



**Generation Equality Forum, Mexico City
Women's Transformative Leadership for Gender Equality**

Concept Note

**29th March 2021
8:30 – 10am (GMT-6 Mexico City Time)**

Background

The Generation Equality Forum (GEF) is a joint effort convened by UN Women and co-chaired by the governments of Mexico and France with the leadership and active engagement of civil society. It will celebrate the power of women's rights activism, feminist solidarity, women's leadership and youth participation to achieve transformative change and set an agenda of concrete action to realize gender equality before 2030. In response to the pandemic, the GEF is also committed to shape innovative and in-depth Stakeholder Engagement strategies and to provide special attention to achieve commitments to accelerate the implementation of Beijing Platform of Action and to address the challenges that the COVID-19 global pandemic raises in terms of women's rights and empowerment. While also recognizing the critical role of political leadership, partnerships, solidarity, and movement building for social transformation.

Evidence shows that from the local to the global levels, women's leadership in formal spheres is still limited, whether in politics, the civil service, in private companies or other sectors; even as women in their diversities and across generations are mobilizing to hold leaders accountable on a slew of equality issues. Such as racial justice, equal pay, ending violence and discrimination against women, eliminating sexual harassment, climate justice, sustaining peace and more. This leadership gap in formal spaces must change: to accelerate progress the number of women in leadership must go up, and the norms, regulations and standards around leadership must reflect greater diversity, inclusion and accountability.

Launched at UNGA 2019 in cooperation with the Council of Women World Leaders and culminating at the Generation Equality Forum in 2021, UN Women's Leaders for Generation Equality campaign will be welcoming over 200 global intergenerational women leaders. They will lend their voice, impact and power to Generation Equality, support outreach and mobilization for the Forum, and aim to change the picture of a leader.



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“Women Leaders for Generation Equality”, a global virtual intergenerational dialogue held leading up to UNGA 2020, convened some of these Leaders for Generation Equality alongside other women leaders to discuss the importance of diverse and inclusive feminist leadership. Hosted as part of the Generation Equality campaign and co-hosted by the Generation Equality Forum, UN Women, the Government of Mexico, and the Council of Women World Leaders, this intergenerational event highlighted the urgent need to place women’s leadership at the core of the agenda, especially given the exacerbation of existing inequalities brought on by COVID-19.

The event

Following the key recommendations from this event and riding on the theme of the Sixty Fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (15-26 March 2021), focused on women’s leadership and the elimination of violence, the Generation Equality Forum in Mexico will be an excellent opportunity to highlight women’s leadership as one of the key drivers for gender equality and to accelerate the implementation of commitments from the Beijing Platform for Action on women in power and decision-making.

The plenary dialogue, "Women's Transformative Leadership for Gender Equality", will have the Generation Equality Forum’s formal through its multi-stakeholder, intergenerational and intersectional focus and will feature a range of diverse women leaders speaking on the importance of inclusive leadership and the change it can bring for all girls and women around the globe. The main objective of this event is to emphasize an action-oriented vision of women’s leadership and to create a space where women leaders from across the world can share their approaches, lessons learned, and experiences from before and during the COVID-19 outbreak, to speak about the value of women’s leadership and to address the conditions needed for women to take on leadership roles and participate in decision-making processes. The goal is to offer standards of effective feminist intergenerational leadership, to change the global picture of a leader and discuss how the world can best be built back better.

Format

Some of the key focus areas highlighted in the last women leaders' event held in September 2020 will structure the dialogue:

- **The importance of increasing the number of women in decision-making: Local Governments, Parliaments and National Governments**
- **The contribution of women’s transformative leadership to societal changes**
- **Parity through quotas**



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- **Violence against women in political leadership**

The virtual event will take the form of an interactive moderated intergenerational dialogue with women leaders from across sectors, including youth leaders, and will include active engagement of participants through the chat and the Q&A.

Language: Interpretation will be provided in English, Spanish, French and Arabic, and International Sign Language.

Draft Guiding Questions on the four key focus areas:

- What are the main reasons why recent findings show that the data on women in decision-making roles has not changed significantly since Beijing +25?
- What are the main obstacles that women leaders face? Ex. gender norms, media stereotyping, political violence, etc.
- Is there evidence that quotas work? and if there is, why have quotas for parity in decision-making roles not been adapted yet?



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