

Virtual Platform.  
Generation Equality  
Forum in Mexico was  
the landmark for the  
fast online encounter  
for gender equality



# REPORT



GENERATION EQUALITY  
**FORUM**



**29 - 31  
March  
2021**

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# PREFACE

This Forum set out deliberately to break up the ‘old normal’, bringing together all those who will join this ‘new normal’. Women and girls of all ages, racial identities, and backgrounds from different regions of the world, brought their leadership and their realities to this effort. The world listened to them.

I want to express our deepest gratitude to the governments of Mexico and France for co-hosting the Generation Equality Forum in Mexico and in Paris to make this extraordinary global moment of feminist solidarity.

Generation Equality is about action and accelerating the Beijing Platform for Action, the Sustainable Development Goals and about building back better in a gender-responsive manner so that the pandemic legacy is not a further heavy millstone around women’s and girls’ necks. We are done talking. We are full of hope and ambition and ready for concrete action.

The drive for realization of women’s rights unites us; it is what we are committed to accelerate. We will ensure that our actions are groundbreaking and enhance the quality of life for women. The Forum in Mexico planted the seed, and women around the world will reap the harvest with strong steps towards equality.

**PHUMZILE MLAMBO-NGCUKA**

*UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED  
NATIONS AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF UN WOMEN*

# FOREWORD

Once again Mexico became a platform to promote women and girls' by hosting the Generation Equality Forum, which had its first stop in Mexico City from March 29 to 31, 2021, before second phase in Paris, France, on June 30-July 2. With this event, the country reaffirmed its commitment as a progressive ally of gender equality, a commitment that exhibited in 1975, when it hosted the first World Conference on Women. Thus, Mexico kicked off the international route on the advancement of women's rights, which reached a historic milestone at the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, 1995, that culminated in the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPfA), a common guideline for policies and commitments that the UN member States must assume to achieve gender equality.

More than 25 years after the Beijing Conference, the force of the movement for equality came back to Mexico to commemorate the Generation Equality Forum, held online, with some presential events, given the conditions under the Covid-19 pandemic. This virtual format allowed the organization of an innovative forum, with the inclusive and diverse participation of more than 13,000 participants from all over the world, of which almost half of them were young. In Mexico City, the feminisms of the world celebrated the advances and called for urgent action to member states, UN organizations, civil society, and the private sector to decisively accelerate the achievement of the goals of the unfinished business of the BPfA.

During the Generation Equality Forum (GEF) in Mexico, world leaders from all sectors announced commitments to catapult progress on gender equality and unveiled the blueprints for the GEF Action Coalitions, which focus on six thematic areas with priority objectives to be achieved in 2026, as well as the roadmap of the Global Compact for Women, Peace and Security, and Humanitarian Action. The launch of the Gender Equality Group of Friends, with 20 countries joining the call made by the Government of Mexico, was a fresh reminder of the importance of multilateralism for human rights. The National

Institute of Women in Mexico together with UN Women, launched the Global Alliance for Care, a collective commitment initiative that will transform the recognition, reduction, remuneration, representation, and redistribution of care work and care workers at the global level, and with, an ambitious work plan at the national level. UN Women also launched the national chapter of the Unstereotype Alliance to mobilize the commitment of the advertising and marketing sector in the elimination of gender stereotypes in the advertising world. The GEF in Mexico was also an opportunity for civil society together with feminist youth to launch a feminist pathway and vision 2026, presenting key recommendations on how to accelerate the BPfA with an intersectoral and intergenerational lens.

**The Generation Equality Forum made history in Mexico, for the mobilization of high-level commitments, for constituting a genuine space for inclusive participation of the different sectors of society, for the relevant participation of indigenous women, and for adopting the «difference» as a fundamental value and engine of transformative change. Mexico has re-marked a historic route on the feminist agenda with young people in their diversity at the center. The successful GEF in Mexico City resulted in a strengthened feminist path that promises a world in which women and girls are the masters of their present and their destiny.**

**MARTHA DELGADO**

*Undersecretary for Multilateral  
Affairs and Human Rights at the  
Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs*

**NADINE GASMAN**

*President of the National  
Women's Institute of Mexico*

**BELÉN SANZ LUQUE**

*Representative of  
UN Women in Mexico*

# 01 OVERVIEW



The Generation Equality Forum (GEF) is a civil society centred, multistakeholder global gathering for gender equality. It was convened by UN Women and co-hosted by the governments of Mexico and France, in partnership with civil society and youth. Through the co-creation of diverse and inclusive consultations, the Forum brings together feminist advocates from across the globe to foster action and renew movements for gender equality, in addition to launching a set of innovative and multistakeholder Action Coalitions. These innovative global partnerships, established with governments, civil society, international organizations, and the private sector, are designed to catalyze collective action, drive greater public, and private investment, and deliver results that truly make a difference for women and girls across the world; and as mechanisms that help accelerate the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA) 26 years after its creation.

Commencing in Mexico City (Mexico) from 29 to 31 March 2021 and culminating in Paris (France) from 30 June to 2 July 2021, the Generation Equality Forum will continue its process for the next five years. The Generation Equality Forum is a global movement for urgent action and accountability for gender equality. The Forum promotes systemic and transformative change that accelerates the implementation of the historic BPfA and leads to gender equality, resilience, and sustainability in a world affected by COVID-19.

Overall, the Forum in Mexico reinforced the power and voice of feminist movements and youth and kicked off the drive towards bold commitment-making in Paris. As a critical moment for urgent change, it addressed urgent matters to achieve gender equality, propelled by the COVID-19 global crisis, and reinforced the idea that gender equality must be central to every recovery plan. It highlighted

the need for the Generation Equality agenda, issuing a global call to action for commitments to accelerate gender equality implementation, and energizing civil society and feminist movements in the drive towards securing commitments. The Forum in Mexico was organized by a national Steering Committee integrated by Martha Delgado Peralta, Vice Minister of Multilateral Affairs and Human

With civil society and youth representation at its core, the Forum in Mexico City was a moment to reinforce the power and voice of feminism, youth, and civil society as well as renewing action towards the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. The Forum in Mexico City aimed to:

- **Ensure a multistakeholder and human rights approach**
- **Promote balanced intergenerational and intersectional representation**
- **Highlight the impact of COVID-19 on women's rights**
- **Strengthen the women's movement and civil society activism**
- **Promote high-level political commitment and action**

Rights of the MoFA, Nadine Gasman President of Inmujeres, and Belén Sanz, Representative of UN Women in Mexico and a Secretariat, with the participation of a national Civil Society Advisory Group. They all coordinated with UN Women Global GEF Secretariat and the Core Group, and Mexico's Secretary of Culture, as a key holistic partner for the Forum in Mexico. At a global level, the

decision-making body for the Generation Equality Forum was the Core Group. It is co-chaired by UN Women, France, Mexico, and the Civil Society Advisory Group and the Generation Equality Youth Task Force. The Forum was possible thanks to the financial support by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Ford Foundation.

# 1.1 THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF THE GENERATION EQUALITY FORUM IN MEXICO: A JOINT EFFORT WITH CIVIL SOCIETY

In March 2019, UN Women together with the governments of Mexico and France announced the Generation Equality Forum to take place in both countries. The Forum would be a collective mobilization moment with civil society at its core, to galvanize all stakeholders to a roadmap for accelerated action on gender equality commitments that remove the most egregious barriers to gender equality and women's rights.

From its inception, the GEF Secretariat in Mexico sought to generate a strong partnership with the national civil society. A workspace was organized with feminist activists to generate a reflective debate around the Beijing Platform for Action 25 years after its creation (Beijing+25). A group of feminist activists from different regions and social movements met in Mexico City from 22 to 24 August 2019 to analyze the unique political opportunity presented by the Beijing + 25 context to address the structural and systemic obstacles to the realization of gender justice and women's human rights. The meeting resulted in a document called "Women radically transforming a world in crisis," by which this group of feminists shared their diverse and intersecting challenges and offered proposals on the funding, preparatory process, participation, format, and outcome of the Generation Equality Forum, particularly the launch in Mexico City.

In September 2019, the National Steering Committee was installed, with the representation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Inmujeres, and UN Women. A national

Civil Society Advisory Group (CSAG) was also established with members selected based on their specialized knowledge and experience in gender equality and women's human rights issues. The national CSAG would advise the National Steering Committee and the National Secretariat on strategies and entry points to ensure the active participation of civil society in the design and organization of the Forum in Mexico City in collaboration with the Forum's Global Civil Society Group.

The national CSAG has contributed to the development of documents and communications assets, events in the lead-up to the Forum, dissemination of information, and outreach to civil society networks. They have also contributed to the GEF Secretariat in UN Women HQ by participating in the curated discussions, and the GEF public conversations. In close collaboration with the Global CSAG and the Generation Equality Youth Task Force, the national CSAG launched a worldwide consultation process to learn about the demands and needs of women and feminist organizations around the 12 areas of concern of the BPfA and coordinated a national consultation process. The national CSAG played a key role in the construction of the Feminist Pathway, which was launched in Mexico City, and will continue to evolve toward Paris with the aim to arrive as a solid document at the United National General Assembly in September 2021. The CSAG has provided a strong commitment and support to the inclusion of indigenous women, girls, adolescents, and youth, and from around the world in the Forum in Mexico. Throughout the process, the national CSAG has been a key partner and tremendously contributed to the success of the Forum and its strong outcomes.

AMBASSADOR

**YANERIT  
MORGAN**



Executive Secretary  
Generation Equality  
Forum in Mexico





## 1.2 PROGRAMME

The Generation Equality Forum in Mexico was held in a virtual format. The virtual space was designed to allow for vibrant and active interaction. In all plenaries and concurrent panel discussions, participants had the ability to interact in Q&A segments, Chats, answering polling questions, joining networking opportunities and accessing supplemental resources.

A hybrid opening plenary (physical and virtual) marked the beginning of the global Call to Action for Gender Equality. The Forum was inaugurated by authorities from the host countries, including the Presidents of Mexico and France, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Executive Director of UN Women — convener of the Forum—, Sharon Bhagwan Rolls, Representative Global CSAG, and Elvira Pablo, Representative of the GEF Youth Task Force.

The official inauguration of the Forum was followed by an opening ceremony performed with a Tlalmanalli made by Indigenous women from Mexico at the Complejo Cultural Los Pinos in Mexico City. “Tlalmanali” from the Nahuatl indigenous language, is an “offering to the earth” a traditional greeting to the four winds, which consists of an altar on the ground that forms a circle surrounded by natural elements. These elements are divided into four directions (south, north, east, and west), symbolizing earth, water, air, and fire and representing the seed fire of inauguration.

With the support of civil society, and women and feminist movements, a subsequent substantive programme was designed around four critical themes/segments: power, crisis, action, and celebration. It also included cross-cutting feminist conversations and networking spaces, the exhibition hall and the cultural agenda.



## POWER

Designed as a moment to celebrate the power of women and feminist movements to transform a world in crisis, the power segment also recognized the commitments of States and other actors in the achievement of gender equality. A plenary session took place, focusing on “Women’s Transformative Leadership for Gender Equality” which highlighted the importance of women’s leadership as one of the key drivers for gender equality and encouraged the acceleration of the implementation of the BPfA’s commitments on women in power and decision-making. By showcasing the power and voice of the feminist and diverse civil society, youth and grassroots women, indigenous women, and afro-descendant women representatives, the session stressed the importance of public engagement and multistakeholder partnerships to achieving gender equality within the context of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Since the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in 1995, progress on women’s rights had been too slow: In many places, the idea of gender equality has come under attack. Regressive laws are back, and violence against women is increasing. And now, the seismic shocks of the COVID-19 Pandemic have shattered the lives of millions of women and girls and destroyed many of our gains. To counter such a scenario, the session also stressed the power of the intergenerational and intersectional feminist energy in furthering the gender equality agenda and in turning the promise of the Beijing Platform for Action into a lived global reality within our generation.

## CRISIS

Intended as a moment to recognize the crises and for their differentiated and disproportionate impact on women, this segment was structured in breakout sessions, and included 11 thematic dialogue sessions organized in two segments—one in the morning and one in the evening—to ensure inclusive participation from audiences worldwide. Experienced feminist moderators conducted the conversation between the different stakeholders and the audience to ensure a diversity of views to inform the interactive discussions. The thematic dialogues looked at the last 25 years, and discussed the structural crisis, challenges, progress, and opportunities to advance the BPfA. From a structural crisis approach, they focused on the 12 critical areas of concern of the BPfA with an action-oriented focus. They also provided an opportunity to learn from the gender-responsive practices that women and youth organizations and solidarity networks are implementing in the COVID-19 response and recovery context.

## ACTION

The segment included seven concurrent spaces (two segments each – am/pm) for leaders from each of the six Action Coalitions and the catalytic members of the Compact on Women, Peace & Security and Humanitarian Action Compact (WPS-HA), shared their vision, presented the Action Coalition blueprints, and enhanced international mobilization in promoting global commitments.

## CELEBRATION

This moment sought to vindicate the collective power of women and youth, through dialogues and celebrating the commitments reached in the Forum. The closing segment was a stage for the youth and civil society to present their Feminist Pathway and vision 2026 to the Forum. The closing also kicked off the global call to action to support the drive for commitments from Mexico to Paris.

# CROSS-CUTTING SESSION RESERVED FOR FEMINIST CONVERSATIONS AND NETWORKING SPACES

Cross-cutting sessions throughout the programme included 9 Special Sessions, 18 healing and resilience dialogues, and 8 feminist conversations which allowed for intergenerational and intersectional inspirational dialogue on transformative power.

## CULTURAL AGENDA

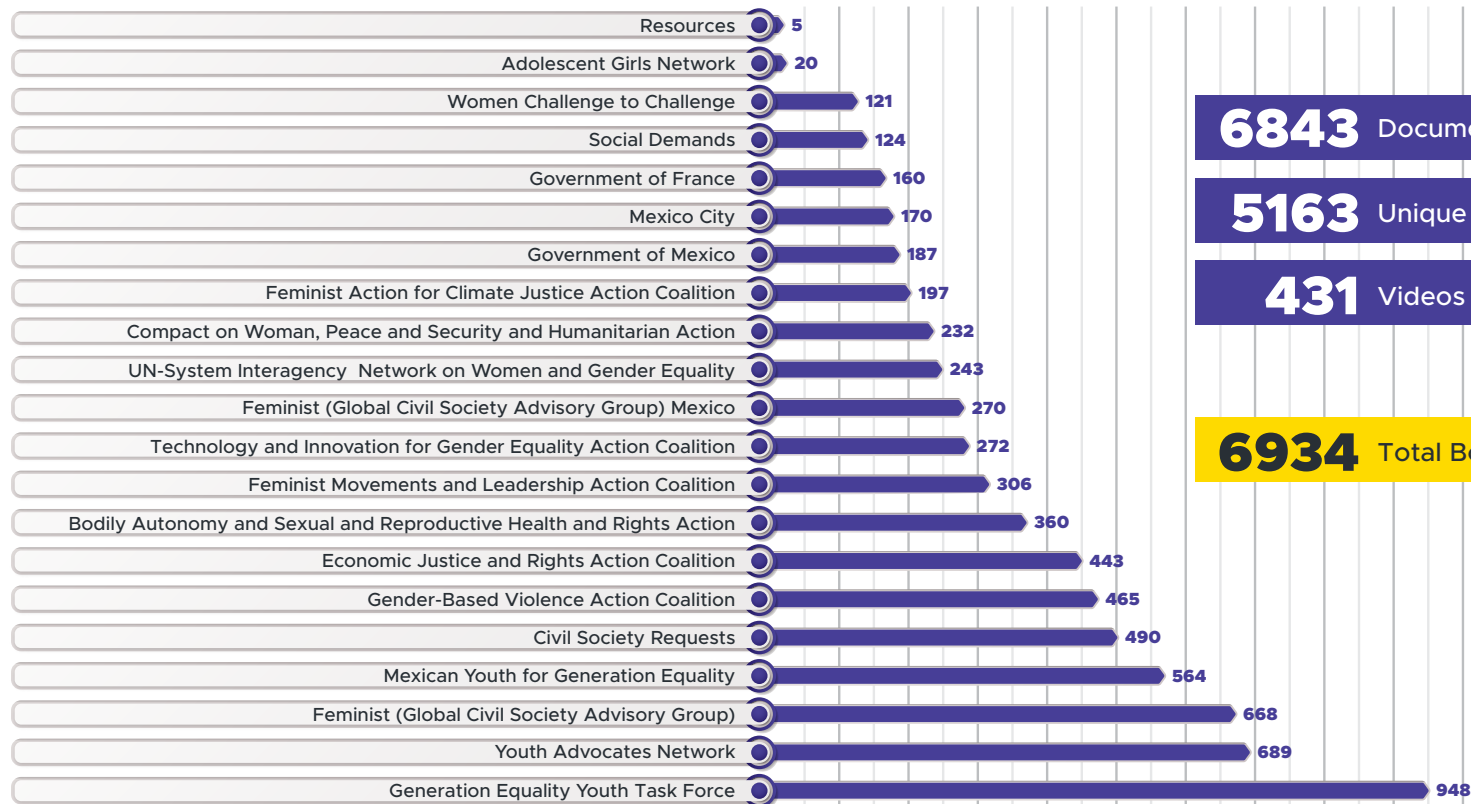
A highlight from the Forum in Mexico was its cultural agenda which included conferences, concerts, discussion tables, a Generation Equality Film Festival, feminist digital art exhibition, photo exhibitions, theatrical presentation, the inauguration of the Generation Equality Wall, and other cultural and creative spaces designed to promote inclusive citizen engagement. Each one had the participation of outstanding professionals in the world of art and culture in Mexico, Latin America, and abroad. (Further details available in section 2.2 of this report).



## VIRTUAL EXHIBITION HALL

The Exhibition Hall was an open, and inclusive space for all participants of the Forum. It was a dedicated space for the GEF constituencies to showcase their work related to the Forum's objectives. It featured 20 inclusive booths that allowed showcasing and learning from good practices, advocacy tools, and mobilization experiences and challenges in the field. The hall's networking opportunities were critical to learning about, commitments to the Forum, COVID-19 responses, organization's strategic GEF aligned results and 2020 deliverables, knowledge products, publications, communication assets, programme interventions, and advocacy opportunities.

