITION BLUEPRINTS

Each Action Coalition blueprint lays out a powerful vision for success, as well as priority actions, strategies and tactics to help achieve it. The Action Coalitions’ work has been informed by a commitment to feminist leadership, transformative change and putting an intersectional approach into practice—that is recognizing that many women and girls experience multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination based on their identities, realities, and unequal access to power and resources and taking meaningful steps to address it. The blueprints also establish key targets that will be used to assess the impact of the Action Coalitions’ work. Together, the blueprints represent a Global Acceleration Plan for gender equality. They will increase the pace of progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the full implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action in this UN Decade for Action on Gender Equality.

# COMMITMENTS

Now, Commitment Makers from all sectors of society, are stepping up to provide resources, lead advocacy, implement law and policy change, and establish programmes to help make the blueprints a reality. Each Action Coalition is also mobilizing collective commitments: actions that can bring impact to scale. These include a Global Alliance on Care to expand quality, public care services; an initiative to shape markets and increase access to reproductive health commodities; the establishment of a Gender-Just Climate Solutions Scale Fund; and a Global Alliance for Sustainable Feminist Movements, amongst others.

# ACCOUNTABILITY

Accountability is being built in to the process: Commitment Makers will report on their progress; UN Women will monitor progress towards Action Coalition targets; and together diverse stakeholders will measure the collective impact of the Action Coalitions on the lives of women and girls. Action Coalitions will also evaluate the extent to which they are creating and implementing processes that contribute to transformative change, by attending to inequalities in power among and between leaders and taking concrete steps to address them.

The Action Coalitions can deliver concrete progress on gender equality across generations to come for girls and women in all of their diversity.

But to be successful, diverse stakeholders need to come to the table with **COMMITMENTS, RESOURCES** and **ACTION**.

**WILL YOU  
JOIN US?**

# ACTION COALITIONS APPROACH





# THE ACTION COALITIONS JOURNEY

From the start, the Action Coalitions and their blueprints were conceptualized and developed through a process of co-creation that brought together feminist and youth leaders, and representatives of other civil society organizations, governments, foundations, international organizations, and the private sector.

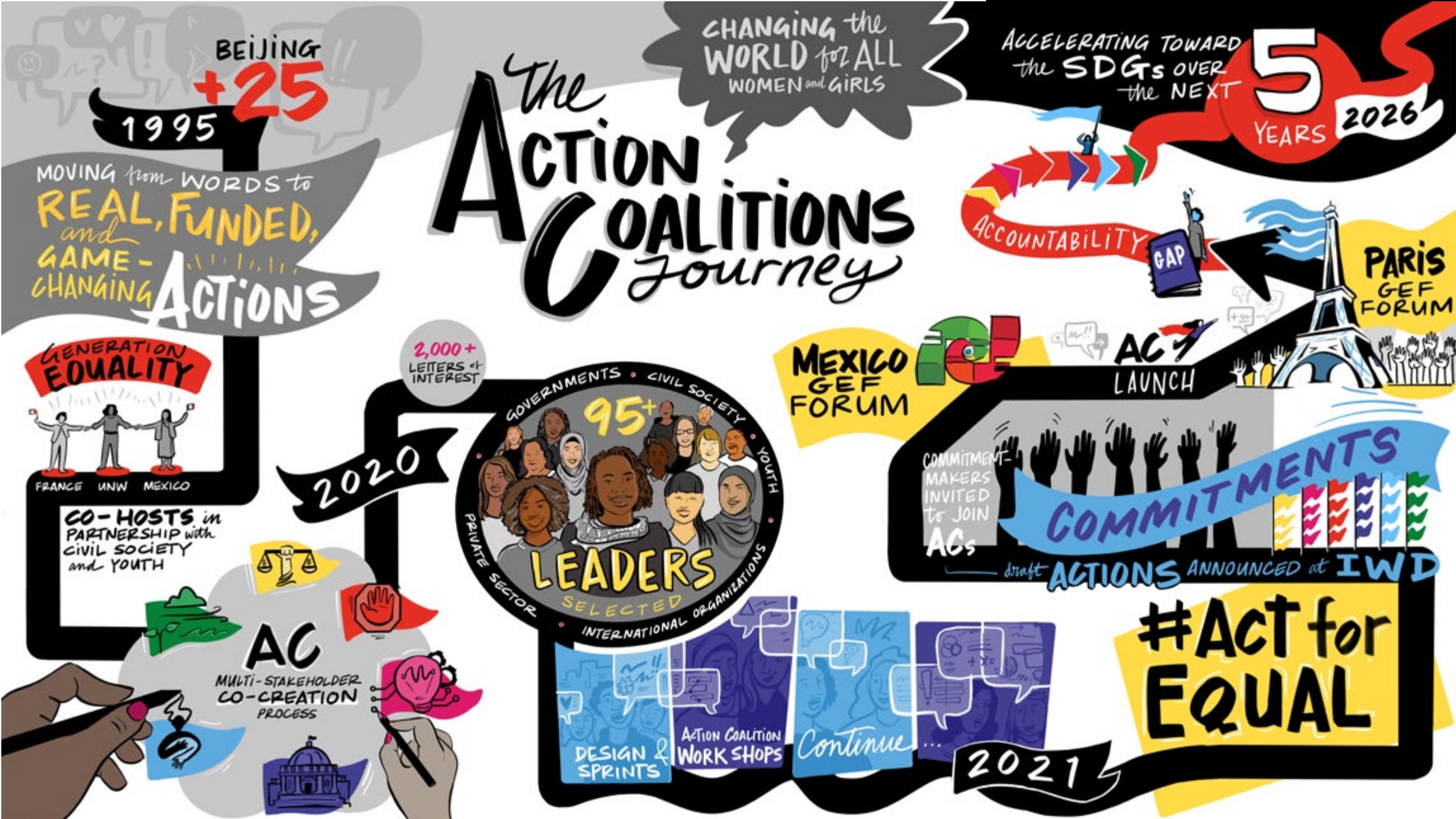
At a design sprint in Mexico City in December 2019, diverse leaders weighed a range of issues that needed urgent action to advance women’s and girls rights, in all their diversity, and the extent to which they were already being addressed through other forums and initiatives. Drawing on their advice, the Generation Equality Forum Core

Group – UN Women, Mexico, France, and the Civil Society Advisory Group–narrowed in on six Action Coalition themes and launched a call for leaders from all sectors to step forward to develop blueprints to address them.

At a second design sprint in Paris in February 2020, diverse leaders envisioned how the Action Coalition themes would accelerate change for women and girls in all their diversity and recommended potential areas for action. They also defined the principles that inform the work of the Action Coalitions – intersectionality, feminist leadership and transformation – and started to sketch out possible models for governance and accountability moving forward.

More than 2000 civil society, international and regional organizations, governments, foundations, and businesses submitted letters of interest to become leaders of Action Coalitions. Applications from feminist, women’s rights, youth-led and other civil society groups were reviewed through a process established by the Youth Task Force and Civil Society Advisory Group, which involved civil society representatives from other governance mechanisms established for the Generation Equality Forum. The process aimed to ensure diverse leadership from civil society and youth-led organizations working at various levels from the grassroots to global, with different areas of expertise, and representing historically marginalized communities, including groups led by LGBTQ+ people, women and girls with disabilities, and indigenous women and girls, among others. A final group of leaders across all sectors and for all Action Coalitions was agreed upon by the Core Group, which as of September 2020, also included representatives from the Youth Task Force.

Through a series of workshops, consultations and dialogues, Action Coalition leaders worked together and with their constituencies to develop the blueprints. The draft blueprints were shared at the Generation Equality Mexico City Forum and then, taking into account ideas generated there and in other spaces, finalized and formally launched at the Generation Equality Paris Forum.





# WHY ARE THE ACTION COALITIONS CATALYTIC?

Girls, women and gender-diverse people cannot live full, free and equal lives if discriminatory social norms, laws and practices hold them back and stifle their potential. But gender equality is not just good for women and girls: it is the foundation for building just and equitable societies, where everyone can thrive. It underpins economic and social systems that include, and work for, all people and it is essential for the survival of the planet.

The effort is all the more urgent now. COVID-19 has laid bare critical gaps in equality that have left millions of women and girls – particularly those who are most marginalized and who experience discrimination on multiple grounds – behind. COVID-19 has exacerbated the lack of progress on gender equality by deepening poverty, increasing rates of violence, cutting off access to critical social services like school and health care, and increasing women’s and girls’ burden of unpaid work. The pandemic is straining health systems, widening socio-economic gaps, and shifting strategic, political, and funding priorities, all of which disproportionately and negatively affect women and girls.

In this light, the Generation Equality Action Coalitions are an extraordinary platform for change, both in their approach and level of ambition. They bring together diverse stakeholders to address some of the most intractable barriers to equality—from violence, to climate change, and economic systems that leave women and girls behind.

Action Coalitions represent a unique partnership. Their Leaders and Commitment Makers include feminist activists, diverse leaders of grassroots, indigenous and community-based organizations, youth leaders, and representatives from private foundations, the private sector, international and regional organizations, and governments, who are committed to taking collective action for gender equality. They have been working together to build plans that, if implemented and fully funded, will lead to lasting and transformative change and help to ensure that women, girls and gender diverse people everywhere can fully enjoy their human rights. And in doing so they are demonstrating how diverse stakeholders can increase their impact by coming together, actively working to equalize power in decision making, and centering the needs of the most marginalized communities in their work.

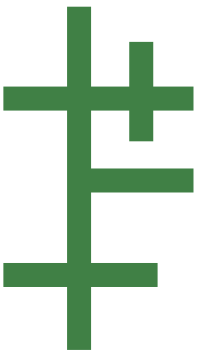


Photo: UN Women/Dzilam Méndez



# WHAT ARE THE CORE PRINCIPLES OF THE ACTION COALITIONS?

Intersectionality, feminist leadership and transformation are principles that inspire **how** the Action Coalitions operate and **what** they aspire to achieve. All Action Coalition Leaders and Commitment Makers are encouraged to reflect these principles within their own organizations, governments, institutions, and companies, as well as in their collective work.



## INTERSECTIONALITY

Action Coalitions seek to put an intersectional approach into practice by shedding light on the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination that are experienced by many women and girls because of their identities, realities, backgrounds, and unequal access to power and resources, and addressing them. It requires recognizing the unique challenges faced by people who experience intersecting forms of discrimination and the power dynamics and systems that reinforce them, and meaningfully and intentionally working to counter them.<sup>1</sup>



## FEMINIST LEADERSHIP

Feminist leadership aims to explicitly and intentionally redistribute power and responsibility in a way that is inclusive, participatory, and mindful of gender, age, race, social class, sexual orientation, ability and other intersecting identities. It involves a continuous commitment to keep vigilant about – and challenge – the (re)production of practices and behaviours that deter collaboration, proactive listening and that benefit a few at the expense of others.<sup>2</sup>



## TRANSFORMATION

Action Coalitions seek to transform structures, systems and power that reinforce inequalities as an end goal, and in their own ways of working. In so doing, the Action Coalitions seek to build a collective vision through approaches that value co-creation, dialogue, shared perspective, and centering the voices of historically marginalized groups. Youth leadership is critical to the transformative vision of the Generation Equality Action Coalitions.

<sup>1</sup> Crenshaw, K. 1989. "Demarginalizing the Intersection of Race and Sex: A Black Feminist Critique of Antidiscrimination Doctrine, Feminist Theory and Antiracist Politics," University of Chicago Legal Forum: Vol. 1: 139-167. Analysis in this document provided by the Young Feminist Manifesto, March 2021. <https://chicagounbound.uchicago.edu/uclf/vol1989/iss1/8/>

<sup>2</sup> See Young Feminist Europe. 2021. "Young Feminist Manifesto." Accessed 1 March 2021. <https://www.youngfeminist.eu/2021/03/young-feminist-manifesto/> for a full overview and analysis of feminist leadership.

# WHAT CONCRETE ACTIONS ARE BEING PUT FORWARD?

Action Coalition leaders have come together to define a targeted set of actions that are concrete, transformative, measurable and require multi-stakeholder collaboration. The actions have been informed by a rigorous analysis of the threats and challenges to women's and girls' human rights, and built on experience and evidence about what strategies and tactics are effective in driving change. They recognize the critical role of feminist and other social movements in pushing for accountability on gender equality and human rights. And they seek to amplify impact by drawing on the different strengths, roles and responsibilities that Action Coalition Leaders and Commitment-Makers bring to the table. These are reflected in individual and ***collective commitments for action***.



Photo: UN Women/Ryan Brown



# TOGETHER,

the Action Coalition blueprints represent a Global Acceleration Plan for gender equality.

The following actions drive this agenda:



## GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

- 1** More states and regional actors ratify international and regional conventions and public and private sector institutions strengthen, implement and finance evidence-driven laws, policies and action plans to end gender-based violence against women and girls in all their diversity. *In so doing, 550 million more women and girls will live in countries with laws and policies prohibiting all forms of gender-based violence against women and girls by 2026.*
- 2** Scale up implementation and financing of evidence-driven prevention strategies by public and private sector institutions and women's rights organizations to drive down prevalence of gender-based violence against women, adolescent girls and young women in all their diversity including in humanitarian settings. *In so doing, increase by 50% the number of countries that include one or more evidence-driven prevention strategies on gender-based violence against women and girls in national policies by 2026.*
- 3** Scale up implementation and financing of coordinated survivor-centered, comprehensive, quality, accessible and affordable services for survivors of gender-based violence against women and girls in all their diversity including in humanitarian settings. *In so doing, more women and girls will live in countries with multi-sectoral action plans on GBV which include provision of police, justice, health and social sector services by 2026.*
- 4** Enhance support and increase accountability and quality, flexible funding from states, private sector, foundations, and other donors to autonomous girl-led & women's rights organizations working to end gender-based violence against women and girls in all their diversity. *In so doing, progressively improve and increase international funding by 50% to women's rights organizations, activists and movements including those working to address gender-based violence against women and girls in all their diversity by 2026.*



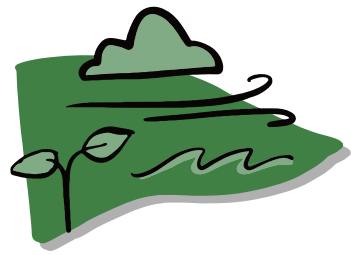
## ECONOMIC JUSTICE AND RIGHTS

- 1** By 2026, increase the number of countries with a comprehensive set of measures in gender-responsive public and private quality care services, and law and policy reforms, including through **investments of recommended 3-10% of national income and creation of up to 80 million decent care jobs** to recognize, reduce and redistribute unpaid care work and reward paid work and represent care workers, while guaranteeing care worker's decent pay and labour rights, including in the private sector
- 2** Create an inclusive and enabling legal and policy environment and engage women to expand decent work in the formal and informal economy to **reduce the number of working women living in poverty by 2026 by a recommended 17 million** and decrease the gap in labour force participation between prime-age women and men with small children by half, resulting in an additional 84 million women joining the labour force.
- 3** Expand women's access to and control over productive resources through increasing women's access to and control over land, gender responsive financial products and services, and the number of firms owned by women by 2026. In doing so,
  - **Secure access to ownership and control over land and housing is increased for 7 million women;**
  - **The gender gap in women's financial inclusion is reduced to 6% by increasing both formal and informal financial inclusion, including for women at risk of being excluded from formal financial services;**
  - **The number of women's economic empowerment national programs integrating digital financial services and participation through gender-responsive platforms is increased;**
  - **The number of firms owned by women is increased by 25% in all contexts, including in fragile and conflict situations.**
- 4** Design and implement gender-responsive macro-economic plans, budget reforms and stimulus packages so that the **number of women and girls living in poverty is reduced by 85 million** including through quality public social protection floors and systems by 2026.



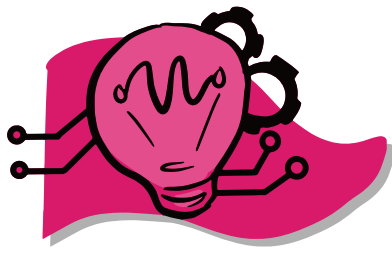
## BODILY AUTONOMY & SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS

- 1** Increase delivery of comprehensive sexuality education in and out of school **reaching 50 million more children, adolescents, and youth** in all their diversity by 2026.
- 2** Within a comprehensive framework that includes SRHR services as an essential component of UHC for all people, **increase the quality of and access to contraceptive services for 50 million more adolescent girls and women in all their diversity;** support removal of restrictive policies and legal barriers, ensuring 50 million more adolescent girls and women in all their diversity live in jurisdictions where they can access safe and legal abortion by 2026.
- 3** Through gender norms change and increasing knowledge of rights, **empower all people including 260 million more girls, adolescents and women in all of their diversity** to make autonomous decisions about their bodies, sexuality and reproduction by 2026; enact legal and policy change to protect and promote bodily autonomy and SRHR in at least 20 countries by 2026.
- 4** Increase accountability to, participation of and support for autonomous feminist and women's organizations (including girl and adolescent-led, and Indigenous organizations and collectives), women human rights defenders and peacebuilders. Strengthen organizations, networks and movements working to promote and protect bodily autonomy and SRHR.



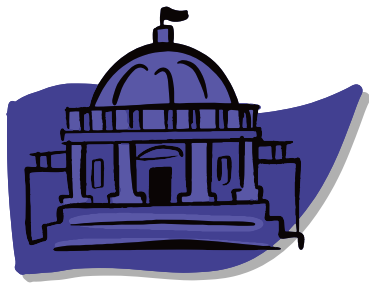
## FEMINIST ACTION FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE

- 1 By 2026, increase the percentage of global climate finance flows, public and private, directed towards and invested in gender-just climate solutions in particular at grassroots and rural levels, including **through an increase to 88% in the proportion of marked climate bilateral finance targeted towards gender.**
- 2 Increase the proportion of women and girls in decision-making and leadership positions throughout environmental governance and sectors relevant for transitioning to an inclusive, circular and regenerative green economy by 2026.
- 3 Enhance and leverage the capacity of millions more women and girls in all their diversity to build resilience to climate and disaster risks, mitigate climate change, and address loss and damage, including through the provision of quality education, community-based cooperative models and land rights and tenure security.
- 4 By 2026, **at least 20 countries demonstrate increased use of gender-environment statistics** for policy making by creating an enabling environment for and increased production of gender-environment statistics.



## TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION FOR GENDER EQUALITY

- 1 By 2026, **reduce by half the gender digital divide** across generations by accelerating meaningful access to digital technologies and universal digital literacy.
- 2 By 2026, **increase investments towards feminist technology and innovation by 50%** to support women's leadership as innovators and better respond to women and girls' most pressing needs.
- 3 By 2026, **double the proportion of women working in technology and innovation** by setting up new networks and benchmarks to transform innovation ecosystems.
- 4 By 2026, a majority of countries and tech companies demonstrate accountability by implementing policies and solutions against online and tech facilitated GBV and discrimination.



## FEMINIST MOVEMENTS & LEADERSHIP

- 1 By 2026, **double the global annual growth rate of funding** from all sectors committed to women-led, girl-led and feminist-led movements, organizations, and funds in all their diversity, including those led by historically marginalized women and people, including trans, intersex and non-binary people.
- 2 Promote, expand, strengthen, and protect civic space across all domains, including online, and support the efforts of feminist activists in all their diversity, including women's human rights defenders, women peacebuilders, trans, intersex and non-binary people, girls and other members of historically marginalized groups, to defend civic space and eliminate barriers to feminist action, organizing and mobilization in all its diversity.
- 3 By 2026, advance substantive representation and increase the meaningful participation, leadership and decision-making power of girls and youth leaders, and of women, and feminist leaders in all their diversity, including those who are trans, intersex and non-binary, through efforts to: (1) Advance gender parity and the inclusion of those historically marginalized in all aspects, sectors and levels of public and economic decision-making, including the private sector, civil society, international organizations, political and government institutions and executive and legislative positions (2) Promote and expand feminist, gender transformative, intersectional approaches to decision-making and leadership, which acknowledge, analyse and challenge existing power relations and advance inclusive, gender transformative and rights-affirming laws and policies.
- 4 By 2026, allocate, monitor and evaluate specific, flexible financial, technical, and other resources for adolescent girls and young feminist leaders and their movements and organizations to strengthen them, and create safe and inclusive spaces to lead, share ownership and substantively participate in and co-create decision-making processes.





## WHAT COMES NEXT FOR THE ACTION COALITIONS?

Action Coalition leaders and Commitment Makers will now work together to implement the blueprints through the delivery of specific resources, advocacy, legal and policy change, and programmes. Commitment Makers will join a dynamic community of practice, and share successes, challenges and lessons learned; take stock of progress; and identify areas where additional collective action and investment is needed to drive change.

Together, Action Coalitions will work to ensure accountability—for both progress against individual commitments and the collective impact of its work on the lives of women, girls and gender-diverse people.

**THIS IS THE START OF A PROCESS OF TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE.**

Photo: UN Women/Carlos Rivera



# THE GENERATION EQUALITY ACTION COALITIONS ARE THE WORLD'S ROADMAP TO ACCELERATE GENDER EQUALITY



**GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE**



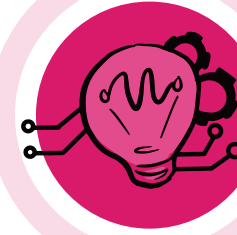
**ECONOMIC JUSTICE AND RIGHTS**



**BODILY AUTONOMY AND SRHR**



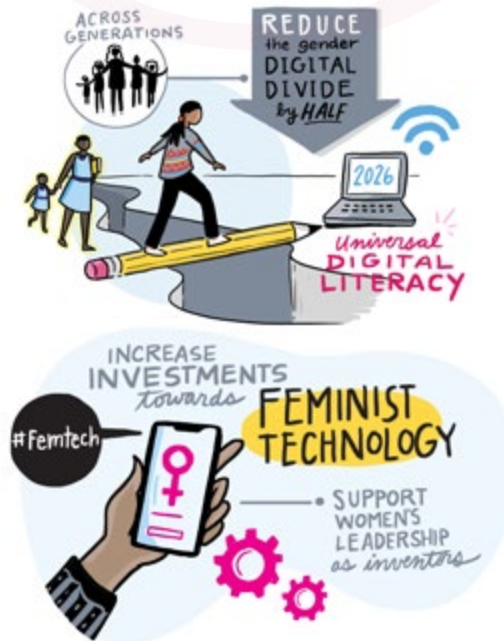
**FEMINIST ACTION FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE**



**TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION FOR GENDER EQUALITY**



**FEMINIST MOVEMENTS AND LEADERSHIP**





# GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE



## OUR VISION FOR SUCCESS BY 2026

Multiple, diverse stakeholders come together to realize the vision of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and SDG targets 5.2 and 5.3, by making and implementing concrete, new, comprehensive commitments to address gender-based violence (GBV) against women and girls in all their diversity. Commitments are survivor-centered and backed by targeted and adequate financial resources and political will. Women's rights organizations<sup>1</sup> are recognized for their expertise, well-resourced and have capacity to drive change as leaders at all levels. Diverse voices are amplified across social and political arenas, including adolescent girls and youth.

Progress towards the elimination of GBV against women and girls in all their diversity is rapidly accelerated through more concerted, coordinated, scaled-up global action that builds political will and accountability for transformative change at all levels. Concerted global action leads to changes in gendered power relations and social norms, which accelerates progress on gender equality and the elimination of all forms of GBV. An intersectional, evidence-driven approach is consistently integrated into all efforts to prevent and respond to GBV including in institutions. Legal frameworks are in place and implemented. Impunity is addressed, ensuring full accountability of perpetrators and state's due diligence to prevent and respond to all acts of violence against women and girls in all their diversity. All survivors of GBV safely access comprehensive support services.

### GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

#### DEFINITION

The definition of Gender-Based Violence for the purpose of the Action Coalition is "violence which is directed against a woman because she is a woman or that affects women disproportionately."<sup>2</sup> Recognizing that gender-based violence affects women and girls in all their diversity, the Action Coalition on GBV adopts the definition of gender-based violence derived from the 1993 Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women, as "any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or mental harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life."

<sup>1</sup> Women's rights organizations include; girl, youth-led and women-led organizations and initiatives, women's rights activists, grassroots women's organizations, women peace builders and human rights defenders.

<sup>2</sup> UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). 1992. CEDAW General Recommendation No. 19 on Violence against Women. A/47/38.



# WHY DOES GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE MATTER?

GBV against women and girls is a widespread and persistent global issue: An estimated 736 million women - almost 1 in 3 - have been subjected to intimate partner violence, non-partner sexual violence or both at least once in their life (30% of women aged 15 and older)<sup>1</sup>.

Additionally, of those who have been in a relationship, almost 1 in 4 adolescent girls aged 15-19 (24%)<sup>2</sup> have experienced physical and/or sexual violence from an intimate partner or husband. These key indicators have not changed for decades and have become an ever more pressing challenge as COVID-19 shocks impact health systems, restricts mobility, and shifts funding priorities.

Women and girls in all their diversity may experience multiple and intersecting forms of GBV in their lifetime including emotional, economic, physical and sexual violence, sexual harassment, harmful practices such as female genital mutilation, child, early and forced marriage, and sexual exploitation linked to human trafficking. Women and girls also experience violence in private and public space and online. Women and girls in conflict, crisis and humanitarian contexts are disproportionately vulnerable to various forms of GBV. Women human rights defenders, feminist activists and peace builders, as well as women who participate in politics, are also often targeted.

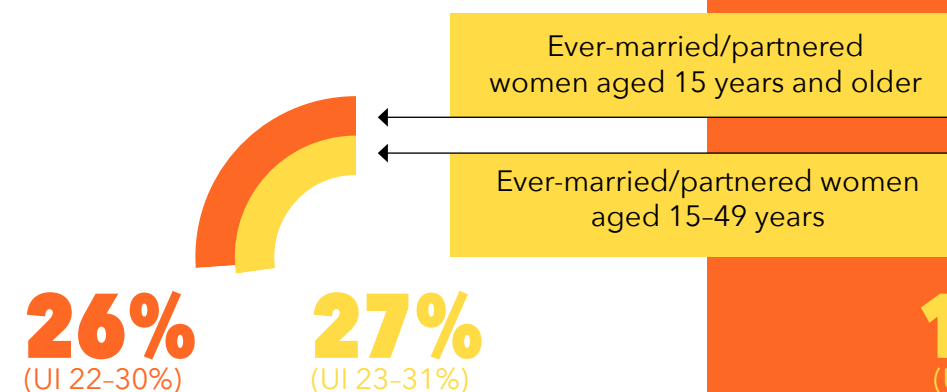
GBV against women and girls in all their diversity can negatively affect women's physical, mental, sexual, and reproductive health. It also affects women's full and active participation in the labour market, seriously impacting women in the formal and informal sectors. GBV against women and girls in all their diversity also comes at significant economic cost to societies and economies.

Despite the scale of the problem, GBV against women and girls is preventable. Growing global evidence indicates that investments in sustained multi-year, evidence-driven prevention strategies can drive down prevalence of GBV against women and girls within programme time frames.

<sup>1</sup> WHO (World Health Organization), on behalf of the United Nations Inter-Agency Working Group on Violence Against Women Estimation and Data (UNICEF, UNFPA, UNODC, UNSD, UN Women). 2018. Violence against Women Prevalence Estimates: Global, Regional and National Prevalence Estimates for Intimate Partner Violence against Women and Global and Regional Prevalence Estimates for Non-Partner Sexual Violence against Women. [https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/documents/violence-prevention/vaw\\_report\\_web\\_09032021\\_oleksandr.pdf?sfvrsn=a82ef89c\\_5&download=true](https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/documents/violence-prevention/vaw_report_web_09032021_oleksandr.pdf?sfvrsn=a82ef89c_5&download=true)

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

## LIFETIME PREVALENCE



have been subjected to physical and/or sexual violence from a current or former husband or male intimate partner at least once in their lifetime (since the age of 15).

