



REGIONAL CONVERSATION SERIES

**Advancing Generation Equality Forum Commitments in the Europe
and Central Asia Region**

Report on the First Regional Follow-up Event
15 December 2021

FEMINIST MOVEMENTS AND LEADERSHIP

ACTION COALITION



Summary

On December 15th 2021, the regional conversation on strengthening feminist movements and leadership was organised as a virtual event, as the first follow-up to the Generation Equality Forums in Mexico City and Paris. This event, organized by the United Nations Regional Issue-Based Coalition on Gender Equality (IBC-GE) in Europe and Central Asia, focused on the Generation Equality Forum's "Action Coalition 6" that aims to strengthen feminist movements and leadership.

The event was the first of 'regional conversations' on enhancing engagements in the Generation Equality Action Coalitions from the region of Central Asia and Europe. There was much interest, with 144 participants, of which 41% young persons below the age of 35, from 40 countries of which 36% from the EU region, 34% from Western-Balkan and Turkey, 15% from Caucasus and Eastern Europe, 11% from Central Asia and 4% from other regions. The event was co-moderated by several civil society and youth representatives and included inspirational speeches from adolescent and feminist activists, Governments, private philanthropic foundations and United Nations agencies as well as interactive discussions, polls and surveys. Further regional conversations are planned in early 2022.

This publication presents key messages and priorities from the participants for strengthening feminist movements and leadership in the region, summarised here:

- **The Generation Equality Forum has paved the way for joint action on women's rights and gender equality: now is the time to act.** Women's and feminist movements and leadership, including young feminists' leadership, is key to achieving all other goals. At the same time Action Coalition 6 is least known and least funded. There is momentum, but more awareness, investment and support are urgently needed.
- **Women's and feminist movements and organizations from across the region are coming together to demand rights and gender equality at a time of great need.** It is timely that IBC-GE convened the first regional conversation on turning commitments into action, showing from the high turnout, appreciation and energy expressed in the meeting.
- **The urgency of addressing gender equality in the region is high. Feminist and women's rights movements have been crucial in advancing gender equality and building inclusive, democratic societies in the region. Today, much of the progress made is at risk due to the pandemic and direct attacks by those opposing gender equality.**
- **Women's rights organizations and feminist movements are severely underfunded, and more flexible long-term funding for diverse and inclusive movement is key.** There is an urgent call to all donors to increase the funding and access to funding for grassroots and frontline groups, including lesbian movements, young people and informal groups, by reviewing funding modalities.
- **There are inspiring commitments and best practices from across the region, including multimillion dollar commitments from philanthropy and governments to upscale efforts of civil society organizations to build women's leadership and advance youth engagement.** There are important efforts to strengthen feminist principles within organizations as well, building collective leadership with trans and non-binary experts.
- **There are concrete opportunities for more regional networking and alliance building, and a high demand for safe spaces for movements to come together.** There is a call for UN Women and other regional organizations to support spaces for regional movement building with a strong intersectional and intergenerational focus.
- **To make the AC 6 successful, there is a need for joint visioning and outreach, and more transparency and accountability on commitments made.** Engaging more stakeholders, whilst maintaining a safe space, is important to ensure action at all levels of society and power. It is important to maintain meaningful youth participation and ensure constituencies can co-lead and co-design, including by providing resources for them to be part of this process.

Messages from our speakers

'Women human rights defenders in all their diversity are facing the brunt of these hostilities, having to navigate further shrinking civic spaces, which - due to their gender and activism - were already frequently more limited and restricted to begin with. The need for action and solidarity has therefore never been stronger.' **Ruben Brouwer, OHCHR**

'We need inclusiveness, togetherness and resources for feminist movements to thrive and advance gender equality. We need everyone involved and stand together in this time of great need.' **Sehnaz Kiymaz Bahceci - Member of the Europe and Central Asia Regional Civil Society Advisory Group**

'We need more awareness and stronger commitments to feminist movement building. Young feminists are actively participating, but we need to make sure they co-lead and co-design. As young people, we commit to keeping an eye out and holding you to account.' **İlayda Eskitaşçioğlu, member GEF youth task force**

'It is time to deliver on what was agreed and on the commitments made. There are glimmers of progress on violence against women, on bodily integrity, on financial and political support for the work you do tirelessly. The path to gender equality need not be long. Women are demanding that we prioritize their rights and choices and we have to deliver. We have the conditions in place to make change happen. The voice of young people and women's organisations is key for how to act.' **Marta Diavolova, UNFPA, co-chair IBC-GE**

