Generation Equality Forum: what is it and why is it important Indigenous Women to be part of it?

The Generation Equality Forum (GEF) takes place in the context of the Beijing +25 review process. Convened by UN Women and co-chaired by France and Mexico, in partnership with civil society. It aims to reaffirm the value of multilateralism and bring together the leaderships and participation of various stakeholders: civil society, governments, business, cities, parliaments, trade unions, media, and others. It will focus on intergenerational and multi-stakeholder partnership.

The Beijing Platform for Action’s 25th anniversary commemoration is a rallying point to achieve the human rights of all women and girls and will be a moment for global mobilization.

25 years ago, the Beijing Declaration didn’t reflect Indigenous Women realities. Its Western, high-middle class and liberal approach was strongly criticized by Indigenous Women. This is why they decided to make their own statement to express their needs and priorities not only as women, but also as indigenous.

Today, as a global gathering for gender equality, the GEF opens a door to all women and girls contributions worldwide, including Indigenous Women, on the agenda-setting and the action coalitions aimed at middle term (2025) concrete actions and results. The GEF is, then, a crucial moment to promote and defend Indigenous Women’s rights, raising their voices and priorities. Their contributions in this process are essential to include their particular needs and rights in the expected outcomes of the Forum and beyond.

GEF Expected results

- Take stock of the progress since the Fourth World Conference on Women and the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, 25 years ago.
- Chart an agenda for concrete action to accelerate progress toward equality before 2030 (UN Decade for Action 2020–2030)

GEF Expected Outcome

- A feminist agenda-setting until 2030 (UN Decade for Action 2020–2030).
- “Action Coalitions”: concrete partnerships for scaled-up and urgent action, focused on critical issues to achieve gender equality.
What is FIMI doing to push Indigenous Women's rights in this process?

As part of the political participation and advocacy, FIMI in close partnership with regional networks is organizing two different events aimed to raise awareness among Indigenous Women and push forward agreed key messages that can highlight their contributions and challenges regarding this process:

- A global preparatory meeting of Indigenous Women (January 27, 2021): it is aimed to define the message Indigenous Women want to be considered in GEF’s outcomes.

- A high-level Dialogue between Indigenous Women and major stakeholders towards the Generation Equality Forum (February 10, 2021): it is aimed to position and contextualize the contributions and challenges of Indigenous Women regarding the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action at all levels. Additionally, to generate a higher political commitment for the realization of the Indigenous Women’s agenda worldwide related to the GEF.

To raise visibility of good practices led by Indigenous Women as well as the challenges that remain in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action through the dissemination of a Global Study.
How can Indigenous Women participate?

Indigenous Women activists, organizations and leaders can participate in GEF in different ways:

1. Joining the preparatory online meetings organized by GEF

   Between December 2020 and March 2021, the GEF Secretary organizes 7 thematic online events dedicated to the Action Coalitions. It is the opportunity for the public worldwide to discuss the vision and actions for each Action Coalition:

   - Gender based violence - 7 December 2020
   - Economic justice and rights - 14 December 2020
   - Bodily autonomy and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) - 8 January 2021
   - Feminist action for climate justice - 25 January 2021
   - Technology and innovation for Gender Equality - 8 February 2021
   - Feminist movements and leaderships - 22 February 2021
   - Feminist movements and leaderships - 1st March 2021

2. Amplifying your online activism and sharing information about GEF among your community

   Information and digital tools for online activism is available in this [GEF social media toolkit](#). Have a look at it and share it!
Participating during the Forum itself

The Forum will kick-off in Mexico City from 21 March to 31 March 2021, and will culminate in Paris in June of the same year (dates to be confirmed).

Mexico’s gathering has three goals:

- To create the roadmap to the gender equality Agenda.
- The preparation of Action Coalitions
- To establish a Group of Friends for Gender Equality, with the objective of creating an informal network that supports international initiatives related to the advancement of gender equality.

