

Terms of Reference for the Beijing+25 Youth Task Force

1. Background

While great progress has been made since 189 governments adopted the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPfA) in 1995, many young women and girls continue to be amongst the most marginalized and vulnerable. They face multiple barriers including violence, limited or unequal access to resources, persistent inequalities and stereotypical cultural norms. Breaking the trajectories of gender inequality has been a particularly difficult and slow process. At the current pace of change, it will take 50 years to achieve parity in political participation and 118 years for true pay equality – unless we act now.

2020/2021 will be a pivotal year for this urgent action and a defining moment that might determine whether we are going to achieve gender equality by 2030. It is undeniable that unless young people unite and mobilize to empower women and girls, the realization of gender equality by 2030 will not be possible.

It is within this context that the Beijing+25 Youth Task Force is making a call to expand the existing time-limited (August 2020 - September 2021) Youth Task Force.

2. Role of the Youth Task Force

The successful meaningful involvement of young people in the Beijing+25 review process and Generation Equality Campaign depends on young people driving the preparatory and implementation stages of the processes. The role of the Youth Task Force is to work closely with UN Women, and the Generation Equality Forum governance structures, including the Civil Society Advisory Group, the Multi-Stakeholder Steering Committee and others on a voluntary basis to ensure that young people are mobilized, engaged and contribute to all stages and aspects of the global campaign.

The Youth Task Force serves on the governance structure of the Generation Equality Forum with a seat on the Core Group. The Core Group is the decision making body of the Generation Equality Forum. The forums centerstage young people and believes in their power and ability to accelerate the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. The Youth Task

Force has been supporting and guiding the global processes in consulting and engaging young people across the globe.

The Youth Task Force will offer guidance and support to all processes and efforts to ensure the meaningful engagement of youth in completing the Beijing+25 review processes focusing on the 64th and 65th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women, the Generation Equality Forums, the 75th and 76th sessions of the General Assembly.

3. Composition

The Youth Task Force will consist of 28 existing members and 12 new members from broad youth-led global networks, organizations and civic movements. It will seek a composition that represents young people in all their diversity and across intersectional complexities including marital status, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, indigenous and ethnic identities, and refugee or migrant status.

Nomination to the Task Force will happen according to a set of objective criteria that can be found in the original call.

4. Membership and frequency of meetings

Members of the Task Force are expected to dedicate at least 4 hours per week to the work of the YTF and participate in bi-weekly online coordination meetings that will take place on Fridays at 9am EST. Members will be invited to serve on thematic committees and working groups where they have expertise. The work of the Task Force will be remote. Given the voluntary nature of the Task Force, we are mindful of the busy schedules of the members, but we would encourage applicants to commit to it for its full duration, to ensure consistency. Work of the Task Force will be convened in English but it will not hinder your selection to the Youth Task Force.

5. Thematic Committees and Working Groups

UN Women will create an enabling environment for young people to co-lead in the Beijing+25 processes and Generation Equality Campaign & Forums. Based on consultations with young people gathered throughout CSW63 Youth Dialogue and during the event “Youth Mobilizing Spaces” on March 15th, 2019, UN Women drafted a strategy on how to meaningfully involve young people throughout the Beijing+25 processes.

The thematic committees and working groups will support the implementation of this strategy carrying out different roles. The specific focus of the committees will be developed further in collaboration with its members. Once chosen, members will have the opportunity to select the committee or working group they prefer to work on. The various working groups and thematic committees will support, consult and advise on the GEF processes.

6. Timeline

The deadline for the submission of applications is August 21st 2020 at 12:00 p.m. midday EST. The nomination process is expected to be finalized by the end of September, 2020. Successful candidates will receive a letter of acceptance by said date. The following are the known key dates for the global events of the Beijing+25 and Generation Equality processes:

- The 75th session of the General Assembly: September 2020
- CSW65: March 2020
- Generation Equality Forum – Mexico Early 2021 (the specific dates will be announced at a later stage)
- Generation Equality Forum – France Mid 2021 (the specific dates will be announced at a later stage).
- The 76th session of the General Assembly: September 2021

7. Outputs

The Youth Task Force will be an opportunity for young people to:

- Represent youth constituencies on the governance structures of the Generation Equality Forum.
- Support and guide efforts of structures and processes to place young people at the center of the Beijing+25 processes and Generation Equality Campaign and Forums.
- Be part of a network of young supporters that will foster momentum on youth engagement for gender equality on a global level.
- Exchange expertise and knowledge with young people that are working towards the same objective.
- Recognition of contribution.