'We are thankful to young people for giving energy and keeping us on our toes. We recognize their support to engage with civil society, making young people front and center of the conversation.' **Alia El-Yassir, UN Women Regional Director and co-chair IBC-GE**

Background

The Generation Equality Forum (GEF) is a global gathering for gender equality, convened by UN Women, and co-hosted by the governments of Mexico and France, in close partnership with civil society and youth actors. The Forum culminated in Paris in July 2021, where a set of ambitious and transformative actions to achieve immediate and irreversible progress towards gender equality were launched. It was a moment to look back to the landmark 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing and [for “gender equality advocates \[...\] to drive urgent action and accountability for gender equality.”](#)

Across the Europe and Central Asia region, [there has been undeniable and significant advances in gender equality and women’s human rights](#) including strengthened inter-governmental commitments; positive institutional and policy initiatives towards gender equality and women and girls’ rights; and a vibrant movement working to advance the lives of women and girls in the region. At the same time, progress is hampered by significant challenges. Changes in the political and social spheres have [created a movement opposing the gender equality agenda](#), resulting in significant setbacks in commitments to gender equality and affecting women and girl’s access to rights, spaces and freedom to mobilize for gender equality and other human rights.

Engaging nearly 50,000 people, the GEF in Paris concluded with the launch of a global five-year action journey to accelerate gender equality by 2026. The Forum’s action-oriented agenda will be under-written by nearly USD 40 Billion of confirmed investments as well as ambitious commitments from governments, philanthropy, civil society, youth organizations and the private sector. The convening launched a [Global Acceleration Plan for Gender Equality](#) designed by six Action Coalitions – multi-stakeholder partnerships that have identified the most critical actions required to achieve gender equality. From the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) region, 13 Member States serve as leaders of the six thematic Action Coalitions and 13 UNECE Members States joined the Action Coalitions as commitment makers. In total, 26 countries are already engaged with Generation Equality. [1]

As a follow-up to the GEF, the United Nations Regional Issue-Based Coalition on Gender Equality (IBC-GE) in Europe and Central Asia provided a virtual space for feminist leaders and gender equality activists to meet with GEF Action Coalition leaders and commitment makers. This first GEF regional event focussed on follow-up to the [Action Coalition on Feminist Movements and Leadership \(Action Coalition 6\)](#), bringing a wide range of stakeholders from government, UN institutions, funders, civil society organizations and movements around the virtual table. The meeting was an opportunity to 1) take stock of commitments, 2) discuss regional priorities, 3) connect leaders, (potential) commitment makers and movements, and 4) explore opportunities for next steps and joint action.

The IBC-GE is comprised of members from 14 UN entities including: FAO, ILO, IOM, OHCHR, UNFPA, UNDP, UNDRR, UNECE, UNEP, UNESCO, UNICEF, UN Women, WFP and WHO, and is co-chaired by UNFPA and UN Women. The Issue-based Coalition works to ensure a coordinated UN system approach to promoting gender equality and women’s empowerment in Europe and Central Asia. It aims to strengthen regional engagement to promote gender equality, provide more coherent and timely policy guidance and technical support and improve coordination, communication as well as information sharing on key lessons and good practices.

[1] More information about the Action Coalitions’ priorities and suggested collective commitments is presented at [Annex](#).

Moderators



Xenia Kellner,
Young Feminists
Europe



**Nadia van der
Linde,**
Count Me In!
Initiative



Sascha Gabizon,
member of the Civil
Society Advisory
Group to UN Women



Sehnaz Kiymaz,
member of the
Civil Society
Advisory Group to
UN Women

Speakers



**İlayda
Eskitaşçıoğlu,**
Generation
Equality Youth
Task Force
Member



Ruben Brouwer,
Human Rights
Officer,
UN OHCHR
(Action Coalition
6 Lead)



Herta Toth,
Open Society
Foundation



**Leyla Zuleikha
Makhmudova,**
FemAgora
Central Asia



Ilaria Todde,
Advocacy
Coordinator, EL*C



Scheaffer Okore,
Women Political
Leaders, AC6 co-lead

Gordana Gavrilovic, Advisor to Deputy Prime Minister and President of Coordination Body for Gender Equality, Government of Serbia



Karen Burbach, Government of The Netherlands, head of Taskforce Women's Rights and Gender Equality (Action Coalition 6 Lead)



Alia El-Yassir, Co-chair of the Europe and Central Asia Regional Issue-based Coalition on Gender Equality and UN Women Regional Director, Europe and Central Asia Regional Office