# EXHIBITION HALL VISITS



**6843** Documents Clicked

**5163** Unique Booth Visits

**431** Videos Viewed

**6934** Total Booth Visits

Participant partners included: The Youth Task Force, the Youth Advocates Network, the Adolescent Girls Network, the Mexican National Youth Network, Global CSAG, Mexico's National CSAG, the UN Interagency Network on Women and Gender Equality (IANWGE), the six Action Coalitions and the Global Compact on Women Peace and Security, the Government of Mexico, the Government of France, and the City of Mexico as host of the Forum. There was also a booth dedicated to the issue of people with disabilities and one dedicated to receiving social demands, as an initiative by the Government of Mexico.

Nearly 7 thousand visits to the booths were registered during the Forum's dates. With the Youth Task Force booth being the most visited, followed by the booth from the Global Civil Society Advisory Group. These numbers reflect the success of the Forum in being a civil society and youth-led and centered event. Overall, the exhibitions at the Hall were of high interest to participants curious about engaging and learning more about the Forum's partners' work, diverse content, initiatives, and networks on an easily accessible modality.



## 1.3 PARTICIPANTS



“ In Mexico we are fighting classism, discrimination, and racism. There is no tolerance for machism nor is there impunity, hate crimes and femicides are punished. (...) We want to live in a truly human society struggling daily to achieve the ideal, the utopia for which the French revolutionaries of the 18th century dreamed, “freedom, equality and fraternity.” ”

**Andrés Manuel López Obrador**  
President of Mexico



“ Why a Generation Equality Forum? First, to reaffirm that women's rights are human rights, universal rights. And that no relativism, no religious or cultural justification, whatever it may be, can limit them, put them in doubt, reverse them or lead to accepting the cessation of a struggle to achieve more rights. That these rights are inalienable, intangible, and that equality between men and women is not negotiable, either depending on the context or the time.” ”

**Emmanuel Macron**  
President of France

Nearly 500 panelists from more than 90 countries contributed to this global and multistakeholder conversation, including:

- **2 Presidents and 2 Prime Ministers**
- **4 Vice-Presidents**
- **Ministers and Secretaries of State from 57 governments**
- **The Crown Princess of Denmark**
- **A Nobel Peace Laureate (1992)**
- **5 Female Mayors**
- **62 civil society organizations**
- **20 UN agencies as speakers at the Forum including ECLAC, ILO, IUCN, OHCHR, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, and others.**
- **More than 30 international, youth and/or Private Initiative organizations**

The main programme included 329 speakers, and feminist conversations with more than 200 diverse speakers.

## 1.4 AUDIENCES

The Forum secured a total of 18,488 connections distributed over the three days of the event as follows:<sup>1</sup>

### Connections on 31 March 3,768 users

- The most watched session was the Opening Ceremony with a total of 1832 users.
- The second one was “Women and Transformative Leadership of Generation Equality” with a total of 1,551 users.
- The third one was “The Economy The crisis of economic and global development models and their impact on women and girls, with a focus on the COVID-19 context” with a total count of 899 users.

### Connections on 30 March 4,970 users

- The most-watched session on “Gender-Based Violence” with a total of 820 users.
- The second one was “Economic Justice and Rights” which had a total of 652 users.
- The third one was “Feminist Movements and Leadership” which had a total count of 459 users.

### Connections on 31 March 3,768 users

- The most watched session was “Closing Remarks - Passing the torch and Musical performance” which had a total of 719 users.
- The second one was a side event led by the Government of Mexico: “Launch of the Group of Friends for Gender Equality” with a total of 676 users.
- The third one was “Mobilizing Commitments” with a total count of 623 users.

**Total views on  
29 March:  
9,750 users**

**Connections on  
30 March:  
4,970 users**

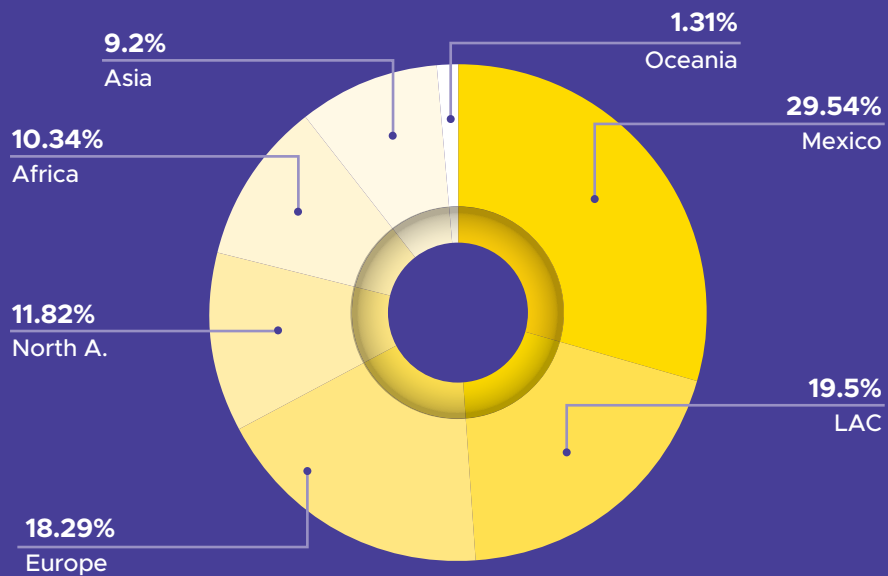
**Connections on  
31 March:  
3,768 users**

<sup>1</sup> The retransmission in Spanish by the National Civil Society Advisory Group reached 22 thousand viewers.

## BREAKDOWN BY REGION

- Highest representation from Mexico (29.6% of participants)
- Second highest representation from LAC (19.5% of participants) and Europe (18.3%)
- Lowest representation from Asia (9.2%) and Oceania (1.3%)

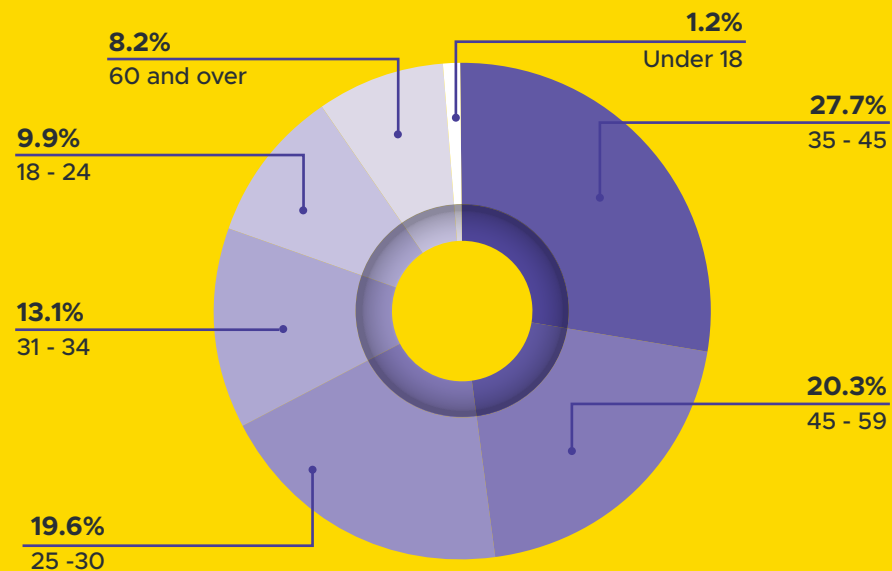
Total Count per Region



## BREAKDOWN BY AGE

- The Forum secured a highly visible youth engagement) with 43.8% of participants 34 years old and younger
- The largest cohort was for participants between 35 - 45 years old (47.27 %)
- 20.3% between 45 - 59 years old
- 8.2% are over 60 years old

Total Count of Ages in the Forum

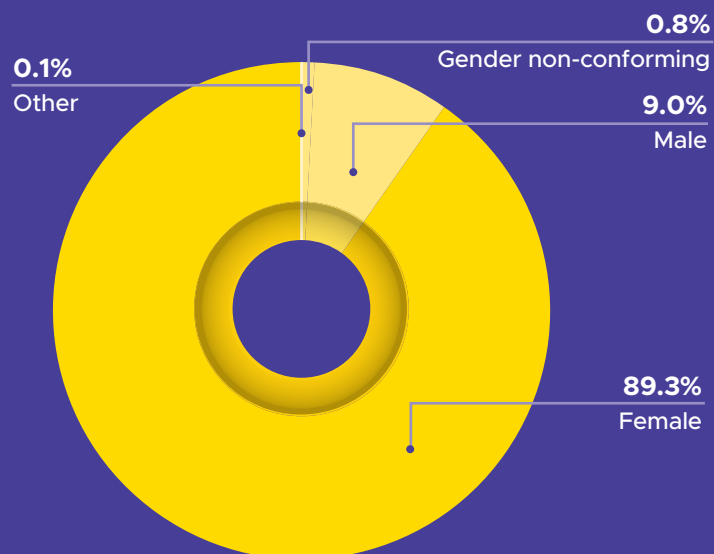




## BREAKDOWN BY GENDER

- 89.3% of participants identify as female
- 9.0% identify as male
- 0.9% identify as gender non-conforming or do not feel comfortable answering this question

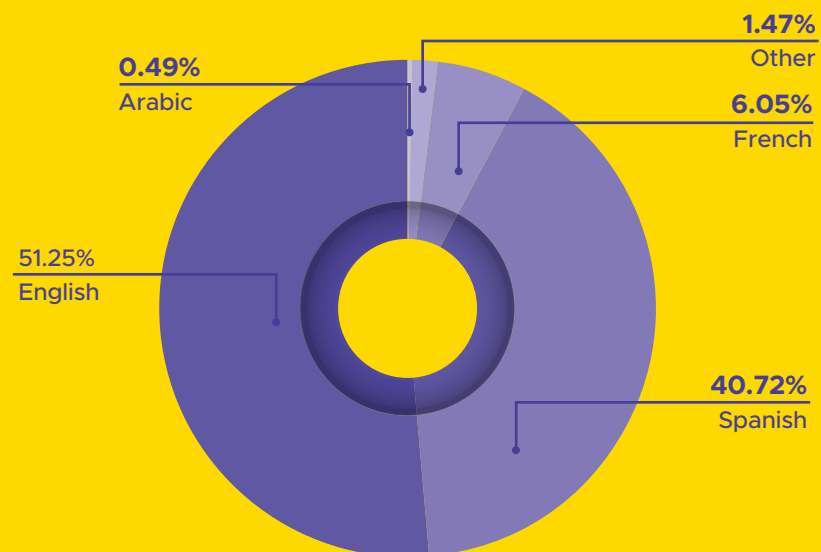
Total Count per Gender



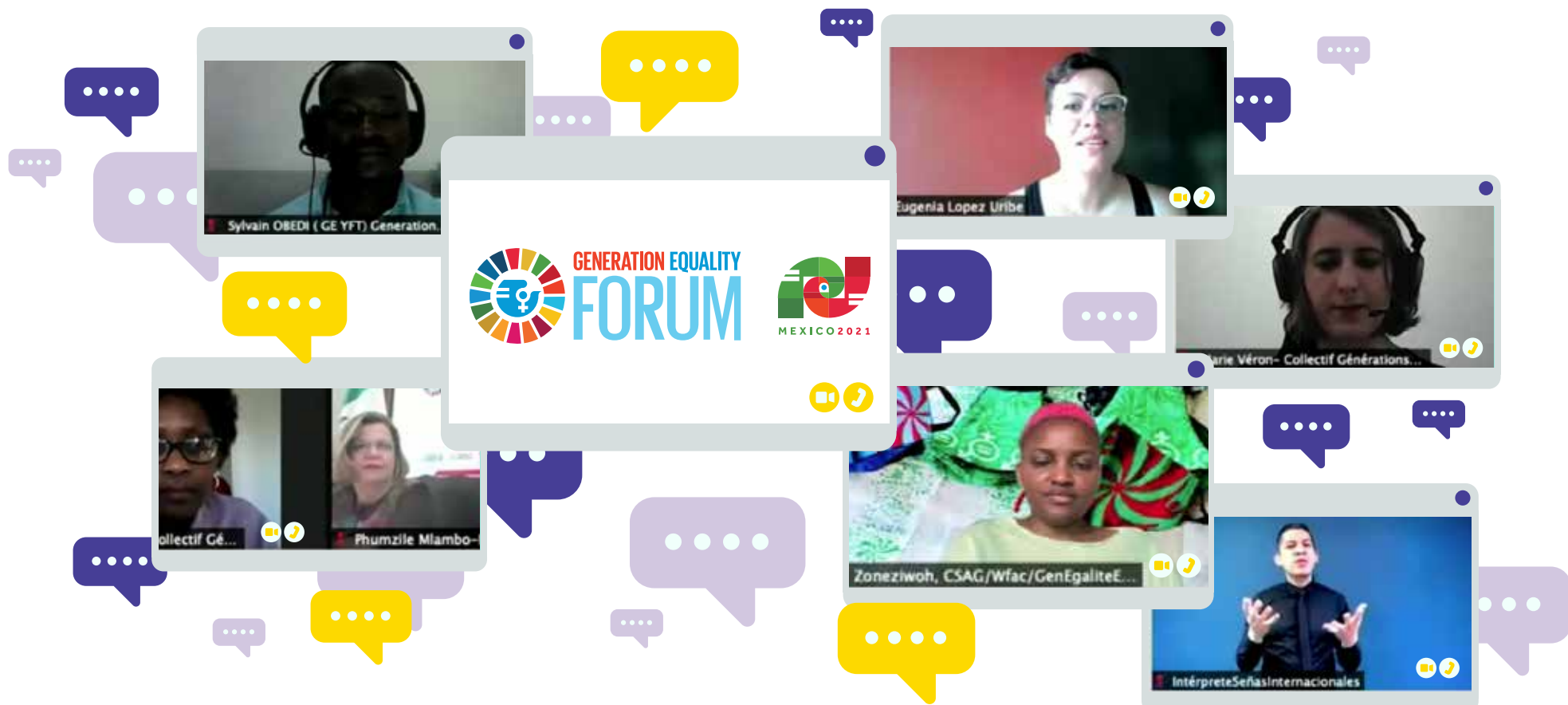
## BREAKDOWN BY SELECT LANGUAGES

- The most selected language by participants was English (51.2%), followed by Spanish (40.7%) and French (6.0%)
- Other languages included Arabic, Russian, Nahuatl indigenous language and Sign interpretation.

Total Count of Languages Spoken in the Forum



01



## LIVE, OPEN, PUBLIC, ONLINE ACCESS

The Forum's plenary sessions, opening and closing ceremonies were live-streamed into YouTube and Facebook through the institutional accounts of UN Women, Inmujeres, and UN Web TV. The first plenary sessions had up to 16,000 views on the different platforms.



## 1.5 CREATING A SAFE AND INCLUSIVE SPACE



For the GEF in Mexico, diversity, and inclusion meant having a gender, age, and regional balance in every session but also providing a safe and inclusive environment where discussions were enjoyable, and every voice was equally heard.

### SECURING A VIRTUAL SAFE SPACE

The Forum put in place a Community Agreement and Guidance (code of conduct) from which the Forum would not tolerate any form of online harassment, including but not limited to:

- Any form of cyberbullying and violence, as well as acts that perpetuate oppressive systems, such as classism, ageism, disability, racism, misogyny, sexism or transphobia, including hate speech.
- Profane, explicit, or harmful language.
- Scams, money requests, advertisements, or phishing of any kind.
- Also, a cybersecurity risk assessment and management strategy were developed to secure a virtual event and answer questions and confrontations in the event of incidents.

### SECURING A VIRTUAL SAFE SPACE FOR GIRLS

The Generation Equality Forum in Mexico placed the inclusion of girls and adolescents in a special way. To this end, the national Mexican Secretariat established key links with national and international civil society organizations that work with girls and adolescents. Civil society strongly supported the development of safe and comfortable spaces so that girls and adolescents feel comfortable to voice their demands; and the consent documents for the dissemination of images that required the signature of the girls and adolescents, as well as their mother, father and/or legal guardian. These practices allowed diverse and inclusive dialogue with girls and young people from all regions, different cultures, sexual orientations, languages, and ethnicities.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> The organizations that accompanied the process were: Xochitépetl Human Rights Group, CONAMI, CIPE, These Scissors Cut, MEXFAM, The Hunger Project Mexico, Save the Children, Girls Not Brides and AGIP. Two UN Women focal points were secured to safeguard the girls' integrity.

### SECURING SAFE, INCLUSIVE, AND RESPECTFUL SPACES FOR THE PARTICIPATION OF INDIGENOUS WOMEN, GIRLS, ADOLESCENTS AND YOUTH

The Forum envisioned the participation of diverse women's networks of indigenous women. Mexican indigenous women and girls were invited to have a physical presence in the Forum's opening through a traditional ceremony with a sacred fire lit that kept on for three days protecting the Forum. At the closing, the smoke and ashes were symbolically given to the Forum's organizers as a blessing to the commitments drive to Paris.





The work process with this group required efforts. Indigenous women's organizations require a horizontal communication of collective decision-making. A focal point was designated to interact and define with them their participation, secure all logistic, commuting and housing arrangements in Mexico City during the Forum. The indigenous women were accommodated in Los Pinos, a former presidential estate that the Mexican Government has opened as a cultural space.

The opening and closing ceremonies were performed in native languages and translated by themselves into Spanish. The twenty-two participant indigenous women included older women, youth, adolescents, pregnant women, and women with children.

Networks that supported the Indigenous women's engagement in the Forum:

- Red Autónoma de Médicos Tradicionales y Parteras Ciudad de México y Área Metropolitana
- Colectivo de partería Log Olaj Alaxin Sagrado Nacimiento
- Casa de medicina tradicional Ixchel
- Consejo Indígena del Trueque del Estado de México
- Coordinadora Nacional de Mujeres Indígenas, CONAMI México.

## Overcoming language barriers

To address the persisting language barriers, the Forum secured interpretation into six languages, including an indigenous language, and International Sign Language. From the GEF in Mexico, 4% of registered participants reported having visual or hearing impairments. In this regard, securing sign language throughout the programme contributed further to making the Forum truly inclusive and participatory.

# 01

## 1.6 COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY AND OUTREACH

The Generation Equality Forum in Mexico was designed and implemented at a national, regional, and international level, to reach not only the stakeholders and interested participants, but to communicate with diverse audiences based with an intergenerational and intersectional approach. The GEF Communications strategy was based on key strategic media actions and online tactics, as well as three series of podcasts that, with more than 120 hours of recorded sessions and 30 videos of cultural activities, integrate the content hosted in the GEF, UN Women and Inmujeres social media accounts.