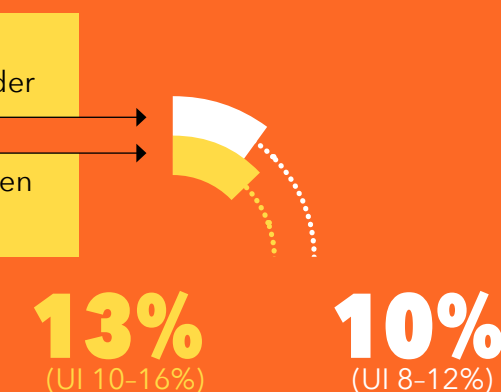
This indicates that

# 641 MILLION

**AND UP TO 753 MILLION**

ever-married/partnered women aged 15 years and older had been subjected to physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence at least once since the age of 15.

## PREVALENCE IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS



have been subjected to physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence at some point within the past 12 months.

This indicates that

# 245 MILLION

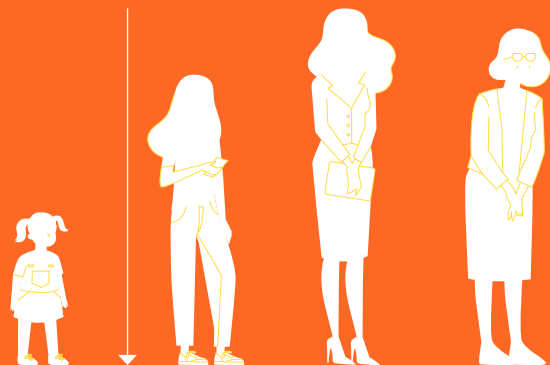
**AND UP TO 307 MILLION**

ever-married/partnered women aged 15 years and older had been subjected to recent physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence.



Photo: UN Women/Karin Schermbrucker

**4 MILLION** **GIRLS**  
annually are at risk of undergoing FGM.



Most girls are cut before they reach the

**AGE OF 15.**

#### INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE STARTS EARLY

Almost

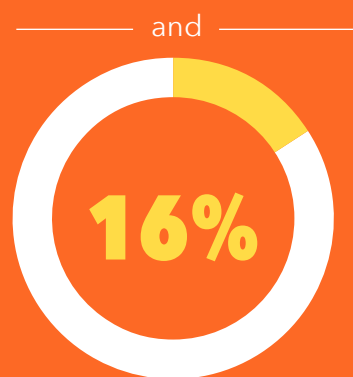
**1 IN 4**



ever-married/partnered adolescent girls in the youngest age cohort **(15-19 YEARS OLD)**

is estimated to have already been subjected to physical and/or sexual violence from an intimate partner **AT LEAST ONCE IN THEIR**

**LIFETIME** (24%, UI 21-28%)



of young women aged 15-24 experienced this violence within the **PAST 12 MONTHS.**

#### WHAT NEEDS TO CHANGE?

Perpetration of GBV against women and girls in all their diversity is deeply rooted in structural, social and gender norms, attitudes and beliefs that impact interpersonal relationships, families, communities, and institutions. The adoption of gender-equitable norms, attitudes and belief systems by both individuals and institutions, which are made possible through the implementation of evidence driven prevention strategies at scale, are therefore key to ensuring the transformative shifts needed to end all forms of GBV against women and girls in all their diversity. The current climate of patriarchal backlash against women's rights, limited political will and political decisions that actively regress on the progress made on women's rights, as well as insufficient financial and other investments to end GBV against women and girls in all their diversity, serve as significant barriers to progress on gender-equality.

Adolescent girls and young women experience multiple and intersecting forms of violence from a young age. In addition to intimate partner violence and non-partner sexual violence adolescent girls and young women are subject to harmful practices such as female genital mutilation and child, early and forced marriage. GBV can have life-long consequences for adolescent girls and young women and can lead to a range of negative outcomes, both immediately and in the longer term. It can also restrict their access to education, reduce their potential earnings, increase their risk of unintended pregnancy and prevent them from participating equally in political and public life<sup>1</sup>.

Evidence indicates that GBV experienced by women and girls in all their diversity is significantly under-reported, only 40 per cent of women who experience violence seek help of any sort and many do not report their experiences or seek redress from formal mechanisms. Increased awareness of and access to coordinated, survivor-centered, comprehensive, quality, and affordable services is key to addressing impunity and to supporting resilience and recovery for survivors.



Photo: UN Women/Gaganjit Singh

#### WHAT IS THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE?

Emerging evidence shows that since the outbreak of COVID-19, reports of GBV against women and girls in all their diversity have increased in countries where 'stay at home' measures are in place to curb the spread of the virus. Confined living conditions and tensions are exacerbating experiences of GBV that already constituted a serious gendered social and public health problem prior to the pandemic and are made worse by limited access to critical support services and safe shelters during the crisis. Access to public spaces and transport has been affected and women frontline and essential workers have faced sexual violence and discrimination in the public space navigating their duties and livelihoods. Women's rights organizations providing specialized, essential services have also faced additional resource constraints.

#### CENTERING AN INTERSECTIONAL APPROACH

An intersectional approach to addressing GBV against women and girls in all their diversity includes a consideration of where gender intersects with other inequalities and oppressions including those experienced because of sexual orientation, gender identity, race, sex, age, ethnicity, indigeneity, migrant status, disability, religion, urban or rural status, HIV status, geographic location and other dimensions to produce unique experiences of violence. An intersectional approach goes beyond the recognition that of multiple forms of discrimination or oppression exist. It insists that impact of these oppressions cannot be viewed only as additive, but that experiences of inequality must be contextualized within an understanding of simultaneous, intersecting inequalities and forms of discrimination and oppression, that result in unique and compounded experiences of marginalization, exclusion and violence.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Members of the Adolescent Girls Investment Plan (Girls Not Brides, Gender and Adolescence: Global Evidence (GAGE/ODI, ICRW, IPPF, Malala Fund, Plan International and Women Deliver). 2020. Adolescent Girls At the Center: Generation Equality Action Coalition Priorities for Adolescent Girls in the Context of the COVID-19 Pandemic. <https://www.gage.odg.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/AGIP-Adolescent-Girls-at-the-Centre-Gen-Eq-Recommendations.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Imkaan and UN Women. 2019. "The Value of Intersectionality in Understanding Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)." <https://eca.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2019/10/the-value-of-intersectionality-in-understanding-violence-against-women-and-girls>.



How will the Action Coalition

# ACCELERATE CONCRETE RESULTS?

The Action coalition on GBV will accelerate the achievement of a world free from violence for all women and girls.

## A GLOBAL ACCELERATION PLAN FOR GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Through its emphasis on partnerships which centres civil society, the Action Coalition on GBV is mobilizing governments, civil society, international organizations, philanthropies and the private sector to deliver transformational progress towards the elimination and prevention of GBV through four concrete actions: (1) Creating enabling policy, legal and resource environments; (2) scaling up evidence driven prevention programming; (3) Scaling up comprehensive, accessible and quality services for survivors; and (4) Enabling and empowering autonomous girl-led & women's rights organizations to exercise their expertise.



# ACTION 1

**MORE STATES AND REGIONAL ACTORS RATIFY INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL CONVENTIONS AND PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR INSTITUTIONS STRENGTHEN, IMPLEMENT AND FINANCE EVIDENCE-DRIVEN LAWS, POLICIES AND ACTION PLANSTO END GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS IN ALL THEIR DIVERSITY**

In so doing, 550 million more women and girls will live in countries with laws and policies prohibiting all forms of gender-based violence against women and girls by 2026.



## LAWS AND POLICIES

Advocate for and ratification and implementation of international and regional conventions to address gender-based violence against women and girls in all their diversity. Strengthen and implement laws and policies in both public and private sectors and reinforce related accountability and redress mechanisms to enhance rule of law and ensure access to justice for survivors of gender-based violence.



## FINANCING

Increase financing and budgetary allocation for gender-based violence prevention and response including for reform and implementation of laws, policies and multi-sectoral national action plans in domestic resources across sectors (both government and private) and in official development assistance (ODA).



## DATA & ACCOUNTABILITY

Improve the production, availability, accessibility and use of quality data and statistics on gender-based violence, disaggregated by sex, disability, age, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, migrant status, geographic location, and other socio-economic dimensions to support development, adoption, reform and implementation of legislation and policies to address violence against women and girls in all their diversity.

Photo: UN Women/ Nangyalai Tanai



# ACTION 2

**SCALE UP IMPLEMENTATION AND FINANCING OF EVIDENCE-DRIVEN PREVENTION STRATEGIES BY PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR INSTITUTIONS AND WOMEN'S RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS TO DRIVE DOWN PREVALENCE OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, ADOLESCENT GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN IN ALL THEIR DIVERSITY INCLUDING IN HUMANITARIAN SETTINGS.**

In so doing, increase by 50% the number of countries that include one or more evidence-driven prevention strategies on gender-based violence against women and girls in national policies by 2026.



## PREVENTION STRATEGIES/NORMS

Adapt and scale up coordinated and cross-sectoral implementation of context-specific and evidence-driven strategies that address social and gender norms including harmful masculinities to end all forms of gender-based violence (including harmful practices) against women and girls in all their diversity.



## LAWS AND POLICIES

Adopt and implement policies and legislation that aims to shift inequitable social and gender norms and to address gender inequalities which are the root causes of gender-based violence against women and girls in all their diversity.



## FINANCING

Increase domestic, ODA, private and philanthropic financing for scale up of practitioner-led and evidence-driven strategies to prevent all forms of gender-based violence against all women and girls.



## EDUCATION

Work with the education sector to prevent gender-based violence against women and girls in all their diversity by ensuring that schools and educational institutions are safe for all girls, adolescents and young women, and implement evidence-driven prevention strategies that promote gender equality, challenge gender stereotypes and foster equitable norms, attitudes and beliefs from a young age, including through gender-sensitive curricula and comprehensive sexuality education.



# ACTION 3

## SCALE UP IMPLEMENTATION AND FINANCING OF COORDINATED SURVIVOR-CENTERED, COMPREHENSIVE, QUALITY, ACCESSIBLE AND AFFORDABLE SERVICES FOR SURVIVORS OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS IN ALL THEIR DIVERSITY INCLUDING IN HUMANITARIAN SETTINGS

In so doing, more women and girls will live in countries with multi-sectoral action plans on GBV which include provision of police, justice, health and social sector services by 2026.



### SERVICE DELIVERY

Increase awareness of and access to coordinated, survivor-centered, comprehensive, quality and affordable police, justice, health and social services for women and girls in all their diversity who have been subjected to gender-based violence including for adolescent girls and young women and in response to COVID-19 and other conflict and crisis contexts. Ensure that mental health and sexual and reproductive health services address gender-based violence and act as an entry point for survivors' access to support services.



### FINANCING

Increase public and private financing and gender-responsive budgeting (at sectoral and cross sectoral level and to specialized and grassroots women's rights organizations)<sup>1</sup> for scale up of quality, affordable multi-sectoral services to survivors of gender-based violence against women and girls in all their diversity.



### ACCOUNTABILITY

Strengthen coordination of multi-sectoral service provision and apply accountability mechanisms to ensure adherence to agreed global standards of service provision for survivors of gender-based violence against women and girls in all their diversity.



### CAPACITY BUILDING

Strengthen capacities, leadership and accountability of police, justice, health and social service institutions to provide comprehensive, coordinated, survivor-centered and quality services to all gender-based violence survivors including by applying a focus on intersectionality to address institutional discrimination, gender stereotypes, and norms that perpetuate gender-based violence against women and girls, re-victimization and impunity. Build specialist gender-based violence expertise in responses to humanitarian emergencies, at field level and in senior management, including through deployment of GBV experts from the outset of a crisis.

<sup>1</sup> Ensuring an emphasis on victim/survivor/practitioner influence in shaping those services

# ACTION 4

**ENHANCE SUPPORT AND INCREASE ACCOUNTABILITY AND QUALITY, FLEXIBLE FUNDING FROM STATES, PRIVATE SECTOR, FOUNDATIONS, AND OTHER DONORS TO AUTONOMOUS GIRL-LED & WOMEN'S RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS WORKING TO END GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS IN ALL THEIR DIVERSITY**

In so doing, progressively improve and increase international funding by 50% to women's rights organizations, activists and movements including those working to address gender-based violence against women and girls in all their diversity by 2026.



## FINANCING

Increase quality, coordinated, flexible and sustainable funding from private sector, foundations, states and other donors in consultation with and for girl-led and women's rights organizations and movements on the frontline of addressing gender-based violence against women and girls in all their diversity.



## CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

Support institutional strengthening and programming capacity of girl-led and women's rights organizations working to end gender-based violence against women and girls in all their diversity, to increase organizational sustainability and impact and drive transformative change.



## LEADERSHIP & ACCOUNTABILITY

Strengthen the accountability of public institutions and private sector organizations to girl-led and women's rights organizations and ensure increased leadership and participation of girl-led and women's rights organizations in decision making at all levels, including in the context of COVID-19 and in other conflict and crisis settings.



Photo: UN Women/Allison Joyce



## ACTIONS WILL ACCELERATE PROGRESS ON SDGs TARGETS

- ▶ 5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere
- ▶ 5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.
- ▶ 5.3 Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation.
- ▶ 6.1 Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere.
- ▶ 16.a Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime.
- ▶ 16.b Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development.
- ▶ 16.1 Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere.
- ▶ 16.2 End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children.
- ▶ 16.3 Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all.

## HOW WILL THE ACTIONS BE IMPLEMENTED?

Seventeen leaders together with several Commitment Makers across the globe will employ an intersectional approach through measured, targeted actions to deliver transformational change to end GBV against women and girls in all their diversity and the promise of making gender equality a lived reality for all women and girls. Commitment Makers will accelerate investments to transform laws and policies, scale up evidence-driven prevention efforts, drive social norm change, bridge the financing gap, increase capacities of multiple stakeholders, improve data collection, strengthen services and enable and empower girl and women led women's rights organizations and movements.



Photo: UN Women/Eduard Pagria



# COLLECTIVE COMMITMENTS:

When it comes to advancing gender equality, evidence shows that alliances that bring different organizations, movements and sectors together, united by a common vision, have greater impact than each individual partner working alone. Action Coalition Leaders and Commitment Makers are putting this evidence into action through collective commitments.

Collective commitments have clearly defined goals and allow individual organizations, institutions and governments to contribute toward their achievement using different strategies and tactics, based on their own capacities, responsibilities, and areas of expertise.

## COLLECTIVE COMMITMENTS ON GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

**Scaling up evidence-drive prevention strategies against gender-based violence in at least 25 high prevalence countries**, guided by the World Health Organization’s RESPECT women framework.

**Accelerating action to end harmful practices, including Female Genital Mutilation and Child, Early and Forced Marriages**, including in crisis and humanitarian settings, through evidence-driven prevention programming, support for survivors, access to justice and support to grassroots-led movements.

**Eliminating violence and harassment in the world of work** by advocacy and action to ratify and implement ILO Convention No.190.

**Implementing and scaling up gender-responsive policing** to ensure the availability of quality, multi-sectoral and victim/survivor-centered response services for women and girls in all their diversity, guided by the Essential Services Package for Women and Girls Subject to Violence.

**The Shared Agenda Advocacy Accelerator** - a multisectoral partnership calling for US\$500 million in new money by 2026 to prevent gender-based violence against women, adolescent girls and young women in all their diversity in low and middle-income countries.

**Increasing access to essential services for survivors of GBV** by scaling up quality, multisectoral and victim/survivor-centered services for women and girls in all their diversity, guided by the Essential Services Package for Women and Girls Subject to Violence.

## HOW CAN YOU CONTRIBUTE TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THESE COMMITMENTS?

To join a collective commitment, visit [commitments.generationequality.org](https://commitments.generationequality.org).

# ACTION COALITION LEADERS:

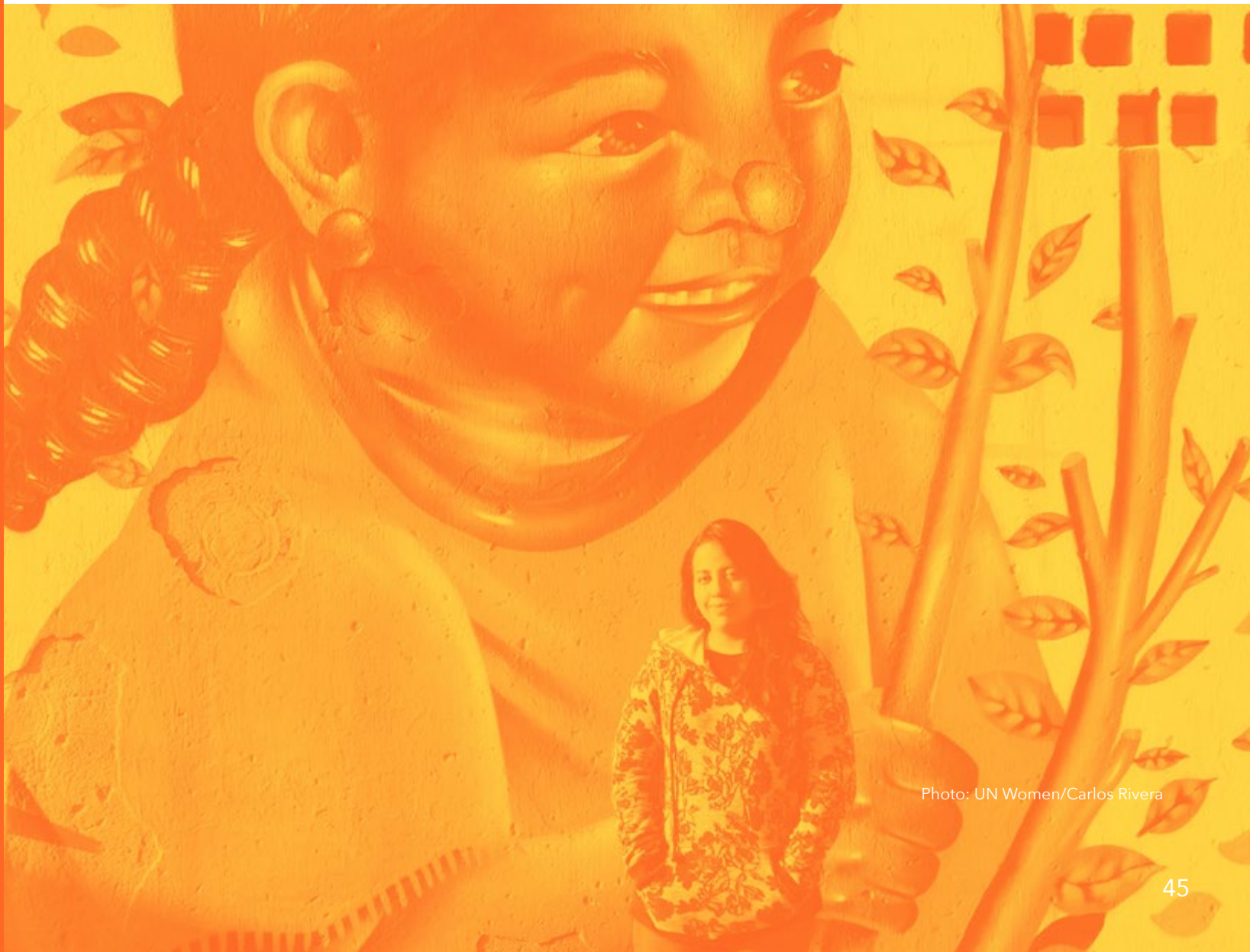
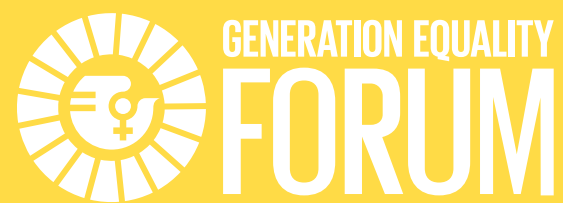


Photo: UN Women/Carlos Rivera

# ECONOMIC JUSTICE AND RIGHTS



## OUR VISION FOR SUCCESS BY 2026

By 2026, ***economic justice and rights*** are guaranteed for women and girls, in all their diversity, including for adolescent girls, as for men and boys. Systems and structures are gender-responsive and ensure equitable, secure access to resources, services and decision-making; participation in gender-transformative enterprise and trade; promotion of non-discriminatory labour markets free of violence and harassment; a care economy that equitably shares and values care and domestic work; and resilience to economic shocks such as the COVID-19 pandemic. Accountability is strengthened through gender-responsive economic laws and policies, sex-disaggregated data and gender statistics. Diverse women's and girl's voices are truly heard, and their leadership is a reality.

### ECONOMIC JUSTICE AND RIGHTS

#### DEFINITION

Economic justice and rights refer to how economic and political systems are designed, how their benefits or costs are distributed, and how institutions are held accountable for the economic outcomes they generate. This theme encompasses the full spectrum of paid and unpaid labour and women's access to and control over productive resources and economic opportunities, and addresses macro and microeconomic factors that reinforce gender inequalities, and how women and girls often lack the rights and access to economic opportunities.





## WHY DOES ECONOMIC JUSTICE AND RIGHTS MATTER?

Economic justice and rights affects all women and girls globally. At best, progress towards this theme has been stalling. Gender gaps in financial inclusion and within the paid labour force remain,<sup>1</sup> with women over-represented in informal, precarious and vulnerable employment. Structural inequalities begin even before women enter the world of work, with girls disadvantaged in their transition from education to employment. The current economic system, policies and practice are rife with persistent structural barriers that women face as a result of economic models that exacerbate inequalities and unfairly redistribute resources and wealth.<sup>2</sup> The COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated these challenges and endangers the progress that has been made. The equality of women called for in SDG 5 requires the strategic dismantling of systemic barriers that marginalize women in the economy.

### WHAT NEEDS TO CHANGE?

Critical constraints towards the realization of economic justice and rights for all lie in the current economic system not working for women and girls. The labour market is highly segmented along gendered lines, with occupations and sectors in which women are the majority being valued less in the economy. Using 2019 data, the gender pay gap remains at 16-22% globally.<sup>3</sup> Care and domestic work are placed disproportionately on women and girls, with women spending 7 more years triple the amount of time than men on unpaid care work in their lifetime.<sup>4</sup> This unequal divide prevents women from investing time in themselves, constricts access to social protection, education, and paid work, and reduces their ability to take part in social or political life.

Policies that ensure equal rights to economic opportunities are lacking in both the formal and informal sectors. The world of work is rife with gender-discriminatory laws and a lack of policies around social protection, sexual harassment/assault, and pay equity. Approximately 740 million women globally are in the informal sector, where lack of policies leads to job insecurity, low pay, and unsustainable working hours.<sup>5</sup> Although accountability mechanisms for women's economic empowerment in the private sector exist, action is slow due to reliance on voluntary compliance, a fragmented accountability ecosystem, and inconsistent monitoring and evaluation.

Women's access to and control of productive resources are intrinsically correlated with systemic inequalities and structural barriers, including land, trade and women's entrepreneurship, financial inclusion and universal social protection. Additionally, constraints to economic justice and rights begin before women are even at working age, with many girls engaging in unpaid work and receiving lower quality education. Young women (ages 15-29) are 3 times more likely to be outside the labour force and not in school than young men.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> UN Women, "Gender equality: Women's rights in review 25 years after Beijing," 2020.

<sup>2</sup> UN Women, "Facts and Figures: Economic Empowerment," accessed May 2020; UN Women, "In Focus: Women, peace and security," 2020. "Women Radically Transforming a World in Crisis," 2019; UN Women, "Seven drivers and recommendations," 2020.; Mexico Design Sprint, December 2019; Paris Design Sprint, February 2020.

<sup>3</sup> World Economic Forum (2020): The Gender Gap Index, p. 18

<sup>4</sup> Note: this is based on an average across 29 countries.

<sup>5</sup> ILO, "Women and men in the informal economy: A statistical picture" 30 April 2018, S. 13. [https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/-/dgreports/-/dcomm/documents/publication/wcms\\_626831.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/-/dgreports/-/dcomm/documents/publication/wcms_626831.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> ILO, "Global Employment Trends for Youth 2020: Technology and the Future of Jobs," 2020.







**WHAT IS THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON ECONOMIC JUSTICE AND RIGHTS?**

The COVID-19 pandemic is further exposing vulnerabilities in social, political and economic systems. It has made starkly visible the fact that the world’s formal economies and the maintenance of our daily lives are built on the invisible and unpaid labour of women and girls. With children out of school, intensified care needs of older persons and ill family members, and overwhelmed health services, demands for care work in a COVID-19 world have intensified exponentially. Furthermore, the pandemic has raised the risk of not returning to school for 5.2 million girls in primary or secondary school.<sup>7</sup> Women occupy most of the jobs in the hardest hit economic sectors, are more likely to lose their jobs compared to men and are over-represented on the frontlines as 70% of the world’s healthcare workforce.<sup>8</sup> Without action the pandemic represents the very real threat of backsliding the modest gains made in recent decades.

**WHY AN INTERSECTIONAL APPROACH IS CRITICAL**

Women’s multiple and intersecting identities significantly impact the level of discrimination and oppression they face. Therefore, their experiences of economic inequality are deeply entrenched in issues such as race, ethnicity, indigeneity, class, religion, age, sexual orientation and gender identity, disability, migration status and more. For instance, women who experience such compounding discriminations are also women who are, or face a high likelihood of, working in low-paying jobs and trades, lacking job and workplace protection, working in occupations that are often un-safe and precarious, are in situations, or at risk of human trafficking and forced labour, among others.

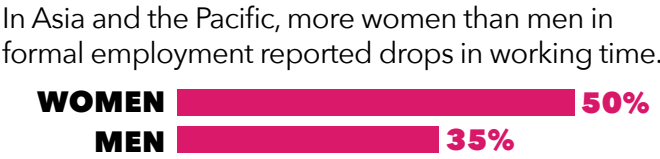
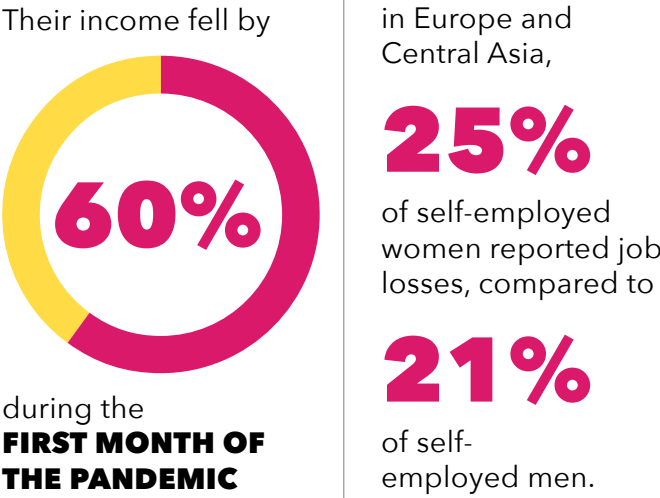
Taking an intersectional approach is thus critical to ensuring the Economic Justice and Rights Action Coalition is responsive to the lived experiences and needs of all women and girls as economic agents but also as beneficiaries of economic progress, especially for women and girls most at risk of exclusion. It enables the implementation of tailored solutions that ensure all women and girls are equitably impacted, realize their full human rights and that no one is left behind. To achieve this, considerations of intersectionality must be central to the collection of data to ensure that data and statistics are produced in ways that allow for disaggregation on multiple dimensions.