At the end of this meeting, the Action Coalitions’ guidelines are developed, and the accountability plan achieved.

In Paris, the Agenda and the Coalition Actions will be launched by Heads of State, civil society leaders, international organizations & the private sector, with the announcements of public commitments. It’s going to be a global public conversation, connected in real-time across the world through interactive satellite sessions enabled through technology to maximize participation.

Participation in this event is free, but due to the health emergency triggered by Covid-19, the Forum will have a limited number of attendees — yet to be defined. To ensure greater participation, the Generation Equality Forum will have live transmissions of the main working sessions, which will be announced on social networks and on GEF’s website. Guidelines for face-to-face and remote participation will be released soon.
The Generation Equality Action Coalitions

UN-Women, with the support of the whole UN System, will be the global convener of the Action Coalitions with a dedicated secretariat team to guide and support the co-design, implementation, monitoring and oversight.

Each Action Coalition will be led by a group of partners: Member States (from the Global South and North), women’s movement and civil society actors (from the Global South and North), and private sector entities. Depending on the theme, UN agencies, other international organizations or expert actors (such as youth leaders) will also be included as Action Coalition leaders.

Each Action Coalition will launch a targeted set of concrete, ambitious and immediate actions within the period of 2021-2026 to deliver tangible impact on gender equality and girls’ and women’s human rights.

Financing for results will be a core part of this agenda, to address systemic resource gaps that have so far hampered impact. To serve these goals, Generation Equality Action Coalitions will advance new partnerships, implement targeted solutions, and report annually on progress towards collectively envisaged change, especially for girls and women left behind due to poverty or marginalization, including Indigenous Women.
# Action Coalition Members - Generation Equality Forum - 2021
(last update January 15, 2021)

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<td>Member States</td>
<td>Iceland, Kenya, United Kingdom, Uruguay</td>
<td>Germany, Mexico, South Africa, Spain, Sweden</td>
<td>Argentina, Burkina Faso, Denmark, France, North Macedonia</td>
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<td>International Organizations</td>
<td>European Commission</td>
<td>Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OEC</td>
<td>Global Financing Facility, World Bank Group</td>
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<td>Philanthropic organization</td>
<td>Ford Foundation</td>
<td>Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation</td>
<td>Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF)</td>
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<td>Youth-led organizations</td>
<td>Las Niñas Lideran, Yes Trust Zimbabwe</td>
<td>Anmar Anlar Ular, Manki Maroua</td>
<td>Youth Coalition for Sexual and Reproductive Rights, Comisión de Niñez y Juventud Indigena (ECMIA)</td>
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<td>Private sector</td>
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<td>Costa Rica (in consortium with the Latin American Faculty of Social Science and the National Institute for Women), Maldives</td>
<td>Armenia, Chile, Finland, Rwanda, Tunisia</td>
<td>Canada, Malawi, The Netherlands (in consortium with Philanthropy Advancing Women’s Human Rights (PAWHR), Equality Fund, Prospera and CountMeIn!)</td>
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<td>The Rockefeller Foundation</td>
<td>Open Society Foundation</td>
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<td>Girls for Climate, Green Hope Foundation, Tejiendo Pensamiento</td>
<td>Digital Grassroots</td>
<td>Young Feminist Europe, Marijan</td>
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<td>Koc, Microsoft</td>
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The Core Group

(7 members): the decision-making body, co-chaired by UN Women, France, Mexico and two representatives from civil society (from Global North and Global South).

