



# GENERATION EQUALITY FORUM

An overview



**GENERATION  
EQUALITY** REALIZING  
WOMEN'S  
RIGHTS FOR AN  
EQUAL FUTURE

# What is the Generation Equality Forum?

- The Generation Equality Forum is a global gathering for gender equality, convened by UN Women and co-chaired by France and Mexico, with the leadership and partnership of civil society. Building on the Beijing+25 national and regional reviews and CSW64, the Forum will kick-off in Mexico in May 2020 (7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> May, likely) and culminate in Paris on 7<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> July 2020.
- Recognizing that the driving energy for the promotion of gender equality and women's rights has come from the women's movement, the raison d'être of the Forum is to give women's collective action an octane boost.
- The Forum is envisaged as a global public conversation for urgent action and accountability for gender equality.
- It will celebrate the power of activism, feminist solidarity and youth leadership to achieve transformative change. At a moment when the pushback on multilateralism and women's rights is strong, the unique democratic and multi-stakeholder approach of the Forum will be a necessary counter response.
- The outcome of the Forum will be overall, a feminist agenda setting space and specifically, the setting up of Action Coalitions - an urgent, joint action agenda by a group of committed stakeholders. This will be taken to the General Assembly in 2020.
- The Forum aims to make gender equality not only unstoppable but culturally irresistible.

# What are Action Coalitions ?

- Action Coalitions are innovative partnerships among Civil Society, Member States and Business, as well as other stakeholders (parliamentarians, trade unions, mayors etc.) to achieve accelerated implementation of gender equality commitments.
- The Action Coalitions will prioritize scaled up, concrete, transformative and measurable results for gender equality in the period 2020-2025, so that by 2030 the world is well and irreversibly on the path to achieve gender equality
- A set of immediate actions for implementation of commitments will be developed through Action Coalitions on a specific set of thematic areas with urgent timelines and funding.
- Thematic areas for the Action Coalitions will be identified in consultation with civil society and through the outcomes of the Beijing+25 review processes.

## **KICK-OFF in Mexico 7-8 May 2020; CULMINATION in Paris 7-10 July 2020**

### **Global public conversations across the world supported by innovative technology**

- Decentralized simultaneous global conversations and mobilization, connected through real-time live conversations and continuous, moderated live coverage. Ability to beam in and beam out, i.e., the ability to spontaneously shift live coverage from one venue to another based on programme, time zone and ad-hoc developments.
- The events and online discussions will focus on intersectional, intergenerational, feminist mobilizing for implementation.

### **Creative and innovative approaches in engaging audiences**

- The format will provide exciting approaches for discussions and dialogues, working groups/brainstorming sessions on key challenges, sharing good practices, highlighting the work of activists, building solidarity and strengthening networks, especially youth mobilization.
- The format aims to include TED Talks, VR/Gaming, Digital Safe Spaces, marches, art/concerts/festival.

### **Use of technology, social, digital and traditional media to ensure wide reach**

- Comprehensive Communications, Outreach, Mobilization Strategy for wide impact through traditional media outreach, digital and social media engagement.
- Partnerships with media, technology companies, social media platforms and other partners

## **A new model for accelerating the achievement of agreed goals on women's rights and gender equality is needed:**

- Existing models are vulnerable to the current backlash against women's rights in some contexts, and to the way that multilateral forums are subject to the changing political preferences of their members.
- States remain important as they pass and enforce legislation, but they cannot defend universally-agreed gender equality goals on their own
- Feminist movements in civil society provide the core impetus for action on gender equality and have always been key to strategic priority-setting and to generating constituency support
- Private sector actors have significant financial and cultural power and have a role to play
- Technology enables broader participation than was possible in earlier global meetings
- Engagement can and should be broadly inclusive

## **A cohesive 9-month process of feminist knowledge-generation and priority-setting that:**

- Begins now with this process kick-off
- Extends through the CSW64 which identifies key issues areas
- Moves on to Mexico City in May where the most significant obstacles and gap areas and Action Coalitions to address them are confirmed
- Culminates in Paris in July of 2020 in global buy-in for the Action Coalitions and their roadmaps

## **The process will include:**

- A feminist space for agenda-setting
- A global public conversation on gender equality and accountability
- A set of concrete, measurable steps (with actions and investments) to create impact over a 5-year period that will be monitored (a roadmap to equality)
- Outcomes that can be taken to the General Assembly in 2020

### Vision:

- Convened by UN Women, Co-chaired by France and Mexico, in close partnership with civil society, and together with champion States, business, the United Nations and other stakeholders.
- Connected in real-time across the world, satellite sessions; enabled through technology to maximize participation.
- Outcome will focus on accountability and partnerships for accelerated action.