7 UNESCO, “How many students are at risk of not returning to school?” UNESCO Advocacy Paper, 30 July 2020  
8 UN Women. 2020. From Insights to Action: Gender Equality in the Wake of COVID-19. <https://data.unwomen.org/publications/insights-action-gender-equality-wake-covid-19>

Photo left: UN Women/Johis Alarcón  
Photo right: UN Women/Ryan Brown

**THE PANDEMIC EXPOSES WOMEN’S PRECARIOUS ECONOMIC SECURITY**

**740** million women work in the **INFORMAL ECONOMY.**



UN Women. 2020. From Insights to Action: Gender Equality in the Wake of COVID-19. <https://data.unwomen.org/publications/insights-action-gender-equality-wake-covid-19>

**FEMINIZED SECTORS ARE LIKELY TO BE HIT THE HARDEST**



**72%** of domestic workers, 80% of whom are women have **LOST THEIR JOBS AS A RESULT OF COVID-19.**





How will the Action Coalition

# ACCELERATE CONCRETE RESULTS?

Together, the four actions of the Economic Justice and Rights Action Coalition will result in accelerated progress towards gender equality and the realization of women's economic rights. They approach the critical constraints from all angles – transforming systemic barriers, breaking down discriminatory norms, enacting and implementing transformative laws and policies, ensuring adequate financing and service delivery and insisting on accountability at all levels. The actions recognize that progress can only happen when all stakeholders come together to galvanize collective efforts. Within every action, there is a clear role for civil society organizations, feminist movements, governments, the private sector, philanthropy, international organizations and individuals. The actions define the desired change that builds upon the existing evidence base and will allow progress to be clearly tracked over the next 5 years.

# A GLOBAL ACCELERATION PLAN FOR ECONOMIC JUSTICE AND RIGHTS

Four ambitious actions for economic justice and rights poised to boldly respond to unmet asks from feminist activists have been put forward. These actions leverage the SDG framework, contributing to its targets while scaling the resources that have been mobilized to achieve them and driving an unprecedented multi-stakeholder, collective effort. Furthermore, they reflect the need to forge an intersectional approach that addresses the needs of women and girls in their diversity, everywhere. These actions include the following:





# ACTION 1

## INCREASE WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT BY TRANSFORMING THE CARE ECONOMY

By 2026, increase the number of countries with comprehensive measures in gender-responsive public quality care services, and law and policy reforms, including through investments of recommended 3-10% of national income and creation of up to 80 million decent care jobs to recognize, reduce and redistribute unpaid care work, reward paid care work and represent care workers, while guaranteeing care worker's decent pay and labour rights, including in the private sector.



### LAW AND POLICY

**Recognize, Reward and Represent** - Reform national laws to formally recognize the rights of caregivers and care receivers and implement national laws and policies and workplace policies to guarantee decent work, increase pay and increase representation and participation in policy making for care workers, including through social dialogue.



### DATA AND ACCOUNTABILITY

**Recognize** - Quantify the contribution of care work to the economy and integrate unpaid care and domestic work in national planning frameworks and in private sector policies and infrastructure.



### FINANCING

**Recognize, Reduce and Redistribute** - Increase national budgets towards a recommended 3-10% of national income, for equitable quality public care services; increase public investments in essential social services and social protection; and increase private sector reforms and investments in care services, while ensuring adequate regulation.



Photo: UN Women/Yulia Panevina



# ACTION 2

## EXPAND DECENT WORK AND EMPLOYMENT IN FORMAL AND INFORMAL ECONOMIES

Create an inclusive and enabling legal and policy environment and engage women to expand decent work in the formal and informal economy to reduce the number of working women living in poverty by 2026 by a recommended 17 million and decrease the gap in labour force participation between prime-age women and men with small children by half, resulting in an additional 84 million women joining the labour force.



### LAW AND POLICY

Eliminate gender-discriminatory legislation and policies, address gender-based violence and harassment in the world of work and scale gender-just affirmative action, to measurably increase women's access to decent work, economic livelihoods and entrepreneurship opportunities, inclusive of those at risk of exclusion.



### SERVICE DELIVERY

Build capacities for women's groups and organizations to forge and champion the decent work agenda, enhance their economic and social security and validate women workers' rights to set work and employment standards and organize collectively to achieve them.



### NORMS CHANGE

Promote gender-transformative norms, attitudes and practices by scaling up corporate and public practices to increase decent work for women and ensure women's voice, representation and leadership.



### FINANCING

Increase financing for decent job creation and decent work infrastructure and services for women workers in the formal and informal economy, including women at risk of exclusion.



### EDUCATION

Scale up investment and promote education for all girls and young women and vocational training to enhance essential skills for critical future work, bearing in mind the specific needs of those in vulnerable contexts.

# ACTION 3

## INCREASE WOMEN'S ACCESS TO AND CONTROL OVER PRODUCTIVE RESOURCES

Expand access to and control over productive resources through increasing women's access to and control over land, gender responsive financial products and services, and the number of firms owned by women by 2026. In doing so,

- ▶ secure access to ownership and control over land and housing is increased for 7 million women;
- ▶ the gender gap in financial inclusion is reduced to 6% as a result of increasing both formal and informal financial inclusion, including for women at risk of being excluded from formal financial services;
- ▶ the number of women's economic empowerment national programs integrating digital financial services and participation through gender-responsive platforms is increased;
- ▶ the number of firms owned by women is increased by 25% in all contexts, including in fragile and conflict situations.



### LAW AND POLICY

Eliminate gender-discriminatory laws and policies, and adopt and implement laws, policies, strategies and investments that realize women's and girls' access to and control over productive resources and assets.



### SERVICE DELIVERY

Support platforms representing women's groups and scale infrastructure that measurably expands women's equitable access to and use of productive resources, including affordable capital, financial services (including digital financial products and services), water, energy, and government services and benefits.



### NORMS CHANGE

Identify and challenge harmful social norms, stereotypes and practices impeding women and girls from equitably controlling and benefiting from productive resources, and foster positive attitudes validating women's empowerment and economic contributions.



Photo: UN Women/Ryan Brown



# ACTION 4

## PROMOTE GENDER-TRANSFORMATIVE ECONOMIES AND ECONOMIC STIMULUS

Design and implement gender-responsive macro-economic plans, budget reforms and stimulus packages so that the number of women and girls living in poverty is reduced by 85 million including through quality public social protection floors and systems by 2026.



### LAW AND POLICY

Promote the reconstruction of the global economic and financial system conducive to achieving gender-responsive economic reforms and solutions.



### FINANCING AND SERVICE DELIVERY

Increase local and international spending on gender-responsive economic development, social protection and stimulus packages addressing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.



### DATA AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Promote and integrate gender-responsive budgeting at the center of public policy, increase the focus of national budgets on gender equality and ensure gender analysis through policy formulation in line with SDG 5.c.1.



Photo: UN Women/Yulia Panevina



# COLLECTIVE COMMITMENTS:

When it comes to advancing gender equality, evidence shows that alliances that bring different organizations, movements and sectors together, united by a common vision, have greater impact than each individual partner working alone. Action Coalition Leaders and Commitment Makers are putting this evidence into action through collective commitments.

**Collective commitments** have clearly defined goals and allow individual organizations, institutions and governments to contribute toward their achievement using different strategies and tactics, based on their own capacities, responsibilities, and areas of expertise.

## COLLECTIVE COMMITMENTS ON ECONOMIC JUSTICE AND RIGHTS:

**The Global Alliance for Care** will disrupt the structures, norms and institutional arrangements that disproportionately allocate care work to women and girls around the world through policies, advocacy, research, and funding to normalize co-responsibility for care, protect the labour rights of care workers, and develop universal and sustainable public care systems.

**The 2X Collaborative** will advance the field of gender finance, innovate the culture of investment, and convene and equip capital providers to increase the volume and impact of capital flowing towards projects, businesses, asset managers and financial institutions that meaningfully support women.

**The Charlotte Maxeke African Women's Economic Justice and Rights Initiative** will change gender stereotypes and negative social norms through education and training of adolescent girls and young women as a catalyst for women's empowerment in Africa.

**Eliminating violence and harassment in the world of work** by advocacy and action to ratify and implement ILO Convention No. 190.

## HOW CAN YOU CONTRIBUTE TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THESE COMMITMENTS?

To join a collective commitment, visit [commitments.generationequality.org](https://commitments.generationequality.org).

# ACTION COALITION LEADERS:



Photo: UN Women/Carlos Rivera



# BODILY AUTONOMY AND SEXUAL & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH & RIGHTS



## OUR VISION FOR SUCCESS BY 2026

All people, particularly girls, adolescents, women, transgender and gender non-binary people in all their diversity are empowered to exercise their sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and make autonomous decisions about their bodies free from coercion, violence, and discrimination. SRHR information, education and services are freely available, accessible, acceptable, and of high-quality (see box below). Girls', women's and feminist organizations and funds (including, among others, girl-and youth-led, disability-led, Indigenous, LGBTQ+, human rights defenders) and their allies are strengthened to advance SRHR. More governments promote, protect and invest in SRHR, including as part of Universal Health Coverage. Working across Action Coalitions, with multiple stakeholders and at all levels, we transform gender and social norms, promote gender equality applying an intersectional<sup>1</sup>, intercultural<sup>2</sup>, human rights-based approach<sup>3</sup> and improve SRHR outcomes, leaving no one behind.<sup>4</sup>

### BODILY AUTONOMY AND SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS

#### DEFINITION

Girls, adolescents, women, transgender and gender non-binary people can freely access comprehensive SRHR information, education, services and commodities and are supported by their peers, families and societies to take decisions about their bodies, sexuality and reproduction free from coercion, violence, and discrimination.

<sup>1</sup> An intersectional approach addresses the intersection between gender and other inequalities/oppressions. Using an intersectional approach means meeting the holistic needs of diverse women and girls without any form of discrimination including due to sexuality, gender identity or expression, age, disability, ethnicity, colour, civil status, economic status or migration status, among others. An intersectional approach to bodily autonomy and SRHR goes beyond the idea of multiple forms of discrimination/oppression by insisting that these oppressions cannot be viewed within an additive framework, and that women's experiences of inequality must be contextualized within an understanding of simultaneous, intersecting inequalities.

<sup>2</sup> Guaranteed by the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People (UNDRIP), intercultural approaches protect the rights of Indigenous people to the highest level of health, acknowledge differences among ethnic groups between and within countries and promote inclusion of ancestral and spiritual wisdom, traditional medicines and related health practices in health systems. Intercultural public policies and health systems are designed, implemented and monitored with the full participation of Indigenous, promoting the human right to full and informed consent. Intercultural approaches do not support discourses or practices that seek to deny girls and women their bodily autonomy, sexual and reproductive health and rights or any other human right in the name of culture or tradition.

<sup>3</sup> The right to health, grounded in the Covenant on Economic, Cultural and Social Rights, includes four components referred to as the AAAQ framework (availability, accessibility, acceptability, quality). See UNFPA. 2020. "Elevating Rights and Choices For All: Guidance Note for Applying a Human Rights Based Approach to Programming."

<sup>4</sup> In 2015, when adopting the Sustainable Development Goals, the United Nations General Assembly resolved that "no one will be left behind." In the area of health broadly, and specifically in the area of sexual and reproductive health we know that where people live, socioeconomic status and ethnicity/racialization negatively affect access to care and services and health outcomes. Disparities in health access and outcomes have been exacerbated by the COVID 19 pandemic. There is a significant data gap internationally about the SRHR of persons whose gender identity is not gender conforming (non-binary, not cis-gender) or who have diverse sexual orientations (lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer). What data exists indicates that non-binary and LGBTQ people face discrimination, barriers to SRHR care and services and experience relatively poorer SRHR health outcomes.



The AAAQ framework contains interrelated and essential elements that apply to the right to health in all its forms and at all levels.

**AVAILABILITY**

Policies and interventions address both the underlying determinants of health (water, sanitation, food, etc.) as well as the availability of hospitals, clinics and other health-related buildings, trained medical and professional personnel receiving domestically competitive salaries, and essential drugs.

**ACCESSIBILITY**

Policies and interventions address accessibility in four overlapping dimensions: physical, economic (affordable), non-discrimination and access to information:

- Physical access: Health facilities, goods, information and services related to sexual and reproductive health care must be available within safe physical and geographical reach for all.
- Economic access: Publicly or privately provided sexual and reproductive health services must be affordable for all.
- Non-discriminations: Health facilities, goods and services must be accessible to all, especially groups of individuals who may face particular challenges and multiple forms of discrimination, such as people with disabilities, adolescents, indigenous people and LGBTQ+ people.
- Information access: This includes the right to seek, receive and disseminate information and ideas concerning sexual and reproductive health issues generally. Also, individuals receive specific information on their particular health status.

**ACCEPTABILITY**

Policies and interventions must be acceptable in terms of respect for medical ethics and of the culture of individuals, minorities, peoples and communities. They must be sensitive to gender and life-cycle requirements and be designed to respect confidentiality and improve the health status of those concerned.

**QUALITY**

Aspects of quality include skilled medical personnel, scientifically approved and unexpired drugs and hospital equipment, safe and potable water and adequate sanitation. Quality also includes respectful care for people using health services.



Photo: UN Women/Narendra Shrestha



REACHING MORE

## WHY DOES BODILY AUTONOMY AND SRHR MATTER?

Bodily autonomy and sexual and reproductive rights are basic human rights. The importance of ensuring universal access to SRHR is enshrined within Sustainable Development Goal targets 3.7, 5.6, 10.3 and the ICPD and Beijing Agendas and their review conferences, and is crucial for the achievement of the realization of other rights and achievement of human development goals. The ability to fulfil SRHR, free from any form of violence, discrimination and coercion has wide-ranging implications for the health and human rights of individuals, gender equality and socio-economic development.

### WHAT NEEDS TO CHANGE?

While some progress has been made towards achieving global commitments to sexual and reproductive health and rights, everyday around the world, girls, adolescents, women, transgender and gender non-binary people face practical barriers, discrimination and stigma when seeking to fulfil these basic human rights. In some areas we see backlash and regression in reduced access to information, education, and essential, high-quality SRHR services, and the use of harmful interventions such as conversion therapy programs.

Comprehensive Sexuality Education.<sup>1</sup> (CSE), delivered in formal or non-formal settings, promotes human rights, transforms harmful gender-norms and empowers children, adolescents and youth in all of their diversity to take responsible and informed decisions about their bodies, sexuality and reproduction. CSE and rights education contributes to the elimination of gender-based violence and harmful practices, including Child Early and Forced Marriages and Unions (CEFMU), Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) child sexual abuse.<sup>2,3,4</sup> Yet, despite the strong evidence of

benefit, many girls, adolescents and young people around the globe still cannot freely access critical information, education and skills development delivered through high-quality CSE.<sup>5</sup>

Respectful non-discriminatory care is foundational to the right to health, yet globally girls, adolescents, women and transgender and gender non-binary people report that they face coercion, stigma and discrimination when seeking SRHR services. Increasing the availability, accessibility, acceptability and quality of voluntary contraception and comprehensive abortion care and services promotes health, human rights and bodily autonomy.

**WORLDWIDE, ONLY 56% OF GIRLS AND WOMEN AGED 15-49 WHO ARE MARRIED OR IN UNIONS SAY THEY CAN MAKE THEIR OWN DECISIONS ABOUT SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS BY DECIDING ABOUT HEALTHCARE, CONTRACEPTION AND THEIR OWN SEXUAL PRACTICES I.E. SAYING NO TO SEX.<sup>6</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> UNESCO, UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Women and WHO. 2018. International Technical Guidance on Sexuality Education: An Evidence-Informed Approach. Revised Edition. Paris, France: UNESCO

<sup>2</sup> Taboo: Sexuality and Gender-Transformative Programmes to End Child, Early and Forced Marriages and Unions. London: Girls Not Brides.

<sup>3</sup> WHO (World Health Organization). 2019. RESPECT women: Preventing violence against women. Geneva: World Health Organization. WHO/RHR/18.19.

<sup>4</sup> WHO (World Health Organization). 2016. INSPIRE: seven strategies for ending violence against children. Luxembourg: World Health organization.

<sup>5</sup> UNESCO. 2015. Emerging Evidence, Lessons and Practice in Comprehensive Sexuality Education: A Global Review. unesdoc. <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000243106>

<sup>6</sup> UNFPA. 2020. "Women's ability to decide: Issue brief on Indicator 5.6.1 of the Sustainable Development Goals." <https://www.unfpa.org/resources/womens-ability-decide-issue-brief-indicator-561-sustainable-development-goals>

PROTECT and PROMOTE  
BODILY AUTONOMY & SRHR

PROMOTE  
PROTECT  
bodily autonomy  
and SRHR

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Girls, adolescents, women, transgender and gender non-binary people require the information, knowledge, skills, access and social support for their own agency to make autonomous decisions about their bodies and SRH across the life course. Social and gender norms that foster unequal power relations, patriarchy and toxic constructions of masculinity shape broader household, community and social practices and erect barriers to the ability of people of all gender identities and sexual orientations to seek SRH services and exercise bodily autonomy and sexual and reproductive rights.

**ADOLESCENTS IN THE LOWEST WEALTH QUINTILE ARE 3.7 TIMES MORE LIKELY TO GIVE BIRTH BEFORE THE AGE OF 18 THAN THOSE IN THE HIGHEST WEALTH QUINTILE.<sup>1</sup>**

**WHAT IS THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON BODILY AUTONOMY AND SRHR?**

COVID-19 is worsening inequalities in the achievement of SRHR. According to a UNFPA report, in 2020 the COVID-19 pandemic prevented 12 million women from accessing contraceptives, leading to 1.4 million unwanted pregnancies.<sup>2</sup> COVID-19-related school closures and economic precarity makes adolescent girls more vulnerable to sexual abuse, child, early and forced marriage and unions and early pregnancy.<sup>3</sup> Girls, adolescents, women, transgender and gender non-binary people who face racism, ableism and other forms of marginalization and discrimination, gender-based violence and social and economic disadvantage are being hardest hit by COVID with negative consequences for bodily autonomy and SRHR.<sup>4</sup>

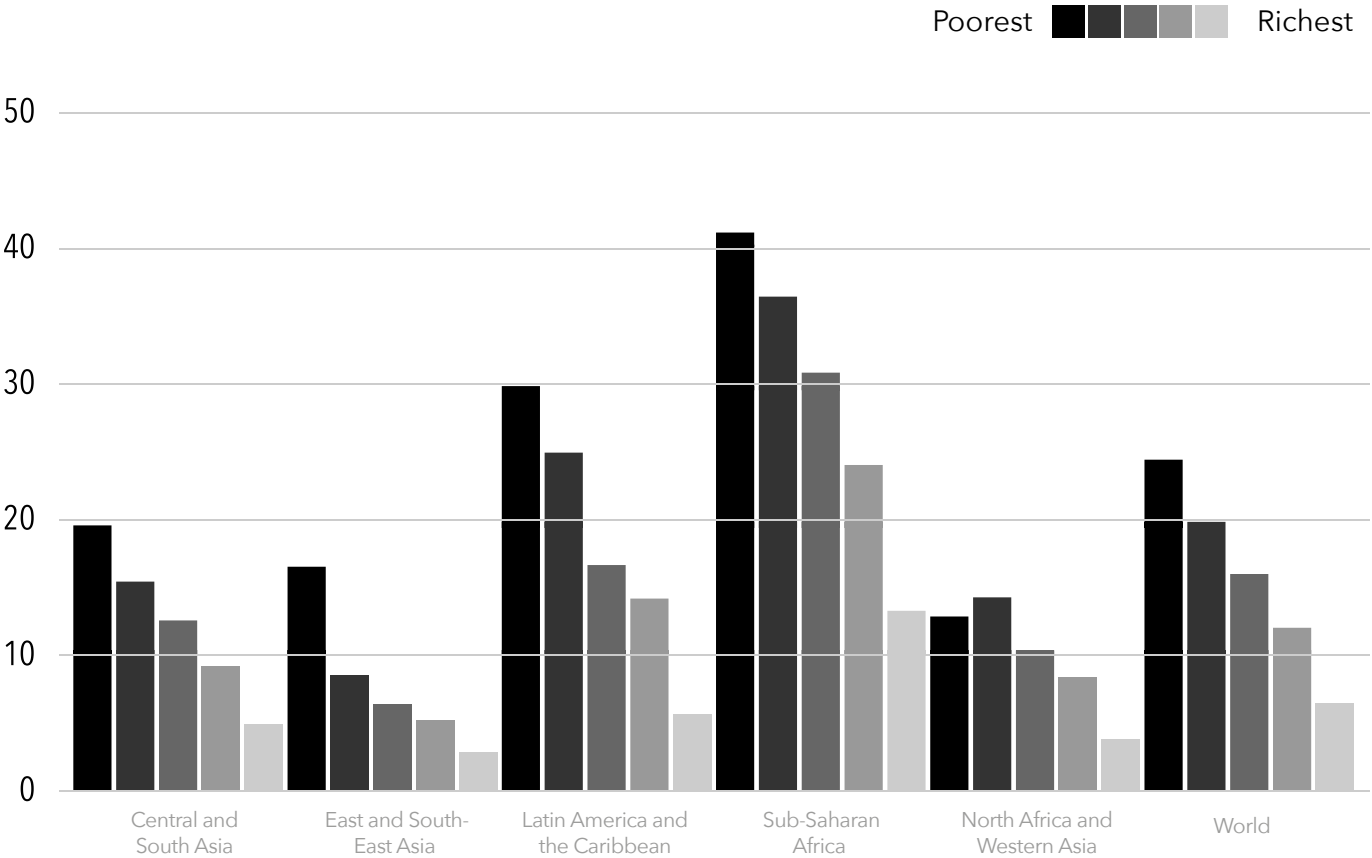
Photo: UN Women/Ryan Brown

**INTERSECTIONALITY**

The actions and tactics outlined in the document represent collective efforts to include girls, adolescents, women, transgender and gender non-binary people in different contexts across the globe, inclusive of all races, ethnicities, sexual orientation or gender identities and expressions, disabilities, geographic placement, and socio-economic status. To practice intersectionality, groups that experience violations and denials of their human rights, together with governments and stakeholders, identify systems of oppression to contribute to dismantling them, a prerequisite to creating safe and enabling environments in which all people have the capacity to fulfil their rights.

**ADOLESCENT PREGNANCY**

Women aged 20-24 who gave birth before age 18, 2019:



<sup>1</sup> UN Women. 2020. Progress of the World's Women 2019-2020: Families in a Changing World. New York: UN Women: pg. 58.  
<sup>2</sup> UNFPA. 2021. "One Year into the Pandemic, UNFPA estimates 12 Million Women have Seen Contraceptive Interruptions, Leading to 1.4 million Unintended Pregnancies." 11 March 2021. <https://www.unfpa.org/news/one-year-pandemic-unfpa-estimates-12-million-women-have-seen-contraceptive-interruptions>  
<sup>3</sup> See UNESCO. 2020. "Covid-19 School Closures Around the World will Hit Girls Hardest." 31 March 2020. <https://en.unesco.org/news/covid-19-school-closures-around-world-will-hit-girls-hardest>; and International Rescue Committee and UNICEF. 2020. "Covid-19: GBV Risks to Adolescent Girls and Interventions to Protect and Empower Them." Guidance Note. <https://www.unicef.org/media/68706/file/COVID-19-GBV-risks-to-adolescent-girls-and-interventions-to-protect-them-2020.pdf>  
<sup>4</sup> Emeruwa UN, Ona S, Shaman JL, et al. 2020. Associations Between Built Environment, Neighborhood Socioeconomic Status, and SARS-CoV-2 Infection Among Pregnant Women in New York City. JAMA.; and M. Knight, K. Bunch, N. Vousden, E. Morris, N. Simpson, C. Gale, et al. 2020. Characteristics and outcomes of pregnant women admitted to hospital with confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection in UK: national population-based cohort study. BMJ. UNFPA's Technical Division supported the Action Coalition on Bodily Autonomy and SRHR, in developing the Target Computations for the priority areas based on an agreed technical approach. This was done in partnership and consultation



How will the Action Coalition

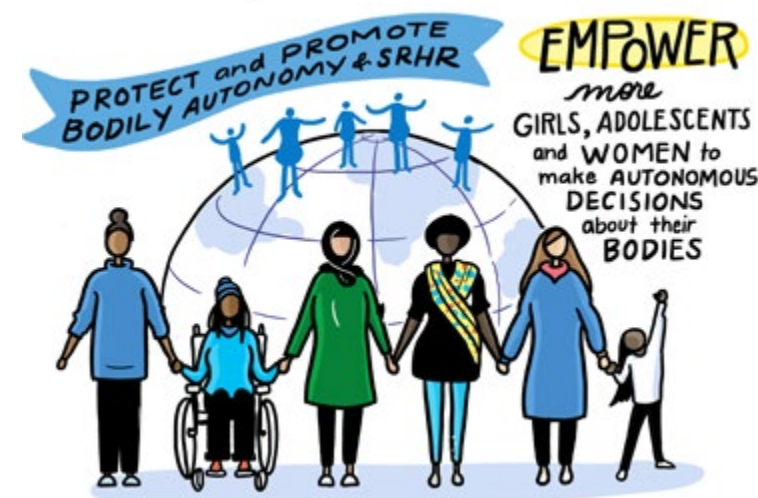
# ACCELERATE CONCRETE RESULTS?

Through its emphasis on partnerships which centres civil society, the Action Coalition on Bodily Autonomy and SRHR is mobilizing governments, civil society, international organizations, philanthropies and the private sector to catalyze collective action; spark global and local conversations among generations; drive increased public and private investment; and deliver concrete, game-changing results across generations. The Action Coalition will deliver transformational progress by expanding comprehensive sexuality education; increasing the availability, accessibility, acceptability and quality of contraception and comprehensive abortion services; increasing SRHR decision-making and bodily autonomy; and strengthening, enabling and empowering girls', youth-led, SRHR, women's and feminist organizations and networks to promote and protect bodily autonomy and SRHR.

## A GLOBAL ACCELERATION PLAN FOR BODILY AUTONOMY AND SRHR

Through its emphasis on multi-stakeholder partnerships, the Action Coalition on Bodily Autonomy and SRHR is mobilizing governments, civil society, youth-led organizations, international organizations, intercultural organizations, philanthropies and the private sector to deliver transformational progress through four concrete actions: (1) Expand Comprehensive Sexuality Education; (2) Increase the availability, accessibility, acceptability and quality of essential comprehensive contraception and abortion services; (3) Increase SRHR Decision-Making & Bodily Autonomy; and (4) Strengthen girls, women's and feminist organizations and networks to promote and protect bodily autonomy and SRHR.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> UNFPA's Technical Division supported the Action Coalition on Bodily Autonomy and SRHR, in developing the Target Computations for the priority areas based on an agreed technical approach. This was done in partnership and consultation with the Action Coalition. These targets are estimates, and their successful implementation will rely largely on the investments made by all co-leads and commitment makers of the Action Coalition.





# ACTION 1

## EXPAND COMPREHENSIVE SEXUALITY EDUCATION

Increase delivery of comprehensive sexuality education in and out of school reaching 50 million more children, adolescents, and youth in all their diversity by 2026.



### LAW AND POLICY

Strengthen legal and policy frameworks by making Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) aligned with international guidelines part of national education curricula (guaranteed/compulsory from early childhood education through to university, examinable) and by ensuring girls and adolescents have equal access to inclusive education, free from limitations related to disability, marital, pregnancy, or childbearing status.



### NORMS CHANGE

Create an enabling environment that supports CSE. Adolescent and youth-led organizations should be capacitated and supported to meaningfully engage in the development of the policies and programmes that affect them. This effort could include a change in structure of decision-making spaces and programs, as well as activities targeting adult gatekeepers.



