

## 2023 ACCOUNTABILITY SURVEY TECHNICAL NOTE<sup>i</sup>

### About the Generation Equality 2023 Survey

The second annual Generation Equality Commitments Reporting [Survey](#) was conducted between May and July 2023. To simplify the survey process and facilitate responses by Commitment Makers, the Survey included a mix of preloaded commitments data and new questions. Data from all 2,868 commitments from the Generation Equality [Commitments Dashboard](#) was used as the basis for the preloaded survey data. After cleaning the database to identify commitments that are listed more than once in the Dashboard – mostly because these commitments contribute to multiple Action Coalitions – and commitments for which key information such as organization name or contact details of focal points is missing, the final target number of **unique** commitments surveyed was reduced to 1,852. Overall, 42 per cent of Commitment Makers responded to the survey, reporting 69 per cent of their commitments, or 1,271 commitments in total. This is more than double last year's response rate of 31 per cent of commitments.

The higher response rate is the result of the various improvements introduced by UN Women this year, including the shortened survey, improved timing and survey tools used<sup>ii</sup>. To assess the quality of the submissions, UN Women calculated a quality index based on the number of questions each Commitment Maker answered, compared to the number of questions presented to them. A "good quality" submission was defined as a submission with a quality index of at least 0.67 – meaning that at least two-thirds of questions were answered. Overall, 95 per cent of survey responses fall in this category. The high response rate and quality of responses provide a more robust and complete reporting on all commitments for full accounting and a better understanding of progress made.

Furthermore, 85 per cent of reporting Commitment Makers agreed to their data being made public. In addition to being a hugely valuable resource for all Generation Equality stakeholders, including for complementary accountability processes, the availability of this rich data set in the public domain is a critical step towards more transparency and accountability.

### Survey and data limitations

Collecting data through a web survey presents some inherent limitations. Like last year, the survey is based on voluntary self-reports that cannot be independently verified by UN Women. As a result, data quality varies across and within the Action Coalitions and may be incomplete in some areas. To stay true to what was reported, UN Women has conducted only minimal data cleaning.

Another limitation is related to the sample itself. While invitations to fill out the survey were sent to all Generation Equality focal points, some may not have reached the intended respondents for various reasons. Some may have gone to Spam folders, were sent to contacts no longer working for the organization, or the contact receiving the invitation may not have been the right person to answer the Survey. In addition, some of the organizations invited no longer exist, have changed their name, or are no longer committed to Generation Equality. As a result, the real survey response rate could be higher than the observed rate, calculated on the 1,852 targeted commitments. Moreover, if Commitment Makers who did not make a lot

of progress opted not to respond to the survey or selectively responded to questions, the results reported could be affected by selection bias and therefore shouldn't be generalized to all Generation Equality stakeholders.<sup>iii</sup>

Although Survey Solution – the survey platform used this year – included various user-friendly features to facilitate survey implementation, data cleaning, curation and analysis, it is mainly used for large-scale statistical surveys, with limited futures for open-ended qualitative text-based responses. The 750-character limit was reached in many cases, indicating that some information could not be entered by respondents. This is a key challenge that future Generation Equality surveys will try to address.

Several Commitment Makers opted out of certain questions, including around reporting on financial commitments, leaving large information gaps. In addition, while the goal of the survey is to report on the progress of commitments already pledged, it was also an opportunity for Commitment Makers to make corrections to information recorded in the Generation Equality database. For these reasons, comparisons between survey results and expected outcomes that also include Commitment Makers who did not respond to the survey should be made with caution.

The survey responses covered 1,271 commitments in total. However, one of the first commitment-specific questions respondents were asked was whether they were reporting on each commitment. Based on this, the real number of reported commitments is 1,211, which constitutes the base sample of calculations throughout the report. For specific analyses (commitment type, partnerships, implementation regions, financial results), the calculations only include observations with available data. For other analyses, especially those focusing on the progress of commitment implementation, missing values are also included in the sample as patterns of non-response also provide valuable information in the accountability process.

The calculations are based on data obtained from the Commitment Survey ended in July 2023. It is important to acknowledge that any submissions from Commitment Makers after July 2023, may potentially lead to adjustments in the findings and figures in the Accountability Report.

The US Dollar (USD) was used as the currency to aggregate financial commitments, with the average exchange rate of May-July 2023 used for conversions from local currencies to USD. Using a different exchange rate would thus result in fluctuations in the value of financial commitments.

For questions about the Accountability Survey, please reach out to [GEF-accountability@unwomen.org](mailto:GEF-accountability@unwomen.org).

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<sup>i</sup> UN Women. September 2023.

<sup>ii</sup> The survey was significantly shortened and simplified following a consultation with Action Coalition Leaders and was rolled out more than one month earlier ahead of the summer break in the Global North, using a more user-friendly software (Survey Solutions).

<sup>iii</sup> See more on selection bias and how it can affect results <https://www.sciencedirect.com/topics/medicine-and-dentistry/selection-bias>