

KEY MESSAGES

FOR THE GENERATION EQUALITY
MIDPOINT MOMENT

17 SEPTEMBER 2023

Prepared by UN Women



In this Document:

1. Topline Key Messages
2. What Generation Equality Has Achieved So Far
3. Context + Origin of Generation Equality
4. Generation Equality Action Coalitions
5. About the Generation Equality Midpoint Moment
6. The Role of UN Women in Generation Equality



“Generation Equality represents a space where bold commitments to invest in gender equality are made – and where stakeholders representing different constituencies, including civil society and youth and adolescent groups – can **come together to exchange ideas, learn from each other, and develop new or common actions and strategies**, while holding each other accountable for results.”

Topline Key Messages

1. Halfway through the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the world is failing to achieve gender equality, making it an increasingly distant goal. The latest available data shows that **none of SDG Goal 5 (Gender Equality) indicators are met or nearly met**, and regressive laws, violence, and reversals to women's rights continue to exacerbate global gender inequality.
2. A bold, whole of society approach is needed to disrupt entrenched and rising global gender inequality, alongside intensified ambition, investment, and accountability – **this is Generation Equality**.
3. Generation Equality is the world's leading effort to **unlock political will and accelerate investment and implementation on gender equality**. It brings together organizations from every part of society – through intergenerational, multistakeholder alliances – to catalyze progress, advocate for change, and take bold actions together.
4. The 2023 Accountability Report from Generation Equality commitment makers **shows how this partnership model is working** – through 2,800+ commitments across 126 countries; more than \$47 billion in financial commitments; and over 9 in 10 original commitments on track to be implemented by the 2026 deadline.
5. **We are at the implementation stage**. From improving women and girls' economic participation in Tanzania, to re-shaping the care economy in Canada, Generation Equality commitments are robustly supporting action across sectors and generations, providing a common platform for transformative change.
6. Still, we are living through a [gender equality crisis](#), and **we need heightened commitment from the international community** to confront it – Generation Equality is the 'unlock' that can deliver a permanent acceleration in opportunity, rights and leadership for women and girls worldwide.
7. On September 17, **The Midpoint Moment of Generation Equality** will bring together Heads of State, and leaders from the UN System, private sector, philanthropy, civil society and youth-led organizations to commit to the urgent, coordinated efforts needed to bridge gaps and accelerate progress, through enhanced funding, policy reforms, data tracking, and inclusive partnerships.
8. **Aligned with the SDG Summit High Impact Initiatives**, the Midpoint Event will call to action and urge leaders to contribute to the UN Secretary-General's vision for the future of global cooperation – setting the stage for a world where gender equality is a lived reality, and every SDG target stands within reach.

What Gender Equality Has Achieved So Far

On the eve of the UN General Assembly's redoubled efforts to drive progress in the Sustainable Development Goals, we take stock through the [Generation Equality Midpoint Moment](#), two years after its launch by the Governments of France and Mexico in 2021 and now with an unprecedented \$47 billion and 2800 commitments to gender equality.

- Generation Equality is encouraging new feminist funding approaches, leading to increased collaboration and funding opportunities. However – reporting of financial commitments needs to be improved, and regional gaps (such as a limited number of commitments in Eastern and South-Eastern Asia and North Africa) must be addressed.

Stories of Progress

Context / Country	Objective	Progress
Tanzania	Upscale investments in reliable water supply, rural electrification and renewable energy to ensure access to, and use of, affordable and relevant technologies – to address multiple burdens for women in rural and peri urban areas.	Tanzania has established 3,087 Early Childhood Development Centers. Water Supply and Sanitation services have been improved – 77% of rural and 88% of urban populations now have access to clean and safe water at or near their homes, helping to reduce the burden of care work and improve care services.
Private Sector	PayPal will invest \$1M over the next 5 years to incentivize resource mobilization for charities focusing on SDG 5 outcomes.	PayPal has implemented a 1x match for employee donations to organizations that advance SDG 5 goals, and has completed back-end tagging of 200,000+ charities on the PayPal Giving Platform to create visibility for customers into which charities are SDG 5 focused.
Rwanda	Reducing the gender gap in technology and innovation, and economically empowering women to engage in the e-commerce sector.	The Government of Rwanda has onboarded close to 4,000 small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to the digital commerce platform iHuzo, 40 per cent of which are women-owned. As a result, the Government of Rwanda recorded that close to 200 women-owned SMEs have started using digital payment methods and close to 900 women-owned SMEs are selling products through business e-commerce.