Marta Diavolova, Deputy Regional Director a.i. United Nations Population Fund, UNFPA, Eastern Europe and Central Asia Regional Office (IBC co-chair)



Fabiola Laço-Egro, Human Rights and Gender Activist from Albania and founder and Executive Director of 'Today for the Future'



Prof. Zorana Mihajlović (video-presentation)
Deputy Prime Minister and President of Coordination Body for Gender Equality, Government of Serbia (Action Coalition 6 Commitment Maker)



Key themes raised in the discussion

1. The context: why are feminist movements and leadership key to addressing urgent challenges in the region

Women's rights and gender equality in the region are under pressure.

"I am very concerned about the current situation. The progress on women's rights is at risk as a result of Covid-19. The pushback against gender equality is part of this and it is very strong in our region. Gender equality is a political issue, we need to see it as such and have a political strategy to address it."
(Alia El-Yassir, UN Women Regional Director and co-chair IBC GE)

It is often thought that the Europe and Central Asia region scores well on gender equality when the reality is more complex and progress is at risk. Whilst we see strong female leadership in countries like Serbia and Albania, political participation of women is still low in many countries. And whilst important progress has been made on sexual health and reproductive rights and with the landmark Istanbul Convention (Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combatting Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence), practices such as forced and early marriage persist in some parts of the region and gender-based violence remains high.

Feminists, lesbians, trans women, women human rights defenders, female journalists and politicians, face particular threats and violence for who they are or the work they do. Norms, stereotypes and narratives that hold women, in all their diversity, back are ever present. The Covid-19 pandemic is threatening hard-won gains and efforts to rollback progress are on the rise, particularly in this region. It has increased the urgency to act, and to act together.

The role and movement for feminists movements and leadership in society

"Powerful feminist activists and movements have been critical to the advancement of multiple human rights issues everywhere – from combatting gender-based violence, to economic justice, to advancing sexual and reproductive rights, to racial justice, to digital rights, to peace and security, to climate action" (Ruben Brouwer, OHCHR)

Both historically and with recent events, we see the important role feminist and women's rights movements play in advancing rights, equity and inclusive, democratic societies.

In the past years women, in all their diversity, from across the region have come together to defend the Istanbul Convention, and to support Polish feminists taking the streets for abortion rights, human rights and democracy. Women in Belarus have been in the frontline of defending these values and became the symbols of resistance, whilst facing harsh attacks. Young feminists are taking concrete actions to address concerns and needs of girls and young women, from education to climate change, and to hold leaders to account.

The transformative potential of these movements and feminist leadership is clear, yet they face a lot of barriers - from threats and violence to lack of funding and support. Lesbian movements, for example, have an average budget of 5000 EUR a year and saw their funds cut by two third during the pandemic, despite doing much work to support their communities.

Antagonism against gender equality and women's rights issues is growing and various international forums have been closed to civil society organizations. At the same time there is enormous energy and momentum for diverse, inclusive feminist movements to come together, and join hands with allies across the region - from governments and international agencies, to civil society and private sector.

2. How can Generation Equality Forum Action Coalition 6 advance women's rights and gender equality in the region

"If we can get Action Coalition 6 right, we can achieve all other objectives on gender equality" (Nadia van der Linde, Count me in!)

Participants were clear: Action Coalition 6 on strengthening feminist movements and leadership is key for any advancement on women's rights and gender equality. It is a cross-cutting enabler to achieve ambitious results. It also represents an opportunity to go beyond business as usual, and to find new ways of working. The challenges are complex and so should the solutions be, in order to be effective. There is much appreciation for the process so far, and recognition of the momentum that has been built and needs to be sustained.

It is recognized that more is needed to raise awareness on the vision and the work of this action coalition, to explain why it is important and how others can support. Despite the fact that the work of AC 6 is crucial to all other areas of work, it is the least known and least funded of all coalitions. It will be important to broaden and strengthen the participation of other actors, whilst continuing to ensure co-leadership of young feminists, lesbians and diverse feminist movements at large.

This requires a clear focus on what AC 6 is all about. Including what it means to be feminist:

"It is about addressing inequalities, challenging power relations, making the better world a lived reality for everyone. Not with women and girls as one group but acknowledging diversity across the world and within a country or community." (Alia El-Yassir, UN Women Regional Director and co-chair IBC GE).

Why join and commit to the Generation Equality Forum Action Coalition 6?