### EDUCATION

Strengthen human and financial resources for in-school CSE (educator training and accreditation, link educators with NGOs) and out-of-school and non-formal settings, including humanitarian and crisis settings. Approaches should include group-based workshops, youth-led initiatives, peer delivery, traditional modes of information distribution, digital media including apps, TV, and community radio.



### SERVICE DELIVERY

Link CSE, which creates demand, with youth friendly SRH services that are confidential, accessible and acceptable to children, adolescents and youth. Ensure that education linked to SRH services is accessible to all young people who face the greatest barriers, including those with disabilities.



# ACTION 2

## INCREASE THE AVAILABILITY, ACCESSIBILITY, ACCEPTABILITY AND QUALITY OF CONTRACEPTION AND COMPREHENSIVE ABORTION SERVICES

Within a comprehensive framework that includes SRHR services as an essential component of UHC for all people, increase the quality of and access to contraceptive services for 50 million more adolescent girls and women in all their diversity; support removal of restrictive policies and legal barriers, ensuring 50 million more adolescent girls and women in all their diversity live in jurisdictions where they can access safe and legal abortion by 2026.



### SERVICE DELIVERY

Improve access to quality primary health care and Universal Health Coverage that includes SRH services. These services include menstrual awareness and health, choice of voluntary male- and female-controlled methods of contraception, and safe abortion and post-abortion care and services, without requiring third party consent. Scale-up community delivered commodities, facilitate access to information and services to promote self-care and task shifting, and remove financial, legal and socio-cultural barriers, including for indigenous persons, persons with disabilities, and transgender or non-binary gender identities.



### LAWS & POLICIES

Governments adopt and implement national laws, policies and guidelines to expand access to sexual and reproductive health services, including by expanding telemedicine, comprehensive family planning services, including over the counter delivery, and self-managed contraception and abortion care through implementation of WHO self-care guidelines. Remove regulatory and policy barriers that impede access to abortion to the full extent of the law, provide post-abortion care and enact reforms to legalize and decriminalize abortion.



### FINANCING

Increase and improve domestic resources and external financing to ensure access to SRH services through both health sector and community-based delivery mechanisms, improve choices of SRR commodities and remove financial barriers with a focus on male- and female-controlled contraception and abortion. Invest in market analysis, commodity security and diversification, and strategic purchasing.

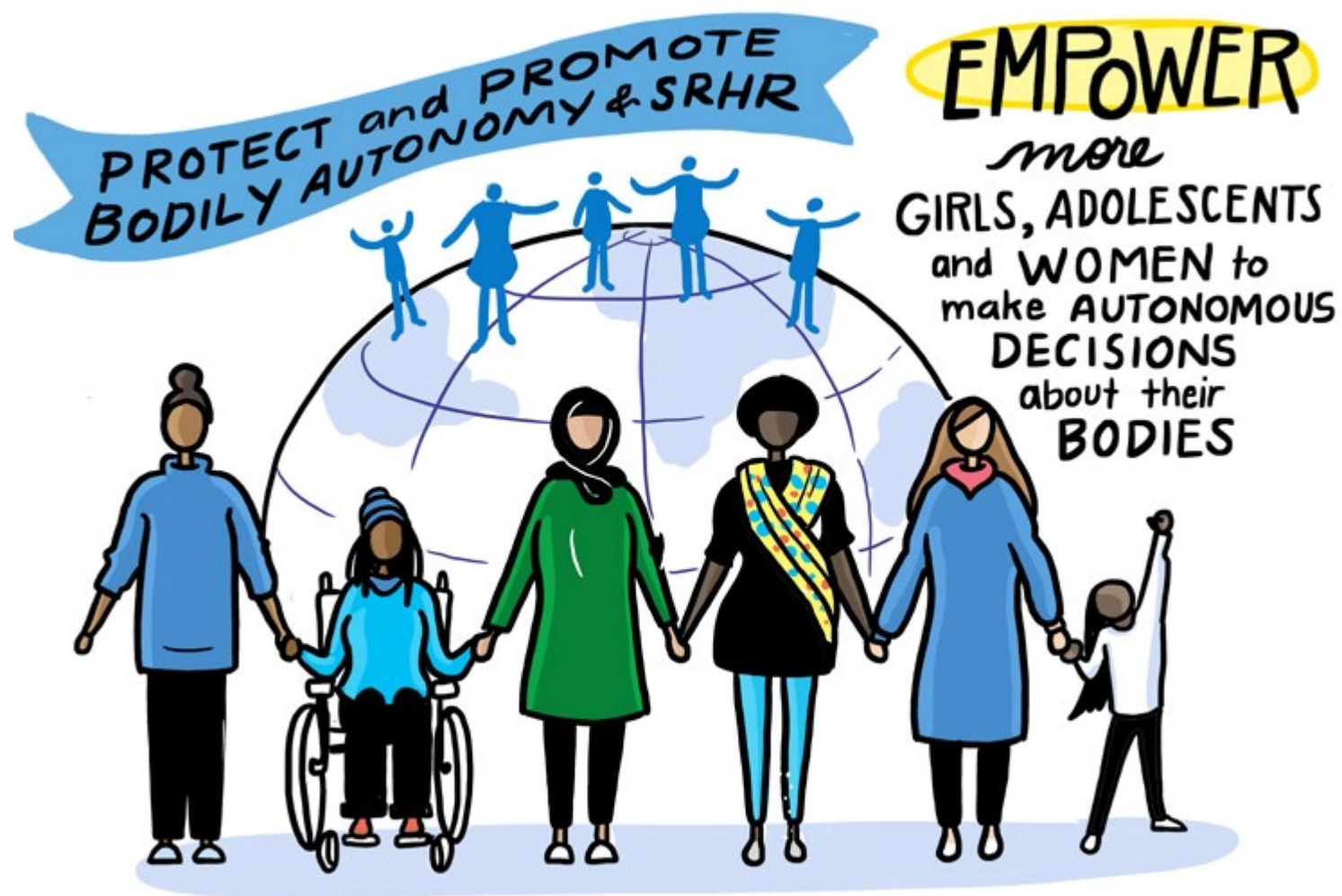
Photo: UN Women/Gustavo Stephan



# ACTION 3

## INCREASE SRHR DECISION-MAKING & BODILY AUTONOMY

Through gender norms change and increasing knowledge of rights, empower all people including 260 million more girls, adolescents and women in all of their diversity to make autonomous decisions about their bodies, sexuality and reproduction by 2026; enact legal and policy change to protect and promote bodily autonomy and SRHR in at least 20 countries by 2026.



### NORMS CHANGE

Invest in and scale-up gender/social norms change approaches to transform unequal power relations, promote equality and human rights.

Involve people of all genders, sexual orientations and identities in fighting patriarchy and addressing toxic masculinity and related harmful practices such as child, early and forced marriages and unions, female genital mutilation and child sexual abuse.

Challenge stigma and discrimination and harmful gender norms and practices related to SRHR, including menstrual health, that restrict bodily autonomy and affect access to services for girls, adolescents, women, transgender and non-binary people. Ensure that no person including those with disabilities, is either forced to or prevented from using contraception or abortion, and that they have the support they need to make informed decisions and to have their decisions respected. In addition, ensure that all people, are protected against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> United Nations General Assembly. 2018. Report of the Independent Expert on Protection Against Violence and Discrimination Based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity. A/73/152.



### LAWS & POLICY

Support bodily autonomy by removing legal and policy barriers to the exercise of sexual and reproductive health and rights, including barriers within health systems, and those related to age, disability, marital status, gender or other identity, sexual orientation, or third-party consent requirements. Implement standards and guidelines that recognize, respect, protect and fulfil the rights and capacities of all people, including those with disabilities, to decide about their bodies and to consent (or not) to sex, SRHR services and marriages or unions. Ensure enforcement of laws and policies protecting voluntary access to contraception, abortion, and other services and commodities, including menstrual products, for all people, particularly marginalized populations. Eliminate laws and policies that restrict access to school or other educational opportunities due to pregnancy or any aspect of bodily autonomy.



Photo: UN Women/Ryan Brown



# ACTION 4

## STRENGTHEN GIRLS, WOMEN'S AND FEMINIST ORGANIZATIONS AND NETWORKS TO PROMOTE AND DEFEND THEIR RIGHT TO BODILY AUTONOMY AND SRHR

Increase accountability to, participation of and support for autonomous feminist and women's organizations (including girl- and adolescent-led, and Indigenous organizations and collectives), women human rights defenders and peacebuilders. Strengthen organizations, networks and movements working to promote and protect bodily autonomy and SRHR.



### ACCOUNTABILITY AND PARTICIPATION

Increase participation of autonomous girls', women's and feminist organizations in decision-making about policies and programs related to bodily autonomy and SRHR. These organizations include autonomous girls', women's and feminist organizations and collectives (including girl-and youth-led, Indigenous, LGBTQ+ and persons with disabilities), women human rights defenders, and peacebuilders and their allies. Adolescent- and youth-led organizations should be meaningfully engaged in development of the policies and programmes that affect them.



### FINANCING

Increase financial support, including for capacity building, to organizations that are working to promote and protect bodily autonomy and SRHR. These organizations include autonomous girls', women's and feminist organizations and collectives (including girl-and youth-led, Indigenous, LGBTQ+ and persons with disabilities), women human rights defenders and peacebuilders and their allies.



### LAWS & POLICY

Create and sustain a safe and enabling environment to ensure that organizations are protected, can operate in a free and safe space and can partner with States in fulfilling their existing human rights obligations and commitments on bodily autonomy and SRHR. These organizations include autonomous girls', women's and feminist organizations and collectives (including girl-and youth-led, Indigenous, LGBTQ+ and persons with disabilities), women human rights defenders and peacebuilders and their allies.



Photo: UN Women/Gustavo Stephan



## ACTIONS WILL ACCELERATE PROGRESS ON SDGs TARGETS

- ▶ 3.1 By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100 000 live births.
- ▶ 3.3 By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases.
- ▶ 3.7 By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes.
- ▶ 5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere.
- ▶ 5.3 Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and force marriage and female genital mutilation.
- ▶ 5.6 Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences.
- ▶ 10.3 Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including through eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and actions in this regard.

## HOW WILL THE ACTIONS BE IMPLEMENTED?

These Actions are grounded in international human rights obligations and based on international best practice highlighting how the promotion of gender equality improves sexual and reproductive health and rights.<sup>1</sup> Successful policy, programmatic and advocacy interventions to advance gender equality and promote health create change through building critical awareness, participation and agency among affected community members and working with multiple stakeholders, in and outside of the health sector.<sup>2</sup> Information, education, access and acceptability of high quality services, and interpersonal relationships and community and social norms can all either constrain or empower autonomous decision-making about sexuality and reproduction.<sup>3</sup> The Actions respond to the most significant constraints that girls, adolescents, women, nonbinary and transgender people face in attaining bodily autonomy and sexual and reproductive health and rights.

<sup>1</sup> UN Women. 2019. Programming Guide: Promoting Gender Equality in Sexual, Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health.

<sup>2</sup> Levy, J.K., Darmstad, G.L., Ashby, C., Quandt, M., Halsey, E. et al. 2020. "Characteristics of Successful Programmes Targeting Gender Inequality and Restrictive Gender Norms for the Health and Well-being of Children, Adolescents, and Young Adults: A Systematic Review." *Lancet Global Health* 8: e225-236.

<sup>3</sup> UNFPA. 2019. "Global Goals Indicator 5.6.1. Research on factors that determine women's ability to make decisions about sexual and reproductive health and rights." Volume 1: October 2019. [https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/resource-pdf/UNFPA\\_HERA\\_5-6-1\\_CLEAN\\_02\\_March1.pdf](https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/resource-pdf/UNFPA_HERA_5-6-1_CLEAN_02_March1.pdf)

Photo: UN Women/Allison Joyce



# COLLECTIVE COMMITMENTS:

When it comes to advancing gender equality, evidence shows that alliances that bring different organizations, movements and sectors together, united by a common vision, have greater impact than each individual partner working alone. Action Coalition Leaders and Commitment Makers are putting this evidence into action through collective commitments.

*Collective commitments* have clearly defined goals and allow individual organizations, institutions and governments to contribute toward their achievement using different strategies and tactics, based on their own capacities, responsibilities, and areas of expertise.

## COLLECTIVE COMMITMENTS ON BODILY AUTONOMY AND SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS:

*Expanding access to safe abortion* for all people who can become pregnant by influencing change in national legislation in as many countries as possible to ensure that abortion is decriminalized and that legal and policy barriers to abortion, including to self-managed abortion, are removed.

*The Global Partnership on Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE)* will provide a unique platform for at least 80 members from various sectors, including youth-led organizations, to promote CSE, address resistance, and influence national policy and financing for CSE delivered in and out of school using evidence-based methodologies.

*Shaping equitable market access for reproductive health* to address shortfalls in the quality, availability, affordability and diversity of SRH products by monitoring the health of SRH markets; identifying and co-designing solutions to market problems; and supporting countries to implement market interventions.

*Accelerating action to end harmful practices, including Female Genital Mutilation and Child, Early and Forced Marriage*, including in crisis and humanitarian settings, through evidence-driven prevention programming, support for survivors, access to justice and support to grassroots-led movements.

## HOW CAN YOU CONTRIBUTE TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THESE COMMITMENTS?

To join a collective commitment, visit [commitments.generationequality.org](https://commitments.generationequality.org).

# ACTION COALITION LEADERS:

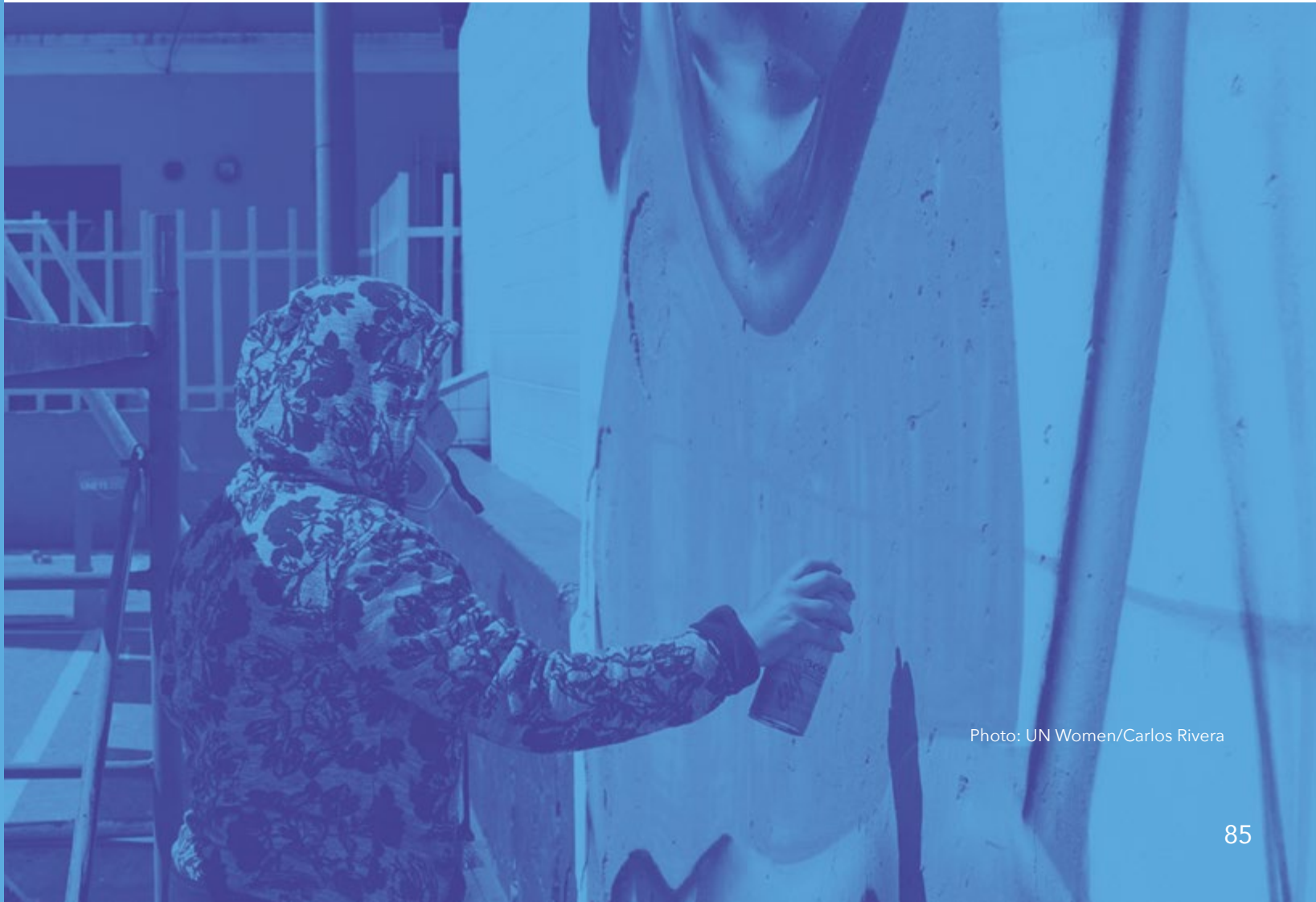
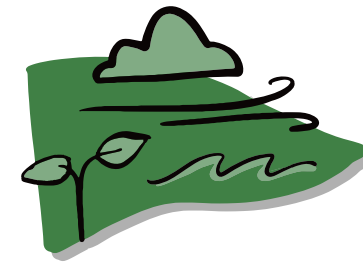


Photo: UN Women/Carlos Rivera



# FEMINIST ACTION FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE



## OUR VISION FOR SUCCESS BY 2026

By 2026, the Action Coalition on Feminist Action for Climate Justice will have initiated a transition to an inclusive and regenerative green economy that recognizes the interconnectedness of climate change with issues of gender justice and protects and amplifies the voices of grassroots and indigenous communities, including frontline defenders, across social and political arenas.

Women and girls in their full diversity equitably and meaningfully participate in decision-making processes at all levels, including in aligning key climate policy instruments with national development plans and developing climate responses that center human rights.

Financing institutions and the donor community reframe risk, prioritize women's organizations as priority partners, and are held accountable to shift capital to support resilient societies and transformative investments in gender-just climate and ecosystem-based approaches.

Women and girls in their full diversity equitably access climate finance, technologies and knowledge, and access and control natural resources for management and protection, including through securing land rights and ownership.

### CLIMATE JUSTICE DEFINITION

Climate justice recognizes that the drive for environmental sustainability is inextricably linked with social justice and gender equality. Climate justice centralizes the needs of people who are the most marginalized: those who rely on natural resources to ensure their livelihoods, take care of their families, and are most impacted by environmental degradation and natural disasters.





# WHY DOES FEMINIST ACTION FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE MATTER?

Women and girls have always been at the forefront of movements demanding climate and environmental justice, and their leadership can change what it means to be an effective leader. Despite increased vulnerability to climate impacts, women and girls are already creating and leading innovative solutions at all levels. Equality for all women and girls in their full diversity strengthens our collective ability to tackle the climate crisis. Their unique knowledge and skills help make the response to climate change more effective and sustainable, which is why advocating for women and girls' rights should be at the center of our climate activism.

## WHAT NEEDS TO CHANGE?

Critical constraints to gender-equitable climate action continue to persist and have worsened in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. Deeply entrenched gender roles and reduced access to natural resources means women and girls are more exposed to climate risks, yet less empowered to drive solutions due to legal and economic insecurity.

- ▶ Women and girls are underrepresented in advancing climate justice across all levels and sectors, from community to national-level planning, in the public sector, climate finance, and clean energy.<sup>1</sup>
- ▶ Limited access to and control over climate knowledge and technologies undermines the ability of women and girls to adapt to and mitigate climate change and loss and damage associated with climate impacts.
- ▶ Limited access to finance restricts investment in climate solutions and recovery from shocks.<sup>2</sup> Studies show that just 3% of philanthropic environmental funding supports women's and girls' environmental activism.<sup>3</sup>

- ▶ Climate interventions fail to adequately account for women's and girls' realities in climate crises, such as violence, healthcare needs, fraught economic resilience, and unpaid care and domestic work.<sup>4</sup> This is partly due to the paucity of data on the impacts of climate change disaggregated by sex, age and other intersectional considerations, which inhibits gender-transformative climate programming.<sup>5</sup>
- ▶ Despite their major role in the agricultural sector, women only hold less than 15% of land<sup>6</sup> globally according to best available data, and women's and girls' unpaid care work expands in disasters, hindering formal participation in disaster response and rebuilding.
- ▶ Young women and girls face discriminatory norms and a lack of structural support within the secondary and tertiary educational fields that inform the green economy approach, accruing over time into persistent gender gaps that feed into occupational segregation and disparities at the highest levels of international climate and environmental governance.

Amidst these challenges and developments, feminists are calling for: improvements in women's land rights and tenure security and the recognition and redistribution of unpaid climate work; international climate governance to integrate an intersectional and inclusive approach in understanding and responding to the challenges faced by women and girls in their full diversity, and that respects the consultation and cooperation in good faith with indigenous peoples and communities in order to obtain free, prior and informed consent, recognizing that climate justice must encompass calls for gender, racial and economic justice as well.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>1</sup> WEDO. 2019. "What do the statistics on UNFCCC women's participation tell us?"; UN Women. 2017. Women in Politics; WRI. 2017. "Global Rights, Local Struggles: Barriers to Women's Participation in Community Land Decision-making."

<sup>2</sup> OECD. 2016. Making Climate Finance Work for Women: Overview of Bilateral ODA to Gender and Climate Change.

<sup>3</sup> Dobson, c. and Lawrence, S. 2018. Our Voices, Our Environment: The State of Funding for Women's Environmental Action. Wallace Global Fund.

<sup>4</sup> WEDO. 2019. "Women's organizations and climate finance: engaging in processes and accessing resources."

<sup>5</sup> FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations). 2019. "Sex-disaggregated data in agriculture and sustainable resource management: new approaches for data collection and analysis."

<sup>6</sup> FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations). 2018. The Gender Gap in Land Rights.

<sup>7</sup> Abimbola, O., Aikins, J.K., Makhesi-Wilkinson, T. and Roberts, E. 2021. "Racism and Climate (In)Justice: How Racism and Colonialism shape the Climate Crisis and Climate Action." Washington, D.C.: Heinrich Boel Stiftung.



## WHAT IS THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON FEMINIST ACTION FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE?

COVID-19 has amplified many of these inequalities. As climate change progresses, pandemics are only one of the impacts predicted to worsen in occurrence and severity.<sup>1</sup> The populations bearing the brunt of the health and socio-economic impacts of the pandemic are the same that suffer most from and face the greatest difficulties in adapting to climate change impacts. Many of the harshest predictions for how climate change will impact the most vulnerable groups, women and girls among them<sup>2</sup> are now being borne out in terms of less or no access to a social safety net, including health care, job security, finance, or unemployment benefits. Women and girls face the added burdens of an increase in gender-based violence coupled with an increase in unpaid care work, further undermining their capacity to cope.<sup>3</sup> School closures have disrupted girls' education, who may not return to school post-shock.<sup>4</sup> Distancing measures have forced climate activism into online spaces, which perpetuates digital inequalities bridged via in person organizing and which can make reaching world leaders and the general public more challenging.

<sup>1</sup> Kingsland, J. 2020. "How Might Climate Change Affect the Spread of Viruses?" 3 de abril de 2020. Medical News Today. <https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/how-might-global-warming-influence-the-spread-of-viruses>; Weathers, S. 2017. "Factory Farms: A Hotspot for Emerging Pandemics." 30 de mayo de 2017. Global Health Impact Blog. <https://www.msh.org/blog/2017/05/30/factory-farms-a-hotspot-for-emerging-pandemics>  
<sup>2</sup> Mlambo-Ngcuka, P. 2018 "Op-ed: Women and Climate Action." <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2018/11/op-ed-ed-women-and-climate-action>  
<sup>3</sup> Guterres, A. 2020. "Put Women and Girls at the Centre of Efforts to Recover from COVID-19." <https://www.un.org/en/un-coronavirus-communications-team/put-women-and-girls-centre-efforts-recover-covid-19>  
<sup>4</sup> Malala Fund. 2020. [4]Girls' Education and COVID-19: [4]What Past Shocks Can Teach Us About Mitigating the Impacts of Pandemics.

## A GLOBAL ACCELERATION PLAN FOR FEMINIST ACTION FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE

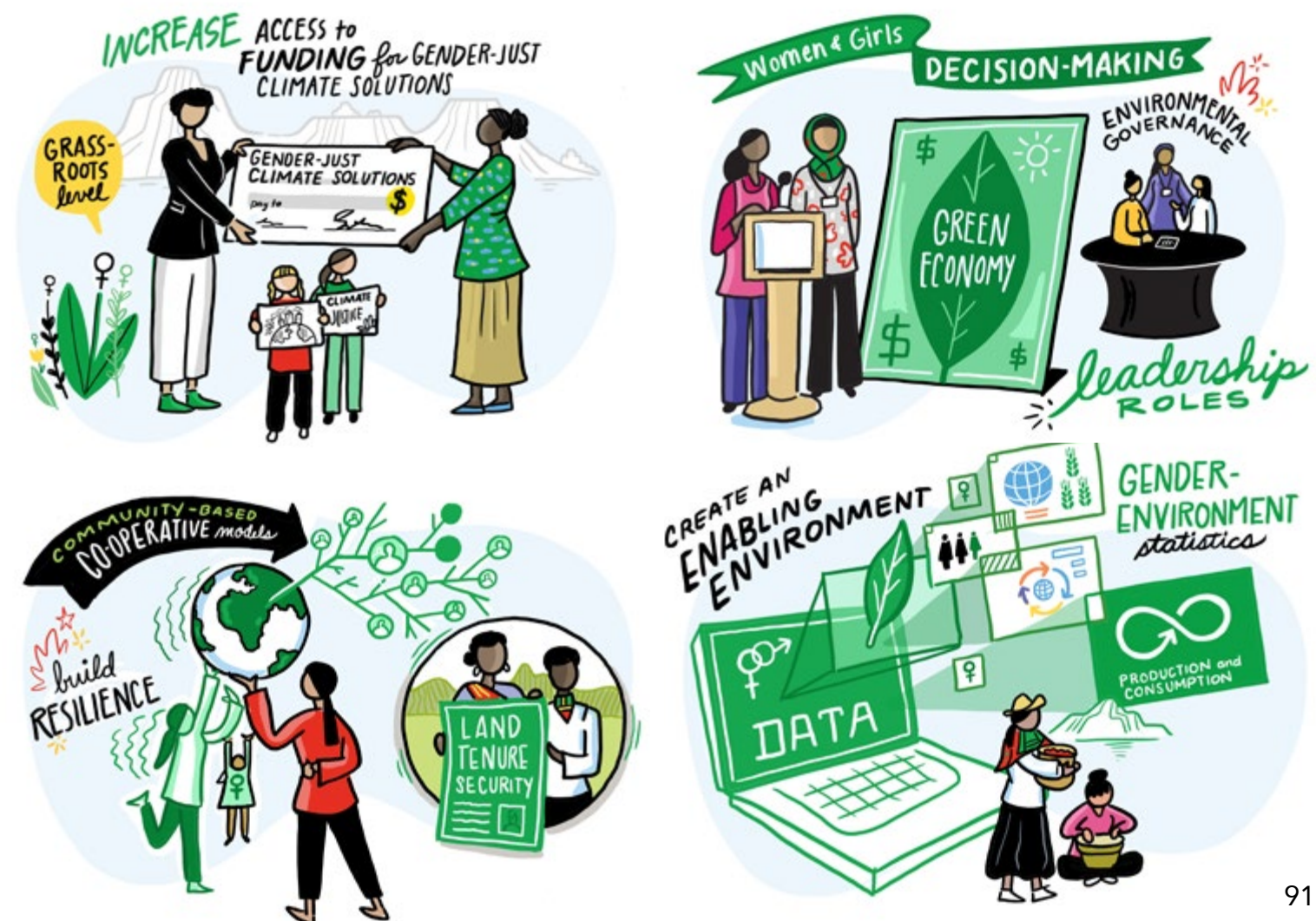
Feminist action for climate justice is crucial for tackling the defining issue of the 21st century - the climate crisis - in a way that addresses persisting, systemic inequities. Taking a systems lens approach to identify and target root causes of both the climate crisis and gender inequality reveals how they are inextricably linked and reinforced by existing public, private, and social incentives, which can only be unwound through targeted actions that reverse these negative feedback loops. Socio-economic inequalities worldwide have deepened drastically in the aftermath of the pandemic, fuelling the urgency

Photo: UN Women/Joe Saade

in calls for just transitions to resilient and circular economies and greater corporate social responsibility and accountability in facilitating such a transition. Overcoming this crisis requires collective action. The Action Coalition will enable public and private actors to work hand in hand to translate existing processes into gender and climate-responsive ones, while elevating contextual climate and gender nuances understood by civil society organizations and local activists. This includes enabling women and girls in their full diversity to lead a just transition to an inclusive, circular, regenerative green economy<sup>1</sup> and making visible their needs and abilities by increasing the collection and use of data on the gender-environment nexus.