Context / Country	Objective	Progress
Guatemala	Advocating for the opening of a psychological care unit in a municipality in Western Guatemala that has installed facility, staff, and prevention, care and referral programmes.	The community Las Niñas Lideran (Girls Lead) is organizing self-esteem workshops for girls, running a municipal psychological clinic, and leading campaigns to discuss violence against women and girls. The ‘Conectadas Contra la Violencia’ campaign has already reached almost 2000 children across three municipalities, and stories that address the prevention of verbal violence for pre-school children are used by over 50 education centres.
United States	Supporting Federal employees’ access to leave without pay, including during their first year of service, to care for themselves or a loved one and to support their access to paid leave and leave without pay for purposes related to seeking safety and recovering from domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.	President Biden signed an Executive Order that included more than 50 directives to nearly every cabinet-level agency to expand access to affordable, high-quality care, provide support for care workers and family caregivers.
Canada	Promote and advance Early Learning and Child Care as one of several commitments to Generation Equality.	The Government of Canada is committing \$37 billion through regular investments.
UNCTAD	Promote women entrepreneurs’ participation in decision-making processes that shape global digital cooperation.	UNCTAD reported over 40 advocacy initiatives through the eTrade for Women initiative to empower women digital entrepreneurs, including engaging in national consultations, interagency collaborations with other multilateral organizations, and encouraging public-private dialogue.
UNICEF	Develop technologies to address gender-based violence of girls and women.	UNICEF launched Laaha, a virtual safe space for girls and women, created by women and girls for them. Laaha seeks to provide information, support, and access to services for girls and women in crisis who have experienced online gender-based violence. The platform currently includes 64 modules on health, safety, violence and relationships, with more being added.

Context + Origin of Generation Equality

- Halfway through the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the **world is failing to achieve gender equality**, making it an increasingly distant goal. The latest available data show that a mere 11 percent of SDG Goal 5 (Gender Equality) indicators are “close to target”.
- If current trends continue, over 340 million women and girls will still live in extreme poverty by 2030, and close to one in four will experience moderate or severe food insecurity. Progress in reducing maternal mortality has stalled, and the gender gap in power and leadership positions remains entrenched.
- **Generation Equality is the world’s leading effort to unlock political will and accelerate investment and implementation on gender equality.** It recognizes that a bold, whole of society approach is needed to disrupt entrenched and rising global gender inequality, alongside intensified ambition, investment, and accountability. Convened by UN Women, the initiative aims to ensure that the bold ambitions of the 1995 Beijing Platform for Action on rights are finally implemented, and that progress on the Sustainable Development Goals is accelerated.
- Generation Equality was launched in 2021 at the Generation Equality Forum hosted in Mexico City and Paris. The Forum also launched **six Action Coalitions** and a Compact on Women, Peace, Security. By bringing together diverse stakeholders from every part of society – the United Nations, governments, young and adolescent people, philanthropy, civil society, international organizations, and the private sector – Generation Equality aims to provide a bold, holistic, and transformative solution to decades of inaction and under-investment in gender equality.
- Generation Equality **brings together organizations from every part of society** to catalyze progress, advocate for change, and take bold actions together. These intergenerational multi-stakeholder alliances fuel Generation Equality and reflect the vision of the UN Secretary General’s Our Common Agenda.
- The 2021 Forum marked the beginning of a multi-year process, which focuses on:
 - **Commitments:** Building the number and quality of strong commitments and driving their implementation in line with the Global Acceleration Plan and Compact Framework.
 - **Accountability:** Ensuring accountability and transparency for all commitments so that promises are kept.
 - **Collective action:** Energizing a multi-stakeholder ecosystem that builds political will, advocacy, and action for gender equality.
- **The Multi-Stakeholder Leadership Group** is a group of 24 members representing all the diverse stakeholders of Generation Equality – member states, civil society, youth-led organizations, adolescent-led organizations, UN organizations, philanthropy, and the private sector – including the representation of LGBTQI+ people, indigenous women, and women and girls with disabilities – which guides and advises the work of Generation Equality. The Multi-Stakeholder Leadership Group’s voice helps ensure accountability, sustained action, and the continued energy and vibrancy of Generation Equality’s co-creative coalition and ‘whole of society’ approach.