The communications campaign around the Forum aimed to create awareness of the imperative for action on gender equality, especially in the COVID-19 context, drive significant gender equality investments and commitments, provide opportunities for all actors to act for gender equality, and enlist and showcase the activism of movements and youth. Key results:

- 895 media clippings
- 235 million potential impressions for the closing press release newswire press performance
- Coverage included El Tiempo, CNN, CBS News, Forbes, Yahoo News, The Guardian, BBC Radio, ABC, Bloomberg, RCN TV & El Pais
- #ActForEqual reached 6.4 million people and was mentioned 1,850 times
- #GenerationEquality reached 23.2 million and was mentioned 18,952 times
- #GeneraciónIgualdad reached 9.2 million people and was mentioned 1,862 times
- #GénérationÉgalité reached 1.2 million people and was mentioned 163 times.

Details of the outreach and results are available in the annex.



**“ In many places, the very idea of gender equality has come under attack. Regressive laws are back, and violence against women is increasing. And now, the seismic shocks of the COVID-19 Pandemic have shattered the lives of millions of women and girls and destroyed many of our gains. ”**

**Antonio Guterres**  
Secretary-General of the  
United Nations





GENERATION EQUALITY  
**FORUM**



MEXICO2021



# SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS ON FEMINISM, NEW DEMANDS, AND NEW ACTORS



## 2.1 STRENGTHENING THE INTERSECTIONAL DISCOURSE AND THE FEMINIST AGENDA (HIGH-LEVEL OVERVIEW OF KEY ISSUES RAISED AND POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS)

The Generation Equality Forum in Mexico started with the «Power» moment of the programme. The opening plenary focused on the power of women in leadership, and the inclusive and diverse feminist movements to transform a world in crisis. The formal opening ceremony of the Generation Equality Forum in Mexico City (29 March 2021) witnessed global leaders unite to call for bold and concrete progress towards gender equality. The official opening was addressed by Mexico's President, Andrés Manuel López Obrador and the President of France Emmanuel Macron (via video link), the UN Secretary-General António Guterres (via video link), the Executive Director of UN Women Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, youth activist Elvira Pablo and civil society leader Sharon Bhagwan Rolls (via video link). The opening panel observed that, while there had been significant victories within the last 26 years in achieving gender equality through the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, progress remained “too slow” or had even been diminished by a number of factors, including the impact of the COVID-19.

**In a world that remains predominantly in the hands of men, the COVID-19 pandemic has shattered the lives of millions more women and girls who have also suffered a lot of job losses. The pandemic has plunged 47 million more women into extreme poverty and precipitated a ‘shadow pandemic’ of violence against women around the world, further destroying many of their previous gains.**

The Generation Equality Forum marks an era of catalytic action to accelerate change, offering a critical opportunity to confront these rising crises, as well as the enduring structural inequalities that preceded it. With activists and governments working side by side with corporations, international organisations and philanthropists, the Forum is designing and shaping a bold agenda for accelerated action on women's rights,” which would come with decisive, collective, urgent and transformative actions. With concrete investments, accountability and time frames, the goals will be accomplished in an accelerated manner.

5 critical steps to achieve gender equality identified by the UN Secretary-General

- Women's equal rights need to be protected and discriminatory laws needed to be repealed.
- Equal representation needed to be ensured – from company boards to parliaments and beyond – through special measures and quotas.
- Women's economic inclusion had to be advanced through equal pay, job protection, targeted credit and investments in the care economy and social protection.
- Emergency response plans had to be immediately enacted to address violence against women and girls.
- Space had to also be given to the intergenerational transition that was underway as well as to the young people who were advocating for a more just and equal world.

**The power moment also included a plenary session ‘Women and Transformative Leadership for Generation Equality’**

With 1,551 viewers, the plenary session highlighted women's leadership as one of the key drivers for gender equality and featured the Prime Minister of Finland, Sanna Marin, the UN's Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohamed and many other speakers. The panelists discussed the importance of inclusive leadership and the change it can bring for all girls and women worldwide and shared their approaches and experiences before and during the COVID-19 outbreak. *Watch the recording of the plenary session [here](#).*

This 'Women's Transformative Leadership for Gender Equality' session highlighted the importance of women's leadership as one of the key drivers for gender equality and encouraged the acceleration of the implementation of commitments from the Beijing Platform for Action on women in power and decision-making.

The main objective of this discussion was to emphasize an action-oriented vision of women's leadership by creating a space where women leaders from across the world shared their approaches, lessons learned, and experiences. Additionally, they spoke about the value of women's leadership and addressed the conditions needed for women to take on leadership roles. The goal was to offer standards of effective, feminist, intergenerational leadership to change the global picture of a leader and to discuss how the world can best build back better.



Photo: UN Women/Ryan Brown

“Today we begin a global effort that will reinforce the power and voice of feminism, youth and grassroots movements.”

**Amina J Mohammed**

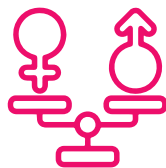
Deputy Secretary-General at the GA73 – Side Event - Spotlight on Femicide in Latin America



### ACCESS TO EDUCATION



### ACCESS TO SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

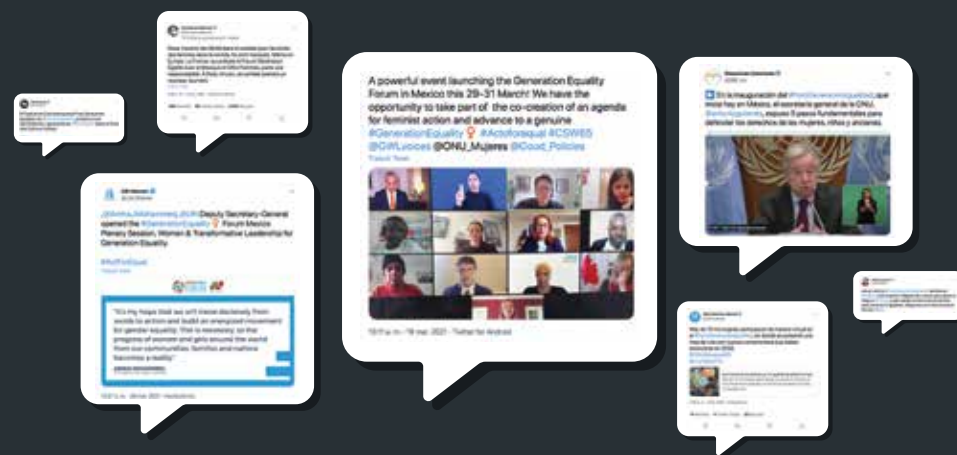


### EQUAL RIGHTS

The dialogue underlined the importance of securing equal access to education, and to sexual and reproductive health and equal rights. Additionally, securing a period-poverty-free world for women and secure that they can take on equal leadership roles and participate in decision making was a key discussion point throughout the session. Structural obstacles in which young women in particular face, include: the lack of acceptance into leadership positions, the deep stereotypes women leaders face when they enter a position of power and the misconception that participation in decision-making processes is based on merit rather than on privilege. Speaking from their personal experience, achieving parity in leadership positions is about diverse and inclusive leadership. The inclusion of young women, the elimination of violence against women and impunity are questions of justice and human rights in democratic societies. The world has been progressing since 1995, however, the pace at which we are moving is far too slow, causing great frustrations amongst feminist activists. With an emphasis on the importance of intersectional and intergenerational leadership, the gender equality agenda aims to broaden the agenda of justice and equality and to strategically accelerate progress.

## 2.1.1 CRISIS MOMENT: THEMATIC SESSIONS

As a global public conversation for urgent action and accountability for gender equality, the Generation Equality Forum in Mexico City promoted a systemic and transformative change that accelerates the implementation of the Beijing Platform of Action (BPA) and leads to gender equality, resilience, and sustainability in a world affected by COVID-19. In this regard, the Thematic Sessions were action-oriented sessions focus on the critical areas of concern of the BPfA in a structural crisis approach, aiming at strengthening the women's movement and civil society activism, promoting high-level political commitment and action and ensuring prominent public awareness and support the gender equality agenda. Discussions were driven by an experienced feminist moderators who directed the conversation between different stakeholders and the audience to ensure a diversity of views. The audience was able to interact by using the chat on the platform. Highlights of the discussions of the Thematic Sessions follow.





## THEMATIC SESSION

### The Crisis of Economic and Global Development Models and their Impact on Women and Girls in the COVID-19 Context



## KEY MESSAGES

- The main challenges of the current economic system are the disadvantages faced by women and the limited access they have to the means of production. COVID-19 greatly exacerbated the inequalities women must face on a daily basis.
- It is not sustainable to rebuild the past. The only way out of this crisis is by reviewing and addressing the structural deficits. An essential issue of the current model is the inadequate protection women experience from the government; particularly women working in the informal sector.
- By creating a fiscal and gender pact that contributes to the gender-responsive economic recovery, significant increases of resources should be granted to the gender equality agenda, and its programs. It is important to consider investment and stimulus service packages, all under a regional and international cooperation framework.



## OBJECTIVE

The thematic dialogue aimed to be a decisive space to promote an essential dialogue on the growth of the economy and wealth distribution, its impact on women and how solutions and actions can be taken to ensure gender equality and the equal rights of women and girls.



## PARTICIPANTS

**2 Moderators:** from UN Women and PODER/DAWN.

**16 Panelists in Total:** 5 United Nations Officials; 3 government representatives, 6 NGO representatives; 2 academics.



## VIEWERS

**899 viewers** attended this session. **The largest population groups that joined were women (86.3%),** Age group between 35-45 (26.8%), North American Region (60.5%).

For the morning session please click the link here



For the evening session please click the link here





## THEMATIC SESSION

### Gender-based Violence. The Crisis of Gender-based Violence – Especially in the Context of COVID-19 – and the Need for Awareness, Prosecution and Eradication



## KEY MESSAGES

- Women's equal access to decision-making and considering women as rights holders, not only as beneficiaries of programmes is critical.
- Substantially increase budgets to confront violence, with women's rights at the center and secure programs and action plans designed with an intersectional lens.
- Policies are not enough. All Member States need to ratify and fully implement the international human rights instruments. Adequate resources, accountability mechanisms and effective communication will accelerate action and positive Impacts.
- The establishment of alliances with civil society organizations to provide essential services in the Covid-19 crisis context is urgent. It is important to have civil society organizations as co-responsible in the first line of care, creating ties to provide essential services in urgent actions.
- In the work of prosecutors, CEDAW must be incorporated and have records, data on prosecuted cases, because there are gaps between the complaints and the figures. Based on these data, programs and policies must be developed that respond to reality.



## OBJECTIVE

Generate global and innovative multi-stakeholder recommendations in relation to preventing and responding to gender-based violence against women and girls worldwide, and promoting access to justice for victims and survivors, especially in the context of the pandemic of Covid-19.



## PARTICIPANTS

**2 Moderators:** From UN Women and civil society representative.

**18 Panelists in Total:** 3 United Nations Officials, 6 government representatives, 2 NGO representatives, 1 university professor, 1 international financial organization representative, 3 human rights defenders, 1 Superior court judge and 1 foundation representative.



## VIEWERS

**820 viewers** attended this session.

**The largest population groups that joined were women (95.4%),** age group between 35-45 (33.8%), North American Region (66.5%).



For the evening session please click the link here



## THEMATIC SESSION

### Feminist Movements. The Challenges of Feminist Movements and Grassroots Women's Organizations Including in the COVID-19 Context



## KEY MESSAGES

- Feminist movements are critical to promoting and strengthening democracy. Restrictions, lack of funding and movements against human right challenge feminist movements in many parts of the world.
- States need to develop programs and institutions with the concomitant budget allocations to ensure that the differentiated challenges that women in their diversity face are addressed. Funders (governments, private sector, and private philanthropy) must commit to improving their role by placing the funding in the hands of feminist groups or movements that are doing work designed to redistribute wealth.
- It is crucial to generate and strengthen national protection mechanisms for feminist human rights defenders and create safe spaces to promote civic dialogue and enhance social accountability mechanisms.
- Feminist movements need to share experiences and good practices of various countries, particularly related to legislative and institutional frameworks, such as equal opportunity commissions.



## OBJECTIVE

Identify the main challenges that feminist movements, civil society organisations and grassroots groups are currently experiencing, and collectively discuss innovative, creative solutions to overcome those challenges.



## PARTICIPANTS

**2 Moderators:** from civil society

**14 Panelists in Total:** 1 United Nations Officials, 1 international organization, 4 government representatives, 5 NGO representatives, 1 indigenous woman leader, 1 human rights defender, 1 parliamentarian.



## VIEWERS

**168 viewers attended this session.** The largest population groups that joined were women (83.0%), Age group between 25-30 (24.3%), North American Region (61.7%).

For the morning session please click the link here



For the evening session please click the link here



## THEMATIC SESSION

### Media. The Role of Media in Building a Feminist Agenda



## KEY MESSAGES

- Media can play a crucial role in building the feminist agenda. It is important to question the narratives used in the media and the way it stereotypes women. The narrative must frame policies that empower women in the public space, ensuring that media includes news about women, providing that the content is balanced across gender and non-binary lines and respects diversity. Portraying women entrepreneurs and women in business in the media and digital platforms is an effective strategy to change mindsets and combat gender stereotyping.
- It is important to take advantage of technology to help women and create mechanisms to prevent perpetrators from misusing technology harming women.
- Journalism schools should incorporate a feminist/gendered perspective as part of the curricula for journalists and strengthen the networks of feminist journalists.



## OBJECTIVE

Question existing norms and rules; explore the gaps in regulatory mechanisms, particularly regarding the cross-border jurisdiction of social media and its role in shaping national public spheres; and reinforce global to local mechanisms to promote gender equality within the media and digital sectors and address gender stereotypes in the media.



## PARTICIPANTS

**2 Moderators:** for civil society.

**15 Panelists in Total:** 2 United Nations Officials, 4 government representatives, 4 NGO representatives, 3 social networks and media, 1 academia.



## VIEWERS

**379 viewers** attended this session.

**The largest population groups that joined were women (83.0%),** Age group between 25-30 (24.3%), North American Region (61.7%).

For the morning session please click the link here



For the evening session please click the link here



## THEMATIC SESSION

### Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR). Understanding Challenges to Bodily Autonomy, Access, and Respect of SRHR, with a Focus on the COVID-19 Context



## KEY MESSAGES

- Sexual and reproductive rights are part of the fundamental rights package. There is no gender equality without bodily autonomy.
- The discussion on Sexual and reproductive rights and bodily autonomy should start by recognizing the specific needs related to sexual orientations and gender identities.
- When political systems are weak, women's health suffers. COVID-19 put aside support to SRHR issues. Nearly 12 million women in poorer countries have lost access to contraceptives during the pandemic, resulting in 1.4 million unplanned pregnancies. Also, funding toward comprehensive and essential sexual and reproductive health services has been curtailed.
- Increased and sustained funding for sexual and reproductive health and rights and for women's civil society movements is critical to advance gender equality.
- Youth activists and movements need to continue their work to tackle power structures. Young people in all their diversity must get into decision-making structures and processes and forge alliances with those who cannot make decisions. They need to continue making noise!



## OBJECTIVE

The session aimed to mobilize multi-stakeholder support to the inclusion of sexual and reproductive health and rights for women and girls in every public agenda and outcome. The session would spark a joint reflection about the challenges that countries face to fulfilling the BPA's commitments on women and health, including the challenges posed by COVID-19 and its negative effects on health and sexual and reproductive rights, which implies addressing structural inequalities that women face.



## PARTICIPANTS

**2 Moderators:** from civil society.

**18 Panelists in Total:** 1 United Nations Officials, 1 international organization, 5 government representatives, 3 youth task force, 7 NGO representatives, 1 indigenous woman leader.



## VIEWERS

**760 viewers** attended this session.

For the morning session please click the link here



For the evening session please click the link here





## THEMATIC SESSION

### Crisis in the Achievement of Gender Equality in Peace and Security and Humanitarian Sector



## KEY MESSAGES

- Twenty-six years after the Beijing Platform for Action, equitable participation and the inclusion of a gender perspective in peacekeeping operations and strategies that seek justice during armed conflicts continue to be discussed.
- Attacks against women and youth human rights defenders and peace activists have increased. The Compact presents an important arena through which civil society, Member States, and UN entities can work together to promote sustainable peace and gender equality.
- Ensuring the inclusion of a gender perspective in all the resolutions of the General Assembly and other judicial instruments based on the Geneva Conventions is a must.
- The inclusion of women in decision-making processes, gender-responsive monitoring of results and analysis of local perspectives are critical.
- Participants emphasized the urgent need to strengthen accountability, mobilize funding, and accelerate existing commitments in the sectors. At a time when women—including young women—and youth continue to be excluded from peace and security processes, political decision-making, and COVID-19 response and recovery taskforces. To make the bold, innovative, and game-changing commitments to women and girls in conflict and humanitarian settings, it is critical to strategically link to existing humanitarian frameworks and build on existing expertise and resources within established and agreed frameworks.

For the morning session please click the link here



## OBJECTIVE

This thematic session aimed to analyze how the GEF outcomes, including the Compact, can accelerate the implementation of the WPS agenda and gender equality in humanitarian action.



## PARTICIPANTS

**2 Moderators:** from the UN.

**20 Panelists in Total:** 4 United Nations Officials, 3 government representatives, 13 NGO representatives.



## VIEWERS

**455 viewers** attended this session. 89,9% women, 57.5 under 34 years old.



## THEMATIC SESSION

### Feminism in the Context of the Environmental Crisis and the Climate Emergency



## KEY MESSAGES

- The environmental crisis and the climate emergency disproportionately affect the world's poorest and most marginalized groups. Women and girls are especially vulnerable due to the political, economic, and a social obstacles they face and their dependence on natural resources.
- All women and girls have the right to live in a healthy environment, the right to life, health, nutritious food, clean drinking water, sanitation, and sustainable housing. The negative impacts of climate change constitute a serious interference in the exercise of their fundamental human rights.
- Equal access to resources, adequate and sufficient attention to marginalized groups, and involve new generations of women, and girls to influence policies is urgent.
- It is necessary to raise awareness of the climate crisis, and guarantee the incorporation of the voices of indigenous women, disabled women, civil society, academics, entrepreneurs, and young people to create solutions.
- Constant dialogue and the inclusion of youth in the search for solutions and in decision-making is prevalent. The future of the planet is the future of youth.
- To address the post-COVID-19 crisis, consider women's participation in the recovery process. Youth must be in the decision-making table. The joint construction of medium and long-term plans to address the climate change issues was highly recommended.



