



**Action Coalitions:
Frequently Asked Question(s)
Member States engagement**

Draft – 20 May 2021

1. What makes the Generation Equality Forum different from the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing in 1995?

Unlike the Beijing Conference, which was an intergovernmental process, the Generation Equality Forum is a voluntary, multi-stakeholder and intergenerational convening that aims to accelerate implementation of the commitments in the Beijing Platform for Action made since then, with a special focus in key thematic areas where progress is lagging behind. Over 26 years after the landmark Beijing Women's Conference, public rhetoric on gender equality has not been matched by action, financing and implementation. Not a single country today can claim to have achieved gender equality. The Generation Equality Forum is looking to drive action and financing for gender equality to new levels for the next five years.

2. What are the Generation Equality Action Coalitions?

The Generation Equality Action Coalitions are innovative, multi-stakeholder partnership platforms focused on addressing the most intractable barriers to gender equality— from gender-based violence, to climate change, and economic systems that leave women and girls behind. They aim at focus efforts on gender equality and provide a more coherent and strategic platform to channel resources and catalyze efforts so that they can be taken to scale through better coordination, exchange of experience/expertise and greater financing. They also identify actions that, if implemented and fully funded, can lead to lasting and transformative change and help to ensure that women and girls can fully enjoy their human rights.

The Generation Equality Action Coalitions are mobilizing governments, women's, feminist and youth-led organizations, international organizations, philanthropy and the private sector to:

- catalyze collective action;
- spark global and local conversations among generations;
- drive increased public and private investment; and
- deliver concrete progress on gender equality across generations for girls and women.

Six specific themes are being addressed by the Action Coalitions: i) Gender Based Violence; ii) Economic Justice and Rights; iii) Bodily autonomy and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR); iv) Feminist action for climate justice; v) Technology and innovation for Gender Equality; vi) Feminist movements and leadership.

Each Action Coalition is led by a group of partners or [leaders](#) who have been working together to codesign Blueprints for action. Each blueprint articulates an ambitious agenda that will accelerate progress towards gender equality in this UN Decade of Action.

All partners in the Action Coalitions are expected to make ambitious and measurable commitments, backed by resources, to advance one or several actions in the next five years.

3. Will the Action Coalition Blueprints be formally endorsed in Paris?

The Action Coalition Blueprints have been released in a draft and consolidated version which form a [Global Acceleration Plan for Gender Equality](#) in the Mexico City Forum on 29 – 31 March 2021. The final document will be launched by Head of States and Governments, alongside other leaders from civil society, private sector, philanthropy, and international organizations, at the Paris Forum on 30 June – 02 July 2021. All participants in the Paris Forum will be expected to make concrete commitments to the Action Coalitions and/or the Women, Peace, Security and Humanitarian Action Compact.

4. What concrete Actions are being put forward?

Action Coalition leaders have come together to define a targeted set of Actions that are concrete, game-changing, measurable and require multi-stakeholder collaboration. The Actions have been informed by a rigorous analysis of threats and challenges to women’s and girls’ human rights, as well as evidence about what strategies and tactics are effective in securing change. The proposed Actions are featured concretely within the draft [Global Acceleration Plan for Gender Equality](#), which can be viewed [here](#).

5. How can Member States join the Action Coalitions?

Governments, as well as women’s and feminist organizations, youth-led organizations and other civil society actors, philanthropies, international organizations, private sector companies and others, are invited to join the Action Coalitions as Commitment Makers, making a domestic and/or global commitment within their sphere of work and priority. Governments are invited to make commitments to one or more of the 6 Action Coalitions and are encouraged to join and/or form collective commitments.

6. 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:

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

7. What constitutes a strong commitment by Governments?

A strong commitment is defined by five criteria:

1. **Potential for Impact:** a strong commitment aims to achieve significant, transformative change. This transformative change is expected to impact women and girls' lives globally as well as within a government's domestic policy context.
2. **Funding:** a strong commitment is resourced by new and scaled funds (clearly expressed and integrated into budgets).
3. **Level of endorsement:** a strong commitment is endorsed at the highest level (including high-level representation in Paris at the Head of State Government level).
4. **Collective nature:** a strong commitment is ideally collectively designed by multiple stakeholders together.
5. **SMART:** a 'strong' commitment is **S**pecific, **M**easurable, **A**ttainable, **R**elevant and **T**ime-bound.

