

MULTI-STAKEHOLDER ACTION-ORIENTED DIALOGUES

ASIA- PACIFIC  
GENERATION EQUALITY  
JOURNEY

# CONCEPT NOTE: FEMINIST MOVEMENTS AND LEADERSHIP

JUNE 2021



# BACKGROUND

The Generation Equality Forum (GEF) was originally announced in 2019. Conceived as a civil society centred, multi-stakeholder global gathering for gender equality, it was to be co-convened by UN Women and the Governments of France and Mexico, in partnership with civil society. Its aim was to celebrate the power of activism, feminist solidarity, and youth leadership. The GEF sought to represent a culmination of the Beijing+25 review process, and the launch of a powerful movement to galvanize transformative action for gender equality, women's empowerment and women's human rights. Following principles of co-creation, the GEF was designed to create opportunities for intergenerational, intersectional, and cross-movement dialogue; for supporting the sharing of best practices and strategies; for building solidarity among different stakeholders, and to catalyse bold, transformative, and ambitious action to achieve gender equality.

With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and the global shift in attention to managing the containment and impacts of the pandemic, the GEF was postponed to 2021. Since its postponement, the co-conveners of the GEF have been working on re-defining the GEF, to focus on supporting efforts by member States and diverse stakeholders in building back better and differently, informed by lessons learnt in the COVID-19 context. It was also agreed that along with the key moments in Mexico City (March 29-30, 2021) and in [Paris \(30 June-2 July, 2021\)](#), which will be a combination of physical and virtual gatherings, the GEF will also have a strong regional footprint – through the Regional Journey. By strengthening and deepening the mobilization of broad, diverse, civil society and stakeholders in countries and regions to inform the Forum, the Regional Journey will help the GEF effort toward fostering an inclusive, vibrant, and strengthened movement for gender equality that is responsive to building back better and differently from the COVID-19 crisis. The Forum will now give special attention to addressing the challenges that the COVID-19 global pandemic raises in terms of women's rights and empowerment, while also recognizing the critical role of partnerships, solidarity, and movement building for social transformation.

Following principles of co-creation, the GEF was designed to create opportunities for intergenerational, intersectional, and cross-movement dialogue; for supporting the sharing of best practices and strategies; for building solidarity among different stakeholders, and to catalyse bold, transformative, and ambitious action to achieve gender equality.

# WHAT WILL THE FORUM AIM TO ACHIEVE AND WHAT ARE ACTION COALITIONS?

The Forum's ambitions will be carried through a bold feminist agenda and the work of a set of '[Action Coalitions](#)'. These Action Coalitions are **global, innovative, multi-stakeholder partnerships** that will mobilize governments, civil society, international organizations, and the private sector to:

- **Catalyze collective action**
- **Spark global and local conversations among generations**
- **Drive increased public & private investment**
- **Deliver concrete, game-changing results**

Based on human rights principles, and through a data-driven process of consultation with international feminist groups, grassroots activist organizations, governments, and other partners, the **selected themes** of the Generation Equality 'Action Coalitions' are:

- **Gender-Based Violence**
- **Economic justice and rights**
- **Bodily autonomy and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR)**
- **Feminist action for climate justice**
- **Technology and innovation for Gender Equality**
- **Feminist movements and leadership**

In addition, a Compact on Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action will work to drive action and resources toward this agenda.

[Each Action Coalition](#) has proposed a targeted set of concrete, ambitious and immediate actions within the period of 2021-2025 to deliver a tangible impact on gender equality and girls' and women's human rights. They will secure financing for this agenda, to address systemic resource gaps that have so far hampered impact. Stakeholders can express interest in being a 'commitment maker' under a specific Action Coalition (information about the Commitment Makers Model can be accessed [here](#)).

# ASIA-PACIFIC REGIONAL GENERATION EQUALITY FORUM (GEF) JOURNEY

For the Asia-Pacific GEF Regional Journey, the proposal is to mirror the global objectives but to have these informed by regional specificities, in terms of approaches and priorities as relates to the GEF and the Action Coalitions.

The proposed GEF Regional Journey will seek to focus on the following four objectives:

1. Providing a platform for the **convening of diverse national and regional stakeholders to facilitate collective learning and exchange of lessons learned and good practices** based on key global and regional review processes and in the context of COVID-19, **to inform strategies for promoting political engagement and collective action** to address gender issues in COVID-19 response and recovery efforts.
2. **Encouraging and enabling partners to broaden, deepen, and enhance outreach and mobilization** of new partners, as well as strengthening vertical (country-region linkages) and horizontal/intra-regional linkages and collaboration.
3. **Amplifying the leadership and roles that different actors i.e.** Government leaders/representatives, feminist movements, youth and grassroots organizations, private sector, and individuals (including influencers). The objective will be to draw attention to the work of diverse actors in the context of the COVID-19 crisis, and to support their effective engagement at the front lines of the COVID-19 response, in crises-affected communities.
4. **Advocacy, networking, and organizing** of civil society actors at regional and national levels among civil society, building on the Action Coalition themes and Women, Peace, Security and Humanitarian Action Compact (WPS&HA Compact).

# FOCUS OF THE MULTI-STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE ON FEMINIST MOVEMENTS & LEADERSHIP

The vision of the GEF Regional Journey, derived from the global blueprint, is for feminist leaders, movements, and organizations, including those led by trans, intersex and nonbinary people, indigenous women, women and people with disability, young feminists, and other historically excluded people, to be fully resourced and supported to become sustainable, can carry out their work without fear of reprisals, and advance gender equality, peace and human rights for all.