## OBJECTIVE

The sessions aim was to address the main challenges women face due to environmental crisis and recognizing how women's innovations and expertise have transformed lives and livelihoods and led the way towards more equitable and sustainable climate change solutions.



## PARTICIPANTS

**2 Moderators:** from the UN.

**14 Panelists in Total:** 3 Government representatives, 10 NGO representatives and 1 indigenous women representative.



## VIEWERS

**373 viewers** attended this session. 94,6% women, 37.3 under 34 years old.

For the morning session please click the link here



For the evening session please click the link here

## THEMATIC SESSION

### Institutional Mechanisms for the Advancement of Women

#### KEY MESSAGES

- National mechanisms are part of the Beijing Platform's legacy. As central coordinating units, they have played key roles in integrating the gender perspectives into policy, legislation and programmes; and generating and disseminating gender-disaggregated data and information. They are the anchor of feminist democracies and feminist multilateralism. Their authority at the Cabinet-level is critical to enabling them to influence the gender-responsive public policies and promote an intersectional lens.
- Crises hit women harder. National mechanisms are continuously challenged to forge feminist alliances to strengthen economic and institutional gender equality policies in all areas.
- International feminist alliances are important to respond to backlash and protect the hard-won gains in gender equality issues. The lack of human and financial resources, including insufficient staff and budget, unclear mandates, frequent relocation within the government structure, are some of the constraints that national mechanisms continue to face to promote gender-responsive public policies and programmes at all levels.



## OBJECTIVE

The session aimed at creating a relevant, current, and creative dialogue on the appropriate institutional mechanisms for ensuring that gender mainstreaming agendas are implemented and issues of gender equality remain central in public policy. It also aimed to highlight the Institutional mechanisms' important role as advocates for the centrality of gender equality in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



## PARTICIPANTS

**2 Moderators:** 1 from the UN and 1 Government representative.

**Ministries and representative** from national mechanisms from 16 countries.



## VIEWERS

**627 viewers** attended this session.

94,6% women, 83.6 under 34 years old.

For the morning session please click the link here



For the evening session please click the link here



## THEMATIC SESSION

### Technology and Innovation for Gender Equality. Challenges and Opportunities Evolving from the COVID-19 Context



## KEY MESSAGES

- The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the rules of the game in the use of new technologies in a very short period and has opened different avenues. While it has also exposed inequalities in terms of access capacities, the use of technological tools and women's participation in the leadership in science and innovation, it has also placed new obstacles on the map for the achievement of equality and fair access to technologies.
- Certain regions and countries are not yet on the global map in terms of technology. The pandemic has impacted on workflow and access to education. Some communities and schools that do not have internet. Many people, especially women, girls, and boys from marginalized communities, do not have computers.
- Intersectoral strategies must be put in place so that more women and girls can join more scientific programs.
- Public policies must contribute to reducing the gender gap, for which it is also essential to incorporate women and girls in their development.
- New technologies must provide new means of exercising human rights and not infringing them, ethics must be reflected at the government level and in the practices of the private sector.



## OBJECTIVE

The main objective of this event was to emphasize an action-oriented vision on how to drive a more equal and inclusive digital transformation and create a space where participants from across the world can share their approaches, lessons learned, and experiences from before and during the COVID-19 outbreak.



## PARTICIPANTS

**2 Moderators:** from civil society.

**14 Panelists in Total:** 2 United Nations Officials, 3 Government representatives and 9 NGO representatives.



## VIEWERS

**97 viewers** attended this session with 67% women, 12.5% men instead of male and 19.7% not answering, identifying as gender non-binary or not comfortable answering this question. Nearly 60% of participants were 34 years old or younger.

For the morning session please click the link here



For the evening session please click the link here



## THEMATIC SESSION

### Generation Equality: Girls' and Adolescents' Participation in Building a More Equal World

#### KEY MESSAGES

- Young people, adolescents and girls must be at the forefront of change. It is essential to include them in consultations and development of strategies to mitigate the impact of the problems that affect their life and to co-create a path towards equality.
- A major challenge is the lack of awareness of adult decision-makers. It is urgent to work to eliminate practices that violate girls and adolescents, such as child marriage. Society must guarantee that all girls and adolescents in the world grow up free and enjoy the fulfillment of their human rights.
- We must unite all generations for transformation, only from an intersectional and intergenerational approach, transformative change is possible.



## OBJECTIVE

The session focused on identifying changes and experiences led by adolescent girls that promote a global transformation for change, learn from the opportunities, obstacles and frustrations that they find in their empowerment path and how to forge strong alliances with other partners and stakeholders to build a better future for girls and adolescents.



## PARTICIPANTS

**2 Moderators:** from Civil Society representative.

**23 Panelists in Total:** 14 youth and adolescent girls, 3 Government representatives include 1 Vice-President, 2 United Nations Officials, 4 NGO representatives.



## VIEWERS

**9518 viewers** attended this session with 89.9% women. 50.7 % of participants were 34 years old or younger.



For the evening session please click the link here



## THEMATIC SESSION

### The crisis of the human rights of women and girls, including in the COVID-19 context and the issues of migration, social and racial justice



## KEY MESSAGES

- Many societies around the world are witnessing a rollback of women's rights. The Pandemic has made the situation even direr, and women and girls living in emergencies are at higher risk.
- Feminist groups are building important bridges, creating alliances for women's safety, and taking advantage of this regression we see in terms of rights, especially in vulnerable communities
- Governments must guarantee the creation and operation of emergency funds for the protection of human rights defenders.



## OBJECTIVE

Discuss achievements, setbacks, and opportunities in relation to the human rights of women and girls around the world and generate multi-stakeholder recommendations to accelerate the full enjoyment of the human rights of women and girls globally.



## PARTICIPANTS

**2 Moderators:** both NGO Representatives.

**13 Panelists in Total:** 4 Academics, 4 Civil Society representatives, 2 Activists, 1 UN representative.



## VIEWERS

**450 viewers** attended this session.

**The largest population groups that joined were women (93.9%),** Age group between 35-45 (25.2%), Mexico (33.4%) and North America 31.1%.

For the morning session please click the link here



## 2.1.2 ACTION MOMENT

### A. Plenary Session on the role of cities and territories at the forefront of inclusive recovery



Cities and territories at the forefront of inclusive recovery: Taking stock 25 years after Beijing.

A plenary session on “Cities and territories at the forefront of inclusive recovery: Taking stock 25 years after Beijing,” was held on 30 March, gathered 435 participants to discuss progress of feminists movements since its creation and the next steps to ensure full inclusion of women in all parts of life. That 25 years after the Fourth World Conference on Women, the Beijing process has unleashed remarkable political will and global visibility, strengthening the activism of women’s movements worldwide.

Different local governments around the world are working towards generating “cities of rights” that work to end discrimination and eradicating violence, to ensure inclusive cities for women and girls, by considering women’s needs and challenges. Achieving the full autonomy of women and girls is fundamental, and violence is the biggest obstacle.”

The importance of men undertaking their role in the feminist struggle to drive equality. It is critical to secure gender equality among cities’ cabinets and public work service. The discussion highlighted that social norms and discrimination permeate through all stages of public life and continue to prevent women to enter and succeed in politics. There is a need to strengthen the position of women in debates, by the creation of caucuses. Promoting women’s participation is not only a matter of justice and improved governance but also a tool to ensure equality and overcome stereotypes and social norms that hold back societies worldwide. It is critical to ensure that municipal governments and development partners are brought together to ensure better capacity to address the financing gender gap at the municipal level.



Photo: UN Women/Ryan Brown

“The role of local governments and feminist municipalism provides us with great hope. They are a laboratory for improving democracy, building less unequal societies and redefining the value of the public sphere.”

**María Fernanda Espinosa**

Former President of the UN General Assembly, at the #CSW63 - High Level Event - Women In Power





**The COVID-19 crisis has exacerbated the risk for violence. Care work has been put at the centre in the times of the pandemic.**

It is critical to feminize politics and acknowledge the paid and unpaid care work in the recovery plans and financing packages. The linkages between gender equality and the environmental agenda needs to be emphasized given that climate change and environmental degradation disproportionately hit women, especially those from more precarious backgrounds.





## B. Action Moment: Action Coalitions Sessions and the Compact on Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action: Revealing the Blueprints

The Action Coalitions sessions were a moderated panel of Action Coalitions Leaders who presented an overview of the draft Blueprints, covering the vision statement, actions, implementation tactics, and success measures. Leaders called for bold and transformative commitments to the Blueprints and shared their common ambition. Panellists represented the Action Coalitions in their full diversity and included youth, civil society, private sector, philanthropy, and governments and international organizations. Highlights from the concurrent sessions followed.

# 2020 ECONOMIC JUSTICE AND RIGHTS

Insights from the  
Forum in Mexico City  
29-31 March 2021



We can make 2021 a landmark year  
for gender equality. But only if we all

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# Mexico City Forum: strong mobilization around the Action Coalitions on Economic Justice and Rights

1

Strong mobilization around the Global Acceleration Plan and the EJR Actions

- 621 participated in the Economic Justice and Rights (EJR) Action Coalitions sessions with **Strong multi-stakeholder nature**: 16 Leaders participated from Member States, Civil Society and Youth-led Organizations, Private Sector, Philanthropies, International Organizations, United Nations agencies and high youth representation.
- Strong regional diversity: 70% of participants were from 19 different countries.

2

AC Leaders' strong engagement and inspiring contributions

- All 16 Leaders of the EJR Action Coalition reiterated their **engagement to the Action** Coalitions and shared their perspectives on the defined Actions.
- 3 Government Leaders contributed to the high-level opening and closing sessions to reaffirm the importance and needed work of the Action Coalitions.
- 4 CSO Leaders facilitated the EJR Net-working Session, with over 100 participants in attendance.

3

Successful launch of Call to Action and game-changing commitments

- A strong **call to action** was issued by the 2 youth leaders of the EJR Action Coalition.
- Mexico revealed **one catalytic commitment** during the Generation Equality Forum's high-level closing session for a **Global Alliance for Care** that will include financial, policy and advocacy commitments, and is in service of the Care Economy Action.

4

Feedback revealed strong alignment with the Global Acceleration Plan and the EJR Actions

- **32%** of participants felt the **actions were adequate** to bring about the expected changes.
- **60%** of participants believed the **actions were a strong start** and had ideas for improvement, promising continued engagement with the Action Coalition.
- **43%** were most energized by the action on the **Care Economy**, 19% by decent work, 11% by productive resources and 27% by inclusive economies.

5

A comprehensive discussion on intersectionality

- **Intersectionality** was raised both in terms of ensuring the diverse needs of women and girls are met through the Global Acceleration Plan and EJR actions and the inclusion of voices in the process. This included adolescent girls, older women, women with disabilities, grassroots women, and women and girls in conflict situations.

6

A request to redress contemporary constraints affecting women's and girls' economic justice and rights

- Inputs received and perspectives shared on the Global Acceleration Plan and the EJR Actions include:
  - Solutions around **COVID-19** and its impacts.
  - Addressing **human trafficking and modern slavery**.
  - The need for **universal social protection schemes**.
  - Considerations for workers in the **informal economy**.
  - The importance of sex- and age-disaggregated **data**.

 **WATCH  
YOUTUBE SESSION**



# 02 GENDER - BASED VIOLENCE

Insights from the  
Forum in Mexico City  
29-31 March 2021



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for gender equality. But only if we all

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# Mexico City Forum: strong mobilization around the Action Coalitions on Gender-Based Violence...

1

## Strong mobilization around the Global Acceleration Plan and the GBV Actions



- 1820 participants to the Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Action Coalitions sessions with:

- **Strong multi-stakeholder nature:** 17 leaders participated in the AC sessions from member states, civil society and youth-led organizations, private sector, philanthropies, international organizations, United Nations agencies.
- **Larger youth presence.**
- **Strong regional diversity:** 65% of participants were from 20 countries.

2

## AC Leaders' strong engagement and inspiring contributions

- All 17 leaders reiterated their **engagement to the Action Coalitions** and shared their perspectives on the defined actions.
- Leaders contributed to the high-level opening and closing sessions to reaffirm the importance and needed work of the Action Coalitions.
- 2 leaders, together with members of the GE Youth Taskforce, hosted a networking session with over a 150 attendees.
- 1 leader spoke inspiringly at the lightning talk on day 3 of the forum.

3

## Successful launch of commitments

- The Ford Foundation, in a strategic alliance with the Equality Fund, and the Government of Canada announced an agreement that includes: a **15 millions USD** commitment from the Ford Foundation for the Equality Fund, plans to start a global alliance for feminist movements.
- The Government of Canada also made a commitment of **10 millions USD** to the UN Trust Fund to Eliminate Violence against Women.

4

## Feedback revealed strong alignment with the Global Acceleration Plan and the EJRs Actions



- Inputs received and perspectives shared on the Global Acceleration Plan and the GBV Actions include:
  - **Strong alignment** of the identified action areas with the acceleration needed to prevent and respond to GBV against women and girls in all their diversity.
  - **98%** participants agreed that it is urgent to address all forms of GBV experienced by **adolescent girls**, occurring in conflict, **crisis and humanitarian settings**, and linked to women and girls multiple and intersecting experiences of **discrimination and oppression**.
  - **80%** participants agreed **prevention** of violence against women and girls requires interventions **that transform harmful and unequal gender and social norms**.

5

## Detailed discussion on gaps

- **Financing** of programmes and collection of quality disaggregated **data** on violence against women and girls in all their diversity remains a gap and opportunity for progress under what GAP stands for.
- A request was made to apply a stronger **intersectional lens** in refining the AC blueprint, one that is more **inclusive** and integrates **the points of view of youth and adolescent girls**.

6

## A call for commitments to be strengthened ahead of Paris

- **A strong call to commitments** was made by all 17 leaders of the Action Coalition, agreeing that **not funding GBV interventions comes at a high socioeconomic cost**.
- Urging multiple stakeholders to **invest at community and local level interventions** **strengthen** capacities of grassroots women and girl led organizations.
- Leaders pledged to **work together to create multi stake- holder partnerships** which will push the envelope in eliminating and preventing Gender-based Violence against women and girls in all their diversity.



**WATCH  
YOUTUBE SESSION**

02

# BODILY AUTONOMY AND SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS

Insights from the  
Forum in Mexico City  
29-31 March 2021



We can make 2021 a landmark year  
for gender equality. But only if we all

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# Mexico City Forum: strong mobilization around the Action Coalitions on Bodily Autonomy and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

1

Strong mobilization around the Global Acceleration Plan and the GBV Actions

• 819 participants joined the Bodily Autonomy and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) Action Coalitions sessions with:

**- Strong multi-stakeholder nature:**

Panelists represented Action Coalitions from diverse groups including youth organizations, civil society, the private sector, philanthropic organizations, governments and international organizations.

**- High youth representation.**

**- Strong regional and demographic diversity.**

2

Strong mobilization around the SRHR Actions

• Over 95 leaders of a variety of institutions reiterated their **engagement to the Action Coalitions** and shared their perspectives on the defined Actions during the AC sessions.

**• UNFPA proudly co-led this AC session**

due to their cooperative partnership in advancing gender equality and **SRHR**.

• More governments are promoting protection and investment in SRHR, including as part of Universal Health Coverage.

3

AC Leaders' strong engagement and inspiring contributions

• A strong **call to action** was issued by the French government in collaboration with 16 additional stakeholders.

• By 2026, the Coalition will:

- Guarantee 50 million children a **Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE)**.
- Seek to enhance the **accessibility** and **availability** of **contraceptive services**.
- Improve information regarding SRHR to **promote the empowerment of bodily autonomy**.

4

Successful launch of Call to Action and game-changing commitments

• Worldwide, 45% of women and girls who are married or in unions **cannot make their own decisions regarding sexual and reproductive health and rights**.

• Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) is an essential issue that needs to be solved.

**- 60% of maternal deaths occur in countries affected by humanitarian crisis.**

• Poverty and Adolescent pregnancies are closely linked.

**- Adolescent women in the lowest wealth quantile are 3.7 times more likely to give birth than those in the highest wealth quantile.**

5

What needs to change?

• **Intersectionality** was raised in terms of expanding education, support and services to all population groups including but not limited to: adolescent girls, non-binary, sexual minorities, women and girls in conflict situations and indigenous women and girls.

6

A comprehensive discussion on intersectionality: nonbinary, races, sexual minorities and identity

• *"The GEF offers a critical opportunity to progress on SRHR for women and girls in all their diversity. Together with co-leads, key actions were developed to improve SRHR outcomes over the next 5 years."* – Kate Hampton.

 **WATCH  
YOUTUBE SESSION**





# 2020 FEMINIST ACTION FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE

Insights from the  
Forum in Mexico City  
29-31 March 2021



We can make 2021 a landmark year  
for gender equality. But only if we all

**#ACTFOREQUAL**

Join us on  
social and  
**SPREAD  
THE CALL.**

# Mexico City Forum: strong mobilization around the Action Coalitions on Feminist Action for Climate Justice

1

## Strong mobilization around the FACJ Actions

- 401 participants joined the **Feminist Action for Climate Justice** Action Coalitions sessions with:
  - **Strong multi-stakeholder nature:** Panelists represented action coalitions from diverse groups including youth organizations, civil society, the private sector, philanthropic organizations, governments and international organizations.
  - **Larger youth presence instead.**
  - **Strong regional and demographic diversity.**

2

## AC Leaders' strong engagement and inspiring contributions

- All 9 Leaders of the FACJ Action Coalition reiterated their **engagement to the Action Coalitions** and shared their perspectives on the defined Actions during the AC sessions.
- The **rising cases of violence and murders against frontline environmental** defenders was widely discussed through a feminist and intersectional lens.
- The needs for an increase in quality **and quantity of climate finance** towards gender-just climate solutions (in particular those from **grass root and indigenous organizations**).

3

## Successful launch of Call to Action and game-changing commitments

- A strong **call to action** was issued by Minister of Women's Affairs in Costa Rica, H.E Marcela Guerrero Campos.
- **Commitment towards an intersectional approach to the climate crisis** that recognizes and targets its root causes across sectors, calling for the centralization of rights, needs and agency of rural and indigenous women and local communities throughout all environmental decision-making.

