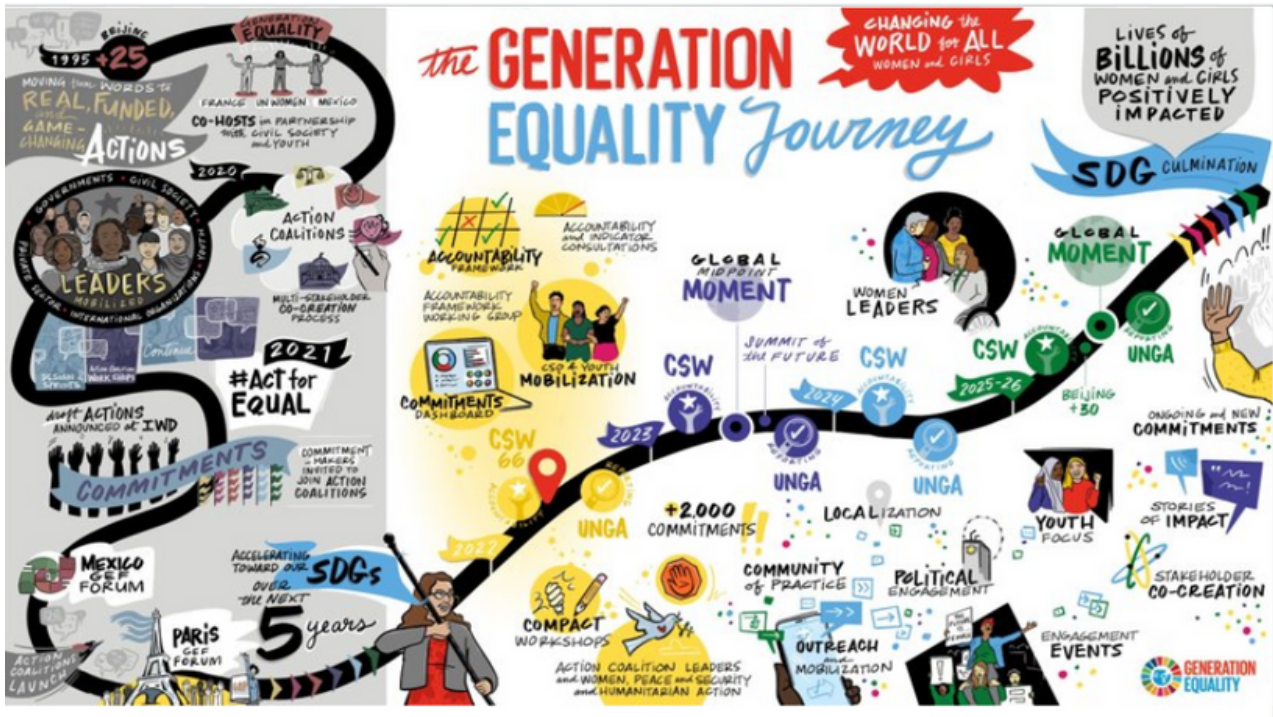


GENERATIONAL EQUALITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR FEMINIST FUTURES

India and the Generation Equality Forum: The need for community
driven processes in a Global Mechanism.





WHAT TO EXPECT FROM THIS REPORT

Acronyms

Why do we need to know them?

Acknowledgements

Contributors and co-travellers

Generation Equality Forum

Why should we care?

India and GEF

Commitments To and Commitments For?

Feminist Accountability Framework

Global South Rises?

Reflections

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Priorities

What do we want to amplify?

Annexure

Where do we find out more?

ACRONYMS

IYKYK (If You Know, You Know)

- AC: Action Coalition
- CSAG: Civil Society Advisory Group
- CSO: Civil Society Organisation
- CSW: Commission on the Status of Women
- EJR: Economic Justice and Rights
- FACJ: Feminist Action for Climate Justice
- FAF: Feminist Accountability Framework
- FGM/C: Female Genitaal Mutilation or Cutting
- FML: Feminist Movements and Leadership
- GBV: Gender Based Violence
- GEF: Generation Equality Forum
- GFW: Global Fund for Women
- MSLG: Multi Stakeholder Leadership Group
- NGYA: National Gender Youth Advocate
- SDGs: Sustainable Development Goals
- SRHR: Bodily Autonomy and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
- TI: Technology and Innovation for Gender Equality
- TYPF: The YP Foundation
- UN: United Nations
- YFC: Young Feminist Caucus

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Lastly, we would like to thank the folks from Global Fund for Women and our colleagues and youth advocates at The YP Foundation.

Cover illustration by Ipsita Dwivedi

THE GENERATION EQUALITY FORUM

Why should we care?

