

Background information

Why Generation Equality Forum (GEF)

More than twenty-five years ago, 189 countries adopted in Beijing, a landmark platform for action, the most progressive blueprint ever for advancing gender equality, women's and girls' rights and their empowerment at the time. In its twelve critical areas, Governments committed to a world where each woman and girl can exercise her freedoms and choices, and realize all her rights, such as to live free from violence, to education, health, decent work and to earn equal pay for equal work.

Over the 25 years since its adoption, important steps were taken and some progress achieved, but the Beijing Platform for Action is far from being implemented. Absence of political will, lack of financial commitment, rigid, restrictive and patriarchal gender social norms and backlash to women's and girls' rights and fundamental freedoms, in particular their participation in social, economic and political life, the right to their bodily autonomy and sexual and reproductive rights, discrimination and sexual and gender based violence have been the reality in every corner of the world. But the paradigm is changing. The progress that has been made together with the #Metoo, #OlaVerde/Green Wave and most recently the #BLM movements have revitalized the discussions and women and girls are very much in the agenda of Governments, CSOs, private sector and academia.

The Generation Equality Forum presents a great opportunity for the various multi-stakeholders to reignite the Beijing agenda and to embrace this global movement, bring the change needed and make concrete and strategic commitments to build back better and contribute to deliver the promises of the 2030 Agenda. And to ensure that gender equality is an aspiration for the present generation and a reality for future generations to come.

What is GEF and What are the Action Coalitions

The [Generation Equality Forum](#) is a civil society-centred, global gathering for gender equality, convened by UN Women and co-hosted by the governments of Mexico and France. The Forum kicked off in [Mexico City, Mexico, on 29–31 March 2021](#), and will culminate in [Paris, France, on 30 June – 2 July 2021](#), with the aim of securing a set of concrete, ambitious, and transformative commitments - **based on the blueprints** - to achieve immediate and irreversible progress towards gender equality; bringing together governments, CSOs, corporations and foundations to define and announce ambitious investments and policies in different **Action Coalitions**.

The Generation Equality Action Coalitions are innovative, multi-stakeholder partnerships focused on the most intractable barriers to equality. Their aim is **to deliver concrete and transformative change for women and girls around the world in the coming five years** that, if implemented and fully funded, can lead to lasting and transformative change and help to ensure that women, girls, and gender diverse people everywhere can fully enjoy their human rights. They will focus on [six themes](#) that are critical for achieving gender equality: **gender-based violence, economic justice and rights, bodily autonomy and sexual and reproductive health and rights, feminist action for climate justice, technology and innovation for gender equality, and feminist movements and leadership**. Adolescent girls and young women will be at the heart of each Action Coalition's work.

Each Action Coalition is led by a group of partners, IPPF together with a group of CSOs, Governments, Private Sector and Foundations, is one of the co-leads of the Action Coalition on **Bodily autonomy and sexual and reproductive health and rights**.

GEF and its Commitments

National, regional or global commitments (individual or collective) are essential to accelerating investment in and implementation of the Actions to catapult progress on gender equality. They will be included as part of an overall Action Coalitions tracking and accountability framework. These commitments will last for a minimum of one year and a maximum of five years.

Commitments will be made public at the Paris Forum through a virtual World Map of Commitments, accessible on the Generation Equality Paris Forum platform. Strong commitments that reflect the transformative vision and key criteria outlined in this document may be showcased during the Action Coalition high-level sessions at the Paris Forum. More details on becoming a Commitment Maker can be found [here](#).

What types of commitments are expected? Commitments to implement any of the actions outlined in the Global Acceleration Plan on Gender Equality can be comprised of:

- I. **Financial** - to support the realization of an action to advance gender equality results.
- II. **Advocacy** - to amplify and mobilize support for transformative change to achieve the goals of the Action Coalition.
- III. **Policy** - to demonstrate how an action can be translated to concrete policy change in the context of a government, company, or organization.
- IV. **Programmatic** - to deliver programs, services, research or other actions, with a focus on scale.