4

## What needs to change?

- Women are **underrepresented in advancing climate justice**.
- Only **3% of philanthropic environmental funding** supports women's and girls' environmental activism.
- The experiences of women and girls' realities regarding **the impact of climate change continues to be unheard**.
- **Major gender inequalities** in the education and job market of environmentalism.

5

## A comprehensive discussion on women's empowerment

- **Women's empowerment in the context of environmental change** was raised in terms of the lack of decision-makers and leaders who are women, indigenous, or adolescents in the field of environmentalism and green energy.
- **Building resilience of women and girls to climate impacts**, including research on how to increase land rights and security of tenure for women, could lead to higher agricultural productive, higher incomes, education and political participation.

6

## Key Message

- A poll was conducted to assess the audience's perception of which action area was most crucial to address. The results were markedly different however, showing a clear majority in favor of Leadership.

 **WATCH YOUTUBE SESSION**



# 02 TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION FOR GENDER EQUALITY

Insights from the  
Forum in Mexico City  
29-31 March 2021



**ACTION  
COALITION**

# Mexico City Forum: Action Coalition of Technology and Innovation for Gender Equality

## 1

### Successful launch of the blueprint

- 440 participants to the Action Coalition on Technology and Innovation for Gender Equality session with:
- **Strong multi-stakeholder nature:** 14 Leaders participated to the AC sessions from member states, civil society and youth-led organizations, private sector, philanthropies, international organizations, United Nations agencies.
- **Larger youth representation** at the two AC sessions but also the T&I Networking Session.
- 3 CSO Leaders facilitated the Networking Session, with around 80 participants in attendance.
- Leaders contributed to the Opening/Closing ceremonies as well as the thematic sessions.



## 2

### AC Leaders' strong engagement and inspiring contributions

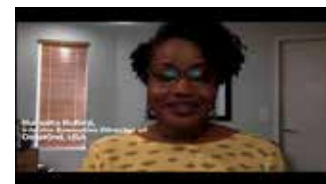
- **AC Leaders invited tech activists, institutional partners and advocates to present the blueprints' four priorities areas. Some of the inspiring messages shared by leaders were:**
- Obstacles and barriers faced by women and girls to access, use and create technology can only be removed by **collective intentional actions** and interdisciplinary commitments.
- **Technology is changing the employment landscape** and fluency in technology can give women keys to the future.
- **Digital violence against women is real** and women are afraid of their families and communities. Women's digital rights are human rights.
- **Women have been suffering from failed design** and we need to move the standards so that digital tools be feminist by design and address the data gap.
- We need to unlock the necessary capital and mobilize public funds to **unleash the power of pooled funding** to transform digital ecosystems.
- **COVID-19 has widened the gaps** but also made the needs more visible. Tech access has become a basic need.
- We need to **break stereotypes**, reinvent schools, and involve families and boys to change social norms and increase women and girls' participation in STEMs.



Coalition's Leaders video: "Why we need to step up and take action now"



Introduction the Coalition's leaders teams



Coalition's supporters video: "Imagine a world..."



A young artist's vision of the coalition



# 2021 FEMINIST MOVEMENTS AND LEADERSHIP

Insights from the  
Forum in Mexico City  
29-31 March 2021



We can make 2021 a landmark year  
for gender equality. But only if we all

**#ACTFOREQUAL**

Join us on  
social and  
**SPREAD  
THE CALL.**

# 02 Mexico City Forum: strong mobilization around the Action Coalitions on Feminist Movements and Leadership

1

## Strong mobilization around the Feminist Movements and Leadership

- Over 400 people from 17 countries participated in the Feminist Movement and Leadership Action Coalitions sessions with:

### - Strong multi-stakeholder nature:

Panelists represented Action Coalitions from diverse groups including youth organizations, civil society, the private sector, philanthropic organizations, governments and international organizations.

### - High youth representation.

2

## AC Leaders' strong engagement and inspiring contributions

- All 14 Leaders of the Feminist Movements and Leadership Action Coalition reiterated their **engagement to the Action Coalitions** and shared their perspectives on the defined Actions during the AC sessions.
- Leaders emphasized on a number of different strategies for tackling gender-based political violence.

3

## Successful launch of Call to Action and game-changing commitments

- There was an emphasis on the need to **build the capacities of women in leadership spaces to challenge patriarchal structures.**
- **Strengthen young feminist-led and girl-led movements and organisations.**
- Promote, expand, and protect civic space for feminist action, organising and mobilization.

4

## What needs to change?

- **More women in government or leadership does not necessarily equal to transformative or feminist leadership, the patriarchal structure does not have space for feminist thinking in decision-making processes.**
- **Less than 1% of global Development Assistant Committee aid goes to women equality organizations.**

5

## A comprehensive discussion on Feminist Leadership

- Discussions raised regarding gender based political violence.
- Comprehensive dialogue about the feminist positioning in religious spaces took place.
- The challenge to avoid ruptures in feminist movements was brought up.

- **Humility, hopefulness and courage is needed to fight this. Additionally, drawing lines according to our commitments to human rights such as transphobia, ableism and racism.**

6

## Key Message

- A poll was conducted to assess the audience's perception of which action area was most crucial to address. The results demonstrated that a substantial increase in funding to feminist and women-led organization, followed by eliminating harmful norms, anti-gender, anti-rights narratives should be the priorities.

 **WATCH  
YOUTUBE SESSION**



02

# WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY AND HUMANITARIAN ACTION COMPACT

Insights from the  
Forum in Mexico City  
29-31 March 2021



[WWW.WPSHACOMPACT.ORG](http://WWW.WPSHACOMPACT.ORG)

# Mexico City Forum: strong mobilization around the Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action Compact

1

## Strong mobilization around the WPS-HA Compact

- The WPS-HA Compact was introduced to a global audience and potential signatories.
- Participants represented different age groups, gender identities, socio-economic status, physical abilities, and other diversities.
- **High youth representation** in the networking session on principles of inter-generational leadership for the WPS-HA Compact.

2

## Compact Members' strong engagement and inspiring contributions

- Compact Board and Catalytic Members presented the emerging actions for the WPS-HA Compact and reiterated their **engagement in the WPS-HA Compact**. They encouraged other stakeholders to join and to contribute to the acceleration of the implementation of global commitments on gender equality in Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action.

3

## A comprehensive discussion on the importance of the Compact

- The Compact will focus on the **implementation of existing commitments** on Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action by:
  - Establishing a voluntary monitoring and accountability process to realize existing WPS-HA commitments.
  - Strengthening coordination across existing WPS-HA mechanisms, systems, networks, partnerships and capacities.
  - Promoting financing for and wider awareness and visibility of the women, peace and security agenda and on gender equality in humanitarian action.

4

## What needs to change?

- The WPS-HA Compact Framework will seek implementation of commitments in a five-year period across **five issue 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.

5

## A comprehensive discussion on Feminist Leadership

- **At the end of the five-year period**, discussants expect that the WPS-HA Compact would achieve the following:
  - Adoption of an agreed accountability mechanism for monitoring progress of WPS commitments as well as gender equality and humanitarian commitments.
  - Recognition for the unique role of women's organizations in conflict and crisis settings.
  - Provide safe spaces for women and girls to engage in peace, humanitarian, and security processes.
  - Invest in women's skills and capacity for a future oriented economy.
  - Ensure that peace agreements with strong gender components are fully enforced.
  - Provide local women's organizations with adequate access to funding, considering practical solutions to complex donor requirements.



**WATCH  
YOUTUBE SESSION**



## 2.1.3 CROSS-CUTTING FEMINIST CONVERSATIONS

The feminist conversations included: 9 Special Sessions, 8 feminist conversations including a celebration gathering with the leaders of the Beijing Conference, and 18 healing and resilience sessions. They highlighted the importance of mainstreaming the analysis and actions to accelerate the Beijing implementation from an intersectional, intergenerational and ethnic-racial approach. Using this will ensure that all women and girls benefit from collective action, that no one will be left behind.

Highlights from the different voices that enriched the Forum and the tactics promoted to advance the gender equality agenda as a core principle and objective of the “Build Back Better.” A common quest in the feminist conversations was how to drive new momentum through an intersectional lens to ensure progress on gender equality in all sectors and areas, and ensure that progress is achieved for all, especially to those women and girls at the risk of being left behind. The key issues and recommendations from the feminist conversations follow.



### A. Strong voices advocating for an inclusive intersectional and intergenerational gender equality agenda

*Fighting for the elimination of racism will not be enough without a gender lens*

- Twenty years after the adoption of the Durban Declaration and the Program of Action, progress is secured, including the recognition of the valuable role of afro-descendant women in development and strengthening the gender equality agenda, racial oppression continues to be the common denominator of the experiences of black women, youth, adolescents, and girls in Africa, Latin America, and the Diasporas.
- An international and political feminist movement for racial justice is emerging from the bottom up, but much more needs to be done. From the outlines of the Durban Program of Action, participants called for a debate on how to effectively incorporate anti-racism and intersectionality in the Action Coalitions for the Generation of Equality.
- Economic justice and indicators disaggregated by race/color, financing, and the protection of the collective territories of traditional populations were priority recommendations.
- Manifestations of patriarchal violence against women, young women, adolescents, and black girls in all its forms, including symbolic, sexual, obstetric, institutional, political, police, armed groups, psychological and physical violence (afro-femicide), needed to be eliminated.
- Black women and girls should be engaged in constructing strategies for the promotion and protection of their rights and defining any new social contract as we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic. Building a common agenda should be driven by young black women, respect the individualities and take advantage of the diversity of women. Generation Equality could be managed by black women's movements, and the continuity of this struggle by the hands and voices of young women.



**THEY ALSO SHARED  
STRATEGIES TO  
ACHIEVE EFFECTIVE  
GENDER EQUALITY,  
TO “DECOLONIZE  
THE WORLD IS TO  
RE-INDIGENIZE THE  
SPACES AND EQUAL  
CONDITIONS”**

### *Securing the fulfillment of Indigenous women's individual and collective rights*

- Indigenous women joined their voices in the Generation Equality Forum. They reflected on the progress achieved since the Fourth World Conference. They also shared strategies to achieve effective gender equality, to “decolonize the world is to re-indigenize the spaces and equal conditions.”
- Progress has been achieved in recognizing the individual and collective rights of indigenous women and the agency and political influence of their international networks in mobilizing gender equality, development, peace, and security agendas.
- From their worldview, wisdom, spirituality, knowledge, innovations, and practices as agents of change, indigenous women contribute tremendously to the construction of resilient communities, sustainable development, the conservation and preservation of biodiversity and natural resources, which are critical to the development goals. However, persistent challenges continue to limit the full and effective exercise of their rights.
- Indigenous women, youth, adolescents, and girls worldwide experience multiple violence and structural and systemic discrimination. The appropriation of their ancestral territories, the contamination of soils and water sources, colonization, globalization, militarization of the settlements, forced displacement and migration, the criminalization and repression of social protest, including gender-based attacks, exploitation and trafficking, are part of indigenous women's and girls' realities and challenges.
- For indigenous women, Generation Equality means ratifying all legal human rights instruments and effectively implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) at all levels. It means prioritizing technical resources and national budgets to adopt effective measures in consultation and cooperation with indigenous women, youth, adolescents and girls to protect, promote and respect their human rights and fundamental freedoms. It also means promoting the adoption of the new General Recommendation on Indigenous Women and Girls by the Committee for the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) to guarantee that women, youth, adolescents and indigenous girls exercise their inalienable right to self-determination, autonomy, free mobility, access to ownership of ancestral lands and territories, decolonization and influence in defining of national policies by governmental, cooperation and developmental agencies.

# “Nothing for girls without girls”

**Mia Gary – 11 years old –**

Asia Girl Guides Malaysia, World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts



GA74 - Youth-led #ClimateStrike ahead of UN Climate Action Summit

Photo: UN Women/Amanda Voisard

## *Generation Equality is about ensuring equitable access to water and other natural resources*

- Generation Equality is also about strengthening the measures, systems and resources to effectively address all forms of violence against indigenous women, youth, adolescents, and girls, such as female genital mutilation, child marriage; sexual abuse, forced labor, modern slavery, domestic, institutional and political violence, environmental violence, and its impact on health, economic displacement, exploitation, trafficking, armed conflicts, the militarization of lands, and territories indigenous, among others.
- States are required to create mechanisms that guarantee access to justice for indigenous women, youth, adolescents, and girls, both involving the judicial institutions in charge of the State and to those that operate in indigenous communities. These mechanisms must combat impunity in violence and discrimination against indigenous women through effective criminal investigations that bring the perpetrators to justice.
- Guaranteeing the full and effective participation of indigenous women, youth, adolescent girls, including those with disabilities, in processes at the regional, national, and international levels, and the right to influence in decisions on mechanisms, action plans, and budget allocations. States, regional intergovernmental organizations, the international community, and the indigenous self-government organizations must provide technical assistance, and grant sufficient funding to indigenous women's organizations at the local, national, and international levels and promote their participation in political decision-making processes.

## *Gender equality from a youth perspective*

- Participants recognized that one of the most significant advances for gender equality is the enthusiasm, unity, and commitment of the youth and their ability to create the transformations they want to see.
- The Forum recognized the skills, the plurality of knowledge, and agendas of the youth, and their ability to build and lead gender equality initiatives. Existing, and new round-table discussions must integrate grassroots youth on equal terms, promote their effective participation in decision-making, and access resources to develop their projects in inclusive scenarios.
- An urgent call to address priority issues within the framework of the Action Coalitions: to accelerate the elimination of gender violence, advance in the protection of women human rights defenders and in strengthening their agendas, fortify bodily autonomy, and guaranteeing sexual, and reproductive rights for women, and girls, and the urgency of increasing the effective participation of young women in formal, and informal decision-making spaces, involves advancing the economic empowerment
- From the context of the #YOUTHdemand campaign, youth voices united around the urgent need to recognize, and criminalize femicide, and to end all forms of violence against women, young women, adolescents, girls, and non-binary people. Youth demands also included increasing investments in comprehensive sexual education, access to complementary menstrual hygiene products to achieve a world free of menstrual poverty; inclusion of mental health services in national insurance policies to achieve societies in which each person prospers; and better urban planning for the safety of women, youth, adolescents, and girls.



**Supporting transwomen and guiding the families of trans-children is critical to secure a healthy transitioning, accepting and building confidence, overcoming social and legal barriers and becoming stronger as families.**

**Tania Morales (Mexico)**  
Mother of a trans adolescent

***Cost of exclusion and lack of economic justice for women and girls with disabilities***

- Women and girls with disabilities are far behind in the fight against gender equality. The lack of access to quality inclusive education will continue to be the biggest obstacles and no progress could be made if this does not change globally. Women and girls with disabilities that depend on their family or private services to carry out basic actions are in a more disadvantaged position.
- Women and girls with disabilities can be responsible and able to make their own decisions. It is necessary to create a common front so that no woman or girl with a disability is left behind. Providing decent and well-paid jobs to women with disabilities should be a priority for generation equality so their emotional and physical autonomy will not continue to be postponed.
- Women with disabilities must be heard in any decisions that affect their lives and their mental, emotional, and physical health. Addressing the specific needs of women and girls with disabilities in policies and programs will enable a cultural change that will give them more visibility.

***Generation equality conversation beyond the binaries***

- LGBTQI women and other groups experiencing aggravated discrimination have been hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. The increase in xenophobia and sexism are a big threat to their human rights.
- The Generation Equality Forum is the opportunity to bring the LGBTQI community to the acceleration plan towards achieving the Beijing Platform for Action. Gender equality and gender justice will only be possible if LGBTQI persons take an active participation in the General Equality Agenda.
- Non-discriminatory access to social and public services for LGBTQI women and people must be a priority. Their needs and demands must be heard. Socially constructed gender roles, norms, practices, and stereotypes intersect with multiple forms of discrimination and exacerbate exclusion and marginalization.
- A comprehensive evidence-based and human rights-based sex education is fundamental to ensuring bold progress toward generational equality. Combating stigma, stereotyping, and discrimination in all walks of life, eliminating gender-based violence and all legal and policy provisions that criminalize or discriminate against the LGBTQI community or violate bodily autonomy, were described as critical actions to secure bold progress in implementing the Beijing Platform for Action.





## B. Path to the future: Strategies and Tactics to advance towards generation equality

Feminists were a central force that brought key and bold issues to the table at the Mexico Forum, to promote important achievements in the rights of women and girls, and build towards a more equal post-pandemic world. Prioritizing gender equality in the COVID-19 response and recovery plans, by including of women in leadership and decision-making positions, investing in organizations led by women and women's rights in all levels, is critical to generate a better impact on the ground. Inclusion and diversity, intersectional and intergenerational approach, and co-leadership were strong components of the discussion and marked the recommendations on the way forward. Recommended strategies and tactics to advance the gender equality agenda are reflected below.

### *Generation Equality Forum as a platform for inclusion and diversity*

- The Generation Equality Forum has come at a critical time in which the Sustainable Development Goals have been given priority in the Decade for Action. In this context, promoting gender equality will undoubtedly make it possible to advance toward achieving the development goals by leveling the inequality gaps that we live as a society. The progress made so far is not enough to reverse a situation of structural inequality that dates back centuries and permeates all structures of life everywhere. Advances do not necessarily translate into greater benefits for women and girls.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the long-lasting inequalities and disproportionately impacted women, youth, adolescents, and girls that face multiple discrimination, deepening the gaps, and pre-existing challenges. Dramatic increase on gender-based violence, job loss, lack of access to livelihoods, and inequality gaps in access to digital technologies.
- The GEF Mexico strongly voiced the need for public policy actions directed at low-income households to mitigate the economic and social impacts of the COVID-19 crisis on women, and girls. It is critical to overcome ambiguous discourses and transform the culture that enables violence and discrimination against women, youth, adolescents, and girls in all scope of life and that limit the full development of their lives and exercise their human rights.