Generation Equality Action Coalitions and Compact

Selected cases of impact indicate results across all Action Coalitions and the Women, Peace and Security, and Humanitarian Action Compact, including the following:

Action Coalition / Compact	Result	Organization / Institution	Country of Implementation
Gender-based violence	Presented the first bill in the history of Ecuador to prevent and eradicate violence against women in higher education.	University Feminist Coalition	Ecuador
Economic Justice and Rights	In 2022, the President Biden signed into law the Ending Forced Arbitration of Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment Act of 2021 , aimed at improving women's experience in the workforce.	Government of the United States of America	United States of America
Bodily Autonomy and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights	CIFF has worked with young feminist partners to drive advocacy and accountability for gender equality and youth partnership at a multilateral level, and directly in Sub-Saharan Africa.	Children's Investment Fund Foundation	Sub-Saharan African countries
Feminist Action for Climate Justice	Trained over 300 young women ages 15 – 30 years from climate prone areas in Uganda to empower them as leaders in their communities.	Girls For Climate Action	Uganda
Technology and Innovation	The Government of Rwanda onboarded close to 4000 Small and Medium Enterprises, of which 40% are women-owned, to the "50 Million African Women Speak" virtual platform.	Government of Rwanda	Rwanda
Feminist Movement and Leadership	Financial support by IWDA allowed the Women's League of Burma to rapidly pivot to meet the needs of women and girls in the wake of the military coup in 2021 – filling gaps in service provision and offering food, medicine delivery and safe shelter to survivors of sexual and gender-based violence.	International Women's Development Agency	Myanmar
Compact for WPS & HA	Facilitating women's participation in peace processes in 13 countries.	Karama	Middle East and North African Region

About the Generation Equality Midpoint Moment

The Midpoint Moment of the Generation Equality journey will take place at the UN Headquarters in New York City and online on **17 September 2023**.

The event, convened by UN Women with the co-leadership of the Governments of Iceland and the United Republic of Tanzania, will be a critical moment for Generation Equality as it seeks to assess, energize and grow its bold agenda for gender equality acceleration, building from its launch at the Generation Equality Forum in 2021.

The 2023 Generation Equality Midpoint event provides an important opportunity to mobilize sustained attention to, and investment in, gender equality as an accelerator for the SDGs. This comes 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. The Midpoint will be featured as part of the [SDG Acceleration Day](#).



What: Generation Equality Midpoint Moment

When: Sunday 17 September, 2023

Where: UN HQ, Trusteeship Council Chamber

What time: From 10:00 to 14:45hrs EDT

Format: Hybrid to be live-streamed via UN Web TV at this link: <https://media.un.org/en/asset/k1e/k1ek09vhph>

The Midpoint Moment of Generation Equality will feature high-level engagement, including Heads of State, and leaders from the UN System, private sector, philanthropy, civil society and youth-led organizations.

The event will put a spotlight on accountability for commitments made, results and gaps that need to be addressed. It will highlight the growing global impetus for Generation Equality, and showcase major new commitments and robust examples of commitments progress.

The Midpoint Moment will also demonstrate the **value of Generation Equality's methodology** – based on an innovative, intergenerational, and inclusive multistakeholder approach, which has led to concrete changes at local, national, regional and global levels, with increased investments, policy changes and strengthened partnerships.

The Midpoint event will be **aligned with the SDG Summit High Impact Initiatives**, calling to action and urging leaders to contribute to the UN Secretary-General's vision for the future of global cooperation, serving as a pivotal milestone in renewing commitment towards the Summit of the Future in 2024 and Beijing+30 in 2025 – setting the stage for continued progress towards gender equality beyond 2030.

It will emphasize the **importance of engaging young voices**, including youth and adolescent-led organizations. The Youth Call to Action will underscore the urgent need for action and highlight key priorities from the Global Acceleration Plan.

The Role of UN Women in Generation Equality

- UN Women is the global convener of Generation Equality. As the global convener, UN Women brings together all stakeholders to catalyze transformative and quantifiable progress for women and girls. This multifaceted convener role includes being an advocate, a connector, a thought-leader, a knowledge hub, and a facilitator of collaborative partnerships.
- This role aligns with UN Women's UN coordination mandate to lead, promote and coordinate efforts to advance the full realization of women's rights and opportunities, aligned with the entity's current strategic plan.
- UN Women is also a key 'development actor' in the field of gender equality and, as such, has made, and will implement and report on, its own commitments to Generation Equality.
- UN Women also convenes the Generation Equality Multi-Stakeholder Leadership Group (MSLG), a critical space for partners across sectors to guide the initiative and inform UN Women's work on it.

