



GENERATION EQUALITY, AN SDG ACCELERATOR: THE MIDPOINT

Trusteeship Chamber at UNHQ
New York City, United States - 17 September 2023

Concept Note

Background

Generation Equality is an unprecedented global effort to accelerate investment and implementation of gender equality in today's context of stalled progress and regression. Convened by UN Women, at the core, Generation Equality is a collection of six multistakeholder partnerships between civil society, youth, governments, the UN system, the private sector and philanthropists, and a Compact on Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action, to catalyze partners, increase investments, drive results and accelerate the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It is anchored in the UN Decade of Action, and it emphasizes the achievement of SDG 5 on gender equality and the delivery of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to benefit women and girls in all their diversity.

The UN Secretary General's report "Our Common Agenda" (OCA) highlights the relevance of the Generation Equality methodology as a multistakeholder platform through which efforts towards gender equality can be strengthened and encourages Member States to build on the momentum created by the initiative.

Alongside the High Impact Initiatives, Generation Equality is included in the UN Secretary General's approach to SDG implementation acceleration. The Midpoint will be anchored in the pre-SDG summit programming that heads of state and governments from around the world will attend to renew and accelerate SDG implementation. The Midpoint Moment will be showcased as part of the SDG Acceleration Day on the 17 September 2023, in preparation for the SDG Summit on Monday 18 September.

The Midpoint provides an important opportunity to mobilize sustained attention to and investment in gender equality as an accelerator for the SDGs at a time when women's rights are under increased threats globally and progress has stalled and reversed in more than 30 per cent of the SDGs, progress on 50 per cent of the targets is insufficient and only 12 per cent of the targets are on track.

Within its first two years, the number of commitments has doubled since its launch at the Paris Generation Equality Forum in 2021 where 1000 commitments were announced. These commitments are contributing to SDG achievement, specifically 33% of Generation Equality indicators are SDG indicators, while the remaining address specific pressing gender equality issues that are not encompassed in the SDGs.

Generation Equality continues to deliver concrete changes for gender equality in the framework of the SDGs at local, national, regional and global levels. These results respond to financial, advocacy, programmatic and policy commitments and comprehend increased investments, strengthened national systems, changes in laws and policies, the creation of regional cooperation mechanisms and centers, strengthened partnerships with youth and civil society, amongst many others. The Midpoint Moment will showcase this progress and highlight gaps to be addressed. It will mobilize new commitments and momentum, investment and leadership for impact at scale and make the case for the importance of Generation Equality through its innovative, multistakeholder, intergenerational, inclusive and results-oriented methodology.

The Midpoint constitutes one of several global milestones in the Generation Equality Journey for increased and renewed commitment towards the Summit of the Future in 2024 and Beijing+30 in 2025, through to 2030 and beyond. It will engage Heads of State and high-level representatives from across governments, representatives from the feminist movement, civil society organizations including youth- and adolescent-led organizations, private sector, philanthropies and the UN system.

Two Member States, Iceland and Tanzania, will co-lead the event with UN Women and with the collective leadership and support of multistakeholder leaders, leveraging their global leadership on gender equality to drive action, accountability, and renewed commitments to accelerate the SDGs through Generation Equality and

its six Action Coalitions and Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action Compact (WPS-HA Compact).

Stakeholders will be invited to commit and re-commit political, programmatic and financial support to gender equality through the Generation Equality multi-stakeholder platform and methodology.

Overview

The Midpoint will present results achieved through its multistakeholder partnership methodology for mobilizing governments, civil society including youth- and adolescent-led organizations, the UN system, philanthropies and private sector to increase impact towards SDG achievement.

The event will be anchored around the Generation Equality 2023 Accountability Report, which will take stock of progress against the Generation Equality targets and demonstrate how the implementation of commitments through Generation Equality is driving progress towards the SDGs, as well as highlight how Generation Equality is contributing to the new way of working called for in the UN SG's OCA report. It will highlight the gaps to be addressed drawing on additional evidence from SDG5 financing analyses and the gender analysis of the SDGs contained in the Gender Snapshot making will be a call to action to contribute to the UN SG's vision on the future of global cooperation.

It will outline the headline global achievements of Generation Equality to date, the growing global impetus for the initiative and the showcasing of both major new commitments and robust examples of commitments progress.

There will be a dedicated session to present six impact stories showcasing some of the results followed by storytelling. In addition, a Youth Call to Action will take place where youth voices from each AC and the Compact will sum up the current global urgency for action and highlight one linked action priority from the Global Acceleration Plan.

Finally, the Midpoint Moment will put a spotlight on accountability for commitments made and push for an expansion of engagement and support across all sectors as well as secure and highlight transformative new commitments that address geographic and thematic gaps relative to the Global Acceleration Plan.

Objectives

- 1. Progress and Accountability:** Demonstrate how Generation Equality has driven transformative results and promising practices for the acceleration of SDGs.
- 2. Generation Equality's alignment to the 12 SDG Summit High Impact Initiatives:** Showcase commitments and results of the six Action Coalitions and the WPS-HA Compact.
- 3. Enhanced commitments for Gender Equality:** Reinforce and expand existing commitments as well as spotlighting new high-impact and high-value commitments.

- 4. Amplification and Energization:** Create momentum for the global community to accelerate gender-responsive sustainable development.

Event details

The event will be held in-person at the **United Nations Headquarters in New York City at the Trusteeship Chamber on Sunday, 17 September from 10:00 am to 14:45pm**. The sessions will be broadcast on UN Web TV and will include language interpretation into the 6 UN official languages, International Sign Language and closed captioning.

Agenda

Sunday 17 September "SDG Acceleration Day"

Opening 10:00am - 10:30am	High level remarks led by the governments of Iceland and Tanzania, the session includes multi-media content, synopsis of key highlights from 2023 Accountability report and results, articulation of urgent global needs and gaps as drivers for a renewed Generation Equality push.
Accountability for Impact and Results 10:30am - 11:30am	Accountability and results presentations followed by moderated storytelling.
Pushing Forward Against the Pushback 11:30am - 12:30pm	Thought leadership session discussing urgency of current global context for women and girls as a frame for the importance of Generation Equality.
Youth Spotlight 12:30pm - 13:30pm	Youth voice for each Action Coalition and the Compact sums up the current global urgency for action and highlights one linked action priority from the Global Acceleration Plan.
Commitments 13:30pm - 14:00pm	Multistakeholder leaders take the floor to announce new and expanded commitments.
Renewal of the Call to Action 14:00pm - 14:45pm	Underscore urgent global context, renew call for accountability, announcement of new commitments to reinvigorate and encourage additional commitments.