



## Summit of the Future Action Days Side Event

Leveraging the Pact of the Future, ICPD30 & Beijing+30: Protecting and safeguarding women, girls and diverse populations' sexual and reproductive health and rights

21 September 2024, 11:00AM – 1:00PM, 220 E 42nd St, New York



## Background

Globally, threats to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) are growing, anti-rights movements are expanding and becoming more active and organized. There is an increased politicization and polarization of women, girls and diverse populations' right to health, bodily autonomy and freedom of choice. The Pact of the Future, adopted during the United Nations Summit of the Future in 2024, bolsters the SRHR agenda, specifically, action eight calls for, "Ensuring universal access to SRHR as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA) and the outcome documents of their review conferences".

This official side-event organized by a strong collective under the banner of the Generation Equality Action Coalition on Bodily Autonomy and SRHR, reinforced strong political will and momentum, including strengthening of multi-stakeholder engagement towards the realization of SRHR over the life-course for women, girls and marginalized populations.

## Overview of key issues

- The opening segment of the side event, *"Young Feminist Kick-Off: Envisioning and Transforming a Multilateral System for SRHR, for Youth Now and for Future Generations,"* featured five inspiring youth advocates: Eunice Garcia (Youth Coalition), Ndeye Fatou Tounkara (Sénégal Actions Féministe), Talia Szulewicz (Chicos.net), Gelga Guainer (ECMIA), and Nomonde Ngema (Young HIV activist). The speakers highlighted the challenges of advocating for SRHR, a topic still regarded as taboo, and noted that multilateral systems are still exclusionary and discriminatory, hindering the participation of many young people. The youth representatives emphasized the power of multilateral cooperation, citing improved access to HIV treatment as a result of powerful global declarations and efforts to end HIV/AIDS. The advocates stressed that safe digital environments are crucial for exercising SRHR, supporting advocacy, and enhancing participation in multilateral systems.
- The segment *"Multi-Stakeholder High-Level Panel: Shifting the Needle, the Transformative Power of the Pact for the Future, ICPD 30 & Beijing+30 to Propel SRHR Forward"* showcased powerful collaboration among high-level representatives from UN agencies, governments (Burkina Faso, Colombia, Denmark, Finland, France, Norway, Inter-Parliamentary Union), civil society organizations (Center for Reproductive Rights, Women for Change, Cameroon), and the private sector (Rabin Martin).

All speakers reaffirmed their unwavering commitment to SRHR through the Pact for the Future, ICPD, and BPfA, emphasizing SRHR's critical role in empowering women, girls, and marginalized populations. Countries shared impactful political actions, including: Burkina Faso's initiatives against female genital mutilation (FGM) and enhanced family planning; France's constitutional guarantee of abortion rights and advancement of SRHR through the Feminist Foreign Policy; Colombia's data-driven approach to inform SRHR policies and the decriminalization of abortion; Norway's substantial investment to strengthen SRHR both nationally and globally; and Finland's proactive measures to combat gender-based violence, alongside a groundbreaking resolution promoting the rights of intersex individuals.

- Overall, the session contextualized SRHR and the importance of accountability to SRHR within the global frameworks such as the PACT, ICPD and the BPfA. The significant role of all stakeholders was highlighted throughout the session e.g. civil society in leading the Green Wave in Latin America, youth stakeholders, governments/ political action. The [Generation Equality](#) Action Coalition on Bodily Autonomy and SRHR specifically, was highlighted by all speakers as an important multi-stakeholder multi-lateral mechanism to advance collective feminist action and to counter the pushback on SRHR. Importantly, the Action Coalition's key priorities—comprehensive sexuality education, abortion, contraception, decision-making for women and girls, and feminist leadership—are deemed essential for the Pact for the Future and achieving Agenda 2030 and shaping the post-2030 agenda.

## Key recommendations for action

- **Protect bodily autonomy and SRHR:** advocate for women's, girls', and gender-diverse individuals' bodily autonomy and SRHR as an intersectional issue and central to achieving Agenda 2030 and shaping the post-2030 agenda.
- **Increase political will and momentum:** in times of de-democratization and an attack on SRHR, build on successful strategies and political actions by champion governments and expand political commitments and action towards SRHR.
- **Reform decision-making spaces:** ensure meaningful inclusion of young feminist and diverse voices in decision-making processes, with an increased focus on SRHR, disability, mental health, gender diversity, de-colonization, levelling power-dynamics, creating smarter and safer and smarter (digital processes) for multi-lateral processes for engagement.
- **Engage and support advocates including women, girls and diverse populations:** create opportunities for youth and women's voices in decision-making, protect civil society organizations and youth amidst the growing pushback on SRHR, and facilitate forums and mechanisms such as Generation Equality for the strengthened multi-stakeholder action for enhanced accountability and progress on SRHR commitments.
- **Strengthen SRHR data:** utilization of a data-driven approach to drive policies, investments and action.
- **Invest in SRHR:** increase and prioritize domestic resources to achieve universal access to comprehensive SRHR services.
- **Implementation of commitments:** deliver on the commitments made towards the SRHR agenda through the Pact for the Future, ICPD and BPfA.

**Webpage:** further updates on the event will be available via [https://commitments.generationequality.org/stories\\_of\\_impact](https://commitments.generationequality.org/stories_of_impact)