'Generation Equality" gives us the collective energy, power, and vision to heed the call for human rights and justice. We look forward to learning about your experiences and views, to exploring our collective and individual opportunities in the region, and to taking these critical steps forward. Together.'

(Ruben Brouwer, OHCHR, co-lead AC 6)

'The Generation Equality Forums were true highlights for us as we could commit to concrete action to advance SDG5 on gender equality. The global alliance on sustainable feminist movements, with its multistakeholder and co-leadership model, is an important dedicated space for sustained dialogue and planning for governments, women's funds, movements. And with a much needed focus on shifting power.'

(Karen Burbach, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Netherlands, co-lead AC 6)

'Everything starts with leadership. We need more women in decision making positions so they influence budgets, financial and public policies. If we want to reduce GE in any area, we need more women in leadership so they influence every decision.' (Gordana Gavrilovic, Government of Serbia)

'This AC is about bringing more resources. We need to challenge the status quo and demand gender equality, but the [lack of] money is not being discussed. We hope this process will shift this situation so we don't just have resources to address root causes, but to fund our own work.' (Leyla Zuleikha Makhmudova, FemAgoria Asia)

'It is important that lesbian movements are recognized for their contribution to their movement, invited and part of discussion and provided with funding. [This space is important for] ensuring visibility, showing the movement is inclusive, and we are in this together to fight against this backlash. We need all of us represented there.' (Ilaria Todde, EL*C, co-lead AC6)

'We cannot build inclusive democracies without a strong voice for women's and feminists movements. Funders are aware that the world is facing multiple crises at once and that new forms of leadership are needed. We know that women and feminist movements have made the progress possible. Even without investment they have shown to bring transformative change. Only imagine what happens if we consciously invest into building this sort of transformative leadership.' (Hertha Toth, Open Society Foundation, co-lead AC6)

Four key actions suggested by the ACTION COALITION on FEMINIST MOVEMENTS and LEADERSHIP:



FUND AND SUPPORT DIVERSE FEMINIST ACTIVISTS, ORGANIZATIONS, FUNDS AND MOVEMENTS

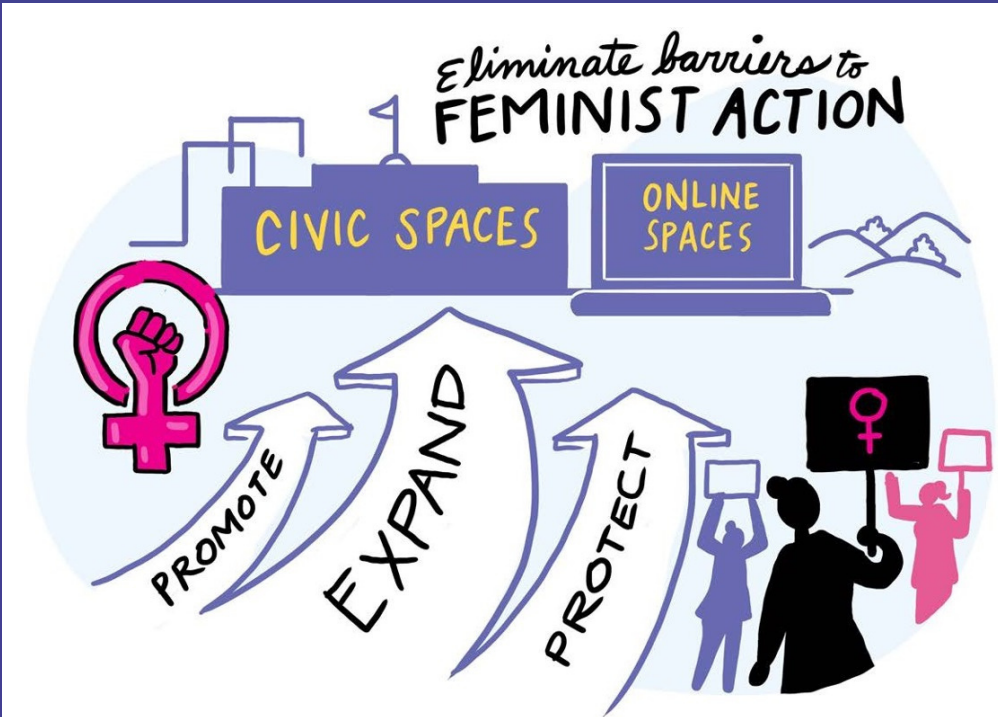
ACTION
By 2026, double the global annual growth rate of funding from all sectors committed to women-led and feminist-led movements, organizations, and funds in all their diversity, including those led by trans, intersex, non-binary people

- TACTICS**
- Financing
 - Laws & Policies
 - Data & Accountability

PROMOTE, EXPAND AND PROTECT CIVIC SPACE FOR FEMINIST ACTION, ORGANIZING AND MOBILIZATION

ACTION
Promote, expand, protect, civic space across all domains, including online, and support the efforts of women and feminist human rights defenders and women peacebuilders – including those who are trans, intersex, nonbinary—to defend civic space and eliminate barriers to feminist action, organizing and mobilization in all its diversity.