- Lopa Banerjee, UN Women Executive Coordinator for the Generation Equity Forum
- Nadine Gasman Zyberman, President, National Institute of Women (INMUJERES), Mexico
- Delphine O. Ambassado, Secretary-General of the GEF 2020, France
- Mabel Bianco, President of Fundación para Estudio e Investigación de la Mujer, Co-Chair of Latin America & the Caribbean Committee NGO CSW
- Jessica Stern, Executive Director, OutRight Action International
- Racha Haffar, Co-Founder & CEO, Youth Against Slavery Movement
- Elvira Constantina Pablo Antonia, Member of the Youth and Children Commission of the Continental Network of Indigenous Women from the Americas (ECMIA)

The Civil Society Advisory Group to the Core Group

(21 members), it will support the decision-making of the Core Group, ensuring that civil society’s priorities are reflected in the Forum’s outcomes:

- Bertha Cecilia García Cienfuegos, Asociación Regional Mujeres Ingenieras
- Chidi King, International Trade Union Confederation
- Fatma Khafagy, Egyptian Feminist Union
- Ghansayn Ibnualamen, Youth Empowerment and Leadership Organization
- Gia Gaspard Taylor, Network of Rural Women Producers, Trinidad and Tobago
- Hakima Abbas, co-Executive Director of AWID
- Gauri Gudelekian, NGO Committee on the Status of Women, NY
- Jeanne Hefez, Senior Policy advisor at Ipas
- Jessica Stern, Executive Director of OutRight Action International
- Kuwone Afora Kufui, Senior Programme Officer in the WILDAF West Africa Office.
- Mabel Bianco, Foundation for Studies and Research on Women, (FEIM)
- Memory Kachambwa, African Women’s Development and Communication Network (FEMNET)
- Naiara Leite Costa, Articulação de Organizações de Mulheres Negras Brasileiras (AMN)
- Phelister Abdalla, National Coordinator of Kenya Sex Workers Alliance (KESWA)
- Sascha Gabizon, International Director of Women Engage for a Common Future (WECF)
- Shannon Kowalski, International Women’s Health Coalition (WHCI)
- Sharon Bhagwan-Rolls, Shifting the Power Coalition & Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict
- Sivananthi Thanenthiran, Executive Director of Asia-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW)
- Sophie Beria, YouAct - European Youth Network on Sexual and Reproductive Rights (SIRH)
- Xenia Keilner, Young Feminist Europe
- Zaneziwah Mbandu – Wondieh, Women for Change
A Multi-Stakeholders Steering Committee

(20 members): It is established by the Core Group to contribute to the Forum’s design, planning and implementation. It provides strategic advice on the conceptualization and implementation of GEF and its outcomes, in partnership with the Core Group and the Civil Society Advisory Group. It also supports the outreach for strategic partnerships and ensures an intersectional and intergenerational approach to all stages of GEF.

CIVIL SOCIETY:
- Alice Ackermann, Youth representative of International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF)
- Massan d’Almeida, Founder, the first President and the outgoing Executive Director of the Network of Women’s Organizations in Francophone Africa (ROFAF)
- María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés, High-level Ecuadorian Gender Equality Advocate
- Nidhi Goyal, Founder and Director of Rising Flame; Board of the directors of The Association for Women’s Rights in Development (AWID); and disability rights feminist advocate
- Yasmeen Hassan, Global Executive Director at Equality Now
- Latanya Mapp Frett, President and CEO of Global Fund for Women
- Joanna Maycock, Secretary General of the European Women’s Lobby (EWU)
- Yamin Mishra, Director, Gender, Sexuality, Identity at Amnesty International, representing Kumi Naidoo, Secretary General of Amnesty International
- Noeleine Nabillou, Associate of Development Alternatives with Women for a New era (DAWN); co-convener of Pacific Feminist SRHR Coalition, and Partnerships on Gender, Climate change and Sustainable Development; Political Advisor for Diverse Voices and Action (DIVA) for Equality
- Hajer Sharief, Youth human rights advocate and the co-founder of “Together we build it”, promoting a peaceful democratic transition in Libya, inclusive of women and youth
- Violet Shivutse, Chair of the Hualalai Commission
- Jessica Vega Ortega, President of Global Conclave of Indigenous Youth; promoter and defender of the individual and collective rights of Indigenous Peoples

MEMBER STATES
- Canada
- Costa Rica
- South Africa
- Sweden
- Tunisia

PRIVATE SECTOR
- Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- Unilever

INFLUENCERS
- Angélique Kidjo – Beninese singer-songwriter, actress, and activist; represented by Emily Bove, Executive Director, Batonga Foundation
A Generation Equality Youth Task Force:

The Task Force makes sure that young people are in the driving seat of these galvanizing moments and contribute to all stages of the global review process, the Generation Equality Forum and the Generation Equality campaign.