All commitments should affirm to be part of a transformative process of shared, feminist leadership & co-creation in the advancement of the Action Coalitions overall mission. The Mexico City Generation Equality Forum featured three catalytic commitments as exemplars of strong Commitments.

Commitments can be considered 'pledges' at the Paris Conference and conditional of appropriate levels of government approval.

8. What is expected of a Member State Commitment Maker?

Commitment makers will play three roles:

- Make bold and transformative commitments to one or several Action Coalitions and implement this commitment within the next five years.
- Play a catalytic role in supporting the implementation and monitoring of Blueprint actions.
- Mobilize other stakeholders around the Action Coalition theme and Blueprint.

9. What if a Member State Action Coalition Leader cannot make a 5-year Commitment?

Leaders are expected to make 5 Year Commitments, and Commitment-Makers are expected to make a minimum 1 Year commitment. If a Member State Leader cannot make a 5-Year Commitment for any reason, including complex dynamics of changing governments, please reach out to your contact at the UN Women Action Coalition Secretariat, and we will discuss alternative approaches together.

10. What are the benefits of a Member State becoming a Commitment Maker?

- Showcase progress on your commitment after Paris through Generation Equality annual status reports and at key global and regional events.
- Join a dynamic, multi-stakeholder community of practice dedicated to turbocharging global change on gender equality and the rights of women and girls.
- Share best practices, innovations and learnings to extend impact. Be recognized globally as a Generation Equality Commitment Maker and a game changer in Gender Equality globally
- Influence others to advance concrete change—in partnership with governments, philanthropies, women’s rights organizations, youth-led organizations, international organizations and the private sector.

11. Can a Member State which is already an Action Coalition Leader also become a Commitment Maker?

Absolutely, yes. For the [Action Coalition leaders](#), it is expected that you will make a five-year, bold and transformative commitment in service of the Action Coalition blueprint that you have helped to co-develop. However, such Member States are welcome to also identify other Action Coalition themes to contribute to as Commitment-Makers.

12. How do the roles and responsibilities of the leaders and commitment makers differ?

- Action Coalition Leaders and Commitment Makers are both expected to make bold and transformative commitments. Both are encouraged to make commitments to several Action Coalitions and expected to mobilize others to implement the Action Coalition Blueprints.
- The Action Coalition leaders will make a five-year commitment, whilst Commitment Makers can design a commitment for a minimum of one year (which can be extended).
- The Action Coalition Leaders have worked in a dynamic way to co-create the draft Action Coalition Blueprints. Commitment Makers will be invited to provide inputs into the Blueprints within a given time frame.
- Both Leaders and Commitment Makers will engage in mutual accountability and report against progress.

13. What is process for the application and endorsement of Member States’ commitments?

An online platform is available for Member States and other stakeholder interested in joining an Action Coalition to signal their intent of becoming a Commitment Maker. The platform is available [here](#), and Member States will be notified of the result on a rolling basis, within 3 weeks of submitting their application on-line. Once confirmed, Member States are invited to design a strong commitment, in line with the core Action Coalition Criteria. Commitments can be ‘registered’ on a [micro-site](#) which will go ‘live’ on May 21st, 2021 and close on June 19, 2021 in advance of the Paris Forum. It is expected that Commitments will be aligned with the above outlined criteria, and will then be confirmed as a Commitment to be featured at the Paris Forum.