## ***Embracing a multi-stakeholder, intersectional and intergenerational approach to decision-making***

- 25 years after the Fourth World Conference on Women and the Beijing Platform for Action (BPA), the Generation Equality Forum, with its multi-stakeholder, intersectional and intergenerational approach, was recognized as critical platform to bring all voices of women, youth, adolescents and girls at the global level, in a dialogue with actors that have implications in achieving gender equality.
- Gender equality is about overcoming the multiple ways of discrimination faced by women, youth, adolescents, and girls worldwide. Efforts towards accelerating the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action should aim to support eradicating all types of discrimination that deepen violence and inequality.
- From the various feminist conversations, there was a strong call for grassroots women, indigenous women, black women, adolescent girls, human rights defenders, trans women and LGBTQI community to actively engage in defining the agenda forward. The recognition of feminist activism and the effort to strengthen the intersectional discourse and the feminist agenda are critical to generating commitments to accelerate gender equality and enact transformative change.

### ***Intergenerational dialogues***

- Speakers underlined the importance of gender equality as a central element in constructing peace, progress, development, and an equal future for all. They praised young people's leadership, diversity, creativity, and the inspiring way they tackle the inequality with which they are faced with. Speakers also acknowledged the passion that young people put into the construction of new and better paradigms. They also emphasized the importance and value of listening to and working with youth, that without their meaningful participation the necessary transformation for an egalitarian future will not be achieved.
- The need to offer more significant opportunities to youth to exercise their leadership was recognized, highlighting their role in solving problems and identifying the fundamental role of youth in generating social and economic transformative change and constructing a new future.
- A need for a broad commitment was raised. Social movements and women's organizations continue to provide and support feminist training to the youth. Their joint action is built based on a common agenda that respects diversity and enriches the struggles from an intersectional and intergenerational approach.
- The youth's strong call is to work together so "that in 25 years we come together to celebrate peace, security, autonomy, the realization of potentials, diversity, inclusiveness, and equality, and not for address slow implementation and progress of regulatory frameworks."
- Recommendations were given to decision-makers to provide safe spaces for communication and exchange of experiences, which promotes intergenerational unity and innovation with a view to the Paris Forum and beyond.
- Most of these recommendations are collected in the Young Feminist Manifesto, a document launched days before the forum and prepared by the Generation Equality Youth Task Force, Action Coalitions youth leaders, youth from the Civil Society Advisory Group and the National Gender Youth Activists. This manifesto presented a young feminist vision of the GEF and outlined how the GEF would look if youth were truly in leadership. Also, it contained clear recommendations on how to work intergenerationally, with collective leadership, being accountable, promoting meaningful youth participation and supporting youth financing.
- You can access to the Manifesto here: <https://gefyoungmanifesto.wixsite.com/website>

### RECENT DATA FROM

106 countries show that

**18%**

of **women and girls** aged 15 to 49 who have ever been married or in a union

**EXPERIENCED PHYSICAL AND/OR SEXUAL PARTNER VIOLENCE** in the previous **12 MONTHS.**

The prevalence is highest in least developed countries, at

**24%**

### THE PRACTICE OF

## CHILD MARRIAGE

**HAS CONTINUED TO DECLINE AROUND THE WORLD.**

This is largely driven by progress in **South Asia**, where the risk of a girl marrying in childhood

**DECREASED BY**

**25%**

between **2013** and **2018.**



**THE PRACTICE IS STILL PREVALENT IN MANY COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY WHERE POVERTY, CONFLICT AND CRISIS ARE RIFE.**

At least

**200 MILLION**



women and girls have been **subjected to FGM**, according to data from 30 the prevalence of this harmful practice

**DECLINED BY**

**25%**

between about **2000** and **2018.**

Women devote roughly

**3X AS MANY HOURS A DAY**

**TO UNPAID CARE AND DOMESTIC WORK AS MEN.**

### *Strengthening the importance of gender data in the creation of an inclusive culture*

- Achieving concrete actions that promote substantive change in each area requires eliminating the gender data gaps and securing robust gender statistics and evidence-based accountability frameworks. The international community must continue to lobby for more significant investment in and better production and use of gender statistics. They must ensure that gender perspectives are mainstreamed in the planning, evaluating, producing, analyzing, piloting, and implementing policies and programs in all areas and all areas sectors.
- Improvements are needed in the production of statistics disaggregated by gender and data that reflect the use that women make of their time, gender violence, mental health, food security, and other areas that generally do not are comprehensively addressed.
- Participants recommended the integration of gender statistics in the action statements of the Action Coalitions. In addition to the urgency of disaggregating statistics on the incidence of the pandemic in people's lives was also highlighted.
- Producing and using gender data with an intersectional lens provides meaningful information into the complex realities that people face, as well as actionable information for policies to address gender-related disparities. Gender data ensures that the voices of marginalized groups and individuals are included and amplified. It is also essential to promote non-traditional sources for the collection of data with a gender perspective, including data generated by citizens and data generated by grassroots organizations.





“More than ever before,  
today we are reaffirming  
our commitments with  
equality and the fulfillment  
of women’s rights.”

**Nadine Gasman**  
President National  
Institute of Women,  
Mexico



### *Promoting and achieving gender justice*

- The role of the judiciary and the legislative powers is critical for advancing gender equality. From promoting gender-responsive constitutions and laws to ensuring that an intersectional perspective guides jurisdictional work with ethnic-racial and gender lenses. The Mexican legislative branch was actively engaged in the Forum.
- Strengthening accountability and overseeing mechanisms for gender equality and mainstreaming initiatives across and within the judiciary and the legislative systems were discussed as critical steps forward. Efforts should be made to ensure the support of parliaments and parliamentary committees in gender equality, in all areas such as the integration of gender perspectives in all parliamentary legislative and budgetary procedures, as well as promoting from an intersectional approach in the legislative initiatives that focus on advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.
- Strategic alliances with international organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector are critical to secure progress in “enforcing the approved reforms, removing them from the text and giving them life.” It is essential to have budgets with a gender perspective that ensures substantive equality and eradicates violence and discrimination. Gender perspectives must be included in all evaluation of public programs and policies, making visible the real and urgent needs in favor of equality.
- The COVID-19 recovery context is an opportunity to incorporate the gender perspectives as a transversal axis in the judiciary and legislative agendas, processes, and oversight mechanisms. Promoting a dialogue to strengthen and articulate the legislative and judiciary agendas and monitoring the use of labeled resources to ensure compliance with the gender perspective. It is essential to promote the respect, protection and guarantee of women’s human rights as their constitutional principals, especially, the right to political parity in all public positions. Reinforce the laws that punish and prevent gender violence of women in politics.
- Promoting initiatives that reform the provisions of the law of business chambers and their confederations in matters of gender parity to ensure that women find conditions to participate equally in the integration of directions and definition of the private sector’s priorities. Thus, it is necessary to create new social pacts for the construction of a society of care (women-planet- children-older adults).



## 2.2 CULTURAL AGENDA



The Generation Equality Forum in Mexico featured a robust cultural agenda that included photographic and digital art exhibitions, film, live and virtual concerts, literature, illustration, performances, and the unveiling of a monumental mural in one of the main streets in the city. Using art as a catalyst to promote gender equality, artists worldwide raised their voice to share their creative work to inspire cultural awareness, social connection, and transformative change.

The cultural agenda additionally included conferences and intergenerational dialogues to share inspiring stories of resilience-building through creative work, raising awareness of the challenges faced by artists who identified as women and discussing effective strategies to empower female artists. Overall, the cultural agenda brought together influential feminist artists who have protested discrimination for decades, promoted a gender-equal world, and ushered the next generation into a more sustainable and just future for all.



## 2.2.1 ARTIVISM FOR GENERATION EQUALITY

The cultural agenda was diverse and enriching, with culture as a key transformative avenue for gender equality. Outstanding professionals in the world of art and culture from Mexico, Latin America, and abroad stood up for generation to equality. Through «artivism», authors made a solid call to governments and all stakeholders to keep the Beijing Platform for Action promises to society.

### A. Arts, Artivism and the power of Storytelling

The inspiring conversations that were part of the Forum's cultural agenda focused on the power of women's choices and equality and the need for female solidarity. For decades influential feminist artists have come together to challenge the patriarchal systems that prevent women from excelling in the art world.

Feminist artists fueled the global conversation on the value of inclusiveness and diversity for the feminist movement. Contributions from all over the world reflected the creative spirit, diverse, inclusive, and boldness of youth activism and Artivism. They outlined in a powerful, profound, and inspired way the importance of ending all discrimination against women and girls.

Storytelling, art, and culture have been powerful forces to unlock dreams and trigger action for women's equal rights worldwide. While highlighting the challenges that female artists face in their careers, the speakers shared their experience in using creativity and artwork to influence the feminist struggle.

**“You are such an inspiration (...) I was so glad to see your amazing piece of art. You have inspired us to put in place mechanisms for artists for Generation Equality. So – through your work – we throw down a challenge to other artists to be a part of Generation Equality.”**

**Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka**  
Executive Director of  
UN Women





Through collective, artistic acts, they explore their relationship with society. Feminist artists present their bodies as art and build resilience in front of the pain, marginalization, and frustrations through their creative work. Through their art, feminist artists create self-resilience, gain power, hope, and pride. Their stories of inventing and reinventing themselves inspire other potential artists to follow their creative dreams and speak up against injustice.

The conversations highlighted the critical role that feminist artists have played in the fight against discrimination and violence against women and girls, in denouncing actions of injustice, racial and gender discrimination; in questioning harmful practices, and in creating cultures of peace and plurality.

The cultural agenda demonstrated that Activism is a bonding experience. It is about generating individual and collective changes. Through their creative work, artists take the space to raise issues that significantly impact women's lives, including marginalization, poverty, discrimination, stigma, and violence. They influence the way others relate to those who are usually marginalized, ignored, or invisible, challenging stereotypes and changing power relations.

One of the episodes of the Generation Equality Forum podcast opens the floor to researchers and activists to offer a diagnose on the critical area of the Beijing Platform for Action dedicated to women and media. The inclusion of arts and culture in the Forum is part of the call to all governments, private and public media organizations, academia, and content producers to commit to the Section J objectives and strategic actions.

While the Action Coalition on Technology and Innovation for Gender Equality sets an ambitious goal on bridging the gender gap for digital access, digital feminist arts proved in the Generation Equality Forum that online content must have full participation of women and girls through accessible and safe platforms and virtual spaces.

Overall, the inspirational conversations reminded the world that much more needs to be done for equality, including in the art world. Further details are in the annex.



# THROUGH THEIR ART, FEMINIST ARTISTS CREATE SELF-RESILIENCE, GAIN POWER, HOPE, AND PRIDE



## B. Other components of the Forum's cultural agenda

### Generation Equality Film Festival

Key cultural moments at the Forum included the Generation Equality Film Festival, featuring a live Awards ceremony. On the second day with the youth at its center, the Film Festival targeted new activists and artists to fight for gender equality. Young people under 30 years old submitted their creative work —558 films from all regions of the world representing fiction, documentary, experimental videos and animation—to inspire and spark solidarity among gender equality advocates. Edlyn Castellanos, one of the winners, reflected on what the award meant for her: “This award represents for me a platform to give voice to the feelings, thoughts, and concerns that we, as women, have.” The Mexican director and jury member Lucia Gaja highlighted the value of the winning shorts “The forcefulness in which they manage to communicate, in just a couple of minutes, the systematic violence that girls and women face every day in our planet, appeal to the urgency to work together towards a life free of violence.” The Film Festival ceremony is available [here](#).







***“Flying in Sorority”,  
Generation Equality  
Mural in Mexico City***

“Flying in Sorority” is the first in a series of three murals in the Forum’s host cities: Mexico City, Paris, and New York. Painted by Mexican artist Adry del Rocio curated, and produced by Street Art for Mankind (SAM) in partnership with UN Women, this first Mural in Mexico City benefited from a workshop with the artist and a group of 15 adolescent girls, youth, and civil society representatives who shared their aspirations for an equal world.

‘Flying in Sorority’ recognizes the feminist movements in all their diversity from a historical perspective, call for action towards gender equality while highlighting the importance of intergenerational dialogue and alliances towards an equal future. During the Mural’s reveal in Mexico City, the panels that took place on the role of culture and arts for the feminist movement are available [here](#).

**“ With my heart on fire,  
I want to encourage  
my sisters to continue  
creating a more just and  
equal society of  
opportunities.  
We are not  
alone, always  
beating in  
sisterhood. ”**

**Adry del Rocio**  
Street Arts artist







## **“Flying in Sorority”, Generation Equality Mural in Mexico City**







## Singing for Generation Equality

The Forum's cultural agenda weaved together a tapestry of musical performances and conversations with distinguished artists and leaders in gender equality.

One highlight was the concert with Vivir Quintana, who was joined by *Collectiva de Mujeres Mariachis* from México City, interpreting "Song Without Fear," a song with a strong message against femicide and impunity. This performance was dedicated to all women and girls who are bringing change that will make an equal world possible through activism.

Mexican musician artist Pau Sotomayor and Mexican actress Nora Huerta (**here**) also united in advocating for more seats for women at the table to share their vision of a gender- equal future. Chilean bands *Las Tesis* and *Yorka* contributed with a strong call on ending the patriarchy. Through their talent and activism, these feminist singers contribute to change the way women are perceived. They called to other artists to join the movement, challenge institutions, and shift the societal norms that continue to hold women back in society.

Closing of the Forum included a live concert by Magos Herrera, one of the most active vocalists in Latin American jazz and gender equality advocate. Magos was the topline artist who celebrated women's vital contributions to development and sustainability.

# OUTCOMES: CELEBRATION MOMENT





In Mexico, the Generation Equality Forum concluded with the unveiling of the Action Coalition blueprints and the announcement of new catalytic commitments for gender equality. The conclusion with the Passing of the Torch ceremony was to set the stage to pass the Forum's torch to its next destination, Paris, was a significant commitment-making moment. Youth and civil society leaders also launched a 2026 vision, including a common feminist pathway. The Government of Mexico mobilized a group of 20 member states, known as Group of Friends of Gender Equality. The Global Alliance for Care was launched together by the National Institute of Women of Mexico, together with UN Women.

This progress was made possible by a vibrant intergenerational coalition of actors representing governments, civil society, feminist, and youth organizations, the private sector, philanthropy, and international organizations. The Forum in Mexico established a path towards securing a legacy of equality as the Forum has embarked its way to Paris. The efforts focused on advancing and solidifying commitments towards creating gender-equal societies as the world begins to recover from the Covid-19 Pandemic.

## Action Coalitions & WPS/HA Compact in Mexico

The Forum in Mexico City witnessed the launching of critical commitments to respond to the increased needs of civil society, youth, and feminist movements around the identified most catalytic actions. These actions are required to accelerate gender equality in areas from economic rights to stopping violence against women and to contribute to accelerate the implementation of Beijing Platform for Action.



**“What we want is ambitious and just. Justice is not radical; it’s a baseline, and it should become completely normal (...). This is our moment to move for gender equality across society. We believe in allyship and no bystanders when there is injustice. Those who control power, resources, and influence have to be the champions of Generation Equality and our partners in implementing the Action Coalitions’ well-thought-out catalytic actions. Each of these unprecedented emerging blueprints for change will be backed by investment and led by those who have the power and reach to achieve our ambitions.”**

**Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka**

Executive Director of UN Women

*Action Coalitions: A Global Acceleration Plan for Gender Equality inclusive of all six thematic Blueprints*

Launched during the Forum, the Global Acceleration Plan provides a feminist roadmap across the six Action Coalition issues that outlines what is needed to redistribute power and responsibility. It propelled renewed and revitalized collective action. Key tactics (including law and policies, financing, data, service delivery, and norm change) are tailored to each Action Coalition.

The COVID-19 pandemic’s profound shock has impacted women disproportionately. In a context of patriarchal backlash, anti-gender, and anti-rights movements, insufficient financing and investment in gender equality, the hard-fought gains for women’s rights are under threat. Responding to the Pandemic is about rectifying long-standing inequalities and building a resilient world in the interest of everyone, with women at the center of recovery.

Clear and ambitious targets for funding, monitoring, and accountability are part of the design of the Blueprint for Action laid out within a 2021-2026 timeframe. The blueprint illustrates the critical actions needed to secure transformation in global gender equality. The full document can be viewed [here](#). As an intersectional action agenda to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, the Acceleration Plan aims to strengthen the accountability of public institutions and the private sector towards women’s rights organisations. This will ensure their increased leadership and participation in decision making at all levels.

Overall, the discussions around the Action Coalitions and the Compact recognized the diversity of feminist movements and youth leadership. The acceleration plan defined the road map to rally commitments that will be presented to the international community at the Paris Generation Equality Forum, putting gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at the center of the COVID-19 response. It will deliver concrete progress on gender equality across generations for girls and women.





*A strong momentum amplified throughout the Forum to propel high-impact commitments*

The announcement of catalytic commitments amounting to a total of 125 million dollars was a high point in the Forum's agenda. Designed to inspire and mobilize more significant commitment-making efforts that will take centre-stage at the Forum in Paris, these commitments are the following:



## LAUNCH OF THE GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR CARE

In the framework of the Generation Equality Forum, Mexico, as co-host and leader of the Action Coalition on Economic Justice and Rights, through the National Institute for Women (INMUJERES) of Mexico, and UN Women announced the Global Alliance for Care, a collective commitment critical to mobilizing global action towards the care economy Action Area of the Action Coalition. The Global Alliance for Care builds on care and domestic work being an essential, universal need that contributes to individual and household well-being, social development and economic growth, yet is often unrecognized and undervalued.

**INMUJERES**  
INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE LAS MUJERES



## A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN FORD FOUNDATION, THE EQUALITY FUND, AND THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

Highlighting the importance of feminist funding in achieving gender equality goals, the partnership includes: i) \$15M commitment from Ford Foundation to the Equality Fund; ii) An invitation to help build a multi-stakeholder Global Alliance for Sustainable Feminist Movements; iii) \$10M commitment from Canada to the UNTF to End Violence Against Women



FORDFOUNDATION

**EQUA  
LITY  
FUND**



## CALL FOR A \$100 MILLION COMMITMENT

Raise \$100 million from its network of individual philanthropists in broad-reaching and border-spanning support of Generation Equality.



UN Women Executive Director shared the announcement of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation 500K USD grant to 10 youth-led organizations from underrepresented and marginalized identities and communities that will support advocacy work around the Generation Equality Forum.