- **Aasha Shaik**: Studies Political Sciences and the Middle East at Rutgers University.
- **Abel Koka**: young lawyer leading the implementation of Tutimize Ahadi project at Restless Development in Tanzania, a youth-led accountability programme monitoring progress against SDGs and FP2020 commitments.
- **Alan Jarandilla Nuñes**: Director of the Policy and Advocacy of the International Alliance for Family Planning, and Secretary of the Board of the Youth Coalition.
- **Aline Itxel Valdelean Galeana**: Coordinator of the Incidence of Metal Muses Group of Gay Women in Mexico.
- **Amanda**: Transgender activist from Uganda, advocating for LGBT rights. Member of UN Women informal reference group on LGBT issues.
- **Amani Aruri**: Advocacy Team Leader at the Women’s Center for Legal Aid and Counselling, Acting Director of the Palestinian Association of Contemporary Art, member of the assembly for the Youth Local Council of Eastern Bani Zaid town in Palestine.
- **Anmar Khalid**: International Coordinator in Charge of Y-PEER International Network, a youth-led network of young people and organizations working in the field of SRHR.
- **Audrey Fontaine**: Psychiatrist at the hospital and studies public affairs at Paris Political Institute.
- **Hawa Yokie**: Gender equality militant from Sierra Leone. Winner of US Embassy grant to promote girls’ education in Science, Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).
- **Caryn Dasah**: Social justice activist and recognized dynamic youth leader, a peace builder and sexual and reproductive health activist.
- **Chamathya Fernando**: Former World Board Member of the World Association of Girls Guide and Girls Scouts (WAGGGS).
- **Chanceline Mewowanou**: Beninese communicator and blogger who raises her voice against violence against girls and campaigns online and offline through various projects to empower girls and create spaces for girls to speak out, take action and participate.
- **Daren Paul Katigbak**: Nurse, midwife and public health professional from Philippines. Deputy Chair of Y+ Global.
- **Doreen Moraa Moracha**: HIV/AIDS advocate, openly living with HIV. She developed an advocacy initiative called, “I AM A BEAUTIFUL STORY”, which is aimed at creating awareness for people living with HIV and reducing the associated stigma.
- **Elisabeth Keuten**: German LGBTQ+, activist from a faith-based organization and has a special interest in sustainability, human rights and gender.
- **Illyada Eskitascioğlu**: Human rights lawyer and a PhD student from Turkey. She is an attorney at law and a research fellow at the UNESCO Chair for Gender Equality and Sustainable Development, specializing in international human rights law.
- **Elvira Constantina Pablo Antonio**: Indigenous Lawyer from Oaxaca. She is part of the National Coordinator of Indigenous Women (CONAMI) and the Youth and Children Commission of the Continental Network of Indigenous Women from the Americas (ECMIA).
- **Jane Dorothy Anika**: East Africa Coordinator of AMPLIFY and currently serving the Political Parties Liaison Committee as a steering board member. Executive Director of the Green Congress Of Kenya, a member of the Global Greens. She is a ONE East Africa Champion where she lobbies decision makers in effort to create changes needed for gender equality.
- **Julieta Martínez**: Founder of the TREMENDAS Collaborative Platform that promotes the empowerment of girls, adolescents and young people by inviting them to put their skills and talents at the service of the community to generate social impact.