- TACTICS**
- Norms
 - Laws & Policies
 - Data & Accountability





**ADVANCE AND INCREASE
MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION,
LEADERSHIP AND DECISION-
MAKING POWER OF WOMEN,
GIRLS AND NONBINARY PEOPLE,
IN ALL THEIR DIVERSITY**

ACTION

By 2026, increase the meaningful participation, leadership and decision-making power of girl leaders, and of women and feminist leaders, including those who are trans, intersex, non-binary, through efforts to: (1) Advance gender parity in all aspects of public and economic decision making, including the private sector, civil society, international organizations, political and government institutions including executive and legislative positions (2) Promote and expand feminist, gender transformative, and inclusive laws and policies.

TACTICS  **Laws & Policies**  **Financing**  **Norms**  **Education/
Capacity Building**  **Data & Accountability**

**STRENGTHEN ADOLESCENT
GIRLS AND YOUNG
FEMINIST LEADERS, THEIR
MOVEMENTS AND
ORGANIZATIONS**

ACTION

Dedicate specific, flexible financial, technical, and other resources for adolescent girls and young feminist leaders and their movements and organizations to strengthen them and create safe and inclusive spaces for their meaningful participation in decision-making processes.

TACTICS


Laws & Policies

Financing

 Education/
Capacity Building

Data & Accountability

STRENGTHEN
Adolescent girl-led, youth-led
MOVEMENTS & ORGANIZATIONS

CREATE SAFE & INCLUSIVE SPACES
for DECISION-MAKING



3. Where do we stand? Inspiring commitments and best practices

Youth As the Agents of Change for Gender Equality

Young Feminists Europe have worked hard to get young people involved and heard in the Generation Equality Forum. They are co-leading the work and are committed to continue this role, develop their ECA Youth Vision and hold decision-makers to account. They also developed a [Young Feminist Manifesto](#) to demand meaningful participation. In addition, UN Women and youth from the region have run a [successful Youth Engagement Initiative](#) with 84 activists from the region that can serve as an example for future work. Young people were invited to DEMAND, LEAD, ACT and CREATE real change, resulting in innovative campaigning, inputs from a wide range of young people and local community initiatives. It also helped build youth vision and participation.

Funders stepping up to support movements: The Open Society Foundation

OSF has committed 100 million dollars to the Generation Equality Forum, 75 of which is for AC 6. Consultations are still ongoing, but they will surely invest in girls education, getting more women in positions of leadership in politics and governance, strengthening feminist leadership in Peace and Security, resourcing inclusive movements and leadership, strengthening global infrastructure for progressive multilateralism, and strengthening the capacity of feminist movements to combat anti-gender movements.

Government commitment to female leadership and gender responsive policies

The government of Serbia shows it is possible: a female Prime Minister, a female president of the national bank and almost half of all Ministers are women. They have a national mechanism to coordinate the efforts and gender focal points at all levels to ensure strategic implementation. Serbia is committed to continue to advance gender equality in the country, with a focus on local decision-making and gender responsive budgeting, whilst supporting regional and global efforts for lasting change.

Government support to feminist movements and women's human rights

The government of the Netherlands is committed to supporting the work of women's rights organisations and feminists movements with its SDG5 fund, aiming to make tangible impact on lives and movement building. They also work to uphold international agreements through diplomacy, including within the EU. "We will and should not be complacent and commit to forming a strong front for the SDG5 agenda."

Defending civic space and women human rights defenders

OHCHR [committed](#) to taking concrete steps to advance meaningful participation of feminist movements and women human rights defenders in all their diversity both online and offline, to strengthen protection networks and the protection of online civic space, including within the UN system. OHCHR further commits to increasing awareness, engagement and access for feminist movements, activists and organizations to independent human rights mechanisms and bodies at all levels.