Commitments are expected to respect the following **criteria**: 1) **Potential for Impact**: aims to achieve significant, transformative change. 2) **Funding**: is resourced by new and scaled funds, 3) **Level of endorsement**: endorsed at the highest level (including high level representation in Paris); 4) **Collective nature**: ideally collectively designed by multiple stakeholders together; and 5) **SMART**: Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant and Time-bound.

KEY ASK: Governments and other multi-stakeholders must be present in Paris and make concrete, measurable commitments, including financial commitments on the various Action Coalitions, in particular on Bodily Autonomy and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR). You can find more information Paris Forum [here](#). Equally important is that Governments and all other multi-stakeholders demand a strong and accountability framework for GEF so as to ensure these commitment's implementation.

IPPF @ Generation Equality Forum

Purpose of this advocacy tool

While this tool can be used for other Action Coalitions, here we will try to develop a guide for IPPF Member Associations and partners to advocate with their governments to make commitments and announce them at the Generation Equality Forum in Paris. We encourage you to adapt the messages in this tool and create your own targeted commitments related to your national contexts to influence your governments.

The tool includes the four priority actions and strategies identified in the Blueprint of the Action Coalition on Bodily Autonomy and SRHR. We have also included concrete examples of how you can use the global framework for national prioritisation and commitment setting.

National Commitments @ Generation Equality Forum

These commitments should be shaped by national priorities, and should build on the regional and global commitments many countries have already made. You can also check your country's commitments at the Nairobi Summit (ICPD+25) [here](#)

How to prioritize national commitments for the implementation of these Actions?

- We encourage you to use existing global and regional agreements that your government has already agreed to as a basis to work from. When drafting national commitments with your governments, it can be useful to remind them of these existing regional commitments and accountability frameworks, e.g. the Maputo Plan of Action in the Africa Region, or the Moana Declaration in the Pacific Region, as well as the ICPD beyond 2014 regional agreements, the Nairobi Summit (ICPD+25) commitments and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and also, the existing financial mechanism, like the Muskoka Fund, the spotlight initiatives, in Europe etc..
- We encourage you to collaborate with other civil society partners and stakeholders throughout this process and where possible, to coordinate and align commitments to ensure a unified voice and the most possible progress on given policy areas.
- Targeted advocacy with your governments should incorporate a variety of sectors including health, education, and gender equality, but also ministers of justice and foreign affairs. We suggest that you focus on commitments that are in line with your national priorities, as it is your national context that should determine the formulation of your national commitments.
- Lastly, we recommend that commitments must be SMART: S = Specific M = Measurable A = Achievable/Attainable R = Relevant T = Time bound.

Action Coalition on Bodily autonomy and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR)

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 different Sustainable Development Goals and targets, including goals 3, 5, 10 and 16 and is crucial for the achievement of the realization of other rights and achievement of human development goals as the ability to fulfill SRHR, free from violence, discrimination and coercion has wide-ranging implications for the health of individuals, gender equality and socio-economic development.

A Global Acceleration Plan for Bodily Autonomy and SRHR

This Action Coalition has defined four concrete actions: (1) Expand Comprehensive Sexuality Education; (2) Increase the availability, accessibility, acceptability and quality of comprehensive abortion and contraception services; (3) Increase SRHR Decision-Making & Bodily Autonomy; (4) *Increase accountability* to, participation of and support for autonomous feminist and women's organizations (including girl-led and Indigenous organizations), women human rights defenders and peacebuilders, strengthen organizations, networks and movements working to promote and protect bodily autonomy and SRHR.

At the GEF in Paris, a set of national time-bound commitments on how to achieve those ultimate goals need to be put forward in order to accelerate action on the Beijing PfA and bring real change on the ground.

