



# Regional Conversation Series: Advancing Generation Equality Forum Commitments in the Europe and Central Asia Region

## Concept Note for the First Regional Follow-up Event: Action Coalition 6: Feminist Movements and Leadership

**15 December 2021, 11:00 - 14:00 Istanbul time**

[Check your time zone here](#)

### Background

The Generation Equality Forum (GEF) held in Mexico (29 – 31 March 2021) and Paris (30 June – 2 July 2021) were positioned as inflection point for gender equality looking back to the landmark 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing and a key moment [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 the rights of women and girls’ in all their diversity; and a vibrant movement working to advance the lives of all 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 quality 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.

The GEF has fueled a powerful and lasting multi-stakeholder movement for gender equality and provided a key opportunity for activists, feminists, youth and allies to achieve transformative change for generations to come. The forum brought together governments, private sector, civil society, philanthropy and change makers from around the world to define and announce ambitious commitments in investments, programs, policies and advocacy, and resulted in an acceleration in equality, leadership and opportunity for women and girls worldwide.

Engaging nearly 50,000 people, the GEF in Paris concluded with the announcement of bold gender equality commitments and launch of a global five-year action journey to accelerate gender equality by 2026. The Forum’s bold, action-oriented agenda will be under-written by nearly USD 40 Billion of confirmed investments as well as ambitious policy and program 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 in areas from gender-based violence to bodily autonomy and sexual and reproductive health and rights, to technology to economic and climate justice and to feminist movements and leadership. The Forum also launched a Compact on Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action, and announced new gender equality initiatives focused on health, sports, culture, and education.

From the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) region, 13 Member States serve as co-leaders of one of the six thematic Action Coalitions (comprising 50 per cent of the Generation Equality leadership structure and 22 percent of UNECE Member States). Additionally, 13 UNECE Member States joined the Action Coalitions as commitment makers. In total, 26 countries (46 per cent of all UNECE Member States) are already engaged with Generation Equality, including six UN programme countries (Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Serbia, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan).

The [Global Acceleration Plan for Gender Equality](#) includes an overview of the Action Coalition Accountability Framework (**pages 152-155**). The initial overview guides the GEF Secretariat on development of the comprehensive Action Coalition Accountability Framework. Action Coalitions are in the process of developing a work plan to take forward their work into 2022 and collective commitments made. OHCHR is the UN entity in the Leadership Group of the Action Coalition on Feminist Movements and Leadership.

As a follow-up to the GEF, the United Nations Regional Issue-Based Coalition on Gender Equality (IBC-GE) in Europe and Central Asia<sup>1</sup>, in partnership with the Regional Collaborative Platform and other thematic Issue-based Coalitions, is contributing to the journey by providing a virtual space for feminist movements and leaders, including women human rights defenders and gender equality activists from the Europe and Central Asia region to meet with GEF Action Coalition leaders and commitment makers to discuss how to use the momentum and resources from the Generation Equality Forum to advance regional-level priorities and challenges related to the achievement of gender equality and women and girls' rights. **Envisaged as a series of events, the first GEF regional follow-up event is proposed to focus on follow-up to Action Coalition 6 on Feminist Movements and Leadership.**

Facilitated by the IBC-GE, with engagement from civil society, the event will provide an opportunity for a focused inter-generational conversation with leaders of feminist movements and influencers and decision makers from the region on how to maintain and further channel the commitments and resources from the Forums to address remaining gender equality gaps across the Europe and Central Asia region. It is also hoped that new commitments, including collective commitments, will be forged building on the momentum of the Forum.

***Why are we doing this?*** *The IBC-GE promotes gender equality through regional initiatives and fora and advances joint advocacy related to key issues and trends across the region. The IBC-GE has facilitated previous dialogues on gender equality priorities by bringing together governments, women and youth activists, civil society and development partners in the frame of the Regional Forums on Sustainable*

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<sup>1</sup>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.



*Development and Beijing+25 Regional Review. We will facilitate a regional follow-up conversation to advance GEF commitments by taking a regional approach and highlighting commitments by regional partners from the Europe and Central Asia region and connecting commitment makers with activists and change makers.*

### Event Objectives

- To discuss regional priorities as well as follow-up accountability mechanisms to sustain action and commitments from the Generation Equality Forum in the context of current gender equality setbacks and pushbacks in the Europe and Central Asia region;
- To connect leaders from across the Action Coalition, commitment makers and other potential commitment contributors from the region to increase awareness and build partnerships and alliances to advance implementation;
- To explore possibilities to join the collective commitments developed by the Action Coalitions or potential regional specific collective commitments and discuss joint actions to support commitment makers from the region to apply accountability mechanisms to track and report on implementation progress of their commitments and support mobilization of other partners to join Action Coalitions.

### Preliminary Agenda

11:00 – 11:10 <i>Istanbul time</i>	<b>Introduction and Technical Announcements</b>
11:10 – 11:50	<b>High Level Plenary Opening</b>
11:50 – 12:00	Interactive reflections from the floor on <b>Generation Equality &amp; Action Coalition 6</b>
12:00 – 12:30	<b>Overview of individual and joint commitments: Reflections from AC6 Leaders and Commitment Makers</b>
12:30 – 13:05	<b>Discussion on Gaps and Opportunities in the AC6 Commitments</b>
13:05 – 13:45	Looking Forward: <b>Advancing joint action for further solutions and commitments</b>  <b>Moderated interactive conversation</b> with representatives from the women’s movement and young feminists to discuss areas of progress and remaining challenges facing feminist leaders and movements in the Europe and Central Asia region
13:45 – 14:00	Closing