The system lens approach is reinforced by an intersectional approach that recognizes that our current economy based on the extraction of natural resources has devastating effects on the environment, and on the rights of women, girls, and communities at extraction sites, and as such amplifies existing inequities. The recreation of new systems in response to climate change is an opportunity to address historical and structural inequalities in power relations and learn from the invaluable expertise of marginalized groups, such as grassroots and indigenous women. This includes increasing direct access to financing for gender-just climate solutions, in particular for organizations led by women and girls at the grassroots and rural level and building the resilience of women and girls in their full diversity to climate impacts and disaster risks, mitigate climate change, and address loss and damage, including through land rights and tenure security. The Action Coalition will work through multi-stakeholder partnership to deliver transformational results on four targeted actions:

<sup>1</sup> ONU Mujeres, CESPAP, PNUMA y UICN. (2019). "Mainstreaming gender in environment statistics for the SDGs and beyond: Identifying Priorities in Asia and the Pacific." <https://data.unwomen.org/publications/mainstreaming-gender-environment-statistics-sdgs-and-beyond-identifying-priorities>

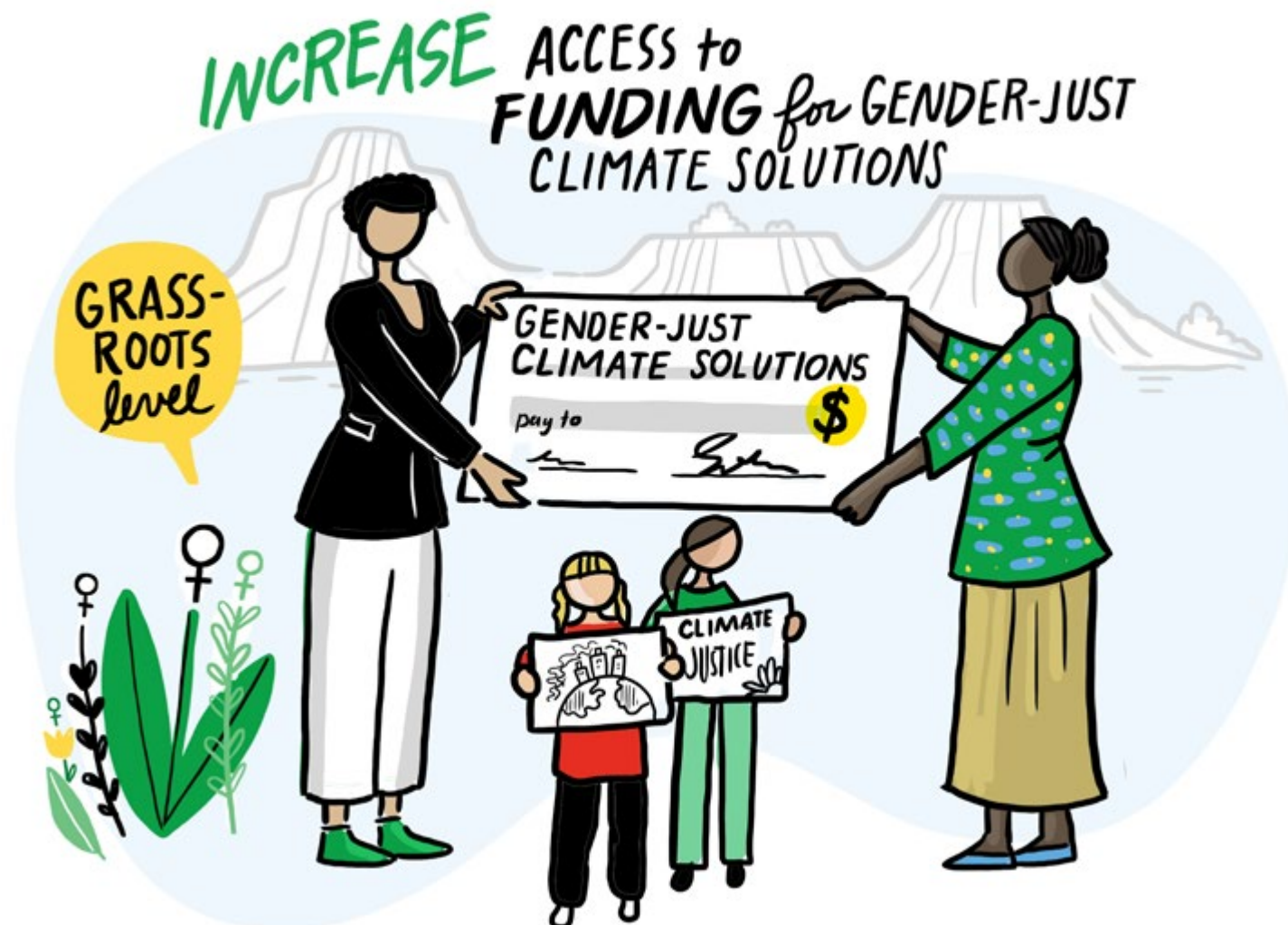




# ACTION 1

## INCREASE DIRECT ACCESS TO FINANCING FOR GENDER-JUST CLIMATE SOLUTIONS, ESPECIALLY FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS AT GRASSROOTS LEVELS

By 2026, increase the percentage of global climate finance flows, public and private, directed towards and invested in gender-just climate solutions in particular at grassroots and rural levels, including through an increase to 88% in the proportion of marked climate bilateral finance targeted towards gender.



### FINANCING

Ensure direct channels of finance for gender-just climate solutions focusing on grassroots and indigenous women and girls globally.



### FINANCING

Shift private and public capital towards green gender-responsive investments.



Photo: UN Women/ Tsitsi Matope

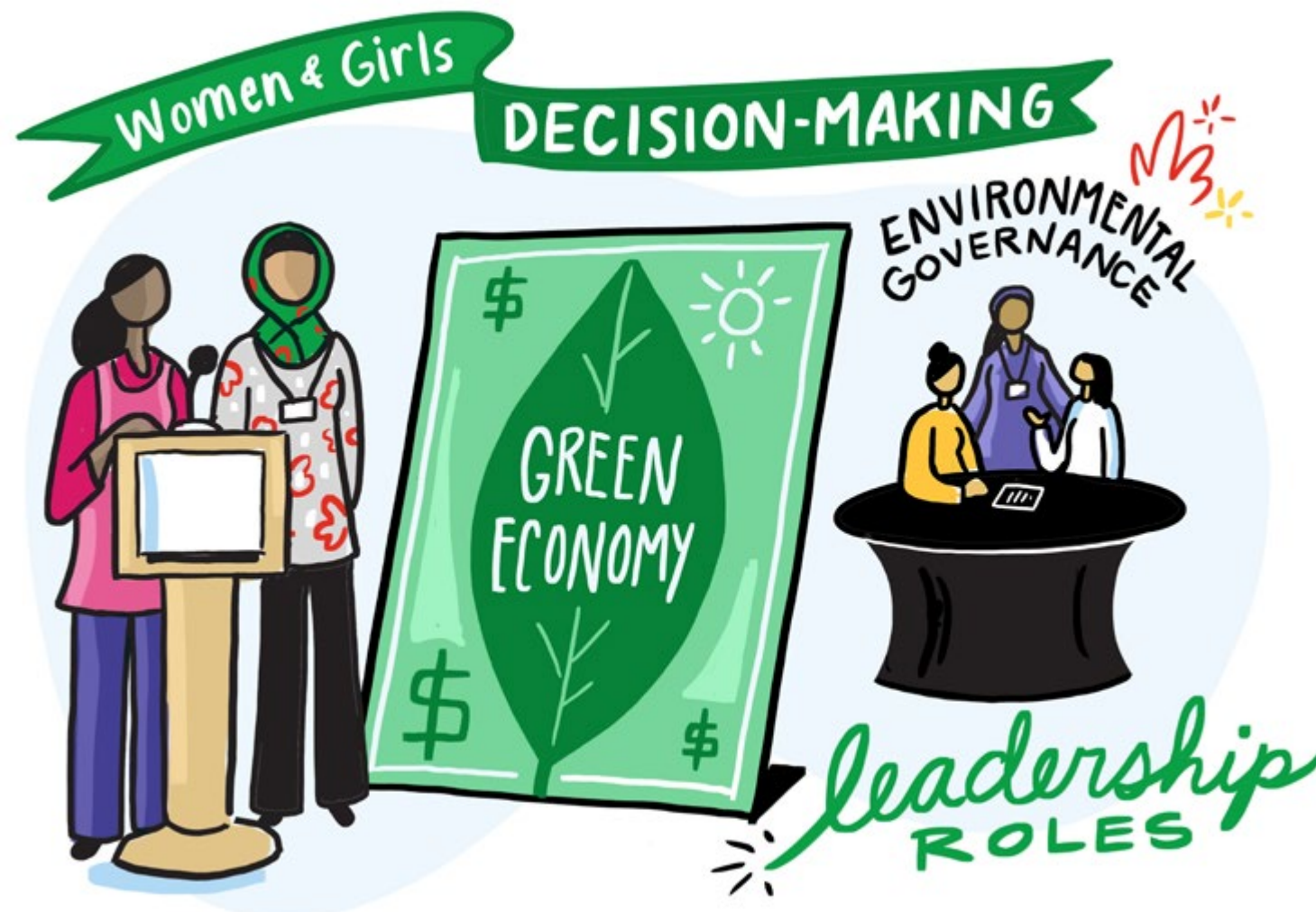


# ACTION 2

## ENABLE WOMEN AND GIRLS TO LEAD A JUST TRANSITION TO AN INCLUSIVE, CIRCULAR, REGENERATIVE GREEN ECONOMY<sup>1</sup>

Increase the proportion of women and girls in decision-making and leadership positions throughout environmental governance and sectors relevant for transitioning to an inclusive, circular and regenerative green economy by 2026.

<sup>1</sup> Sectors as defined by UNEP in UNEP, 2011. Towards a Green Economy: Pathways to Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication.



### SERVICE DELIVERY

Increase capacity for engaging in and access to decision-making processes related to the green economy transition.



### NORMS CHANGE

Tackle discriminatory gender norms and barriers around women's and girls' leadership for climate justice through public advocacy campaigns reaching all populations and genders.



### EDUCATION

Ensure increased access at all levels to educational tools and services needed to build careers in green economy sectors.



Photo: UN Women/Staton Winter



# ACTION 3

## BUILD THE RESILIENCE OF WOMEN AND GIRLS TO CLIMATE IMPACTS, DISASTER RISKS, LOSS AND DAMAGE, INCLUDING THROUGH LAND RIGHTS AND TENURE SECURITY

Enhance and leverage the capacity of millions more women and girls in all their diversity to build resilience to climate and disaster risks, mitigate climate change, and address loss and damage, including through provision of quality education, community-based cooperative models and land rights and tenure security.



### SERVICE DELIVERY

Leverage, strengthen and scale up the ability of women and girls to achieve resource independence and influence climate and environment policy planning at all levels.



### LAW & POLICY

Strengthen legal and policy frameworks for integrating gender considerations throughout climate and environment-related plans, policies, and strategies.



### EDUCATION

Increase access to educational tools and services to achieve resource independence and build resilience.

Photo: UN Women/Ryan Brown



# ACTION 4

## INCREASE THE COLLECTION AND USE OF DATA ON THE GENDER-ENVIRONMENT NEXUS

By 2026, at least 20 countries demonstrate increased use of gender-environment statistics for policy making by creating an enabling environment for and increased production of gender-environment statistics.



### LAWS & POLICY

Increase support for national-level data production on gender-environment nexus and for their use for informing gender-responsive policies, strategies and advocacy actions, focusing on all regions.



### SERVICE DELIVERY

Increase support for intergovernmental frameworks to increase data production on gender-environment nexus and for their use for informing gender-responsive policies, strategies and advocacy actions.



Photo: UN Women/Ryan Brown



# ACTIONS WILL ACCELERATE PROGRESS ON SDGs TARGETS

- ▶ 5.a.1 (a) Proportion of total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, by sex; and (b) share of women among owners or rights-bearers of agricultural land, by type of tenure
- ▶ 5.5.1 Proportion of seats held by women in (a) national parliaments and (b) local governments
- ▶ 12.8.1 Extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for sustainable development are mainstreamed in (a) national education policies; (b) curricula; (c) teacher education; and (d) student assessment
- ▶ 13.B Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing States, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities
- ▶ 17.18 Enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts
- ▶ 17.2.1 Net official development assistance, total and to least developed countries, as a proportion of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee donors' gross national income (GNI)

## HOW WILL THE ACTIONS BE IMPLEMENTED?

Feminist action for climate justice is an opportunity to harness the momentum of climate action to create more gender- and climate-equitable economic and political systems, especially as shocks like COVID-19 prompt behaviour change and economic and political responses. This Action Coalition brings together Member States, international organizations, private sector, civil society and youth-led organizations to consolidate efforts, set concrete targets and create costed frameworks for multi-stakeholder implementation, which will function to leverage support and drive collective action for achieving gender and climate objectives by 2026. We aim to drive progress by channelling increased political, financial and advocacy support towards these goals to strengthen women's and girls' agency and leadership in the green economy, enhance their resilience to climate impacts, and defend the rights of rural, grassroots and indigenous women and girls in their full diversity as critical actors in the fight against climate change. An Action Coalition is uniquely positioned to address challenges of this magnitude. Ultimately, a cross-sectoral partnership and coordination around a set of concrete goals is what will be required to achieve our collective vision for Feminist action for climate justice by 2026.



Photo: UN Women/Ryan Brown



# COLLECTIVE COMMITMENTS:

When it comes to advancing gender equality, evidence shows that alliances that bring different organizations, movements and sectors together, united by a common vision, have greater impact than each individual partner working alone. Action Coalition Leaders and Commitment Makers are putting this evidence into action through collective commitments.

Collective commitments have clearly defined goals and allow individual organizations, institutions and governments to contribute toward their achievement using different strategies and tactics, based on their own capacities, responsibilities, and areas of expertise.

## COLLECTIVE COMMITMENTS ON FEMINIST ACTION FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE:

*The Gender and Environment Data Alliance* will advance gender-just climate action at all levels through improved accessibility, understanding and application of gender-environment data.

*The Action Nexus of Feminist Collective Action for a Just and Healthy Planet* will advance an economic agenda for people and planet by advocating for the implementation of a feminist economic justice blueprint and ensuring activists and leaders are capacitated and networked.

*The Gender-Just Climate Solutions Scale Fund* will support direct access to financing for gender-just climate solutions, by creating a re-granting collective and investing in the creation and capacity of peer women’s rights networks.

*The Advancing Gender in the Environment (AGENT) Partnership* will scale up action on GBV and Climate Change by creating a GBV-ENV center to fund, build the capacity of and create communities of practice for environment and climate organizations working on the intersections of gender-based violence and gender-responsive climate action at all levels.

## HOW CAN YOU CONTRIBUTE TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THESE COMMITMENTS?

To join a collective commitment, visit [commitments.generationequality.org](https://commitments.generationequality.org).

# ACTION COALITION LEADERS:



Photo: UN Women/Carlos Rivera



# TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION FOR GENDER EQUALITY



## OUR VISION FOR SUCCESS BY 2026

By 2026, women and girls in all their diversity have equal opportunities to safely and meaningfully access, use, lead, and design technology and innovation with freedom of expression, joy, and boundless potential. We call for collective responsibility, especially from governments and corporations, to develop bold gender-transformative actions to widen innovation ecosystems, embed transparency and accountability in digital technology, and expand inclusive digital economies.

### TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION FOR GENDER EQUALITY

#### DEFINITION

Technology and Innovation for Gender Equality refers to how women and girls access, use, lead and design digital tools and addresses the gender digital divide, online gender-based violence and discrimination and the under-representation of women in innovation. This Action Coalition explores how technology and innovation can help advance gender equality and create new solutions responding to women and girls in all their diversity.





## WHY DOES TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION MATTER?

The digital revolution is one of the major shifts that have taken place since the Beijing Conference, having profound effects on gender equality and women's rights in all spheres of life. By singling out innovation and technology as one of the six Action Coalition themes, we are urging the world to look at technology as one of the key areas in which achieving gender equality can transform our world. We also recognize the catalytic role technology can play in helping achieve all the other Action Coalitions' objectives by accelerating progress.

### WHAT NEEDS TO CHANGE?

The pandemic has exposed the digital divide and shown that the population excluded from the digital world – which include a majority of women and girls – are the most at risk of being left behind by this crisis. The gender digital divide is a multidimensional phenomenon that must be challenged and changed. This will require designing transformative actions to remove barriers associated with traditional social norms, lack of education, costs, trust, safety concerns or geographies, among many others. The primary constraints to be addressed by the Action Coalition are:

- ▶ The lack of gender-responsive education and inclusive learning opportunities, which limits access to skills and training and digital fluency. This leads to the under-representation of women and girls studying and pursuing careers in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math).

- ▶ The lack of diversity among the creators of technology and the entrenched gender inequalities in workplaces. This leads to an insufficient number of women in leading roles in innovation institutions, across governments, industry, academia and financiers.
- ▶ The lack of regulations, gender-responsive policies and accountability frameworks to prevent bias and siloed structures and systems. This leads to cultural-cognitive barriers that restrict the emergence of transformative technology development and inclusive innovation ecosystems.
- ▶ The lack of transparency and accountability to address issues specific to the digital world, especially with regards to social discrimination and online gender-based violence. This leads to gender-discriminating practices, abuse, biased social norms and stereotypes that restrict access and use of technology.
- ▶ The lack of investment in feminist technology and innovation, that would address the current barriers faced by women and girls and develop technology that meet their most pressing needs. As a result, women and girls don't benefit equally from technological advancements.







KEY DATA POINTS

- At 15 years of age, on average across OECD countries, only 0.5% of girls wish to become ICT professionals, compared to 5% of boys. Twice as many boys as girls expect to become engineers, scientists or architects.<sup>1</sup>
- Across LMICs, women are still eight per cent less likely than men to own a mobile phone, and 20 per cent less likely to use the internet on a mobile. This means that in these markets 300 million fewer women than men use mobile internet.<sup>2</sup>

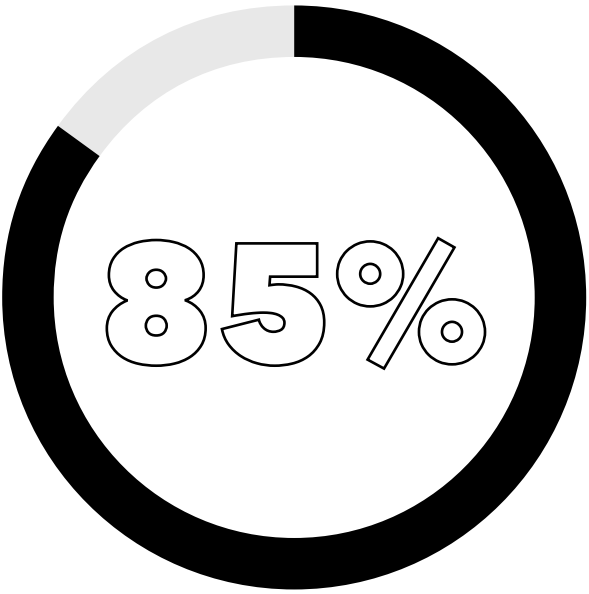
A recent survey from the 51 most online-populated countries showed that nearly 40% of women surveyed had been harassed online. The vast majority (85%) had witnessed harassment or some other form of online violence.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> OECD. 2018. "Bridging the Digital Gender Divide: Include, Upskill, Innovate: Key Messages." [oecd.org/going-digital/bridging-the-digital-gender-divide-key-messages.pdf](https://oecd.org/going-digital/bridging-the-digital-gender-divide-key-messages.pdf)  
<sup>2</sup> GSMA Association. 2020. Connected Women: The Mobile Gender Gap Report 2020.  
<sup>3</sup> Georgiou, P. "The State of Online Violence Against Women." 1 March 2021. [medium.com/jigsaw/the-state-of-online-violence-against-women-4f5e03cc2149](https://medium.com/jigsaw/the-state-of-online-violence-against-women-4f5e03cc2149)

Photo Left: UN Women Kenya  
Photo Right: UN Women/Kennedy Okoth



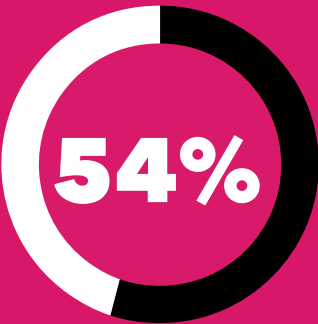
THE OVERALL PREVALENCE OF ONLINE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN GLOBALLY IS



- 38% PERSONAL**  
Women who reported personal experiences with online violence
- 65% COMMUNITY**  
Women who reported knowing other women who have been targeted online, from their personal and professional networks
- 85% OVERALL OR WITNESSED**  
Women who reported witnessing online violence against other women (including from outside their networks)

Prevalence was measured at three levels, all data pertains to the year between May 2019 to May 2020

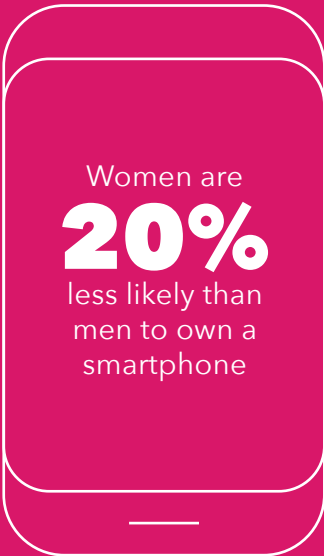
IN LOW - AND MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRIES



of women now use **MOBILE INTERNET**

but the gender gap remains **SUBSTANTIAL**

**300M**  
fewer women than men access mobile internet



and in many countries have less autonomy and agency in smartphone acquisition

**45%**  
Generation Z and Millennials

**YOUNG WOMEN ARE MORE LIKELY TO HAVE PERSONALLY EXPERIENCED ONLINE VIOLENCE**

**31%**  
Generation X and Baby Boomers

Source Jigsaw/The Economist



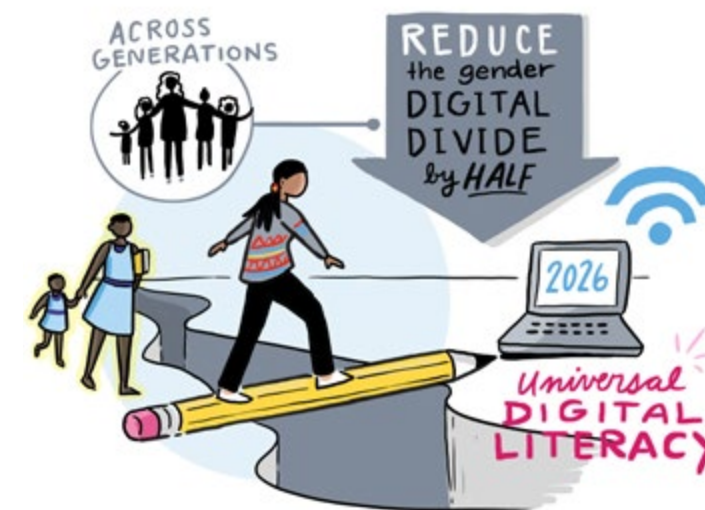
How will the Action Coalition

# ACCELERATE CONCRETE RESULTS?

The year 2021 will be a pivotal point, where public and private partners will need to embrace collective action to improve the state of the world and build a future that will move towards a more equal and inclusive digital transformation. The Action Coalition on Technology and Innovation for Gender Equality will build and reflect this imperative, as an innovative, multi-stakeholder partnership that will mobilize governments, civil society, international organizations, and the private sector to catalyze action, drive investment and deliver concrete, game-changing results for gender equality.

## A GLOBAL ACCELERATION PLAN FOR TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION FOR GENDER EQUALITY

Four ambitious actions to accelerate results on Technology and Innovation for Gender Equality have been advanced: These actions include the following:

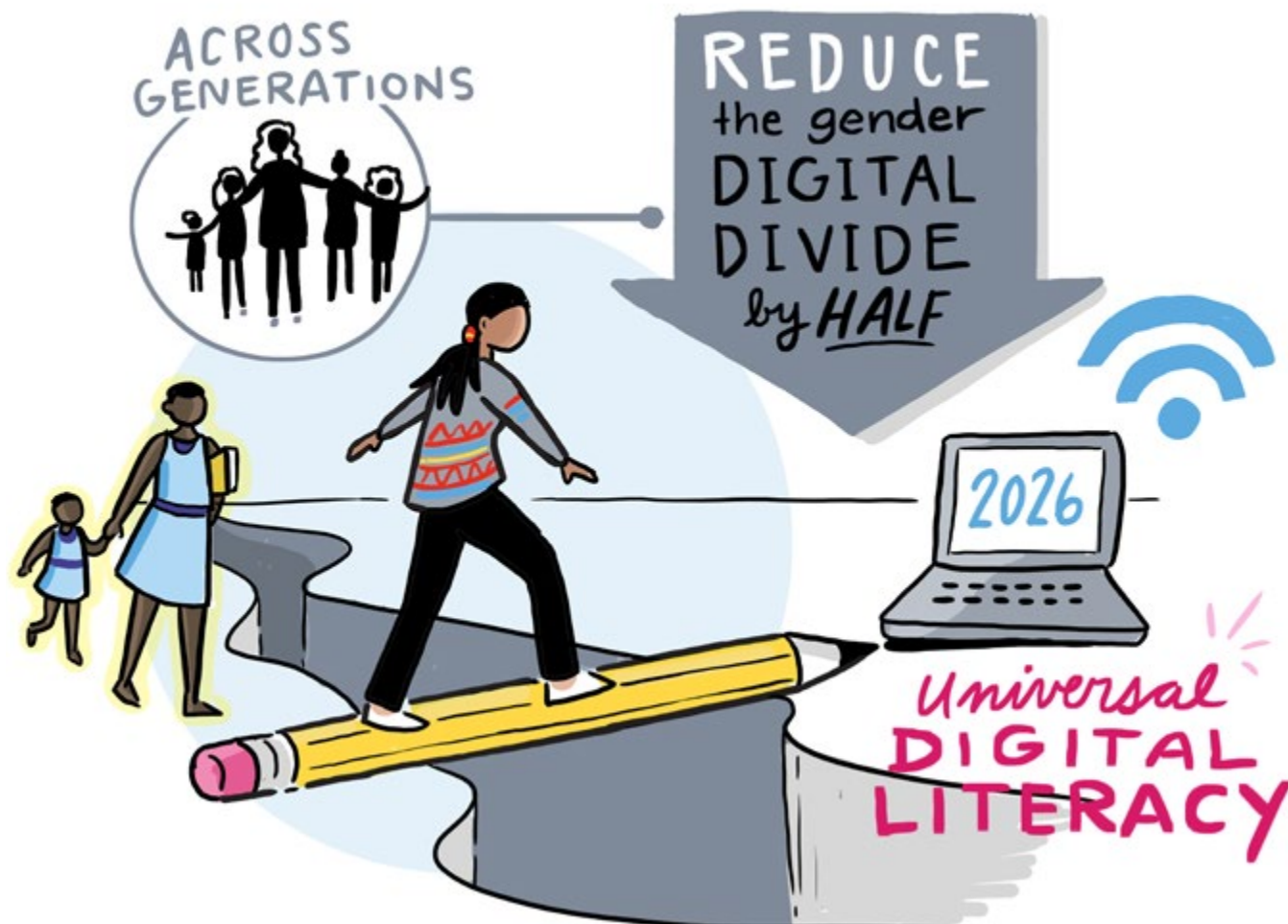




# ACTION 1

## BRIDGE THE GENDER GAP IN DIGITAL ACCESS AND COMPETENCES

By 2026, reduce by half the gender digital divide across generations by accelerating meaningful access to digital technologies and universal digital literacy.