Action1: 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. This effort should include youth-led initiatives, 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 incl. 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 and that enable them to exercise their sexual and reproductive rights. Ensure that education linked to SRH services is accessible to all young people who face the greatest barriers, including those with disabilities.

Potential Commitments: For example, if the area of concern is law and policy, Government X could commit to review by 2026 the national comprehensive sexuality education (or whatever the current name is) curriculum in accordance with UN technical guidelines, with the full participation of young people, academic and other relevant stakeholders. This is specific (review the national curriculum), measurable, achievable (4 years), relevant (ensure that CSE curriculums include principles of human rights, non-discrimination, gender equality, etc., which go beyond mere biological topics) and time bound (by 2026).

Or Government X commits to integrating CSE programs, in line with the UN technical guidance, in XYZ% of schools by 2025.

Or, if Education tactic is the priority, Government X ensure that XXX of teachers receive training and accreditation on CSE by 2026, in a manner that promotes human rights and non-discrimination, combats harmful traditional gender norms, and violence against women and girls.

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 SRHR services. These services include menstrual awareness and health, choice of voluntary male and female contraception, 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 persons with disabilities, or those with nonconforming gender identities.

LAWS & POLICIES Governments adopt and implement national male and female, abortion and SRHR self-care guidelines and policies, and liberalize access to telemedicine, 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 decriminalize abortion; legalize abortion.

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

Potential Commitments: For example, if you identify services delivery as a national priority, specific action(s) the government could then commit to is to train and employ xxx midwives and nurses in post-abortion care and SRHR self-care guidelines by 2026. This is specific (training and employment of midwives), measurable (xxx of midwives to be trained and employed), achievable (the number should be realistic), relevant (training and employment of midwives contributes to the reduction of maternal mortality and morbidity) and time bound (by 2026). Or, Government X commits to reducing the unmet need for family planning to XYZ% by 2026. Or, if instead the commitment should rather be made in the area of law and policies, the commitment could for Government X to adopt by 2026 national abortion, contraception and SRHR self-care guidelines and policies (based on current WHO guidance).

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 that transform unequal power relationships.

Involve all genders, sexual orientations and identities in fighting patriarchy, 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 around gender norms and SRHR, including menstrual health, that restrict bodily autonomy and affect access to services for girls, adolescents, women, transgender men, transgender women and non-binary people. Ensure that all people, including those with disabilities, are neither forced nor prevented from contraception or abortion, have the support they need to make decisions and are respected in their decision-making.

LAWS & POLICY Support bodily autonomy by removing legal and policy barriers to 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 and third-party consent requirements. Implement standards and guidelines that recognize, respect, protect and fulfill 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. Access to school or other educational opportunities should not be restricted based on pregnancy or any aspects of bodily autonomy

Potential Commitments: For example, if laws and policy is a priority area in your national context, a possible commitment is to adopt laws/policies by 2026 that remove parental and spousal consent

requirements for girls and women to be able to access contraception care and services. This is specific (a concrete law or policy), measurable (it will be possible to know if the law/policies were adopted or not by 2026), achievable (political will), relevant (the adoption of this law/policy will prevent xxx adolescents pregnancy, xxx unsafe abortions, keep xxx girls in school) and time bound (by 2026).

Action 4: Strengthen girls, women’s and feminist organizations and networks to promote and protect 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 and POLICIES Create and sustain a safe and enabling environment to ensure that organizations working to advance gender equality and SRHR are protected, can operate autonomously, in a free and safe space and can partner with States in fulfilling their existing international 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.

Potential Commitments: For example, donor countries commit to increase their investments in XXXX autonomous girls’, women’s, and feminist organizations working/delivering SRH services by 2026. This is specific (invest on autonomous girls’, women’s, and feminist organizations that work at national level), measurable (xxx of these organizations), achievable (the number should be realistic), relevant (investment in these national organizations that have the know how, are best positioned and know the realities on the ground) and time bound (by 2026).