Strengthening women's political leadership

Women Political Leaders made commitments to transform the political context, that is currently unwelcoming to women in many ways, whilst increasing the number of women involved in politics at three levels: participation, leadership and decision-making capacities. They create advocacy and communication tools that cater to women, break intergenerational gaps and activate and strengthen networks and leadership. They also work to transform perceptions of leadership, breaking down stereotypes to make sure women are seen as capable leaders, and advocate for more inclusion.

Young feminists upholding collective leadership

FemAgora Central Asia aims to advance resourcing and leadership of feminist movements and stands out by the commitments they made to review their internal structure and feminist principles. They created a programme to involve more transgender and non-binary experts into the organization, overcoming challenges (many are undocumented or have limited resources) to make sure they are participating as equal experts. FemAgora is also committed to get more organizations from Central Asia on board in this process.

Rebuilding lesbian movements for visibility and recognition

The Euro Central Asia Lesbian Community (EL*C) is an inclusive community of lesbians, feminists, bi, trans, queer and all those who feel connected to lesbian activism. They are working hard to rebuild the movement, as they see that their needs will otherwise not be addressed. They are committed to co-leading the work of this AC to contribute to building diverse, inclusive movements and share the experiences of lesbians, that are facing counterattacks whilst being severely underfunded and under-capacitated.

Participatory (gender) budgeting as a key step to inclusive local governance

Supporting women to take leadership in budgeting, from the household to the community and municipality, is key to making sure their needs are addressed. The Albanian NGO Today for the Future supported 2500 women in 20 municipalities, 35% of whom were young girls and many participated in budgeting for the first time in their life.

4. What are gaps and opportunities to make AC 6 a success

Access to sustainable financing: The voice of participants is loud and clear. Getting more and better money to feminist organizing and movement building is urgent. This should be the number one priority for this Action Coalition, which is currently underfunded (see for example [this analysis by AWID](#)). Core, flexible and accessible financing is key to strengthening movements. It is important that funding goes directly to (grassroots) women's rights and feminist organizations, especially those currently least funded and informal groups, including youth and adolescents, that are doing amazing work but cannot comply with complicated procedures.

Building inclusive and diverse feminist movements: An important focus is the networking and regional cooperation between feminist organisations. Strengthening the bonds between groups is also key for resiliency. We need to create the spaces, building capacities and cooperation. UN Women and regional bodies can help women to cooperate more across borders. This also requires visibility and recognition and of diverse, inclusive movements and addressing obstacles (resources, capacities, safety risks and wellbeing) to engage, for example for lesbian movements.

*“The GEF is an important opportunity for us to build alliances and collaboration, but there are also challenges for the lesbian movements to engage: the process is intense, complex and it is sometimes difficult for us to engage. The differences in resource and capacity of those leading cannot be overlooked. We need a system to equip us with the resources to take this role.” (Ilaria Todde, EL*C)*

Youth co-leadership: Upholding this important principle and practice of the ACs in the process and commitments moving forward requires action. It is important not to let the momentum go and ensure young people's continued engagement. Reach out to them to ask if they need support, and make sure participation is meaningful and equal, co-designing and co-leading. Whilst young people have been more visible than ever, their speaking time is cut short more often than that of governments and they are facing obstacles in time and resources - with many at risk of burn-out or precarious work - that need addressing.

“Promote intergenerational co-leadership and actively recognise and support young feminist movements. Match us, because we are already leading this work.” (Nino Ugrehelidzeh, youth activist)

Transparency, inclusion and accountability: More clarity is needed on what commitments are and how accountability is organized. In early 2022 an overview will be published, which can provide a basis for jointly monitoring actions. There is an opportunity to feed back to the [open consultation on indicators for the accountability framework](#). Access to platforms, of people with disabilities, from different regions or language skills needs to be improved to make sure it is truly inclusive.

What should AC6 commitments focus on in our region?



THERE IS GREAT
ENERGY TO BUILD ON
THE MOMENTUM AND
NEED FOR FEMINIST
MOVEMENTS AND
LEADERSHIP, AND
CLEAR GAPS AND
OPPORTUNITIES FOR A
JOINT AGENDA TO
ADDRESS

What opportunities are available for joint action?



5. Looking Forward: Advancing joint action for further solutions and commitments

Get the money to where the action is: It is agreed funding is a priority and the needs are clear: increase funding and access to funding for feminist movements, especially those least funded, facing intersecting discriminations and obstacles - e.g. lesbians, sex workers and informally organized groups. UN programmes on protecting women and human rights defenders must support the LGBTQI+ community at all times and to make sure that all countries in the region have lesbian civil society organizations by providing funding (donors), knowledge and networking (NGOs). It is important not to 'projectize' the work, and to ensure long term sustainable financing that includes core funding and is flexible. It is suggested to build on the [existing recommendations](#) to call on donors - including the UN - to change funding modalities and adopt a no-competition policy. There is interest in jointly calling on others to fund and organising meetings and fundraising events with donors.