### FINANCING

Advance public and private innovative financing mechanisms to collectively meet the demand for 21st century skills<sup>1</sup> needed in an inclusive and equitable digital economy.



### SERVICE DELIVERY

Invest in innovative and gender-transformative solutions that improve affordability, accessibility and usability of digital services and learning tools for women and girls.



### SOCIAL NORM CHANGE

Promote large scale social transformation to close the gender gaps in access to digital tools and STEM-related education, careers and innovation.

<sup>1</sup> 21st Century skills: Learning and innovation skills: critical thinking and problem solving, communications and collaboration, creativity and innovation; Digital literacy skills: information literacy, media literacy, Information and communication technologies (ICT) literacy; Career and life skills: flexibility and adaptability, initiative and self-direction, social and cross-cultural interaction, productivity and accountability



# ACTION 2

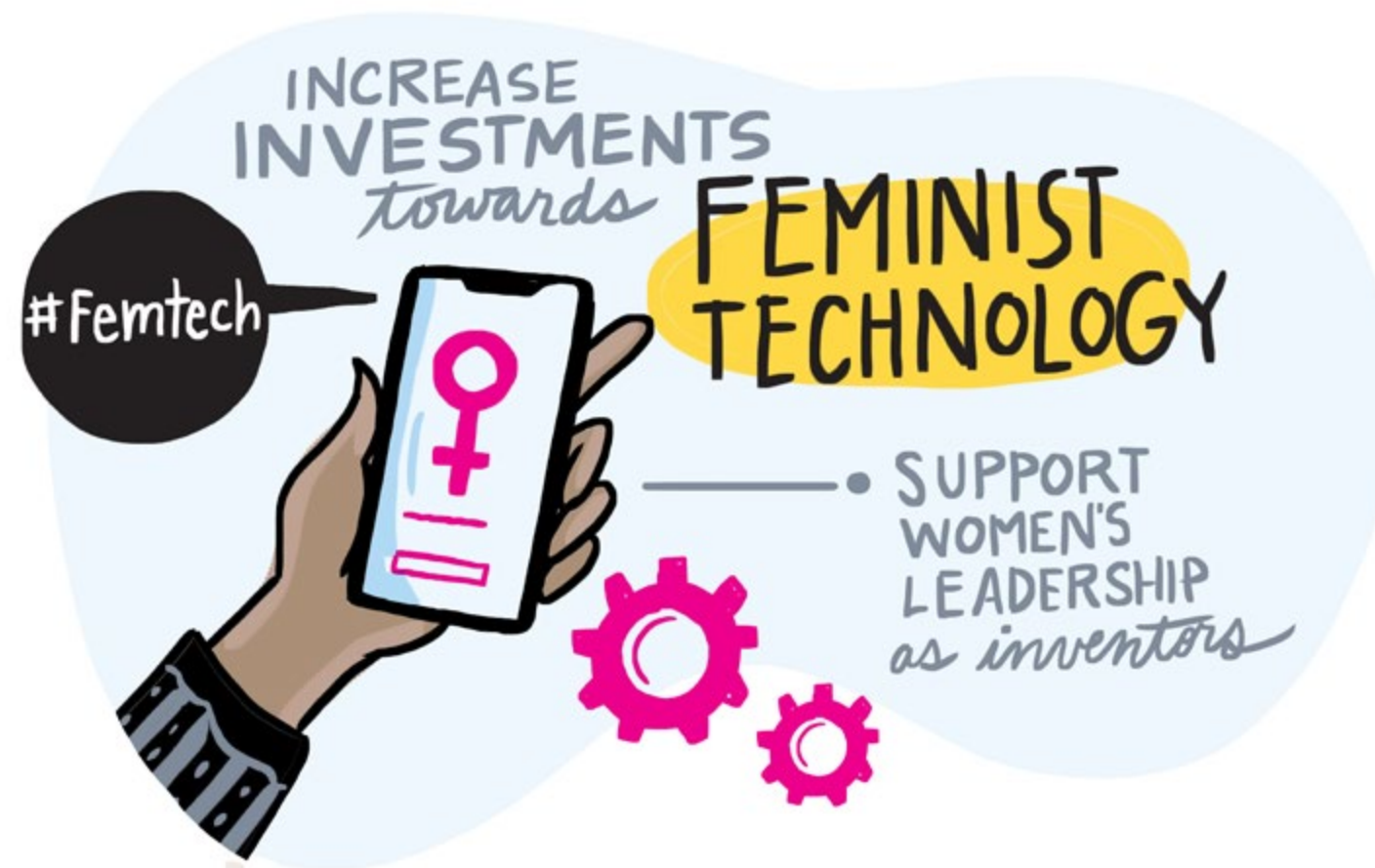
## INVEST IN FEMINIST TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION<sup>1</sup>

By 2026, increase investments towards feminist technology and innovation by 50% to support women's leadership as innovators and better respond to women and girls' most pressing needs.

<sup>1</sup> A feminist approach to technology and innovation: A feminist approach to technology and innovation harnesses gender and intersectional analysis to explore ideas and design solutions that create social value, address fundamental structural barriers that prevent gender equality and support the voice, agency and empowerment of women and girls in all their diversity.

It focuses attention not only on the solutions but also the processes through which innovation and technology are generated and promotes equitable opportunities and balanced participation of all genders at all levels and stages. It embraces principles of transparency and accountability, justice and liberation, diversity and inclusion, and takes into account the needs of women and girls, especially those most impacted by multiple forms of discrimination in order to achieve just and inclusive societies. Examples of feminist technology and innovation include: new medication that have studied sex-differences and gender-specific risk factors, inclusive crash-test dummies, creating the Pacific's first woman-led community radio network, period tech, etc.

(sources: « Gendered Innovations in Science, Health & Medicine, Engineering and Environment » <http://genderedinnovations.stanford.edu/index.html>; Safier, C. 2017. « What does Feminist Social Innovation look Like ? » 31 May 2017. <https://oxfamblogs.org/fp2p/what-does-feminist-social-innovation-look-like/>)



### SERVICE DELIVERY

Invest in innovation processes<sup>1</sup> generating gender-transformative impact, meeting women and girls' needs and providing them opportunities to create and influence technology.



### POLICY

Adopt gender transformative public and corporate policies for innovation and technology development.



### DATA AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Leverage data science to develop inclusive, ethical and community-driven analytics and embed accountability and gender throughout innovation processes and technology development.

<sup>1</sup>**Mission driven innovations:** or mission-oriented innovation, starts with a driving ambition to achieve an articulated goal, though the specifics of how it might be done are still unclear or are not set in stone. Example: NASA's mission to send humans to the moon, the development of a vaccine or treatment for COVID-19. See OECD. 2020. "Public Sector Innovation Facets." <https://oecd-opsi.org/projects/innovation-facets/>

**System Innovation:** System innovation is defined as a transition from one socio-technical system to another. It is a transformation which takes place at the wider societal context, it covers not only product and process innovations but also changes in user practices, markets, policy, regulations, culture, infrastructure, lifestyle, and management of firms. Example: the transition from horse-and-carriage to automobiles, a government's multi-pronged approach to address a pandemic. See Gaziulusoy, I. 2011. "What is System Innovation for Sustainability?" <https://idilgaziulusoy.com/2011/06/26/what-is-system-innovation-for-sustainability/>

**Other types of innovation processes:** enhancement innovation, that questions how something is done and whether it can be done differently and better. Adaptive innovation refers to original, simple, locally generated ideas that enable results that would not otherwise be attainable. It often includes low-cost and community-led innovations. See OECD. 2020. "Public Sector Innovation Facets." <https://oecd-opsi.org/projects/innovation-facets/>

**Ecosystem definition (IDIA):** An innovation ecosystem is made up of enabling policies and regulations, accessibility of finance, informed human capital, supportive markets, energy, transport and communication infrastructure, a culture supportive of innovation and entrepreneurship, and networking assets, which together support productive relationships between different actors and other parts of the ecosystem. See International Development Innovation Alliance. 2020. "What is an Innovation Ecosystem?". <https://www.idiainnovation.org/ecosystem>



Photo: UN Women Kenya

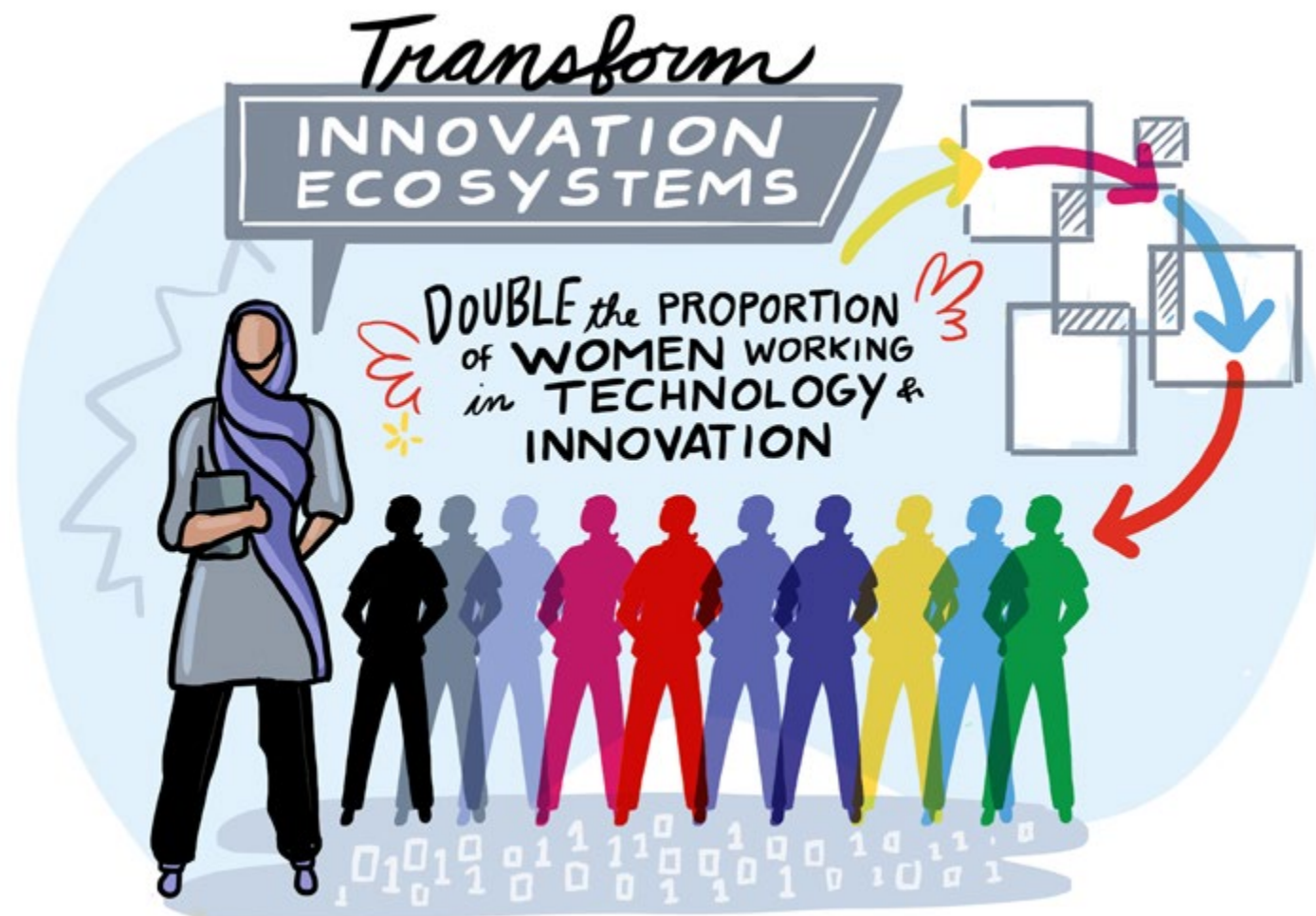


# ACTION 3

## BUILD INCLUSIVE, TRANSFORMATIVE AND ACCOUNTABLE INNOVATION ECOSYSTEMS<sup>1</sup>

By 2026, double the proportion of women working in technology and innovation by setting up new networks and benchmarks to transform innovation ecosystems.

<sup>1</sup> Ecosystem definition (IDIA): An innovation ecosystem is made up of enabling policies and regulations, accessibility of finance, informed human capital, supportive markets, energy, transport and communication infrastructure, a culture supportive of innovation and entrepreneurship, and networking assets, which together support productive relationships between different actors and other parts of the ecosystem. See International Development Innovation Alliance. 2020. "What is an Innovation Ecosystem?". <https://www.idiainnovation.org/ecosystem>



### SERVICE DELIVERY

Create gender-transformative networks within digital/innovation hubs<sup>2</sup> to increase diversity and gender parity in tech workforce & leadership and stimulate interregional cooperation.



### POLICY

Adopt feminist public and corporate policy actions to transform digital economies and boost women and girls' leadership and full participation in shaping digital technologies.



### DATA AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Transform measurement of inclusion and diversity in digital economies and societies and hold accountable the political, social and industry actors most responsible for addressing the digital gender divide.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Digital innovation hubs: there isn't one single, universally agreed-upon definition, however what is common in most of the hubs is that they foster communities of technologically forward-thinking people, providing them with tools they can use to start collaborating and innovating. These hubs enable active knowledge transfer between researchers, business experts, industry, government and representatives of academia. They help provide access to tools, resources and networks and provide spaces for experimentation. These hubs can be established in cities or regions, supported by public or private funding, focus on specific technologies or be open to diverse sectors. Some examples are the Digital Innovation Hubs (DIHs) in Europe, Boston area is a HealthTech innovation hub, San Francisco Bay Area is a high-growth startup ecosystem, Singapore is a hub for digital innovation in finance and trade, several tech hubs have also emerged across Africa. Hubs are not necessarily physical locations and can equally be virtual communities and networks.

<sup>3</sup> Gender Digital Divide definition: The gender inequalities in terms of access and use to information and communications technologies. Although the definition of the gender digital divide remains deficit-focused, it is not simply an issue of access, as the binary classifications of ICT "haves" and "have nots" mask the true nature of the divide and varied experience people have. Measurement metrics for all the components contributing to the gender digital divide should combine indicators for meaningful access (connection, device, affordability, etc.), skills, participation and leadership, online safety, relevancy of content and services, etc.



Photo: UN Women/Hamza Mazra'awi



# ACTION 4

## PREVENT AND ELIMINATE ONLINE AND TECH-FACILITATED GBV AND DISCRIMINATION

By 2026, a majority of countries and tech companies demonstrate accountability by implementing policies and solutions against online and tech facilitated GBV and discrimination.



### SERVICE DELIVERY

Design tools and systems to better prevent, detect, respond and monitor online and tech facilitated GBV and discrimination.



### POLICY

Enhance legislation, law enforcement and restorative justice responses to prevent and provide effective relief to survivors of online and tech facilitated GBV and put in place stronger sanctions against perpetrators and digital gatekeepers.



### SOCIAL NORM CHANGE

Mobilize public, private and civil society to demonstrate cultural change and stop online and tech facilitated GBV and harassment that specifically targets women and girls limiting their freedom of expression, access to learning and life choices.



Photo: UN Women/Staton Winter



# ACTIONS WILL ACCELERATE PROGRESS ON SDGs TARGETS

- ▶ 4.4 By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship
- ▶ 5.5 Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life
- ▶ 5.b Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women
- ▶ 9.5 Enhance scientific research, upgrade the technological capabilities of industrial sectors in all countries, in particular developing countries
- ▶ 16.b Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development
- ▶ 17.6 Enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation and enhance knowledge-sharing on mutually agreed terms including through improved coordination among existing mechanisms, in particular at the United Nations level, and through a global technology facilitation mechanism
- ▶ 17.8 Fully operationalize the technology bank and science, technology and innovation capacity-building mechanism for least developed countries by 2017 and enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology

# HOW WILL THE ACTIONS BE IMPLEMENTED?

Countries, businesses and organizations need to build intentional pathways for women and girls' advancement in technology and to lead in changing behaviours and addressing stereotypes. This will require to focus on the human side of the digital transformation and catalyze efforts across public and private sector actors to develop inclusive and gender transformative technology.

The Coalition will focus on providing more opportunities for women and girls, especially those in vulnerable situations, who are facing the most barriers to take full advantage of technology. It aims to reset how we develop technology so that everyone equally benefits from platforms, services and data while maintaining control over their digital lives.

The Coalition will use an intersectional approach to meet the holistic needs of diverse women and girls without any forms discrimination and ensure their experiences of inequality are contextualized within an understanding of simultaneous, intersecting inequalities.



# COLLECTIVE COMMITMENTS:

When it comes to advancing gender equality, evidence shows that alliances that bring different organizations, movements and sectors together, united by a common vision, have greater impact than each individual partner working alone. Action Coalition Leaders and Commitment Makers are putting this evidence into action through collective commitments.

Collective commitments have clearly defined goals and allow individual organizations, institutions and governments to contribute toward their achievement using different strategies and tactics, based on their own capacities, responsibilities, and areas of expertise.

## COLLECTIVE COMMITMENTS ON TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION FOR GENDER EQUALITY:

*The Technology We Need* will support the creation of technology across the Global South that responds to the needs of and advances the rights of women and girls, and ensure that women and girls community leaders can lead, own, design and maintain their own technology solutions.

*The Regional Alliance for the Digitalization of Women In Latin America and the Caribbean* will promote collective, regional, multi-stakeholder actions to close the gender gaps in access to, skills development for and use of information and communications technologies by women and girls, and the full participation of women in the digital economy.

## HOW CAN YOU CONTRIBUTE TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THESE COMMITMENTS?

To join a collective commitment, visit [commitments.generationequality.org](https://commitments.generationequality.org).

# ACTION COALITION LEADERS:

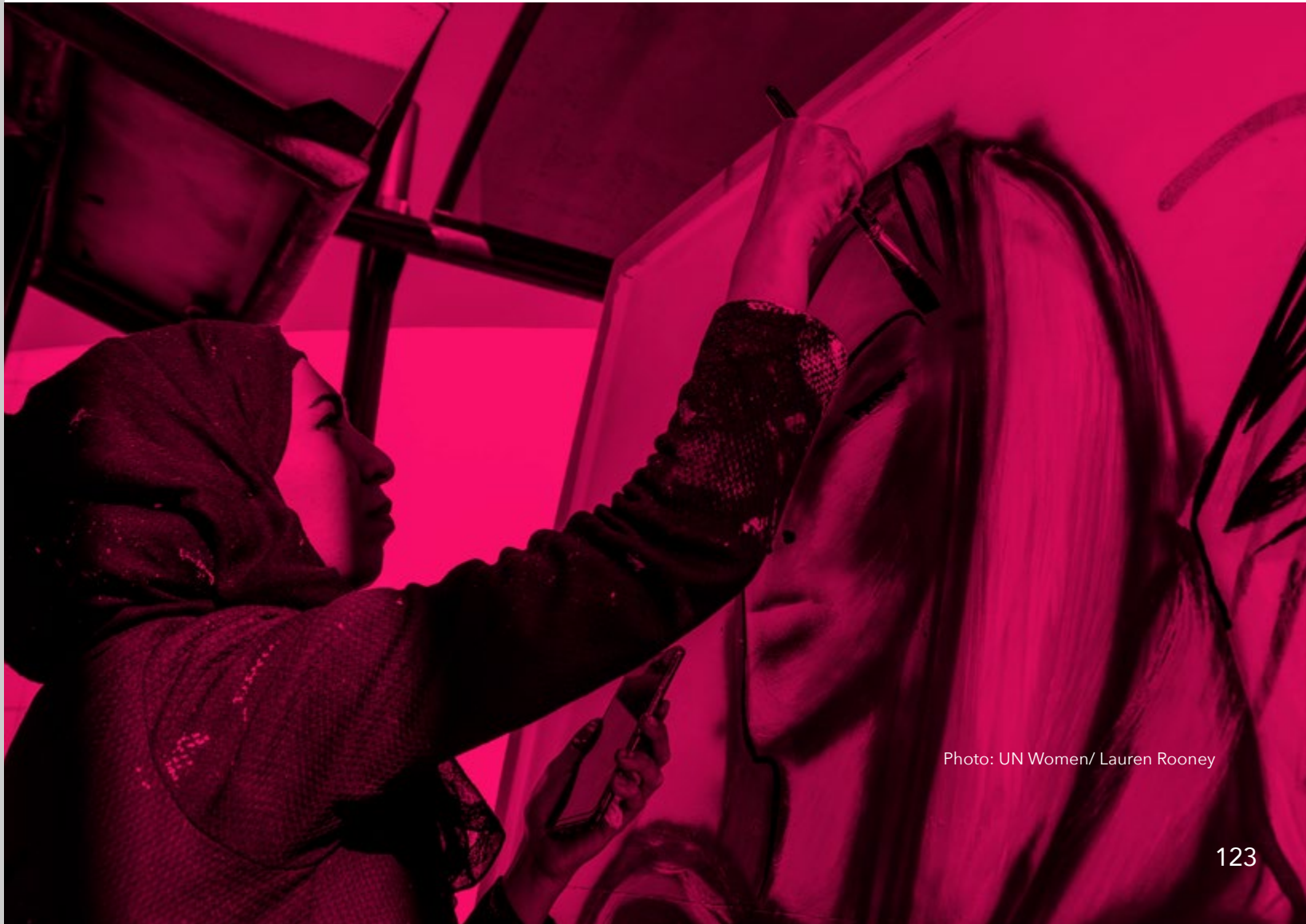
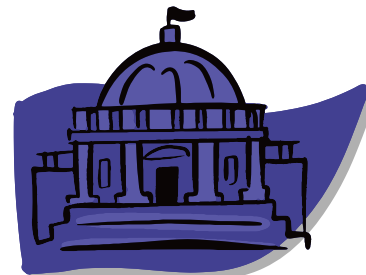


Photo: UN Women/ Lauren Rooney



# FEMINIST MOVEMENTS & LEADERSHIP



## OUR VISION FOR SUCCESS BY 2026

The Feminist Movements and Leadership Action Coalition is one of six Action Coalitions of the Generation Equality Forum. It is a global, innovative multi-stakeholder partnership that will catalyze collective action; spark global and local conversations among generations; drive increased public & private investment; and deliver concrete, transformative results for women and girls in all their diversity.

*We envision that by 2026, feminist leaders and activists, women's human rights defenders, and their movements and organizations, including, but not limited to those led by trans, intersex and nonbinary people, racialized people, indigenous women, women and persons with disabilities, women and persons living with and affected by HIV, young feminists, girls, sex workers and other historically marginalized people, regardless of their status before the law, are fully resourced and supported to become sustainable, can carry out their work without fear of reprisal, and advance gender equality, justice, peace, and human rights for all from an intersectional<sup>1</sup> approach.*

<sup>1</sup> Intersectionality is "the complex, cumulative manner in which the effects of different forms of discrimination combine, overlap, or intersect". Discrimination doesn't exist in a bubble - different kinds of prejudice can be amplified in different ways when put together.



## DEFINITIONS AND CORE PRINCIPLES

In this document we use the terms feminist-led organizations and movements to refer to the activists, women's human rights defenders and groups who A) work from feminist and women's rights perspectives; B) are led by the people they serve; C) have the promotion of women's, girls', and/or all trans, intersex and nonbinary people's human rights as their primary mission; D) push for structural change and address issues at their root; E) work on issues which are marginalized, and contested.

We recognize that 'women and girls' is not a homogeneous category and that varying circumstances and conditions mean that diverse women and girls are varying located along axes of power, privilege, and oppression and also differ in their status before the law. We apply these principles of intersectionality and commit to the inclusion of historically marginalized people and groups in our vision, as both agents and beneficiaries of the change envisioned in this blueprint.

As feminists, we are committed to a transformative agenda for gender equality which goes beyond the gender binary and includes nonbinary, trans and intersex people, including those who do not identify as women.

We are committed to the inclusion of people and groups who have historically encountered stigma, racism, discrimination and stereotyping within society as well as within feminist movements. In this document, when we refer to feminist movements in "all their diversity", we refer to the fact that feminist and women's rights movements and organizations are diverse, and are led by diverse people everywhere, including, but not limited to, trans, intersex and nonbinary people, racialized people, indigenous women, women and persons with disabilities, women and persons living with and affected by HIV, young feminists, girls, sex workers and other historically marginalized persons.

We recognize the invaluable contributions of all those who have participated in feminist change making, and especially those made by young feminists, and young feminist-led and girl-led movements around the world. We prioritize the co-leadership and co-ownership of young feminists and girls in all change processes, and call for the elements of Action 4 to be applied horizontally throughout all actions.

We recognize that feminist leadership is both about who holds power and what you do with power.

We recognize that in order to challenge longstanding stereotypes regarding who is entitled to hold power, gender parity in positions of power is an important objective to be pursued. This is a necessary, but not sufficient, step to ensure feminist leadership, which shares power and responsibility in an inclusive, intersectional and participatory manner.







# WHY DOES FEMINIST MOVEMENTS AND LEADERSHIP MATTER?

Feminist organizations and movements remain chronically under-resourced: women’s rights organizations and movements receive less than 1% of Official Development Assistance (ODA) committed for gender equality and women’s empowerment<sup>63</sup> and similarly little funding flows from private philanthropy<sup>2</sup>. In addition, the ways in which funding is allocated makes it inaccessible to large parts of feminist movements, including those which are girl-led and young feminist groups.<sup>3</sup>

In 2014, only 8% of gender-focused aid to civil society organizations went directly to those in “developing countries”<sup>4</sup>.

Women’s representation in national parliaments grew from only 12 per cent in 1995 to an average of 25.5 per cent in 2020<sup>5</sup>. At this rate, gender parity in national legislative bodies will not be achieved before 2063. Available data in 2018 shows that women made up 45 per cent of the public administration workforce but only 34 percent of decision-making positions. We need to urgently address and significantly reduce existing systemic barriers that hinder women from active leadership and make leadership a near impossible task for women.