14. What are the concrete steps ahead?

To define a strong commitment, Member States can follow these next steps:

1. **Learn more about the Action Coalitions** ambition by reviewing the draft [Global Acceleration Plan for Gender Equality](#), inclusive of the Action Coalitions thematic Blueprints
2. **Learn about what a strong Commitment is** by reviewing inspiring examples of Commitments in the Action Coalition Playbook which is available here [URL to be provided]
3. **Mobilize additional stakeholders** around your strong commitment(s) by reaching out to others, including [Action Coalition leaders](#). You can use [this deck](#) to mobilize others to become Commitment Makers!
4. **Design your commitment and submit through the Commitments Platform**, which goes live starting from 21 May 2021. Then get ready to participate at the Paris Forum and showcase your strong commitments!

15. What is the accountability framework and monitoring mechanism in place for the commitments to be made in Paris?

Action Coalitions leaders and Commitment Makers will contribute to an annual report by sharing inputs and information on implementing their respective commitments. A 5-year accountability framework will be co-designed by the Action Coalition leadership structures, with concrete inputs by Commitment Makers. It will be a holistic framework for the Action Coalitions overall and will aim to enhance accountability and to ensure that the implementation of Actions is effective and clearly monitored.

16. Can Member States make commitments beyond the Paris Forum?

Each year, there will be an opportunity for more stakeholders to join the Generation Equality Action Coalitions as Commitment-Makers. There is no maximum number of Commitment Makers or limit to how many commitments a Member State can make. Commitment Makers will participate in the Action Coalitions for a minimum of one year and a maximum of five years.

17. Can Parliamentarians, local authorities, women's councils become Commitment Makers?

Yes, apart from Member States, different departments and entities of Government at national and local levels are able to become Commitment Makers. In addition, Action Coalitions Leaders and Commitment Makers from the below categories are invited to submit strong commitments:

- Private sector entities
- Philanthropic organizations
- UN agencies and other international or regional organizations (including IFIs)
- Women's and feminist organizations, movements, and civil society actors
- Youth-led organizations
- Other institutions (including Universities, research centers, professional organizations, Media, knowledge focused organizations, regional and local governments, Cultural and /or faith-based organizations or institutions, etc.)

18. How will the Global Acceleration Plan on Gender Equality be integrated in and influence UN Women's next Strategic Plan?

UN Women's next Strategic Plan emphasizes a partnership-based approach and the need to leverage and bring together all relevant stakeholders around a common agenda to achieve results for women and girls. The Action Coalitions embody this principle and approach. The Action Coalitions Blueprints, while not included in UN Women's next Strategic Plan, are aligned with the Strategic Plan's main policy areas and will be used as a source of data, learnings and best practices in both policy design and partnerships building. The Action Coalitions Blueprints will support UN Women's policy work at all levels by providing a strategic focus on crucial actions for change and by leveraging the set of multi-stakeholder partnerships to advance greater results for gender equality at scale.

19. How does the Women, Peace, Security/Humanitarian Action Compact differ from Action Coalitions?

As the world continues to be mired in conflict and humanitarian needs caused by violence, climate change, natural disasters and pandemics, among others, the WPS-HA Compact brings together key supporters and champions of the WPS and HA agendas to focus on monitoring and accountability, coordination and financing to implement WPS and humanitarian action commitments. The WPS-HA Compact will harness the existing extensive normative framework on WPS and HA, and accompanying institutional and coordinating mechanism, in an innovative, global, multi-stakeholder partnership that includes governments, civil society (including those representing young women peacebuilders and young women affected by crisis, international and regional organizations, academia and the private sector to:

- catalyze accelerated progress on implementing the WPS-HA agenda;
- spark intersectional global and local conversations among generations;
- drive increased public and private investment;
- deliver concrete results for girls and women in conflict and crisis contexts.

The Compact Framework is structured around the five thematic areas:

- Financing WPS and gender in humanitarian action
- Women's meaningful participation in peace processes
- Women's economic security, access to resources and other essential services
- Women's leadership and agency across peace, security and humanitarian sectors
- Protection of women in conflict and crisis contexts, including women human rights defenders

Each thematic area will have 3-5 specific actions for Member States, UN agencies, Regional Organizations, Civil Society Organizations, Academia and Private Sector.