

MULTI-STAKEHOLDER ACTION-ORIENTED DIALOGUES

ASIA- PACIFIC
GENERATION EQUALITY
JOURNEY

CONCEPT NOTE:
TECHNOLOGY AND
INNOVATION FOR
GENDER EQUALITY

MAY 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.

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 TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION FOR GENDER EQUALITY

Technology and Innovation for Gender Equality promotes gender responsive creation, use, and ownership of physical and digital technologies, as well as the processes of innovation. This theme harnesses the potential of technology while managing new and emerging risks, addressing cross-cutting barriers that prevent women and adolescent girls from accessing and using technology, and ensuring women and girls have equal opportunities to use, design, develop, and influence innovation and technology.

The vision of success for the theme is that:

- Women and girls have equal and universal access to education, skills, knowledge, and power to design, develop, and influence innovation and technology and engage in the digital spaces without risk of violence and discrimination.
- All new technology and innovation is gender-responsive or gender-transformative.
- Women lead the design and creation of technology and receive the financing they need.
- Digital rights are expanded, enforced, and shaped equally by women.

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

1. Bridge the Gender Gap in Digital Access and Competencies.
2. Invest in Feminist Technology and Innovation.
3. Build Inclusive, Transformative and Accountable Innovation Ecosystems.
4. Prevent and Eliminate Online and Tech-Facilitated GBV and Discrimination.

OBJECTIVES OF THE MULTI-STAKEHOLDER ACTION-ORIENTED DIALOGUE ON TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION FOR GENDER EQUALITY

This dialogue will be informed by the areas of concern of the Action Coalition on Technology and Innovation for gender equality and it will focus on objectives 1, 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, on key priorities for this region, to advance Technology and Innovation for gender equality. In this regard, the dialogue will aim to orient stakeholders on the concerns that informed this Action Coalition;
- 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);
- 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;
- 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.

Anticipated outputs will include:

- Increased understandings on the issues of concern guiding the efforts of the Action Coalition on Technology and Innovation for gender equality;
- A set of priorities for the Asia- Pacific region, which are guided by the Action Coalition Technology and Innovation for gender equality s 'areas of action';
- Recommendations on strategies and opportunities for strengthening multi-stakeholder intra-regional collaboration and collective action;
- Proposals for responding to the push-back experienced by civil society organizations, and for strengthening civil society engagement in regional inter-governmental and informal processes;
- Stakeholders will be invited to consider actions to take at individual and institutional levels, in line with the Action Coalition areas. Institutional stakeholders i.e. from government, civil society, 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, feminist networks, youth-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 **19 May 2021**.

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