Achieving gender equality is at the core of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and is instrumental for their success. Feminist movements are key drivers for systemic change and social transformation, which is essential for achieving the 2030 agenda. Feminists who are committed to an intersectional approach are organizing across social, racial and eco-justice movements and are challenging current systems of criminalization, discrimination and inequality, looking for holistic, innovative solutions, through processes of co-creation and collaboration. This includes challenging multilateral organizations and global power hierarchies, where feminist leaders and movements are demanding to be involved in, and co-create, participatory and democratic processes.

Feminist leadership offers new, transformative and innovative approaches that model broader participation of diverse partners, and a greater commitment to democratic principles, towards creating long-lasting and sustainable solutions to inequality and inequity.

However, feminist activists, organizations and women’s human rights defenders are under attack, and are impeded by the fact that anti-gender and anti-rights forces, which are often avidly anti-feminist in their agenda, are gathering momentum globally. These forces are increasingly well-funded and well organized. This has resulted in further contraction of civic space - both online and offline - attacks and violence, and reprisals for those who resist these forces.

Further, a shrinking of investment in feminist organizations and increased restrictions on spaces and opportunities for collectivization and mobilization, create barriers for feminist action. Women and feminist leaders are also targeted as a means to push them out of politics and decision-making spaces, especially when they advance gender equality and promote feminist agendas<sup>7</sup>.

## WHAT NEEDS TO CHANGE

Organizations and institutions in all sectors, namely the public and private sectors and state institutions that include the executive and legislative branches<sup>6</sup>, must practice accountability for their commitments to gender equality, justice, peace and human rights. They must provide, and increase financial, legal and policy support for feminist movements and organizations. They must also commit to practicing feminist principles and feminist leadership, shifting and sharing power with historically marginalized groups and people, and promoting gender parity in all decision-making spaces. There is also a need to deepen solidarity within feminist movements and across social, racial and eco justice movements, integrate intersectionality as a central approach, and to act on the demands of young feminists, for youth-friendly and youth-led decision-making spaces.

<sup>1</sup> OECD. 2019. “Aid in Support of Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment: Donor Charts.”  
<sup>2</sup> See, for example, OECD. 2021. “Development Finance for Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment: A 2021 Snapshot.” <http://www.oecd.org/development/gender-development/Development-finance-for-gender-equality-2021.pdf> and AWID analysis of foundation grants using data from CANDID: Dolker, T. 2020. “Where is the Money for Feminist Organizing? New Analysis Finds that Answer is Alarming.” 15 December 2020. <https://www.awid.org/news-and-analysis/where-money-feminist-organising-new-analysis-finds-answer-alarming>  
<sup>3</sup> See, for example, AWID, Mama Cash and Count Me In Consortium. 2020. “Moving More Money to the Drivers of Change: How Bilateral and Multilateral Funders Can Resource Feminist Movements.” [https://www.awid.org/sites/default/files/atoms/files/movingmoremoney\\_finalfinalfinal.pdf](https://www.awid.org/sites/default/files/atoms/files/movingmoremoney_finalfinalfinal.pdf)  
<sup>4</sup> OECD. 2016. “Donor support to southern women’s rights organizations.”  
<sup>5</sup> UN. 2020. Women’s full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. Report of the UN Secretary-General.  
<sup>6</sup> UN Human Rights Council. 2018. Report of the Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women. <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Women/SRWomen/Pages/ViolenceAgainstWomeninPolitics.aspx>; IPU. 2016. Sexism, Harassment and Violence against Women Parliamentarians. <https://www.ipu.org/resources/publications/issue-briefs/2016-10/sexism-harassment-and-violence-against-women-parliamentarians>  
<sup>7</sup> Whenever the terminology “Organizations and institutions in all sectors” is used these include both public and private institutions and organizations. State institutions include executive and legislative bodies at national and subnational levels.

Photo: UN Women/Staton Winter



How will the Action Coalition

# ACCELERATE CONCRETE RESULTS?

The Feminist Movements and Leadership Action Coalition will accelerate concrete results through the following core actions:

## A GLOBAL ACCELERATION PLAN FOR FEMINIST MOVEMENTS AND LEADERSHIP





# ACTION 1

## FUND AND SUPPORT DIVERSE FEMINIST ACTIVISTS, ORGANIZATIONS AND MOVEMENTS

By 2026, at least double the global annual growth rate of funding from all sectors committed to women-led, girl-led and feminist-led movements, organizations, and funds in all their diversity, especially to those led by historically marginalized women and people, including trans, intersex and non-binary people.



### FINANCING

Increase funding to feminist activists, organizations, and movements working in partnership with women's funds and other existing funding mechanisms, with a particular focus on funding feminist activists, organizations, and movements representing historically marginalized and criminalized groups.



### LAW AND POLICIES

Ensure that more and better funding is accessible to feminist organizations, movements and activists and adopt and uphold feminist funding principles<sup>1</sup> in all types of funding and resource mobilization.



### DATA AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Improve transparency around funding meant for feminist-led, women-led, and girl-led organizations; collect and disaggregate data to assess what resources are going to feminist-led, young feminist-led and girl-led movements, especially those which are under-resourced; prioritize accountability to these groups; and support them to monitor funders' investments.

<sup>1</sup> For example: Canadian Women's Foundation, Community Foundations of Canada, and Equality Fund. 2020. Principles for Feminist Funding <https://equalityfund.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Feminist-Philanthropy-EN.pdf> and Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice. 2019. "Feminist Funding Principles." <https://astraeafoundation.org/microsites/feminist-funding-principles/>

Photo: UN Women/Ryan Brown

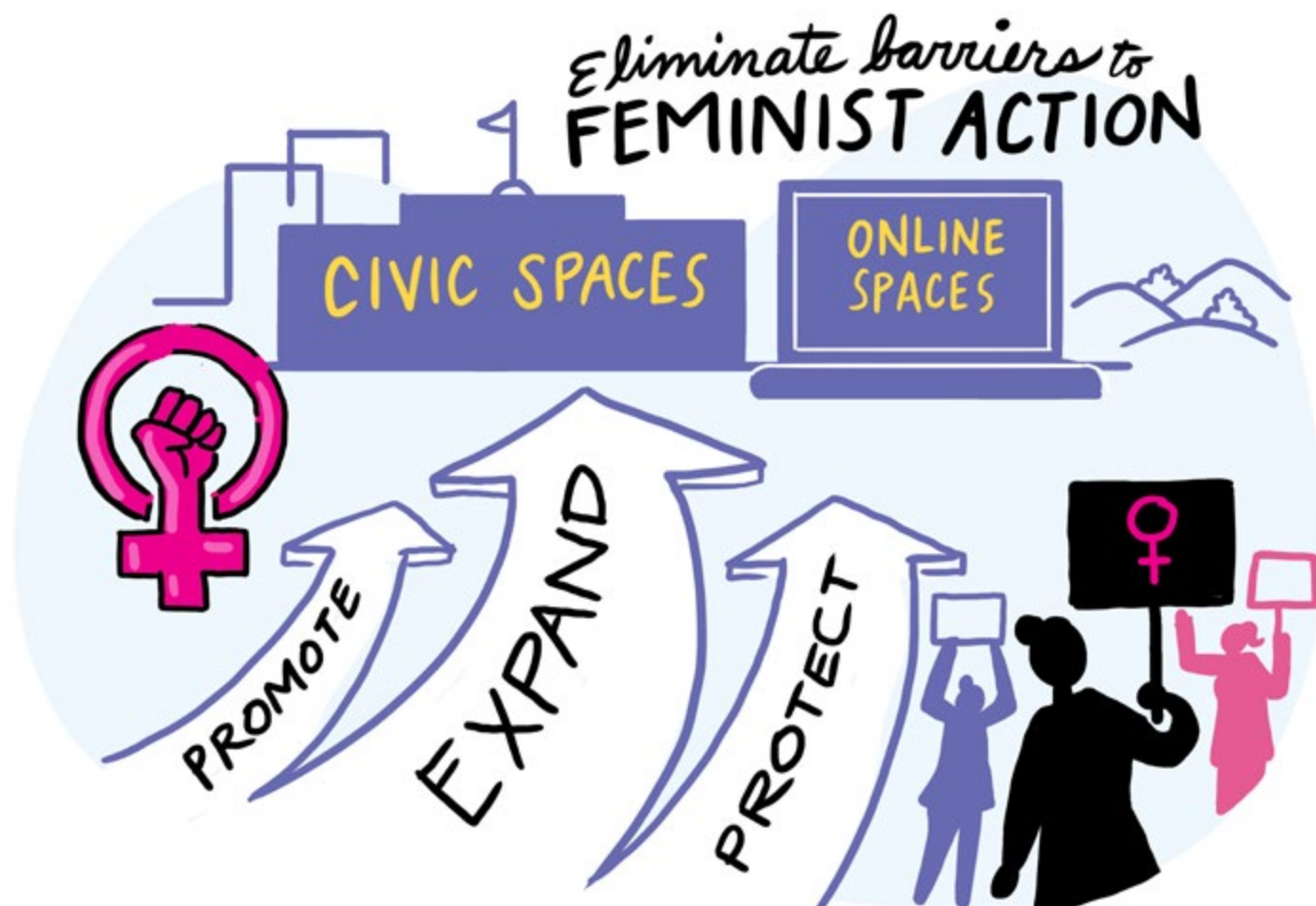


# ACTION 2

## PROMOTE, EXPAND, STRENGTHEN AND PROTECT CIVIC SPACE FOR WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS, FEMINIST ACTION, ORGANIZING AND MOBILIZATION, IN ALL ITS DIVERSITY

Promote, expand, strengthen and protect civic space across all domains, including online, and support the efforts of feminist activists in all their diversity, including women's human rights defenders, women peacebuilders, trans, intersex and non-binary people, girls and other members of historically marginalized groups, to defend civic space and eliminate barriers to feminist action, organizing and mobilization in all its diversity.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> All data and accountability measures must follow the principles of do no harm.



### LAWS & POLICY

Advance protection measures, policies, and enforceable legislation to protect the human rights and security of women's human rights defenders, women leaders and feminist activists, organizations, and movements, in all their diversity.



### DATA & ACCOUNTABILITY

Ethically monitor, document and report, using disaggregated data all human rights violations against feminist activists, organizations, and movements in all their diversity, as well as women and girl leaders, and ensure accountability for these violations.



### NORMS

Deepen solidarity within feminist movement and between all social justice movements, working to eliminate harmful norms, stereotypes and practices that reinforce discrimination and inequality within structures and among individuals, entrench inequality, and stigmatize feminist activists, organizations, and movements in all their diversity.

Photo: UN Women/Amanda Voisard



# ACTION 3

## ADVANCE SUBSTANTIVE REPRESENTATION AND INCREASE MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION, LEADERSHIP AND DECISION-MAKING POWER OF WOMEN, GIRLS, TRANS, INTERSEX AND NONBINARY PEOPLE, IN ALL THEIR DIVERSITY, THROUGH GENDER PARITY (3.1) AND TRANSFORMATIVE FEMINIST APPROACHES TO POLICY-MAKING (3.2)

By 2026, advance substantive representation and increase the meaningful participation, leadership and decision-making power of girls and youth leaders, and of women, and feminist leaders in all their diversity, including those who are trans, intersex and non-binary, through efforts to: (1) Advance gender parity and the inclusion of those historically marginalized in all aspects, sectors and levels of public and economic decision-making, including the private sector, civil society, international organizations, political and government institutions and executive and legislative positions (2) Promote and expand feminist, gender transformative, intersectional approaches to decision-making and leadership, which acknowledge, analyse and challenge existing power relations and advance inclusive, gender transformative and rights-affirming laws and policies.



### LAW AND POLICIES

- 3.1** Develop and implement laws and policies to advance gender parity and ensure meaningful participation of women, girls, trans, intersex and non-binary people in all their diversity, in decision-making and agenda-setting.
- 3.2** Develop and implement laws and policies that enable a feminist approach to decision-making<sup>1</sup>, which promote principles of participation, democracy, equality, human rights and justice, including in domestic and foreign policy.



### EDUCATION

Build cross-sector alliances and support pairing, co-learning, experience and capacity sharing for and with feminist activists, organizations, movements in all their diversity, and leaders and encourage and support intersectional, intercultural and multi-generational dialogue.



### FINANCING

Invest in gender transformative, intercultural and intersectional approaches, and gender budgeting mechanisms in all levels of government, private sector, international organizations, civil society organizations, and sectors of the economy.

<sup>1</sup> The feminist approach requires supporting the voice, agency and empowerment of women and girls in all their diversity and others who face discrimination or marginalization. It also requires holding accountable powerful actors such as duty-bearers and responsibility-holders for their human rights obligations and responsibilities to rebalance the distribution of power and achieve just and inclusive societies.



### DATA AND ACCOUNTABILITY

- 3.1** Collect and disseminate data on the participation of women, girls, trans, intersex and non-binary people in all their diversity in decision-making, including data disaggregated by age, ethnicity, and disability, among other factors.
- 3.2** Collect disaggregated data and conduct and communicate intersectional feminist analysis in the preparation, implementation and monitoring of policies, budgets, and laws.



### NORMS

Address harmful stereotypes and gender norms to ensure decision-making power and leadership for feminist activists, organizations, and movements in all their diversity.



# ACTION 4

## STRENGTHEN YOUNG FEMINIST-LED AND GIRL-LED MOVEMENTS, AND ORGANIZATIONS, IN ALL THEIR DIVERSITY

By 2026, allocate, monitor and evaluate specific, flexible financial, technical, and other resources for adolescent girls and young feminist leaders and their movements and organizations to strengthen them, and create safe and inclusive spaces to lead, share ownership and substantively participate in and co-create decision-making processes.



### FINANCE

Transform and adapt donor practices, including through dedicated, core and flexible funding streams, availability of grants, and participatory decision-making processes, to be accountable to and better meet the funding and partnership needs and priorities of young feminist-led and girl-led movements and organizations, including those who have been historically marginalized, as well as feminist activists, movements and organizations that specifically target their work, engagement with and support to girls.



### LAW AND POLICY

Institutionalize and ensure the safe, inclusive and meaningful participation, leadership and co-ownership of adolescent girls, their groups, and young feminist movements within international advocacy spaces, multilateral and formal policy and decision-making processes.



### DATA AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Increase disaggregated data and research on the nature of young feminist and girl organizing, participation and funding, promote accountability to the issues and solutions they advocate for, including documenting the impact of girl-led and young feminist advocacy on policy decisions.



### EDUCATION

Invest in creative initiatives that strengthen co-learning and critical thinking skills and tools for girls and young feminists, including those who have been historically marginalized, and support them in claiming their rights and exercising their independence and agency (individual and collective) both in socio-political processes and their lives.



# COLLECTIVE COMMITMENTS:

When it comes to advancing gender equality, evidence shows that alliances that bring different organizations, movements and sectors together, united by a common vision, have greater impact than each individual partner working alone. Action Coalition Leaders and Commitment Makers are putting this evidence into action through collective commitments.

Collective commitments have clearly defined goals and allow individual organizations, institutions and governments to contribute toward their achievement using different strategies and tactics, based on their own capacities, responsibilities, and areas of expertise.

## COLLECTIVE COMMITMENTS ON FEMINIST MOVEMENTS AND LEADERSHIP

**Co-create a Global Alliance for Sustainable Feminist Movements** by June 2022, to exponentially increase, sustain, and improve financial and political support for women’s rights and feminist organizations and movements.

**Fund Feminist Movements and Leadership** to increase resources and support for existing funding mechanisms, programs, and funds that provide direct, core, flexible, progressive, multi-year and sustainable funding to feminist organizations, groups, movements\* and activists including those that are often hard to reach, and/or who have been historically marginalized and criminalized.

**Implement Feminist Practices** by deepening understanding of intersectional feminist principles, practices, approaches and leadership and integrating them into the work of our organizations and institutions, as well as the Action Coalition, and across the Generation Equality process and accountability framework.

**Advance Women’s Human Rights Defenders** by recognizing women’s human rights defenders of all ages and in all their diversity, protecting and enabling safe environments, especially online, and countering gender-based discrimination, stigma and hate speech against them.

**Identify Data Gaps and Indicators** for Feminist Movements and compile a set of rights-based indicators to strengthen our collective ability to measure, analyse and deepen our advocacy on civic space trends and progress for feminist mobilization, organizing and action, in all its diversity.

## HOW CAN YOU CONTRIBUTE TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THESE COMMITMENTS?

To join a collective commitment, visit [commitments.generationequality.org](https://commitments.generationequality.org).

# ACTION COALITION LEADERS:



Photo: UN Women/Ryan Brown



# SPOTLIGHTS







# SPOTLIGHT ON FEMINIST MOVEMENTS

## STRENGTHENING FEMINIST MOVEMENTS TO DRIVE PROGRESS ON WOMEN’S AND GIRLS’ RIGHTS

When it comes to progress on gender equality and human rights, evidence is clear that the most significant driver of progressive change is the presence of autonomous feminist and allied social movements.<sup>1</sup> From Argentina’s Green Wave in support of abortion law reform, to the fight for laws against intimate partner violence in Brazil, to the woman-led revolution in Sudan, women’s organizations and women human rights defenders have built powerful coalitions and cross-sector alliances, mobilized people, educated decision-makers, campaigned for change, challenged entrenched systems of power and oppression, and demanded accountability. It is this power—of strong movements, coalitions and collaborative action—that the Action Coalitions is seeking to support and to amplify.

Despite the evidence of their impact, women’s rights and feminist organizations and movements, particularly from the Global South, are chronically underfunded. Less than 1% of development and foundation grants directly reach women’s rights and feminist organizations.<sup>2</sup> Furthermore, the ways in which this funding is allocated, and the strings tied to it, puts it out of reach for many feminist groups, particularly those which are led by girls and young people. As a result, many of these organizations are operating on a shoestring, or with no resources at all, relying on women’s and girls’ unpaid labour to get their work done. 48% of women’s rights and organizations from the Global South who apply for funding from the Global Fund for Women, for example, have budgets of less than USD 30,000 a year.<sup>3</sup> Organizations

and movements who work to support people experiencing intersecting forms of discrimination and marginalization, like LGBTIQ people, sex workers, young feminists, indigenous women or women with disabilities, face even greater barriers to funding.

The challenge is compounded by a context where feminist organizations, leaders and women human rights defenders are increasingly under attack. Anti-gender and anti-human rights forces have been gathering momentum globally, trying to claw back the progress that women’s rights organizations have achieved. In many countries, these attacks are coupled with a policy environment that increasingly limits opportunities for feminist movements by placing restrictions on funding and collective action. To achieve the vision of the Generation Equality Forum and Beijing, this needs to change.

The Action Coalition on Feminist Movements and Leadership is the lynchpin to efforts to build and strengthen feminist movements. It will work to ensure that diverse feminist and girl-led organizations are funded, supported to become sustainable, and can carry out their work without fear of reprisal or retribution. In addition, each of the other five action coalitions are prioritizing specific actions or strategies that recognize and seek to sustain movements to achieve their goals. Whether by ensuring that women’s and girls’ have the power to shape strategies to address gender-based violence, channelling gender-just climate financing to women and girls at the grassroots, strengthening women’s and girls’ movements to advocate for bodily autonomy and sexual and reproductive rights, or by increasing investments in feminist technology and innovation, the Action Coalitions are putting into practice what the evidence shows: feminist movements drive change.

<sup>1</sup> Girard, F. 2019. “Philanthropy for the Women’s Movement, Not just ‘Empowerment.’” Stanford Social Innovation Review. Available at: [ssir.org/articles/entry/philanthropy\\_for\\_the\\_womens\\_movement\\_not\\_just\\_empowerment](https://ssir.org/articles/entry/philanthropy_for_the_womens_movement_not_just_empowerment)

<sup>2</sup> AWID. 2020. Where is the Money for Feminist Organizing? Data Snapshots and A Call To Action. Available at [www.awid.org/news-and-analysis/new-brief-where-money-feminist-organizing](https://www.awid.org/news-and-analysis/new-brief-where-money-feminist-organizing).

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

Photo: Albert González Farran, UNAMID





# SPOTLIGHT ON ADOLESCENT GIRLS RIGHTS

## ADOLESCENT GIRLS SHAPING THEIR OWN AGENDA

From the beginning, adolescent girls have demanded their space within the Generation Equality Forum. Through consultations, manifestos, and events, they have advocated for the right to helpshape an agenda that could have a transformative influence on their futures and clearly articulated their demands for meaningful engagement in decision making and co-leadership in the Generation Equality process.

**OUR ENGAGEMENT SHOULD NOT  
BE A PROJECT, A PROGRAMME  
AND SHOULD BE FAR FROM  
TEMPORARY. MEANINGFUL GIRL  
ENGAGEMENT IN ALL STAKEHOLDER  
LEVELS IS NOT A ONCE OFF PANEL  
SESSION AND IT IS NOT GIVING US  
THREE MINUTES TO SPEAK THEN A  
HIGH FIVE FOR THE INSPIRATION.  
WE NEED TO BE MEANINGFULLY  
INTEGRATED IN THE SYSTEM.**

—Yande, 17 years, Zambia

Adolescent girls are often the first to be forgotten or subsumed by the broader categories of children or youth, despite the fact that they have distinct experiences, needs and expectations. Girls’

experiences during adolescence are formative. Their ability to complete their educations, navigate relationships safely and on their own terms, or even participate freely in their communities and in online spaces without violence, can fundamentally shape the course of their lives and futures.

While adolescent girls all over the world already experienced deep inequalities, COVID-19 has had a particularly disruptive impact on their lives: cutting off their access to education, increasing their burden of household labour and caregiving duties, increasing their risk of violence and early marriage, and more. It has also made listening to adolescent girls, responding to their demands, and creating the conditions that will enable them to thrive in the future, all the more important. The Generation Equality Forum continues to be an important opportunity to listen, respond and work with adolescent girls for gender equality. Key to this is ensuring that, across all themes and at all levels, adolescent girls are front and center in discussions from the outset.

Throughout a series of dialogues and consultations, adolescent girls have made their voices heard and their priorities clear. They want to see a commitment to intersectionality in all Action Coalitions, and more engagement with allies of the cause, including men and boys. They emphasized the need to eliminate harmful practices and child labour. They want access to quality education and skills training that will help them transition secure decent work. They want gender-just action to address climate change and they want a seat at the table in designing climate solutions. They want the right to make decisions about their own bodies and act on them. They want safe spaces online where they can show up as themselves and participate freely. And above all, they want not only to participate but to co-lead the decision-making in all six areas covered by the Action Coalitions.

We welcome recent efforts to strengthen the inclusion of adolescent girls and their priorities into the global Acceleration Plan. All six action coalition blueprints include adolescent girls in most priorities, tactics and targets, and a number of actions are specifically focused on meeting their needs. For example, the Gender-Based

Violence Action Coalition calls for evidence-driven prevention strategies at scale that address root causes through multiple life stages, including and starting with young women and adolescent girls and includes targets on issues that adolescent girls prioritize, such as education and harmful practices. The Economic Justice and Rights Action Coalition prioritizes girls’ education, addressing their burden of unpaid work, and calls for gender-responsive macro-economic plans and stimulus packages that guarantee that adolescent girls’ needs are met. The Bodily Autonomy and Sexual and Reproductive Rights Action Coalition prioritizes access to comprehensive sexuality education and services to enable adolescent girls to exercise autonomy over their bodies and lives. The Action Coalition on Innovation and Technology for Gender Equality calls for specific investments in STEM-related education, careers and innovation and to boost girls’ leadership in the creation of technologies. And adolescent girls and young women themselves drafted action four of the Feminist Movements and Leadership blueprint, which calls for strengthening young feminist-led and girl-led movements, and organizations, in all their diversity.

Our shared goal for gender equality, including the success of the Global Acceleration Plan, depends on going beyond silos – working holistically and targeting the intersections of discrimination. For Generation Equality as a whole, and greater than the sum of its parts, this means prioritizing the meaningful inclusion and co-leadership of adolescent girls. As we look ahead to implementation, monitoring and accountability for Commitments and the Global Acceleration Plan, it is critical that we build on this progress by ensuring that adolescent girls are recognised and supported as equal partners. Commitments are shaping up to support funding, programs, services and conduct advocacy on issues that impact adolescent girls’ lives and to strengthen adolescent girl- and young feminist-led organizations and movements. It will be important to ensure that age and gender disaggregated tracking is done to assess the achievement of blueprint actions, tactics and targets and to ensure that commitment makers are accountable to adolescent girls for delivering results.



# SPOTLIGHT ON DATA

Gender data is central to driving progress on the ambitious goals set by the Action Coalitions and evaluating its impacts. We need data about women and girls in all their diversity to make informed decisions and track if those decisions are improving their lives.<sup>1</sup> But meeting needs for gender data laid out by the Global Acceleration Plan for Gender Equality will be a challenge.

Even before COVID-19, gender data systems were underfunded by roughly \$450 million every year since 2015.<sup>2</sup> As a result, gaps in gender data persist across development domains and will affect every Action Coalition.<sup>3</sup> We currently have only **39% of the gender data we need to monitor the SDGs, for example.**<sup>4</sup> Limited data on the nexus between gender and the environment, gender-based violence, and women's unpaid care work, among others, will limit Action Coalitions' ability to measure whether they are achieving their goals by 2026.

Further, the Action Coalition blueprints are clear that intersectional gender data is needed to shape policies that address the experiences of all women and girls, including the most marginalized populations. Yet most countries are either not collecting or not disaggregating data by sex, age and other characteristics – such as class, race, location, disability and migration status.<sup>5</sup> While the need for gender data has become even more pressing with COVID-19, the pandemic also risks undermining efforts to increase the already-limited gender data available needed to monitor the SDGs even further.<sup>6</sup>

Precisely because of these challenges, gender data and accountability have been identified as cross-cutting levers for every Action Coalition. From the start of the process, gender data has been identified as a tool to uncover gaps, set measurable targets and inform commitments. In the implementation phase, gender data will be critical for monitoring progress on the Global Acceleration Plan and to hold stakeholders accountable for delivering on their commitments.

The Action Coalitions seek to drive progress for gender data in three key ways:

**To fill critical data gaps.** By outlining domain-specific data gaps and drawing attention to the need for change, Action Coalition blueprints point to the need for increased gender data collection, use, and financing to support evidence-based policymaking and drive transformative change.

**To inform advocacy and policy development.** Through data collection, cutting-edge research, and analysis, policy solutions will be evaluated, and best practices provided to guide the implementation of all actions and commitments by 2026. Data and lessons generated through this exercise will be an integral part of Action Coalitions' ongoing work and will constitute one of the Generation Equality Forum's lasting contributions to gender equality and the SDGs.

**For accountability.**<sup>7</sup> A robust monitoring and accountability framework is needed to monitor whether commitments are on or off-track, to measure Action Coalitions' progress, and to accelerate concrete impact towards the 2030 Agenda.

The Action Coalitions have outlined the imperative for gender data in their blueprints. It is now up to governments, international agencies, civil society, and the private sector to rise up to address the challenge with robust commitments to fund gender data gaps; collect and disaggregate data; use data to inform decision making; share and use data best practices; and increase the visibility, inclusivity, and accountability of gender data.<sup>8</sup>

Some collective commitments are shaping up to do just this. For example, a set of Leaders within the Feminist Action for Climate Justice Action Coalition are making a collective commitment to invest in building national capacity to improve statistics that measure the gender-environment nexus, and to use that data for policy making, monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) systems and gender-responsive budgeting. The Action Coalitions not only point to the need for gender data, they also provide us with a clear opportunity for collective action to deliver it.