**BILL & MELINDA**  
*GATES foundation*

### *Launch of the Commitments drive to Paris*

- Alignment first letter was amplified throughout the Forum to propel high-impact commitments. The Forum resulted in high-level political commitment & action. The active participation of global leaders secured a stellar launch of the commitments drive to ensure bold and concrete progress move forward towards Paris. Of the global leaders included: the presidents of the host countries, the UN system leadership, and more than 57 governments participating at the ministerial level.
- The expectation is for the Action Coalitions leaders to make bold commitments to realize the transformative vision of the Action Coalitions. A platform has been opened for interested stakeholders to submit their intention to join this effort. A Catalogue of Commitments was designed to support stakeholders in developing firm commitments, ideally in partnership with others. Commitments would be showcased at the Paris Forum, 30 June – 02 July 2021.
- By bringing diverse champions together—governments, the UN system, the private sector, philanthropies, feminists, women's rights, and youth organizations—the Action Coalitions are catalyzing a movement to break down the most intractable barriers to equality and justice. We have identified a set of catalytic actions that, if taken together and backed with resources and courageous leadership, will achieve lasting and transformative change.



“Feminism maintains an unrepentant, unresolved optimism. It is a dissatisfaction with the situation as it is and how it has been, and it is a permanent aspiration to change everything, or almost everything... The path it lays before us is to take the impulse that feminism leads to... to transform our societies, and never abandon optimism.”

**Marcelo Ebrard**  
Secretary for Foreign  
Affairs of Mexico

## ***Youth and civil society common feminist pathway***

The Forum in Mexico reinforced the power and voice of feminist youth, drawing on the intersectional and intergenerational principles of the Forum. From leadership from Governments, civil society, the private sector and international organisations, to the youth movement representatives, they must ensure a truly multi-stakeholder process and outcome.

With the National Civil Society Advisory Group in the leadership, the youth and civil society came together around a Feminist Pathway from intersectional and intergenerational lens. It constitutes a comprehensive plan (priorities and recommendations) for 12 Areas of Concern to guide action to achieve gender equality and women and girls' human rights. The starting point was that each critical area of concern interconnected with the others and that women's lived experiences embody multiple identities, vulnerabilities, and strengths. The strongest actions will come from coordinated, well-funded, developed, implemented and monitored intersectoral processes with the full and meaningful participation of women and girls in all their diversity.

In the addition to their participation and endorsement of the feminist pathways, the youth also made recommendations from the perspective of their vision 2026, which they discussed with UN Women's Executive Director in the Forum's closing segment.

“

**This is an urgent global agenda made even more pressing by the roll-backs in our rights we see due to COVID-19. Youth all over the world are watching and waiting. We are tired of hearing words and commitments without immediate actions – now is the moment for action.**”

**Elvira Pablo**

Member of the Generation Equality Youth Task Force

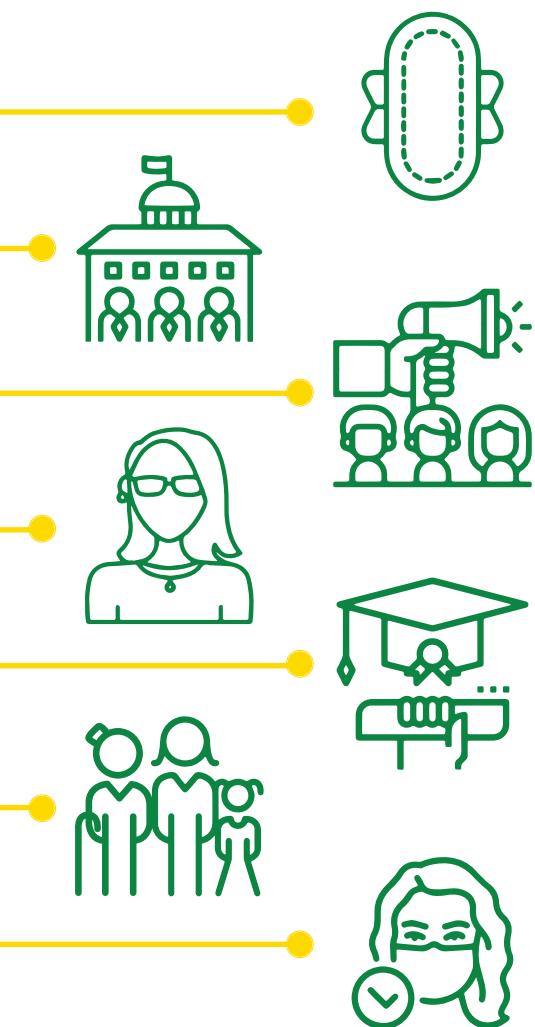


Foto: UN Women Mex



# VISION 2026: MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS

- Period poverty free world (100 % coverage to menstrual hygiene products).
- 100 % of governments' commitment to take decisive actions to eliminate femicide, tackle climate change and maximize the economic opportunities for women and girls in their diversity.
- Young women's meaningful representation in decision-making.
- Policy makers will highlight adolescent girls' voices and demands in issues that impact their lives.
- Adolescent girls will be working not only with youth but across generations to bridge generation gaps and share their unique perspectives and be leaders in transgenerational development issues.
- Traditional roles are overcome, and education equity is achieved globally.
- Women activists from around the world can exercise their work free of violence and oppression.
- Covid-19 has led to an increased gender gap. 2026 we must be ready for emergencies.
- All girls are openly accessing sexual and reproductive education and services.



## ***Group of Friends of Gender Equality***

Launched by the Government of Mexico and integrated by 20 United Nations Member States that are committed to gender equality and seek to initiate coordinated efforts towards promotional actions and advocacy in different multilateral forums, the Group of Friends is a positive result that reinforces the mutually reinforcing goals. The GEF has been an effective networking platform that through putting gender equality at its core, strengthens and makes the multilateral system more effective and relevant.



Cortesía de: <https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/news/iaea-general-conference-apoints-martha-delgado-peralta-of-mexico-as-president-of-its-special-session>

**“ We firmly believe that the multilateral system is the best way to address the structural and systemic obstacles that prevent the full enjoyment of human rights and the development of women and girls globally and in all their diversity. This has been the spirit of Mexico to co-organize the Generation Equality Forum together with France. ”**

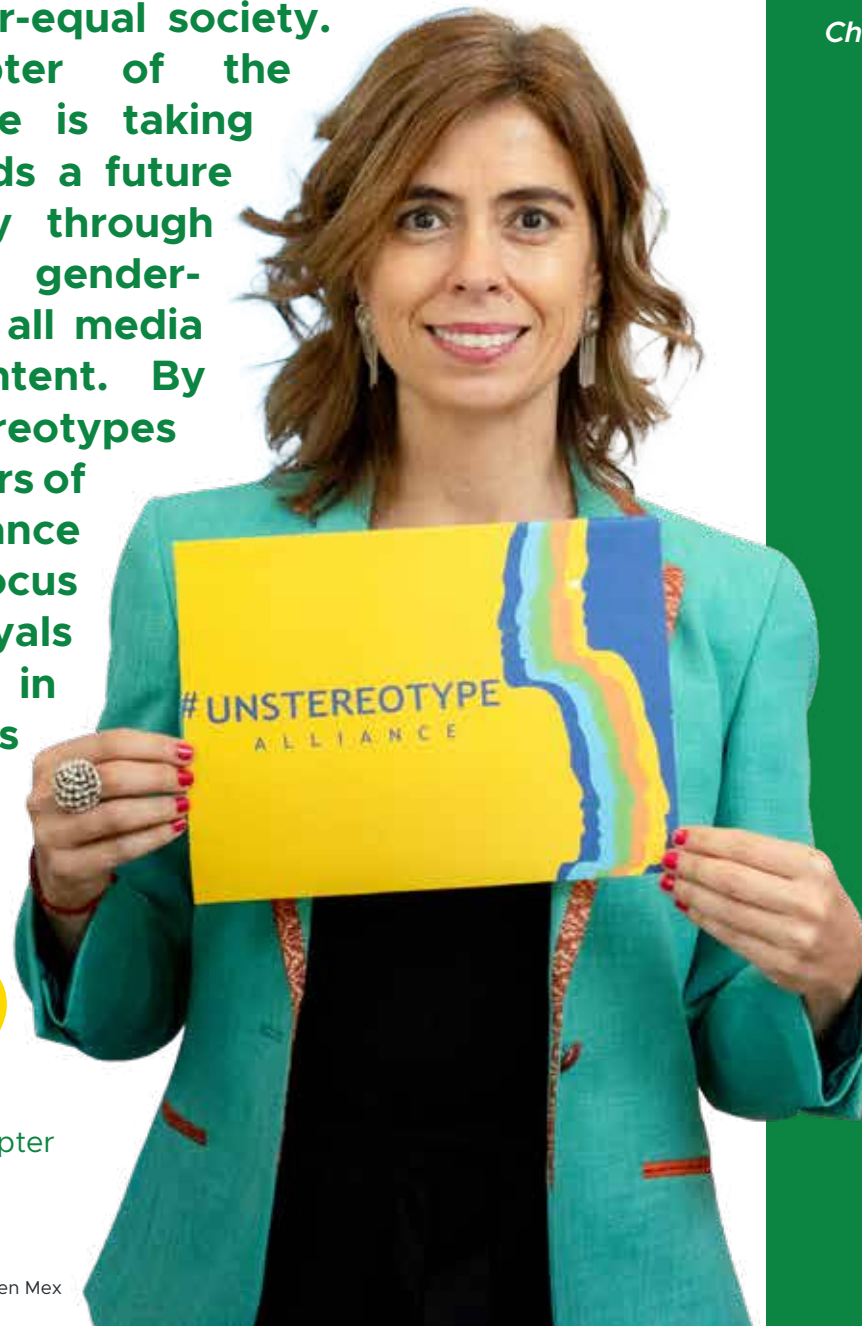
**Martha Delgado**

Undersecretary for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights at the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs

“The private sector, the advertising industry, and the media play a fundamental role in constructing a gender-equal society. The Mexican chapter of the Unstereotype Alliance is taking the first steps towards a future with gender equality through eradicating harmful gender-based stereotypes in all media and advertising content. By addressing gender stereotypes in advertising, members of the Unstereotype Alliance Mexico chapter will focus on progressive portrayals of women and men in non-traditional roles both in the home and in the workplace and will contribute to the creation of more equal societies.”

### **Belén Sanz**

At the launch of the Mexican Chapter of the Unstereotype Alliance



### *Launch of the Mexican National Chapter of the Unstereotype Alliance*

The Unstereotype Alliance launched a national chapter in Mexico during the Generation Equality Forum in Mexico City. Convened by UN Women, the Unstereotype Alliance is a thought and action platform that seeks to eradicate harmful stereotypes from advertising and the media. Mexico is the Alliance's eighth national chapter to launch worldwide and, following Brazil in 2019, its second in Latin America. The chapter's work will address gender stereotypes in advertising, focusing on progressive portrayals of women and men in non-traditional roles in the home and the workplace. It will also focus on transforming the objectification of women and harmful masculinities in media and advertising that reinforce gender-based violence. The launching event strengthens the Forum underscores the role of private sector partnerships in the gender equality collective agenda. In tackling the stereotypes that hold women and girls back, the Unstereotype Alliance supports the Forum's aims of achieving immediate and irreversible progress towards gender equality. The focus on eliminating all harmful stereotypes in the advertising and media industries is critical to secure a broad and lasting cultural change and the achievement of a green, equitable, gender-responsive and inclusive world.

Foto: UN Women Mex



04

# IMPACT



Scenes of the meeting of senior officials and ambassadors at the Generation Equality Forum in Mexico

- The programme of the Forum took the format of multi-stakeholder, intergenerational, and intersectional dialogues with broad participation from civil society, with representatives from around 62 CSOs from around the world. It engaged over 400 speakers from all sectors in more than 90 countries, to reinvigorate action and movements for gender equality.
- With nearly five thousand participants from around the world, 48.3% 34 years old or younger, and with a diverse and intersectional representation, the Generation Equality Forum in Mexico was an open and inclusive space that reinforced the power and voice of feminists and youth movements. The launch of a 2026 vision and a common feminist pathway as part of the Forum's outcome strengthens the Forum's vision for a co-creation process with meaningful youth and civil society engagement at all levels.
- The meeting took place amid growing concerns that COVID-19 has exacerbated a "gender equality crisis," making action and investment in women's rights critical. The leadership of women and youth in their intersectional diversity was recognized as one of the key drivers for gender equality. Inclusive leadership would bring for all girls and women around the globe to leverage their approaches and experiences, including in the context of the COVID-19 crisis, to secure a gender-responsive Building Back Better.
- The Forum's format and outcomes have offered standards of effective, feminist, intergenerational leadership and engagement in international dialogues, which stressed the importance of inclusive leadership to accelerate progress strategically. A quarter-century after the landmark Beijing Conference and Platform for Action, the Forum aimed to re-ignite efforts for full implementation. Participants massively encouraged the acceleration of the implementation of commitments from the Beijing Platform for Action on women in power and decision-making.





## HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL COMMITMENT & ACTION

- The active participation of global leaders, including the Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Executive Director of UN Women, 2 Presidents and 2 Prime Ministers, 4 Vice-Presidents, Ministers and Secretaries of State from 57 governments, the Crown Princess of Denmark, a Nobel Peace Laureate (1992), 5 Female Mayors and representatives of over 60 civil society and youth organizations, underscored their determination to assume a lead role in the global fight to achieve gender equality and strengthened the call for bold and concrete progress.
- All sessions were critical in raising awareness about the imperative of action on gender equality. As a crucial moment for urgent change, the Forum highlighted the need for the Generation Equality agenda, issued a Global Call to Action for commitments to accelerate gender equality implementation, and energize civil society and feminist movements in the drive towards securing commitments.
- The Forum was the opportunity for the leaders of the Action Coalitions and the Compact to be profiled together for the first time on a global stage. Their active engagement throughout the programme deepened ownership of the transformative vision by the Leadership Structures, as the leaders communicated their ambition and urgency needed for the Action Coalitions and the Compact to drive concrete results. Their presence has positively impacted the commitment's drive. Since the Forum in Mexico City, the evidence shows that the broad range of stakeholders interested in becoming Commitment Makers increased by 60%.
- The Networking Sessions across the programme enabled stakeholders to connect and discuss ways to collaborate. The sessions additionally enabled youth-led organizations and youth voices to be part of the conversation in a proactive manner.



# ATTENTION, AWARENESS & SUPPORT TO THE AGENDA

- The robust substantive programme and cultural agenda contributed to raising the visibility of gender equality in the international media. The Forum's Public Conversations platform has allowed the general audience to learn about gender equality issues, express their demands and ambitions, and influence the Generation Equality Forum.
- The National CSAG played a fundamental role in the dissemination of the Forum. Not only did they contribute to disseminating the event among the networks they represented at the national and regional levels, but they also reproduced the Forum sessions live from their social networks, which generated a greater flow of audience from other platforms, including people who were not registered in the Forum.
- The expectation is to leverage the outcomes of the Forum in Mexico to secure bold actions and commitments for gender equality to be announced in Paris in June. To this aim, the #ActForEqual campaign is marking the journey from Mexico to Paris.
- Gender equality and women's rights are essential to getting through this Pandemic together, recovering faster, and building a better future for everyone. With an emphasis placed on intergenerational and multistakeholder partnerships, the Forum in Paris will convene Governments at the Head of State/Government level, international organizations, civil society, youth, the private sector, and activists from around the world to make concrete and ambitious commitments towards achieving gender equality, ensuring sustainability and accountability.



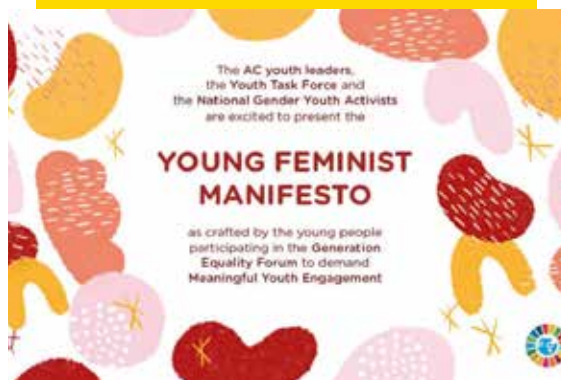
05

# ANNEXES

# ANNEX 1: RESULTS OF THE COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY



**Agenda Generation  
Equality Forum  
in Mexico**



**Youth Manifesto:  
<https://gefyouthmanifesto.wixsite.com/website>**



**Document “Women  
radically transforming  
a world in crisis”**



Distribution Date: March 4, 2021

## US RELEASE

### 109M Total Potential Audience

- 82 Exact Match Pickup (Exact matches are full text postings of the release)
- 1,432 Release Views
- 36 Click-throughs

#### Total Pickup by Source Type



- Newspaper (35/42.7%)
- Online News Sites & Other Influencers (19/23.2%)
- Broadcast Media (12/14.6%)
- Financial News Service (6/7.3%)
- News & Information Service (5/6.1%)
- Other (5/6.1%)

#### Total Pickup by Source by Industry



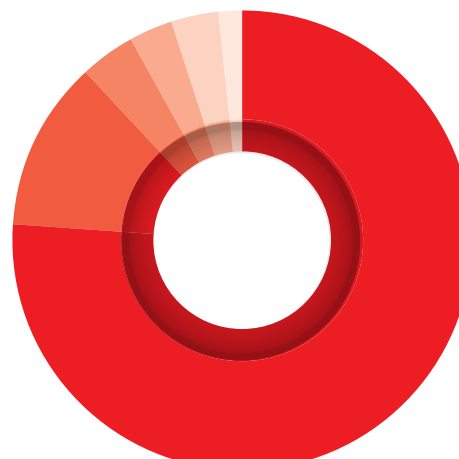
- Media & Information (56/68.3%)
- Financial (21/25.6%)
- Business Service (2/2.4%)
- Industrial (1/1.2%)
- Multicultural & Demographic (1/1.2%)
- Other (1/1.2%)

## LATAM RELEASE

### 21M Total Potential Audience

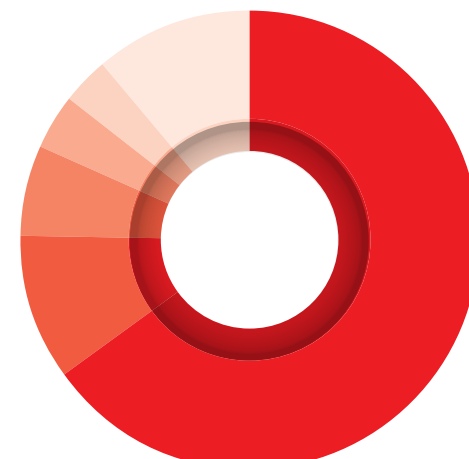
- 126 Exact Match Pickup (Exact matches are full text postings of the release)
- 1,038 Release Views
- 17 Click-throughs