Create safe spaces for participation and movement building: There is a strong call for, and commitment to, strengthening intersectional and intergenerational movements, networking and alliance building in the region. There is interest in a feminist conference like the Latin-American region has. For the GEF it is important to ensure participation is meaningful and inclusive, supporting youth, adolescents, Women Human Rights Defender and LGBTQI to co-design and co-lead; but also to bring in older women and getting 'champions' for inclusion of these groups. National gender youth activists are an important existing mechanism. There is appreciation for the spaces created, but also a concern that access for civil society to international forums is in decline and that some governments are not open to concerns from all women. There is a need for supporting safe spaces that are self-organized and self-selected, for feminist organizations to strategize and be able to have independent voice and power. There is an existing proposal for developing a global independent structure that will be taken forward.

"We need an independent global structure to respond to the issues. Current structures are important but are all elected by governments. There are women's ministries in many countries, but they are not responding to all women." (Selma Acuner, Women's Coalition, Turkey)

"We need a safe space for feminist organizations in their intersectionality to strategise and be able to have independent voice and power. A space that is open and inclusive, where civil society groups can develop proposals on how to build momentum and not have it weakened. Before entering into a space with governments, have a self-organized civil society and youth space to work together and from there to jointly engage with other, more powerful, stakeholders." (Sascha Gabizon, member civil society advisory group UN Women)

Start now, build on what is there

There is work to do. We know much of what works, e.g. parity laws and gender budgeting, that can be built upon. There is an urgent need to protect women human rights defenders and civic space, supporting and reaching out to those doing the work to address their needs, including young people. Internal good practice includes promoting collective leadership and upholding feminist principles within our organizations, at all levels. There are particular opportunities to build upon, such as the uprising of women from across the region in defending the Istanbul Convention of CoE. This golden standard in combating gender based violence and domestic violence is under strong attacks in our region. To defend and protect this milestone human rights document, coming together as feminist and youth organizations in our region, and building a network can be an important joint action. [United for Istanbul Convention Platform](#) can be the basis. There are also opportunities for joint engagement and collaboration with national, regional and international human rights mechanisms to address the shrinking space for feminist activists and leaders.

Broaden and strengthen the Action Coalition

There is an urgent need for more awareness, understanding and support for AC 6. A joint effort to spread the word on why AC is so important, explain what it is about, getting more organizations involved and mobilizing more resources. There is a commitment to reach out to other actors and ACs (and compact WPS-HA), bridging gaps both within the feminist movement and beyond. Constructive feminist dialogues are needed between those holding different positions on sex work, co-led with sex workers and survivors of sex trafficking, to combat human trafficking in the region. More is needed to bring others to the conversation, whilst keeping safe space. Getting more commitment makers from government, academia, private sector; and engaging all levels of leadership and - ultimately - all layers of society in this effort is key.

HOW TO BECOME INVOLVED IN THE ACTION COALITIONS? BECOME A COMMITMENT-MAKER!



COMMITMENT MAKERS WILL:

- Make bold and transformative commitments to one or several Action Coalitions
- Play a catalytic role in supporting the implementation and monitoring of Actions
- Mobilize other stakeholders around the Action Coalition theme and Blueprint



WHO CAN BECOME A COMMITMENT MAKER? **EVERYONE!**



- Governments (Global South and North)
- Private sector entities and philanthropic organizations
- Youth-led organizations
- Women's and feminist organizations, movements, and civil society actors (Global South and North)
- UN agencies and other international or regional organizations
- Other institutions (Media and local governments, etc.)