Photo: UN Women/Johis Alarcón

# DESPITE EARLY EVIDENCE THAT WOMEN AND GIRLS WERE BEING DISPROPORTIONATELY AFFECTED BY THE PANDEMIC,

only a fraction of governments' initial policy responses to COVID-19<sup>9</sup> were gender-responsive. Acute data gaps continue make it difficult to predict its true impact in countries and communities.<sup>10</sup> Yet, in countries, where gender data on the impacts of COVID-19 are being collected, governments are developing and implementing more effective responses. In Maldives, for example, data on the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 on women and girls has informed programs for assisting self-employed women and those working in the informal economy, to develop recovery plans for the social sector, and to create a dedicated team focused on safeguarding the rights of women and girls.

NOTE: This spotlight was jointly produced by Data2X and Women Count, UN Women's gender data programme

<sup>1</sup> Data2X. 2021. "It's Time to Make Bold Commitments to Gender Data." <https://data2x.org/resource-center/gef-commitment-guidance/>

<sup>2</sup> Data2X and Open Data Watch. 2021. State of Gender Data Financing 2021. <https://data2x.org/resource-center/state-of-gender-data-financing-2021/>

<sup>3</sup> Grantham, K. and Data2X. 2020. Mapping Gender Data Gaps: An SDG Era Update. <https://data2x.org/resource-center/mappinggenderdatagaps/>

<sup>4</sup> Encarnacion, J. and Maskey, S. 2021. "We Now Have More Gender-Related SDG Data Than Ever, but Is It Enough?" Women Count Data Hub. <https://data.unwomen.org/features/we-now-have-more-gender-related-sdg-data-ever-it-enough>

<sup>5</sup> UN Women. 2020. From Insights to Action: Gender Equality in the Wake of COVID-19. <https://data.unwomen.org/publications/insights-action-gender-equality-wake-covid-19>

<sup>6</sup> United Nations and UN Women. 2020. Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals: The Gender Snapshot 2020. <https://data.unwomen.org/publications/progress-sustainable-development-goals-gender-snapshot-2020>

<sup>7</sup> See Data2X. 2020. "Gender Data For Generation Equality: A Brief Series." <https://data2x.org/resource-center/gender-data-for-generation-equality-a-brief-series/>

<sup>8</sup> Data2X. 2021. "It's Time to Make Bold Commitments to Gender Data." <https://data2x.org/resource-center/gef-commitment-guidance/>

<sup>9</sup> UNDP and UN Women. 2020. COVID-19 Global Gender Response Tracker. Accessible at: <https://data.undp.org/gendertracker/>

<sup>10</sup> UN Women. 2020. "COVID-19 and its Economic Toll on Women: The Story Behind the Numbers." 16 September 2020. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2020/9/feature-covid-19-economic-impacts-on-women>



# BOLD GENDER DATA COMMITMENTS ACCELERATE GENDER EQUALITY

## GENDER DATA IS POWERFUL

BUT WHEN IT COMES TO WHAT'S NEEDED, THE WORLD IS FALLING DANGEROUSLY SHORT:

Fewer than  
**40%**  
of countries had data available to monitor SDG 5 (gender equality)

Gender data systems are underfunded by roughly  
**\$450 MILLION**  
per year

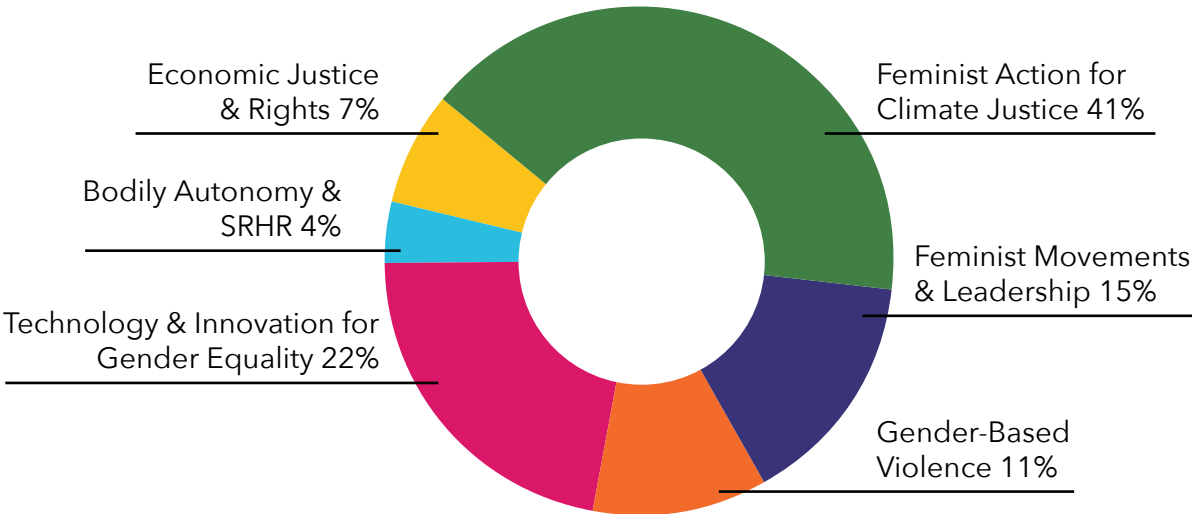
COVID-19 has  
**WORSENERD**  
GENDER INEQUALITIES

- It uncovers gender inequality
- Illuminates solutions
- Helps monitor progress

AND RIGHT NOW GENDER DATA  
**ISN'T A STRONG ENOUGH PRIORITY**  
OF THE GENERATION  
EQUALITY FORUM



### WHERE DO GENDER DATA REFERENCES APPEAR IN THE COMMITMENTS HANDBOOK?



### DRAFT ACTION COALITION BLUEPRINTS ARE INCONSISTENT ON GENDER DATA

	Data Tactics	Call for Collection or Use	Call for Funding
Bodily Autonomy & SRHR	0		
Economic Justice & Rights	2	X	
Feminist Action for Climate Justice	1	X	X
Feminist Movements & Leadership	4	X	
Gender-Based Violence	1	X	X
Technology & Innovation	2		

## WE NEED BOLD GENDER DATA COMMITMENTS TO MAKE GENDER EQUALITY REAL.

Governments, donors, civil society and the private sector must commit to:

- Collect & disaggregate gender data
- Fund gender data gaps
- Use gender data for policymaking
- Share best practices
- Increase accountability for gender data

Data2X. 2020. "Its Time to Make Bold Commitments on Gender Data" "Its time to make bold commitments to gender data" infographic <https://data2x.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Generation-Equality-Forum-Infographic-FINAL.pdf>.



# ACTION COALITIONS: **ACCOUNTABILITY & MONITORING FRAMEWORK**



Photo: UN Women/Diana Savina

## ONLY JUST GETTING STARTED

The work of the Generation Equality Forum is only just getting started. Over the next five years, the goal is to make a tangible impact on the lives of women and girls, in all of their diversity, support feminist movements to thrive, and create legal and policy environments that allow for this. To achieve these goals, **actions must come with accountability.**

The **full framework for accountability is under development** in active consultation with Action Coalition leaders, commitment makers, and other stakeholders. However, there is broad agreement that all partners in this initiative—whether feminist and youth-led organizations, governments, international organizations, philanthropy or the private sector—have distinct roles and responsibilities and accountability modalities may need to be different as a result. They must be able to hold each other accountable for delivering on the commitments that they make, so that their individual and collective commitments add up to something more: irreversible progress towards a world that is just, equitable, and where all people in all of their diversity, regardless of gender, can fully enjoy their human rights.



# THE ACCOUNTABILITY FRAMEWORK FOR THE ACTION COALITIONS WILL INCLUDE FOUR CORE ELEMENTS:



Reporting on the implementation of **COMMITMENTS**



Assessments of the progress towards the **TARGETS** set by each Action Coalition blueprint



Assessments of the extent to which Action Coalitions lead and reflect transformative **PROCESS**



Stories of **IMPACT**, to that we can demonstrate how the Generation Equality Forum Action Coalitions, individually and together, have advanced concrete change by the close of the Action Coalitions in 2026

The **principles that underpin the accountability framework** are those that inform the Generation Equality Forums overall: intersectionality, feminist leadership and transformation. These principles apply not only to the results the Action Coalitions hope to achieve; they apply equally to the **processes** within the Action Coalitions themselves. Our commitment to these principles means that measurement will address:

- **Intersectionality:** The impact of the Action Coalitions on women and girls who are most marginalized and who face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination to ensure that progress on gender equality also reaches their lives.
- **Feminist Leadership:** The extent to which Action Coalitions are transformative and enable 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. How the Action Coalitions have contributed to sustainable and strong feminist, women's rights, and youth- and girl-led movements and the extent to which they have increased the diversity and visibility of feminist leadership.

- **Transformation:** Whether and how the work has contributed to the transformation of unequal systems, structures and power relations within and between communities and countries. Action Coalition leaders will take steps to actively interrogate power relationships and dynamics within their work and address imbalances.

To realize these principles, we will foster spaces that encourage intergenerational dialogue, joint decision making and agenda setting, and co-leadership. The Young Feminist Manifesto will be an important guide in this transformative work.

Accountability for the Action Coalitions must also model a new, multi-stakeholder movement and agenda for gender equality, focused on solidarity with the leadership of young people and through a re-imagined global contract for gender equality. In this way, the Action Coalitions can inspire and reflect the ambitions outlined in the UN Secretary-General's '[Our Common Agenda](#)' for new multilateralism.

There are many existing frameworks and opportunities that can be leveraged for accountability, like international and regional human rights systems, the Commission on the Status of Women, High Level Political Forum, and, of course, parliaments. There is also already robust and independent monitoring from civil society of implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Beijing Platform for Action, and funding flows to women's movements, among other things. The accountability framework will seek to build on and strengthen these efforts, rather than duplicate them.

Action Coalitions leaders and commitment makers will have opportunities to **come together to learn** from each other, including through peer-to-peer learning, reflect on their successes and failures, and identify where and how they need to change course. To this end, as Secretariat of the Action Coalitions, UN Women will produce an **annual report that tracks implementation of commitments** and promotes critical dialogue for collective learning. This annual report will be based on a clear and simple reporting framework co-designed by Action Coalition leaders, commitment makers, youth and other stakeholders, that can be used effectively across different types of stakeholders, building on existing modalities. The framework will be lean and designed to avoid increasing stress on existing systems. We envisage this framework to be complemented by a 'web of accountability' - broader efforts that support stakeholders to be resourced and equipped to advance critical aspects of measurement-such as on youth leadership, resourcing of movements, or transformative processes.

There will also be regional & global moments where all stakeholders in the Generation Equality Forum Action Coalitions can take stock of our collective progress, renew their commitments, and mobilize others to join our efforts. We envisage that the **next key global moment will take place in 2023 as a mid-point of the Action Coalitions implementation timeline**. This would be an opportunity to engage more partners, especially at local level; drive new public and private financing; expand the impact potential of Collective Commitments; and increase the overall momentum towards the implementation of the Global Acceleration Plan. This mid-point will serve as an important opportunity to assess whether and how the Action Coalitions are advancing the overall aim of accelerating progress towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Finally, **Action Coalition Leaders and Commitment Makers will define a pathway for their work moving forward**. We envisage that Action Coalition Leaders will co-create processes to discuss progress, advance results and encourage cross-learning within and across Action Coalitions. We also anticipate that the Action Coalitions will also facilitate periodic assessments of progress towards collective commitments, which will present additional opportunities for cross learning and sharing by Action Coalition Leaders and Commitment-Makers. In its role as Secretariat, UN Women will support all stakeholders to develop and agree on a pathway forward and ensure that the work ahead is adequately resourced. Our goal is to collectively develop a final accountability framework to be launched during a side event at the UN General Assembly in September 2021.

Accountability is not just an ideal: it underpins the success of our collective work. With meaningful accountability, the Action Coalitions are much more likely to be successful in transforming rhetoric in support of gender equality into concrete action and spurring measurable changes in the lives of women and girls in all their diversity. **Paris is the starting line** of our journey to accelerate concrete change and ensure results are measured and delivered. The hard work starts now to turn commitments into reality.



# NEXT STEPS



## NOW IT IS TIME TO ACT

The Generation Equality Forum was borne out of one simple idea: **THAT THE WORLD COULD MAKE IRREVERSIBLE PROGRESS ON GENDER EQUALITY IF DIVERSE STAKEHOLDERS UNITED AROUND A BOLD AND TRANSFORMATIVE VISION AND WORKED COLLECTIVELY TO ACHIEVE IT.** The Action Coalitions represent vibrant, multi-stakeholder partnerships that will now work together make this idea a reality.

The Action Coalition Blueprints address some of the most intractable barriers to gender equality—from violence, to economies that rely on women’s and girls’ unpaid work, to social and political systems and norms that stifle the voices and potential of women and girls in all their diversity, instead of giving them a platform. These are the areas where progress has been met with backlash, like the notion that women and girls have the right to make their own decisions about their bodies and lives, or where crises like COVID-19 have threatened reversals, such as in access to services and decent work. The Blueprints also address newer and emerging issues, like in the areas of technology and climate justice, where we need strategies to ensure that women and girls are at the center of innovation and climate responses, and not left struggling to catch up.

The blueprints also crystallize what we know needs to happen in order to strengthen the movement for gender equality. They are built on the recognition that feminist and other social movements have been the critical drivers of progress and that they need to be nurtured and sustained to continue to work for equality and justice. They embrace the need to take action to address the differences in power and opportunity that diverse women and girls face because of discrimination based on their race, sexual orientation, gender identity, ability, or migration status, among other factors, and their intersections. They uplift the needs of adolescent girls and foster intergenerational collaboration. And they use data both as a tool to inform policy and practice and for accountability.

Combined, the Global Acceleration Plan for Gender Equality maps out a powerful path to lasting and meaningful progress. ***The question is, are we willing to take it?***



As the collective commitments show, women's rights, feminist, and girl- and youth-led organizations are partnering with governments, businesses, foundations and international organizations to make equality a reality for women and girls, in all their diversity.

**TOGETHER, WE CAN DO THIS.**  
**JOIN US.**

# ANNEX I

## ACTION COALITIONS MONITORING FRAMEWORK

Following the Generation Equality Forum in Paris on 30 June – 2 July, Leaders of each of the Action Coalitions will come together to define and adopt a robust monitoring and accountability framework to monitor and track progress towards achieving the actions set out over the next five years. The following sets out the draft accountability frameworks and quantified targets and indicators that have been identified for each Action Coalition. Those are designed to be ambitious yet achievable and are set based on global available data for the implementation period of 2021-2026. The frameworks will be further defined and will be formally adopted by the Action Coalition leaders.





# GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

TARGETS	IMPACT	SDGS
<p><b>Action 1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ 550 million more women and girls will live in countries with laws and policies prohibiting all forms of gender-based violence against women and girls by 2026.</li><li>▶ 4000 private sector organizations adopt and implement GBV policies by 2026.</li><li>▶ 55 more countries will have no exceptions to legal age of marriage along with policy measures to end the practice by 2026 and three quarters of countries where FGM is known to be practiced will have legal prohibitions and policy measures against FGM in place by 2026.</li><li>▶ 9 in every 10 countries will finance and implement coordinated, comprehensive and multi-sectoral programming on GBV against women and girls including harmful practices by 2026.</li><li>▶ Increase by 25 % the number of countries that ratify international and regional conventions on GBV against women and girls by 2026.</li><li>▶ 159 countries globally will have at least one survey on the prevalence of violence against women from the last ten years by 2026</li></ul>	<p><b>Action 1. Targets</b></p> <p>More states and regional actors ratify international and regional conventions and public and private sector institutions strengthen, implement and finance evidence-driven laws, policies and action plans to end gender-based violence against women and girls in all their diversity.</p>	<p>SDG 5 (Targets 5.2 and 5.3) SDG 6 (Target 6.1) and SDG 16 (Targets 16.a, 16.b, 16.1, 16.2, 16.3)</p>
<p><b>Action 2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ Increase by 50% the number of countries that include one or more evidence-driven prevention strategies on gender-based violence against women and girls in national policies by 2026.</li><li>▶ Increase by 25% the number of people who endorse gender equitable beliefs in every country by 2026.</li><li>▶ Increase investment in evidence-driven prevention strategies by USD 500,000,000 by 2026.</li><li>▶ 100 national governments revise and strengthen school and teacher training curricula to include effective approaches to prevent GBV and promote gender equality and respectful relationships by 2026.</li><li>▶ Prevent child, early and forced marriages and unions of 9 million girls and adolescents by 2026.</li><li>▶ Prevent 8 million cases of female genital mutilation by 2026.</li></ul>	<p><b>Action 2. Targets</b></p> <p>Drive down prevalence of gender-based violence against women, adolescent girls and young women in all their diversity including in humanitarian settings by scaling up implementation and financing of evidence-driven prevention strategies by public and private sector institutions and women’s rights organizations.</p>	
<p><b>Action 3</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ Increase by 50% the number of countries with multi-sectoral action plans on GBV which include provision of police, justice, health and social sector services by 2026.</li><li>▶ 100 countries implement training and capacity building programmes/initiatives for law enforcement personnel on gender-responsive policing, including addressing gender-based violence against women and girls in all their diversity by 2026.</li><li>▶ Increase by 50 % the number of countries whose health sector protocols, guidelines or SOPs align with WHO/ international standards by 2026.</li><li>▶ Increase by 50% the number of countries that include training programmes or curriculum for health care providers in their health policies/protocols or in the national multisectoral plan by 2026.</li></ul>	<p><b>Action 3. Sub-Targets</b></p> <p>Scale up implementation and financing of coordinated survivor-centered, comprehensive, quality, accessible and affordable services for survivors of gender-based violence against women and girls in all their diversity including in humanitarian settings.</p>	
<p><b>Action 4</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ Progressively improve and increase international funding by doubling funding to Women’s rights organizations, activists and movements and women’s funds including those working to address gender-based violence experienced by historically excluded groups that face multiple and intersecting form of discrimination by 2026.</li><li>▶ Increase national funding to girl led and women’s rights organizations working to address GBV by USD 500,000,000 by 2026.</li><li>▶ Increase leadership and meaningful participation of girl led and women’s rights organizations and movements particularly those led by historically excluded women and girls facing multiple and intersecting forms of violence and discrimination, in national and international decision-making, by 2026.</li><li>▶ Women’s rights organizations are represented in all GBV sub-cluster coordination mechanisms and lead at least 25% of them by 2026.</li><li>▶ 30% of humanitarian funding to address GBV goes directly to Women’s rights organizations by 2026.</li><li>▶ 50% of countries track GBV specific national and international funding to autonomous girl led and women’s rights organizations through a dedicated budget line for that purpose.</li></ul>	<p><b>Action 4. Targets</b></p> <p>Enhance support and increase accountability and quality, flexible funding from states, private sector, foundations, and other donors to autonomous girl-led &amp; women’s rights organizations working to end gender-based violence against women and girls in all their diversity</p>	



# ECONOMIC JUSTICE AND RIGHTS

## TARGETS

**Action 1**  
The creation of 80 million decent care jobs

Increase national budgets for equitable quality public care services, with a recommendation of 3-10% of national income

**Action 2**  
17 million fewer working women living in extreme poverty.

Decrease the gap in labour force participation between prime-age women and men with small children at home by half (from 50.0% to 25.0%), resulting in an additional 84 million women joining the labour force

**Action 3**  
Secure access to ownership and control over land and housing is increased for 7 million women.

The gender gap in women’s financial inclusion is reduced to 6% as a result of increasing both formal and informal financial inclusion.

The number of firms owned by women is increased by 25%.

**Action 4**  
The number of women and girls living in poverty is reduced by 85 million.

## IMPACT

**Action 1**  
Contributes to recognizing, reducing and redistributing unpaid care work and rewarding and representing care workers, while guaranteeing their labour rights.

Increase the provision of quality public care services to recognize, reduce and redistribute care work.

**Action 2**  
Decent work is expanded in the formal and informal economy, ultimately reducing the number of working women living in poverty.

The number of women joining the labour force and accessing decent work is increased.

**Action 3**  
Women’s access to and control over land as a productive resource is realized and expanded.

Financial inclusion is increased for women and girls through expanded access to and control over gender responsive financial products and services.

Women’s access to and control over productive resources is expanded through an increase in women owned firms.

**Action 4**  
The number of women and girls living in poverty is reduced due to the design and implementation of gender-responsive macro-economic plans, budget reforms and stimulus packages.

## SDGS

**Action 1**  
SDG 5 (Target 5.4)

SDG 5 (Target 5.4)

**Action 2**  
SDG 1 (Target 1.1) and  
SDG 8 (Target 8.5.1)

SDG 1 (Target 1.1) and  
SDG 8 (Target 8.5.1)

**Action 3**  
SDG 1 (Target 1.4)  
SDG 5 (Targets 5.a) and  
SDG 8 (Targets 8.3 and 8.10)

SDG 1 (Target 1.4) and SDG 8 (Targets 8.3 and 8.10)

SDG 1 (Target 1.4) and SDG 8 (Targets 8.3 and 8.10)

**Action 4**  
SDG 1 (Target 1.3) and SDG 5 (Target 5.c)





BODILY AUTONOMY AND SRHR

TARGETS

IMPACT

SDGS

- Action 1**
- By 2026, 50 million more children, youth and adolescents are reached with comprehensive sexuality education

People are provided with knowledge about their sexual and reproductive rights, and equipped them to make autonomous decisions about their sexual and reproductive health. Access to CSE also counteracts gender stereotypes and discrimination, fostering an environment that encourages equal relationships, and acceptance and celebration of all gender expressions. CSE also contributes to the achievement of other AC actions, particularly GBV.

SDG 3 (Targets 3.1, 3.3, 3.7) SDG 4 (Targets 4.7) and SDG 5 (Targets 5.2, 5.3 and 5.6)

- Action 2**
- By 2026, 50 million more adolescent girls and women have access to quality contraceptive services.
  - By 2026, 50 million more adolescent girls and women live in jurisdictions where they can access safe and legal abortion.

People can make autonomous decisions about which methods and services to use. This is an essential element of bodily autonomy. Their reproductive health status will improve, and they will be better able to decide whether and when to bear a child, and therefore better able to make decisions about all aspects of their lives.

SDG 3 (Targets 3.3, 3.1 and 3.7)

- Action 3**
- By 2026, 260 million more girls, adolescents and women are able to make autonomous decisions about their bodies, sexuality and reproduction.
  - By 2026, enact legal and policy change to protect and promote bodily autonomy and SRHR in at least 20 countries.

Reproductive health will be improved and harmful gender stereotypes and practices will be reduced, freeing them to plan their lives.

SDG 5 (Targets 5.1, 5.3, and 5.6)

- Action 4**
- Increase accountability to, participation of and support for autonomous feminist and women’s organizations (including girl- and adolescent-led, and Indigenous organizations and collectives), women human rights defenders and peacebuilders. Strengthen organizations, networks and movements working to promote and protect bodily autonomy and SRHR.

Better policies and programs for all people, leaving no one behind. An agreed-upon accountability mechanism will encourage compliance.

SDG 5 (Target 5.c) and SDG 10 (Target 10.3)

# FEMINIST CLIMATE JUSTICE

## TARGETS

- Action 1**
- ▶ Increase in proportion of marked climate bilateral finance targeted towards gender to 88% by 2026
  - ▶ Increase in proportion of climate aid targeted at women’s organizations (OECD-DAC code 15170), including at grassroots and rural levels (data forthcoming)
  - ▶ Increase in proportion of climate finance directed towards gender-responsive climate actions at the national-level and/or through NDCs

## IMPACT

More gender-responsive climate finance directed towards gender-just climate solutions and organizations led by women and girls

## SDGS

SDG 17 (Target 17.2)

- Action 2**
- ▶ Increase in proportion of women-led national environmental ministries to by 2026, expanding to all climate-related ministries based on available data
  - ▶ Increase in proportion of women and girls in green jobs to by 2026
  - ▶ Increase in proportion of women and girls in educational fields (including STEM) informing the green jobs approach

More women and girls enabled to lead a just transition to an inclusive, circular, regenerative green economy

SDG 5 (Target 5.5)

- Action 3**
- ▶ Development of Gender and Resilience Index

Strengthened resilience of women and girls to climate impacts, disaster risks, loss and damage, including through provision of quality education and land rights and tenure security

SDG 1 (Target 1.5)

- Action 4**
- ▶ By 2026, at least 20 countries demonstrate increased use of gender-environment statistics for policy making by creating an enabling environment for and increased production of gender-environment statistics.

More climate policies, plans and strategies informed by data on the gender-environment nexus

SDG 17 (Target 17.8)



TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION

TARGETS

IMPACT

SDGS

- Action 1**

Reduce by half the gender digital divide across generations
- Action 2**

Increase investments towards feminist technology and innovation by 50%
- Action 3**

Double the proportion of women working in technology and innovation to transform innovation ecosystems
- Action 4**

A majority of countries and tech companies demonstrate accountability against online and tech facilitated GBV and discrimination

- Bridge the gender gap in digital access and competences by accelerating meaningful access to digital technologies and universal digital literacy.

SDG 4 (Target 4.4), SDG 5 (Target 5.b) and SDG 17 (Target 17.8)
- Invest in feminist technology and innovation to support women’s leadership as innovators and better respond to women and girls’ most pressing needs.

SDG 5 (Target 5.5) and SDG 9 (Target 9.5)
- Build inclusive, transformative and accountable innovation ecosystems by setting up new networks and benchmarks.

SDG 5 (Target 5.5), SDG 9 (Target 9.b) and SDG 17 (Target 17.6)
- Prevent and eliminate online and tech-facilitated GBV and discrimination by implementing policies and solutions.

SDG 5 (Target 5.1), SDG 10 (Target 10.3) and SDG 16 (Target 16.b)

FEMINIST MOVEMENTS AND LEADERSHIP

TARGETS	OUTCOME	IMPACT	SDGS
Number of feminist organizations and movements funded.  % of feminist and women’s organizations from global north and south receiving direct funding.	% of ODA donors increasing funding to feminist organizations and movements.  % of donors from all sectors increasing funding to feminist organizations and movements.	The global annual growth rate of funding from all sectors committed - as well as future contributors -to diverse feminist organizations, funds and movements has at least doubled from 4% to 8%.  The number of governments, private sector and philanthropic organizations directly funding feminist organization, and movements has increased by X%*	SSDG 5 (Target 5.5), SDG 16 (Target 16.7) and SDG 17 (Target 17.7)
Proportion of women in all their diversity in leadership positions across sectors and at all levels.	Number of countries, cities, regions, private sector, international organizations, and civil society increasing women’s representation in leadership positions.	Organizations and institutions in all sectors and governments and legislatures at all levels develop and implement policies and strategies and take initiatives, to achieve gender-balanced representation in leadership positions.	SDG 5 (Target 5.5), SDG 16 (Target 16.7)
Number of adolescent girl-led organizations and young feminist movements funded.	% of donors from all sectors increasing funding for adolescent girls and young feminist movements.	The amount of funding allocated to adolescent girl and young feminist movements has increased by X%	SDG 5 (Target 5.5), SDG 16 (Target 16.7) and SDG 17 (Target 17.7)
Number of adolescent girl-led organizations consulted/ engaged in policy and decision making processes.	% of organizations from all sectors) that set up institutional mechanisms to consult/engage adolescent girls in decision-making processes.	Governments and organizations across all sectors introduced legislation, policies and mechanisms to facilitate the participation of Adolescent and girl-led organizations in decision-making processes.	SDG 5 (Target 5.5), SDG 16 (Target 16.7)
Number of feminist organizations that have been historically excluded and marginally funded	% of ODA donors increasing funding to organizations and movements who have been historically excluded and marginalized	The amount of funding from all sectors dedicated to feminist organizations and movements who have been historically excluded and marginalized	SDG 5 (Target 5.5), SDG 16 (Target 16.7) and SDG 17 (Target 17.7)





GENERATION EQUALITY  
FORUM