#### Total Pickup by Source Type



- Online News Sites & Other Influencers (96/76.2%)
- Blog (15/11.9%)
- Newspaper (5/4.0%)
- News & Information Services (4/3.2%)
- Trade Publications (4/3.2%)
- Other (2/1.6%)

#### Total Pickup by Source by Industry



- Media & Information (82/65.1%)
- Retail & Consumer (13/10.3%)
- Financial (8/6.3%)
- Entertainment (5/4.0%)
- Business Service (4/3.2%)
- Other (14/11.1%)

Opening press conference  
349 Exact media pickups in national and international outlets

**Distribution Date: March 8, 2021**

## Total Release Performance (FR, US, MX, UK Combined)

- 104M Total Potential Audience
- 222 Exact Match Pickup (Exact matches are full text postings of the release)
- 1,895 Release Views
- 155 Click-throughs

### Total Pickup by Source Type



- Online News Sites & Other Influencers (120/55.0%)
- Newspaper (47/21.6%)
- Blog (18/8.3%)
- News & Information Service (9/4.1%)
- Trade Publications (8/3.7%)
- Other (16/7.3%)

### Total Pickup by Source by Industry



- Media & Information (143/64.4%)
- Financial (25/11.3%)
- Retail & Consumer (16/7.2%)
- Business Services (9/4.1%)
- Entertainment (7/3.2%)
- Other (22/9.9%)

### US + UK RELEASE

- 91M Total Potential Audience
- 88 Exact Match Pickup
- 1,374 Release Views
- 124 Click-throughs

### MEXICO RELEASE

- 91M Total Potential Audience
- 88 Exact Match Pickup
- 1,374 Release Views
- 124 Click-throughs

### US + UK RELEASE

- 91M Total Potential Audience
- 88 Exact Match Pickup
- 1,374 Release Views
- 124 Click-throughs

## 22 March – GEF Mexico breakfast with international correspondents

- 9 Media hits in international outlets El País, The Washington Post, CNN and Forbes
- 28 national (e.g. La Jornada, El Financiero) and international (e.g. Forbes, El País) news outlets through 16 dedicated stories, 10 mentions and two 1:1 interviews that appeared online, in the print version and on TV

## 29 – 31 March – GEF Mexico



UN Women Executive Director, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka at the opening of the Generation Equality Forum in Mexico

## 2 PRESS CONFERENCES FOR OPENING AND CLOSING

- 5 press releases at a national and international level
- Live broadcast of the opening ceremony in national media, GEF platform and UN Web TV
- 510 media hits with an estimated value of more than 2.7 million US dollars



# CLOSING PRESS RELEASE

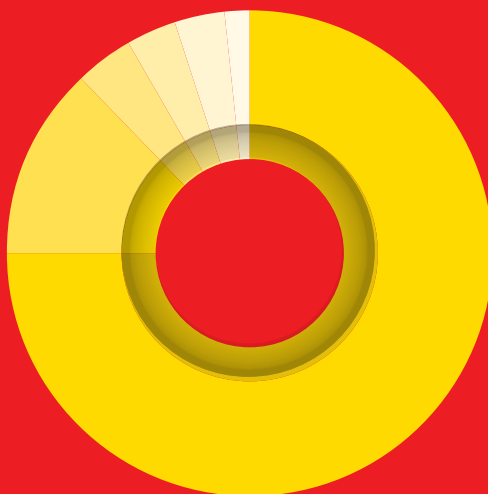
Wire Distribution Date: March 31, 2021

"Activism and Commitments to Accelerate Gender Equality  
Mark Conclusion of Generation Equality Forum in Mexico City"

## LATAM Release:

- 16,430,159 Total Potential Audience
- 124 Total Exact Match Pickup (Exact matches are full text postings of the release)
- 1,705 Release Views
- 26 Click-Throughs

Total Pickup by  
Source Type



Online News Sites & Other Influencers  
(93/75.0%)

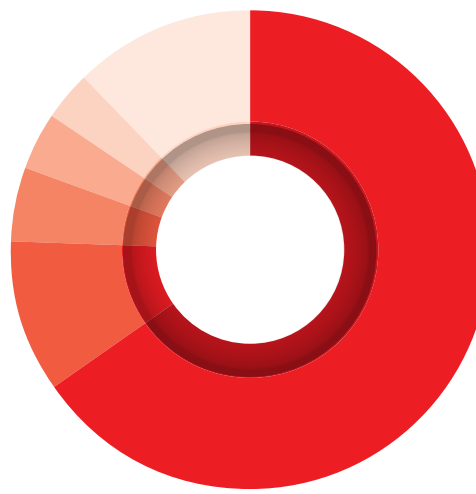
Blog (16/12.9%)

Newspaper (5/4.0%)

News & Information Service (4/3.2%)

Trade Publications (4/3.2%)

Total Pickup by  
Source by Industry



Media & Information (81/65.3%)

Retail & Consumer (13/10.5%)

Financial (6/4.8%)

Entertainment (5/4.0%)

Business Service (4/3.2%)

Other (15/12.1%)

## US RELEASE

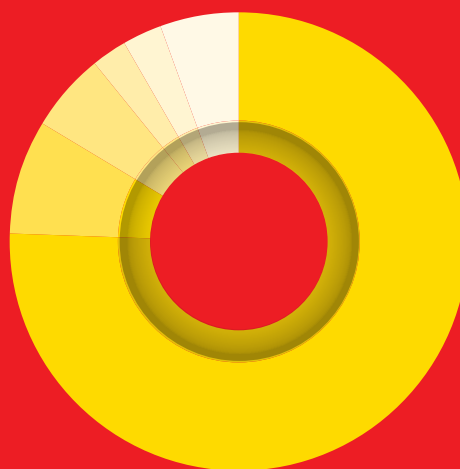
- 158,257,884 Total Potential Audience
- 94 Total Exact Match Pickup (Exact matches are full text postings of the release)
- 1,402 Release Views
- 79 Click-Throughs

Total Pickup by  
Source Type



- Online News Sites & Other Influencers (14/37.8%)
- Broadcast Media (13/35.1%)
- Trade Publications (3/8.1%)
- Blog (2/5.4%)
- News & Information Service (2/5.4%)
- Other (3/8.1%)

Total Pickup by  
Source by Industry



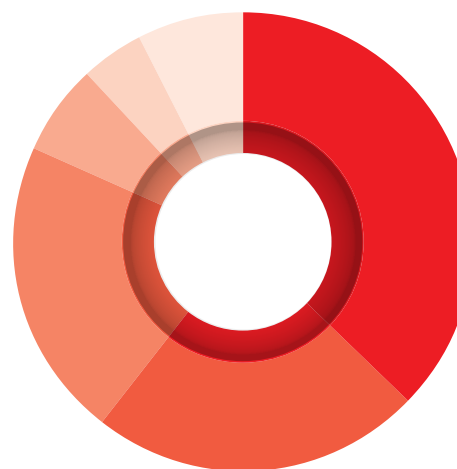
- Media & Information (28/75.7%)
- Business Service (3/8.1%)
- Financial (2/5.4%)
- Entertainment (1/2.7%)
- Multicultural & Demographic (1/2.7%)
- Other (2/5.4%)

## UK RELEASE

61,109,028 Total Potential Audience

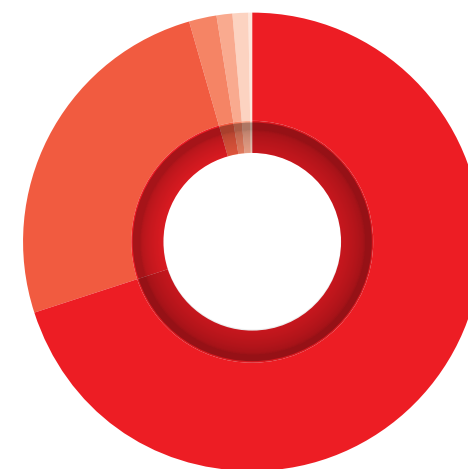
- 37 Total Exact Match Pickup (Exact matches are full text postings of the release)
- 291 Release Views
- 19 Click-Throughs

Total Pickup by  
Source Type



- Newspaper (35/37.2%)
- Online News Sites & Other Influencers (22/23.4%)
- Broadcast Media (20/21.3%)
- Financial News Service (6/6.6.4%)
- News & Information Service (4/4.3%)
- Other (7/7.4%)

Total Pickup by  
Source by Industry



- Media & Information (66/70.2%)
- Financial (24/25.5%)
- Multicultural & Demographic (2/2.1%)
- Business Service (1/1.1%)
- Policy & Public Interest (1/1.1%)
- Other (0/0.0%)

## PARTNERSHIP WITH INSTITUTO MEXICANO DE LA RADIO FOR PODCAST SERIES DISTRIBUTION AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

- Exclusive interviews and op-Eds with:
- CNN, El País, Televisa, El Universal, CBS, TV Monde, The Washington Post and Forbes
- Op-Ed by Nadine Gasman published in the UN.org SDG Blog

## GEF MEXICO WEBSITE: FOROGENERACIONIGUALDAD.MX

- Website updated with press releases, plenary sessions, feminist manifesto and media resources
- Search-engine optimization of the website, especially for Google positioning
- 27,000 unique visitors throughout the month of March
- 2 minutes is the average time spent on the website



## SOCIAL MEDIA

- Live coverage of the GEF Mexico sessions for social media quotes and engagement with speakers
- 10,473 tweets with the hashtag #ForoGeneraciónIgualdad with an estimated cost of 356,000 US dollars
- In the ONU Mujeres México social media accounts:
- 82 Facebook posts reached more than 790,000 users
- 274 tweets with more than 3.3 million impressions
- 30 Instagram posts with a reach of 281,725 users



"Este es el momento en el que los pasos que daremos están muy influenciados por las voces de las juventudes, que formarán parte de la actuación y del trabajo que sigue a partir de este momento."

**PHUMZILE MLAMBO-NGCUKA**  
Directora Ejecutiva de ONU Mujeres.

"Las mujeres indígenas no solo somos un tema, incursionamos en diferentes esferas de la vida, y día con día luchamos por una sociedad más justa, porque sabemos que existen otras formas de vida, existen otros mundos."

**ADRIANA UEX**  
Comision de Niñez y Juventud del Enlace Continental de Mujeres Indígenas de las Américas (ECMIA)

## PODCAST

### GEF Mexico Podcast

- 3 episodes of 45 min. each
- To be launched at a national level in partnership with Instituto Mexicano de la Radio

### M Mujeres que Suenan

- More than 8,000 plays in YouTube
- LATAM regional outreach on the first week



## #ACTFOREQUAL SOCIAL MEDIA IMPACT

- Total Reach: 14M
- 110.5k shares
- #ActForEqual film views:
  - Instagram: 404K views
  - Facebook: 184K views
  - Twitter: 77K views
  - LinkedIn: 35K v

## SOCIAL MEDIA

- Live coverage of the GEF Mexico sessions for social media quotes and engagement with speakers
- 10,473 tweets with the hashtag #ForoGeneraciónIgualdad with an estimated cost of 356,000 US dollars
- In the ONU Mujeres México social media accounts:
  - 82 Facebook posts reached more than 790,000 users
  - 274 tweets with more than 3.3 million impressions
  - 30 Instagram posts with a reach of 281,725 users



# ANNEX 2: GEF FEMINIST DRIVEN CONVERSATIONS

**“Women make the world  
dance and go around”**

**Marjorie Agosin.**  
Feminist writer from Chile

## **Empowering Words. A feminist perspective on literature**



The panel featured April Mosolino, Brenda Myers-Powell, Carmen Boullosa, Helen Benedict, Marjorie Agosin, Priya Malhotra, Kalisha Buckhanon, and Gloria Browne-Marshall, who conducted the conversation. The invited feminist writers shared excerpts from their literary work. They discussed what feminist writing is about, who had inspired and influenced their trajectory, how they have found their feminist voices. Stories of strength and purpose need to overcome the stories of violence and patriarchy. The feminist voices celebrate diversity and intersectionality; they contest the prominence of men in the literature, fight for equality, and creating. (Link to conversation available here).



ENUNCIADaS consisted of a rich conversation between Lorena Wolffer, Mónica Mayer and Vivian Abenshushan, all of them feminist professionals with a long history working at the intersections of art, culture, and activism. Stressing that feminist artists are usually not invited to participate in main convenings but relegated to alternative spaces, the guests spoke from their experience in the art world and how art has contributed to feminism theory and practice. (Link to the conversation available here).



## The power of comics and cartoons to combat gender inequality



This panel discusses the power of comics, cartoons, and illustrations in tackling gender stereotypes and promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women, how illustrators influence collective mindsets, and how they have a social responsibility in terms of denouncing femicide, violence and discrimination against women and promoting a culture of equality. The panel presented the comic competition launched by UN Women, the EU, Belgium, France, Mexico, and Cartooning for Peace. It provided the opportunity to learn about the challenges artists face, and the role partners of the GEF can play to support women and men artists in fighting against gender stereotypes. (Link to the conference available here).

## Subversive Poetics Reflections on technodiversity, cosmo- techniques and genre



Moderated by Angélica Cocoma (Col), the panel included Amor Muñoz (Mexico), Ana Maria Montenegro (Col), Aarati Akkapeddi (In / US), Adrien Segal (US). Speakers reflected on the limited visibility of women in the digital arts and how digital arts can be used to denounce exclusion and discrimination. They explored how technology influences the construction of identity and gender, how the use of technology may be widening the gender gap, how connectivity contributes to alienate people and how art can trace a path of reflection or action that allows different futures to be prototyped. (Link to conversation available here).



### Conference: When the world changes

Questions about art and Feminisms by the art historian, researcher, and curator Andrea Giunta. From the artist's experience in creating "When the World Changes," the artist explains how the COVID pandemic has affected women and the arts and how the arts contribute to the building back better. In presenting *Radical women (2010-2017)*, the artist speaks about the challenges female artists face in gaining recognition. Feminism is a solid alternative to think and act in the current context of uncertainty and crisis. (Link to the conference is available here).



### A conversation on feminism and the music industry

A dialogue between feminist Mexican singers and composers Vivir Quintana, recognized for her *Song Without Fear* and Pau Sotomayor (Pahua). Joaquina Mertz acted as moderator. The conversation focused on the challenges and opportunities that women face in the music industry. While recognizing progress, the speakers concluded that glass ceilings continue to prevent them from rising and be paid as much as men. The conversation also explored the creative ways feminist singers use the lyrics of their songs to influence the feminist struggle. (Link to the Conversation is available here).



### Unearthing Truths: Magic, False Positives, and Art

Questions about art and Feminisms by the art historian, researcher, and curator Andrea Giunta. From the artist's experience in creating "When the World Changes," the artist explains how the COVID pandemic has affected women and the arts and how the arts contribute to the building back better. In presenting *Radical women (2010-2017)*, the artist speaks about the challenges female artists face in gaining recognition. Feminism is a solid alternative to think and act in the current context of uncertainty and crisis. (Link to the conference is available here).



### Halito Divino - Ruby Rumié

A dialogue between feminist Mexican singers and composers Vivir Quintana, recognized for her *Song Without Fear* and Pau Sotomayor (*Pahua*). Joaquina Mertz acted as moderator. The conversation focused on the challenges and opportunities that women face in the music industry. While recognizing progress, the speakers concluded that glass ceilings continue to prevent them from rising and be paid as much as men. The conversation also explored the creative ways feminist singers use the lyrics of their songs to influence the feminist struggle. (Link to the Conversation is available here).



# ANNEX 2: EXHIBITIONS AND PERFORMANCES



Within the multiple facets of collective photography, this exhibition celebrates individual and professional diversity. The selection accounts for the plurality of narrative discourses and expressive means. It ranges from denunciation and social art related to women facing risk situations, violence, marginalization, and discrimination; the self-representation and use of the body as an exploration of identity issues, to the knowledge of the environment from photojournalism image as a research. The inaugural ceremony is available [here](#).



Betzamee created a virtual exhibition that included art pieces by more than 40 Mexican artists from her project La Movimienta. This project aims to generate dialogues and complicities from artists who have decided to break with the established patterns from the multiple artistic creations. From the language to the creative work, the artists challenge the dichotomy between the public and private space and rescue the values of inclusion and diversity. The exhibition is available [here](#).

## If our bodies were walls by Cerrucha (Mexico)



The artist depicts the feminist demonstrations in Mexico City in response to growing repression and denounces the impunity on femicide cases. The exhibition consists of three bodies of Cerrucha's work: "Victorias Aladas," "8M, 2021," and a series of audios of feminist demonstrations registered over the last five years. [Learn more here.](#)

## Women in front of the Pandemic. Curators: Greta Rico and Frida Hartz



Betzamee created a virtual exhibition that included art pieces by more than 40 Mexican artists from her project La Movimienta. This project aims to generate dialogues and complicities from artists who have decided to break with the established patterns from the multiple artistic creations. From the language to the creative work, the artists challenge the dichotomy between the public and private space and rescue the values of inclusion and diversity. The exhibition is [available here.](#)



**Wounded to Death** is a performing arts project on femicide, written and produced by Serena Dandini, an Italian journalist, writer, and television personality, together with Maura Misiti, a researcher at the National Council Italian research. The Italian Ministry of Culture sponsored the theatrical piece. Based on actual crime reports, this series of monologues give voice, for the first time, to the victims of femicide. The monologues were performed by Arussi Unda, Sandra Echeverria, Daniela Rea, Maura Misiti, Itzel Monero Vite, Ximena Sariñana, Liz Misterio, AnaLau Jaiven, Serena Dandini, Kenya Cuevas and Carina Marquez. The performance is available here.



**Intergenerational exhibition** curated by Atractor Studio – Colombia available here. This curatorship addresses the proposals of 10 women of particular importance in the development of new media and contemporary digital arts. From reflections on the role of technology in the construction of identity to the subversive use of technology to propose new dynamics of consumption, the problematization of nanotechnology, and the path towards technodiversity, this curatorship presents a frame of reference for the creation of new media and the use and disuse of new technologies.



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GOBIERNO DE  
MÉXICO



GOUVERNEMENT

*Liberté  
Égalité  
Fraternité*

**In partnership  
with civil society  
and youth**