The goals articulated for this vision are:

- By 2026, double the global annual growth rate of funding from all sectors committed to women-led and feminist-led movements, organizations, and funds in all their diversity, including those led by trans, intersex, non-binary people;
- Promote, expand, protect, civic space across all domains, including online, and support the efforts of women and feminist human rights defenders and women peacebuilders --including those who are trans, intersex, nonbinary—to defend civic space and eliminate barriers to feminist action, organizing and mobilization in all its diversity;
- By 2026, increase the meaningful participation, leadership and decision-making power of girl leaders, and of women and feminist leaders, including those who are trans, intersex, non-binary, through efforts to: (1) Advance gender parity in all aspects of public and economic decision making, including the private sector, civil society, international organizations, political and government institutions including executive and legislative positions (2) Promote and expand feminist, gender transformative, and inclusive laws and policies;
- Dedicate 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 for their meaningful participation in decision-making processes.

In this context, the Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue on Action Coalition on Feminist Movements and Leadership, will be an opportunity to discuss the priority [Action Areas](#) for this Action Coalition, which have been identified as:

1. Fund and support diverse feminist activists, organizations, funds and movements;
2. Promote, expand and protect civic space for feminist action, organizing and mobilization;
3. Advance and increase meaningful participation, leadership and decision-making power of women, girls and nonbinary people, in all their diversity;
4. Strengthen adolescent girls and young feminist leaders, their movements and organizations.

# OBJECTIVES OF THE MULTI-STAKEHOLDER ACTION-ORIENTED DIALOGUE ON FEMINIST MOVEMENTS & LEADERSHIP

This dialogue will be informed by the areas of concern of the Action Coalition on Feminist Movements and Leadership and it will focus on objectives 1, 2, 3 and 4 of the Asia-Pacific GEF Journey above i.e.:

- To convene diverse stakeholders for a discussion on lessons learnt through regional and global review processes and in the context of COVID-19, as well as to discuss key priorities for this region to advance feminist movements and leadership, including strategies for responding to the 'push-back' on civic space to building a stronger civil society movement. The discussion would also aim to advance the draft blueprints and the commitments that could be made at regional and national and sub-national level by different stakeholders.
- It will also seek to reflect on the outcomes of the 65th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 65), which this year focussed on the priority theme of: 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;
- Provide an opportunity to strengthen multi-stakeholder and intra-regional collaboration, collective action and increased political engagement on the actions identified under this Action Coalition, as well as to mobilize new constituents;
- Provide an opportunity to dialogue with civil society about strategies for responding to the 'push-back', and to building a stronger civil society movement (strengthening networking, and information exchange), including around inter-governmental and informal processes.
- Seek to identify opportunities for cross-sectoral collaboration between Action Coalitions, and approaches to realising this, building on the Action Coalition areas and WPS&HA Compact);

Anticipated outputs will include:

- Increased understandings on and engagement with the draft blueprint, process and issues of concern guiding the efforts of the Action Coalition on Feminist Movements and Leadership;
- A set of priorities for the Asia-Pacific region, which are guided by the Action Coalition Feminist Movements and Leadership 'areas of action' and the Agreed Conclusions from CSW 65;
- Recommendations on strategies and opportunities for strengthening multi-stakeholder intra-regional collaboration and collective action, as well as views on how to ensure continued engagement, meaningful participation and accountability on the Action Coalition and throughout the GEF process;
- Stakeholders will be invited to consider commitments and actions to take at individual and institutional levels, that are specific to their contexts and contribute to the Action Coalition blueprint actions. Institutional stakeholders i.e. from government, civil society, international organisations, and private sector also have the opportunity to submit expressions of interest to be commitment makers, after the dialogue.

# FORMAT AND TIMELINES

The multi-stakeholder dialogue will be hosted on a virtual platform and with social media live streaming. The virtual space is designed to allow for vibrant and active interaction. Participants will have the ability to interact through Q&A segments, Chat, polls, and virtual networking sessions.

**Language:** English with simultaneous interpretation to Chinese, Bahasa Indonesia, Khmer, International Sign Language and closed captioning, as needed. Costs of this will be shared with field presences (based on language needs).

**Target participants:** Women's organizations, women human rights defenders, feminist leaders and activists, organisations and movements, including those led by young feminists, trans, intersex and non-binary people, indigenous women, women and people with disability, , and other historically excluded groups, youth and girl- led organizations, youth activists, governments, UN entities, inter-governmental organizations, private sector, philanthropic entities and donor institutions and others. Efforts will be made to ensure representational and geographical diversity.

The mobilization of participants will be undertaken – at regional and country levels. Stakeholders working in this area will be identified and incited, to ensure concrete discussions and to support follow up actions in the areas of this AC, at both regional and country levels.

A registration process will be facilitated by UN Women, in collaboration with our co-organisers of this dialogue i.e. UN partners, civil society (including national youth gender activists working with UN Women), philanthropic and private sector partners.

## Timelines

**Proposed dates for the Dialogue:** As agreed with GEF focal points, this session will on **17 June 2021**.

**On the timings, this will be as follows: 9.30am-11.00am (Bangkok time).**