

Global Civil Society Led Initiative: Beijing+25 and the Generation Equality Forum



BEIJING +25

An Overview



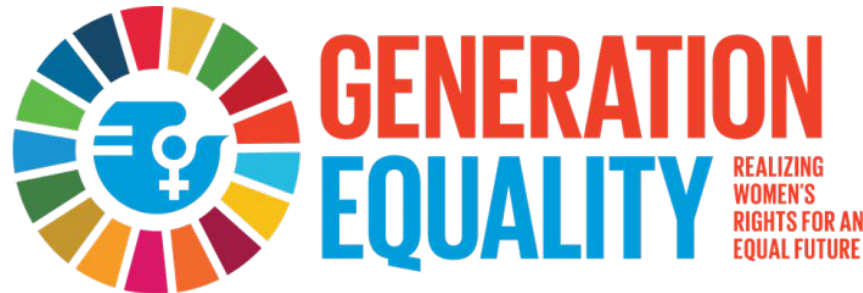
Created by NGO CSW/NY



What is Beijing + 25 / Generation Equality?

To commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA), the [Generation Equality Forum](#) and [CSW64](#) will look back at the past 25 years to evaluate progress, as well as look forward to determine concrete action for gender equality.

The Generation Equality Forum is a multi-stakeholder gathering with two major meetings in Mexico, May 2020 and Paris, July 2020. The Forum is convened by UN Women, co-chaired by France and Mexico, and in partnership with global Civil Society.



Governance Structure for the Generation Equality Forum

Core Group (decision making)

- 4 members - 1 representative for UN Women, France, Mexico & Civil Society
- Consults with Advisory Group to the Core Group

Civil Society Advisory Group to the Core Group*

- 21 members - decided by a volunteer Selection Committee
- Consults with Advisory Committee Working Group

Advisory Committee Working Group*

- Open to all global civil society members
- Ensures inclusive & representative nature of Advisory Group by providing input

Multi-Stakeholder Steering Group

- 25 members - decided by Core Group
- Supports design, planning & implementation of Forum

Strategic Planning & Leadership Group

- 50+ civil society leaders - decided by UN women
- Advise UN Women on Beijing+25

Beijing+25 Youth Task Force

- 30 members - decided by UN Women
- Advises UN Women on youth involvement in Beijing+25

* Civil society led and driven

Advisory Working Group

The Advisory Working Group consists of over 350 [members](#) of global civil society who will be instrumental in ensuring that *all* voices are heard and represented in this Beijing+25 process. The Advisory Working Group consults the Advisory Group to the Core Group to make sure they are representing the needs and mandates of global civil society.

The group is completely open to join and meets every two weeks via Zoom to hear updates from UN Women, the Advisory Group to the Core Group, and Beijing+25 regional processes. Advisory Working Group members are also encouraged to provide their own input into these processes so that their voices can be brought to the Generation Equality Forums in Mexico and Paris.

If you have any questions or are interested in joining the Advisory Working Group, email Beijing25@ngocsw.org.

Advisory Group to the Core Group

The [Advisory Group to the Core Group](#) (Advisory Group) serves as the representative of civil society's priorities for the Generation Equality Forum by guaranteeing participation on a co-equal basis of civil society with the other members of the Core Group. It was created to ensure that diverse women's rights and feminist organizations can engage meaningfully in the Generation Equality process. You can find the group's Terms of Reference [here](#).

The Advisory Group was chosen through a civil society-led process by a selection committee of 5 volunteers from the Advisory Working Group. They selected 21 members from [136 applications](#) representing diverse genders, generations, regions and backgrounds. For more information about the selection committee's process and criteria, read their announcement letter [here](#).

Civil Society's Vision for Beijing+25/Generation Equality

A Civil Society Feminist and Women's Movement Action Plan to advance global gender equality.