WHAT'S EXPECTED OF A COMMITMENT MAKER? **MAKE A COMMITMENT!**

- Financial commitments
- Policy commitments
- Advocacy commitments
- Programmatic commitments







COMMITMENTS SHOULD BE:

- GAME-CHANGING
- MEASURABLE

and ideally designed
WITH OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

Commitments should reflect the principles of the Action Coalitions:
Intersectional, feminist leadership and transformation

THE ACTION COALITIONS BLUEPRINTS - 24 TRANSFORMATIONAL ACTIONS

	GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE	Create an enabling policy, legal and resource environment for the elimination of GBV against women and girls in all their diversity	Adapt and Scale up evidence driven prevention programming for the elimination of GBV against women and girls in all their diversity	Scale up comprehensive, accessible, and quality services for survivors of GBV against women and girls in all their diversity	Autonomous girl-led & women's rights organisations are enabled and empowered to exercise their expertise in addressing GBV against women and girls in all their diversity
	ECONOMIC JUSTICE AND RIGHTS	Increase women's economic empowerment by transforming the care economy	Expand decent work and employment in formal and informal economies	Increase women's access to and control over productive resources	Promote gender-transformative economies & economic stimulus
	BODILY AUTONOMY & SEXUAL REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS	Expand Comprehensive Sexuality Education	Increase the availability, accessibility, acceptability and quality of comprehensive abortion and contraception services	Increase SRHR Decision-Making & Bodily Autonomy	Strengthen girls, women and feminist organizations and networks to promote and protect bodily autonomy and SRHR
	FEMINIST ACTION FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE	Increase direct access to financing for gender-just climate solutions, in particular for women and girls at grassroots levels	Enable women and girls to lead a just transition to a green economy	Build the resilience of women and girls to climate impacts, disaster risks, loss and damage, including through land rights and tenure security	Increase the collection and use of data on the gender-environment nexus
	TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION FOR GENDER EQUALITY	Bridge the Gender Gap in Digital Access and Competences	Invest in Feminist Technology and Innovation	Build Inclusive, Transformative and Accountable Innovation Ecosystems	Prevent and Eliminate Online and Tech-Facilitated GBV and Discrimination
	FEMINIST MOVEMENTS AND LEADERSHIP	Fund and support diverse feminist activists, organizations, funds and movements	Promote, expand and protect civic space for feminist action, organizing and mobilization	Advance and increase meaningful participation, leadership and decision-making power of women, girls and nonbinary people in all their diversity	Strengthen adolescent girls and young feminist leaders, their movements and organizations



COMMIT TO THE FEMINIST MOVEMENTS AND LEADERSHIP ACTION COALITION

Co-create a Global Alliance for Sustainable Feminist Movements by June 2022, to exponentially increase, sustain, and improve financial and political support for women's rights and feminist organizations and movements.

HOW WILL THIS COMMITMENT DRIVE IMPACT?

It will facilitate and accelerate the advancement of gender equality, peace and human rights for all by allowing feminist activists to work free of fear.

WHO CAN JOIN THIS COLLECTIVE COMMITMENT?

Governments, Philanthropies, CSOs, Private Sector, UN agencies, International organizations, local governments

Fund Feminist Movements and Leadership to increase resources and support for existing funding mechanisms, programs, and funds that provide direct, core, flexible, progressive, multi-year and sustainable funding to feminist organizations, groups, movements* and activists including those that are often hard to reach, and/or who have been historically marginalized and criminalized.

HOW WILL THIS COMMITMENT DRIVE IMPACT?

It will increase resources to feminist movements.

WHO CAN JOIN THIS COLLECTIVE COMMITMENT?

Anyone!

Implement Feminist Practices by deepening understanding of intersectional feminist principles, practices, approaches and leadership and integrating them into the work of our organisations and institutions, as well as the Action Coalition, and across the Generation Equality process and accountability framework

HOW WILL THIS COMMITMENT DRIVE IMPACT?

It will give the opportunity to every organization to lead a transformative change with great impact on gender equality.

WHO CAN JOIN THIS COLLECTIVE COMMITMENT?

Governments, philanthropies, UN, CSOs - can be multi-stakeholder

Advance Women's Human Rights Defenders by recognizing women's human rights defenders of all ages and in all their diversity, protecting and enabling safe environments, especially online, and countering gender-based discrimination, stigma and hate speech against them.

HOW WILL THIS COMMITMENT DRIVE IMPACT?

Women human rights defenders will be better recognized, supported, protected, and empowered in their communities, organizations, and movements.

WHO CAN JOIN THIS COLLECTIVE COMMITMENT?

Anyone!

Identify Data Gaps and Indicators for Feminist Movements and compile a set of rights-based indicators to strengthen our collective ability to measure, analyze and deepen our advocacy on civic space trends and progress for feminist mobilization, organizing and action, in all its diversity.

HOW WILL THIS COMMITMENT DRIVE IMPACT?

Strengthen the ability to measure, analyze and deepen our advocacy on civic space trends and progress for feminist mobilization.

WHO CAN JOIN THIS COLLECTIVE COMMITMENT?

Anyone!



WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT IN OUR PROGRESS