**A moment to reaffirm multilateralism, strengthen feminist mobilizing, support youth and engagement from all sectors for gender equality**



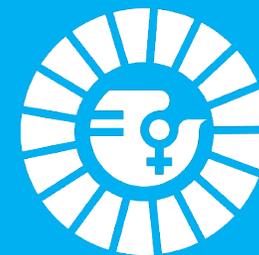
## Feminist Agenda Setting Action Coalitions

Voices of women and youth drive the gender equality agenda forward

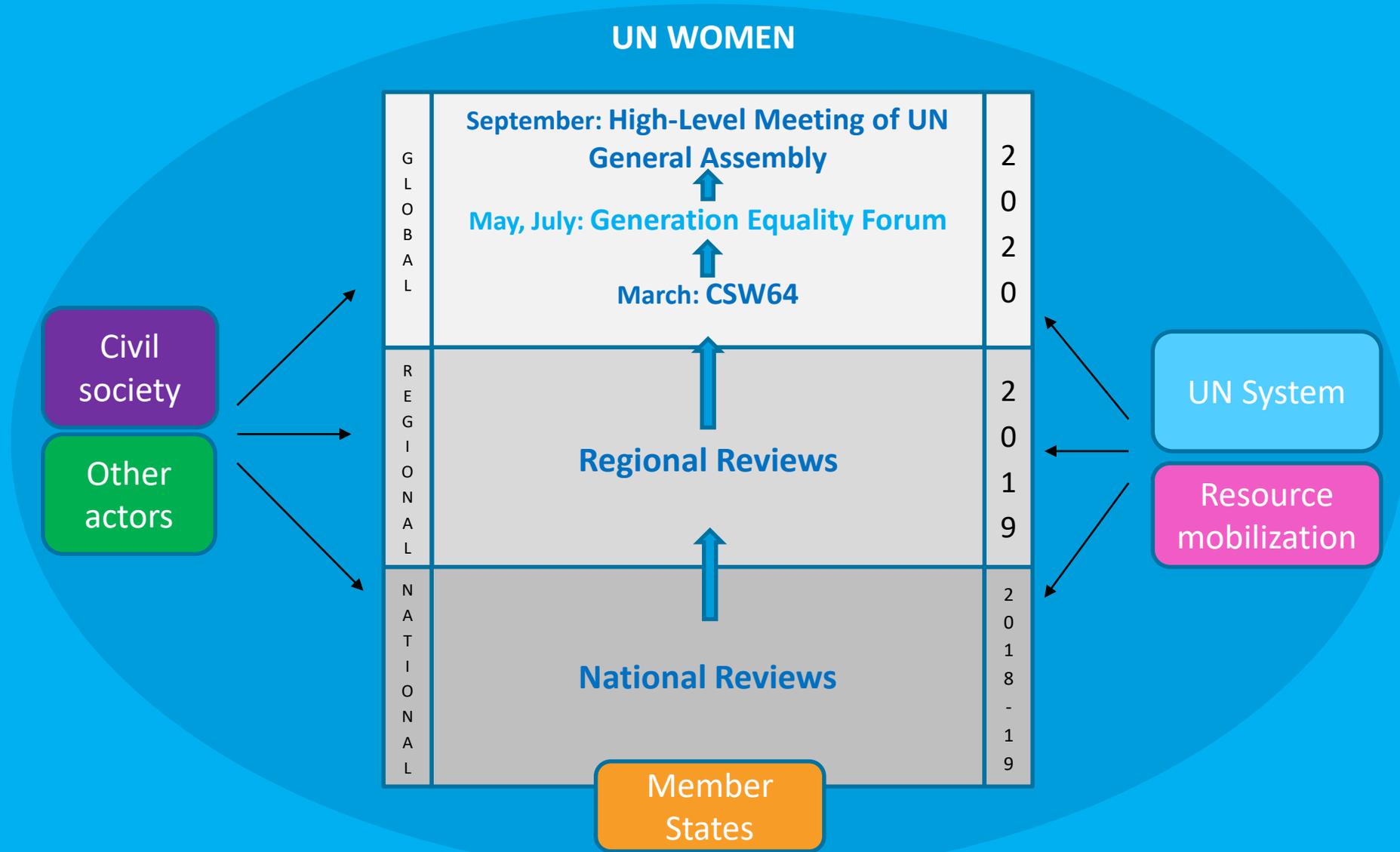
Immediate actions for implementation:

Action Coalitions set up with funding in the period 2020-2025

2030 deadline  
Expiration of gender inequality



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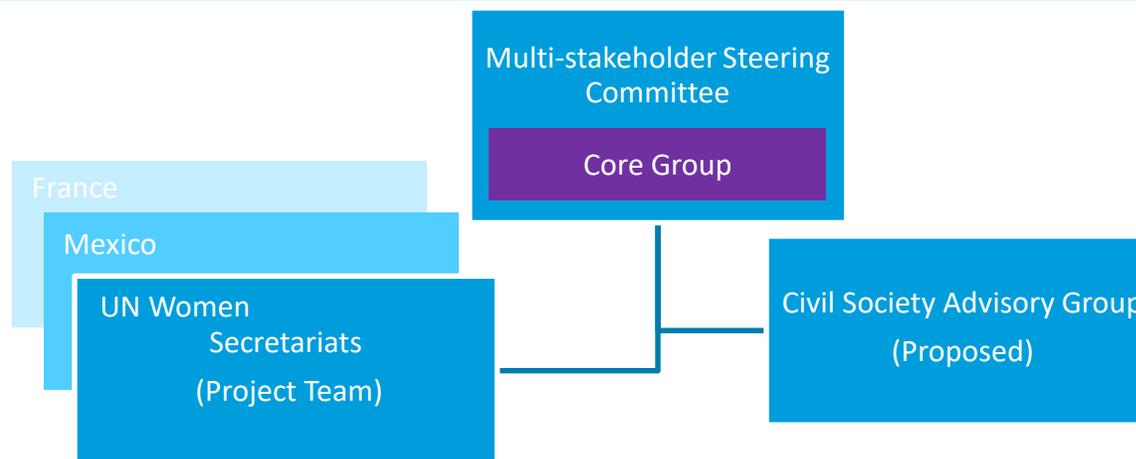


	Mexico City	Paris
Dates:	May 7-8, 2020 (TBC)	July 7-10, 2020
Participants:	Approx. 2000	5000+
Attendee Profile:	50% youth; 60-70% civil society; government representatives, business leaders and key participants in Action Coalitions	50% youth; 60-70% civil society; Heads of State, business leaders and other stakeholders involved in Action Coalitions; influencers and public icons
Focus:	Feminist mobilizing; Action Coalition blueprint developed	Feminist agenda setting; Action Coalitions announced and roadmap launched
Other Elements:	Digital footprint; Lighting of the torch for gender equality; Global Citizen Festival (TBC)	Digital footprint including Satellite Sessions; Receiving of the torch for gender equality; Celebration and Festival

Honouring the principle of equal partnership with women's rights and social justice groups and civil society, the proposed governance structures will centre-stage civil society leadership and voice in the management and agenda setting of the Forum

- **Core Group (decision making)** - 4 members comprising of UN Women, France, Mexico and Civil Society
- **Civil Society Advisory Group to the Core Group (supporting Core Group decision making)** – 10-15 civil society members representing regional (and thematic) diversity. This structure to be established by August 2019; membership of this group will be determined by civil society through a consultative process. The advisory group will nominate one representative to the Core Group.
- **Multi-stakeholder Steering Group (supporting design, planning and implementation)** – 25-30 members comprising civil society, Member States, private sector and other stakeholders who are contributing to the Forum and its outcomes. To be established by August 2019. This structure will be established by the Core Group in consultation with partners.
- **Secretariats** at UN Women, France, Mexico for implementation

# Proposed Governance Structure for the Forum



Name	Proposed Role	#	Composition	Comments
Core Group	Decision-making body	4	UN Women, Mexico, France, Civil Society	Civil Society to designate 1 member who may rotate
Civil Society Advisory Committee to the Core Group	Comprehensive input into decision-making	12-15	Representatives of regions, issues, and age ranges	Civil Society to determine approach to populating this Committee and extending inclusiveness
Multi-stakeholder Steering Committee	Supporting design, planning and implementation; Shaping of Agenda and Themes and spearheading Outreach	25-30	Core Group + Civil Society, Member States, Private Sector, Others	Membership will be of stakeholders who are actively contributing to the implementation of the Forum through resources and/or other kinds of support. Civil Society to determine overlap among their members on governance bodies
Secretariat	Project & workstream management; integration across all efforts		1 each at UN Women, Mexico, and France	Including expertise to support each of the workstreams proposed with initial focus on Resource Mobilization, Communications & Outreach

- **Participation in an Action Coalition**

- commitment to implement specific actions and objectives of the Coalition with resource commitments
- political leadership around mobilizing other Member States and stakeholders to join the Coalition
- ensuring implementation at national level

- **Funding the Generation Equality Forum**

- Funding the Forum: multiple levels of funding are possible, including general funding; funding one specific theme/panel/event; funding technology, funding civil society, etc.

- **Membership of the Steering Committee of the Generation Equality Forum**

- Member States who are supporting the implementation of the Forum through financial and other support can join the Multi-stakeholder Steering Committee helping to design and shape the Forum

- Feminist agenda setting by the women, youth and peoples of the world
- Establishing a new model of mobilizing and inclusion
- Mobilizing “the Movable Middle” for action on gender equality
- Reclaiming the best aspirations of the UN as the people’s agenda for equality, rights, peace and justice
- Generation Equality Forum - when the world “jumped together” to make gender equality a reality