- Central premise is 'women's rights are human rights'
- A feminist approach aimed at positively transforming norms and power structures
- Open, welcoming, inclusive of wide diversity of feminist and women's movements
- Creative, action-oriented, brave and safe
- Using power of existing political commitments and obligations to avoid "reinventing the wheel"
- Utilizing extant CSO processes actions at global, national, regional and sub-regional levels to help advance

Feminist & Women's Movement Action Plan

The [Feminist and Women's Action Plan](#), developed by experienced civil society activists and experts, will leverage the power of global consensus and new alliances by utilizing the Beijing Platform for Action, CEDAW and the SDGs, along with other international treaties, human rights mechanisms and international commitments like ICPD, New Urban Agenda, UNSC Resolution 1325, the Paris Climate Accord and others.

The process is open, welcoming, inclusive of the wide diversity of the feminist and women's movements, creative action-oriented, brave and safe.

For more detailed information about the Feminist and Women's Action Plan including challenges, steps, and suggested outcomes, click [here](#).

A kick-off meeting for the Feminist & Women's Movement Action Plan took place on 3 November. You can listen to the speakers' recordings [here](#).

Thematic Working Groups

The “Shakers” of the Feminist and Women’s Movement Action Plan are part of 6 Thematic Working Groups that will form recommendations for Beijing+25 and beyond.

Six cross-cutting themes:

- Environmental conservation, protection and rehabilitation
- Freedom from violence, stigma and stereotypes
- Poverty eradication, social protection and social services
- Inclusive development, share prosperity and decent work
- Peaceful and inclusive societies
- Participation, accountability and gender-responsive institutions

For the schedule of the virtual meetings for each Thematic Working Group, click [here](#). As the dates get closer, registration links for each meeting will be sent out. [Registration](#) for the first meeting is open.

Click [here](#) to register for the Thematic Working Groups.

Objectives for Beijing+25/Generation Equality

- Emergence of a coherent feminist agenda with demands reflecting an agreed set of priorities
- Achieving cross-cutting alliances
- Galvanize activists globally who will speak with one voice against suppression
- Help connect activists across silos working for similar objectives to achieve goals
- Help create the platforms that will address inequalities and lead to action
- Address inequalities created by patriarchy, colonialism, racism, and militarism

Building Alliances & Linking Across Silos

To progress toward gender equality, we must link across silos of activism to create a common framework and build the power of women's rights movements.

- Not looking to abandon our own thematic and issue-based work, but starting to look for points of convergence to join forces around common goals
- Will build upon the global women's rights movement's strength to ensure an inclusive action plan with clear priorities and demands

Roadmap / Timeline

Step 1: Creation of Civil Society Advisory Group

- Early July 2019 - NGO CSW tasked with organizing the Civil Society Advisory Group to the Core Group
- July 2019 - Because of the groundswell of global civil society, the Advisory Working Group was created to self-select the Advisory Group to the Core Group
- Early August - 5 volunteers from the Advisory Working Group came together to select the 21 members of the Advisory Group out of 136 applicants
- Selection group announced the Advisory Group members at the end of August
- Advisory Working Group will continue to grow and will be the consulting body to the Advisory Group

Step 2: Forum Planning

Advisory Group ensures that the planning for the Mexico & Paris meetings reflects the priorities/ demands of the Feminist and Women's Movement Plan and other working groups.

Step 3: 64th Commission on the Status of Women

The Advisory Group supports the thematic and diverse working groups.

Roadmap / Timeline cont'd

Step 4: Mexico and Paris Forums

- Mexico: 7-8 May 2020
- Paris: 7-10 July 2020

The Civil Society Advisory Group ensures that the programs and financing of the Mexico and Paris meetings reflect the priorities of the Feminist and Women's Movement Action Plan, emphasizing the presence of focal points representing marginalized or vulnerable communities.

Step 5: 2020 General Assembly

Governments must make commitments to finance and implement the Feminist and Women's Movement Action Plan and those of other working groups. The overall percentage of gender equality funding that goes to women's rights organizations must show a significant increase, from the current 1% as a result of the Beijing+25 process.

For more information...

- <https://www.ngocsw.org/beijing-25>
- <https://www.unwomen.org/en/get-involved/beijing-plus-25>
- [Beijing Platform for Action document](#)
- [Feminist and Women's Movement Action Plan](#)