- **Juan Pablo Poli**: Sociology student at the University of Buenos Aires, while also working at the National Youth Network for Sexual and Reproductive Health and the Foundation for the Study and Research of Women.

- **Katherine Dibben**: Young leader, who has served as a national ambassador and advisor for organizations such as PLAN, ACIC, World Vision and the RCMP where she has been able to pursue her commitment to representing the youth voice.

- **Kristina Oriova**: Young specialist from Turkmenistan, working in the field of sustainable development.

- **Majandra Rodríguez**: Co-Executive Director at FRIDA, The Young Feminist Fund. Climate justice and queer feminist activist from Peru, based in Lima.
- **Michelle Belfor**: Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights advocate from Suriname that is part of various national and international organizations working with youth from all backgrounds.

- **Phille Julia**: Serves as a youth and women advocate while studying in Divine Word University. She has involved herself in taking part in certain programs such as the PNG Diversity and Inclusion Leadership program based in DWU that focuses on transforming students into future leaders of Papua New Guinea.

- **Pip Gardner**: Chief Executive of The Kite Trust, an LGBTQ+ youth organisation, and a volunteer with Woodcraft Folk, the UK member of co-operative youth movement IFM-SEI.

- **Rachaf Haftar**: Founder President of ‘Not 4 Trade,’ the first anti-human trafficking NGO in Tunisia. She is working on launching an African Youth Movement against Human Trafficking and Irregular Migration. She is a Fulbright Alumna at the University of Kentucky, a journalist and a university professor of public speaking and professional communication.

- **Rafui Amin Rahman**: founder of The Queer Muslim Project, South Asia’s largest youth-led online network, working to create representation, visibility and leadership of LGBTQIAL+ Muslims.

- **Rania Ayman**: Founder and Managing Director of Entrepreneur, a mission driven enterprise that strives to bridge the gender gap economically by educating, training and linking women to resources in Egypt.

- **Ruiying Xu**: Founder of the Qisi Program, a non-profit program dedicated to supporting and empowering underserved rural-urban migrant girls in metropolitan China.

- **Salam Al-Nukta**: Founded and launched ‘ChangeMakers’ in 2016, a startup in Syria which aims to close the gender gap in STEM.

- **Satoke Yamaguchi**: Program coordinator at YWCA of Japan.

- **Shantei Marekera**: Millennium Fellow, Resolution Project fellow and a Rhodes scholar who is passionate about advocacy, policy and international human rights. She is the founder of Little Dreamers Foundation, a subsidized preschool for orphaned and vulnerable children (OVC) in Zimbabwe.

- **Shawana Shah**: Founder of Da Hawwa Lur, a political, social and economic development platform for girls that provides a space for capacity building and connecting members to key stakeholders and policy makers to present their demands for pro-women legislation.

- **Sylvain Obedi**: Holding a degree in Public International Law from the University of Peace of the Democratic Republic of Congo (UNIP-DRC), he lived in Walikale in the North Kivu Province in the East of the Democratic Republic of Congo. His experiences in this part of the country include activism in the fight against sexual violence, protection, the fight against the recruitment and exploitation of children in armed groups, the defence of the human rights of people living with disabilities and their participation in decision-making processes. He coordinates a founding structure called “Enable the Disable Action, EDA ONG” by raising marginalized voices in the struggle for human rights for all.

- **Zahra Al Hilya**: Catalyst for change, she sits on the YWCA Young Women’s Council of Australia, is a national multicultural ambassador for MYAN and is the 2020 Western Australia Youth Ambassador.
Useful links:

- Generation Equality Forum (Main)
- Generation Equality Forum - Mexico
- Generation Equality Forum - France
- GEF toolkit for online activism
- UN Women and GEF
- Focus 2030
- AIWN - Beijing Declaration of Indigenous Women (to download)
- FIMI
- CEDAW for Indigenous Women and Girls
- FIMI Global study

Illustrations by @nelasnow