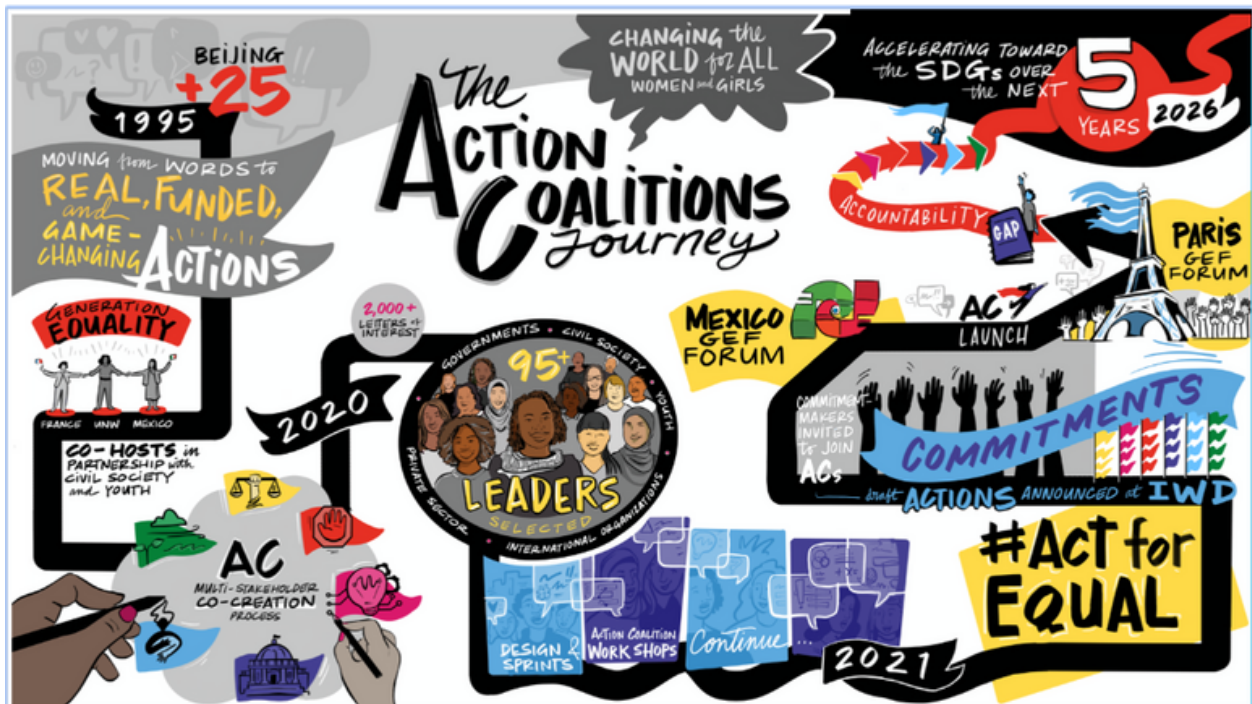
The Generation Equality Forum (GEF) is an international platform for gender equality launched in 2021. It is co-convened by UN Women and the governments of France and Mexico and brings together governments, civil society, funders, private sector entities and the UN system.



The Forum launched a 5-year action agenda encapsulated in a Global Acceleration Plan for gender equality, which defines the most critical actions necessary to accelerate progress in the next 5 years. The Forum also launched six Action Coalitions and a Global Compact on Women, Peace, Security and Humanitarian Action, each of which is spearheading a critical part of the Generation Equality agenda. At the Forum hosted in Paris, diverse stakeholders made over 1,000 policy, program and financial commitments, representing an aggregate value of \$40 Billion.

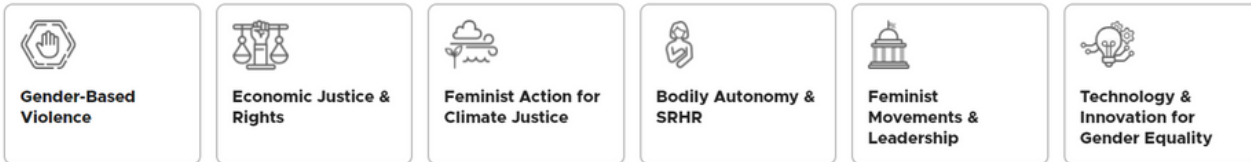
ACTION COALITIONS AND COMMITMENTS

Action Coalitions are multi-stakeholder partnerships focusing on specific themes which aim to catalyze collective action, spark intergenerational conversations globally and locally, increase public & private investment to achieve gender equality and deliver concrete, game-changing results that improve the lives of girls and women.



Commitments are the pathways to join an Action Coalition. They are actions that stakeholders pledge in order to achieve the Global Acceleration Plan for Gender Equality.

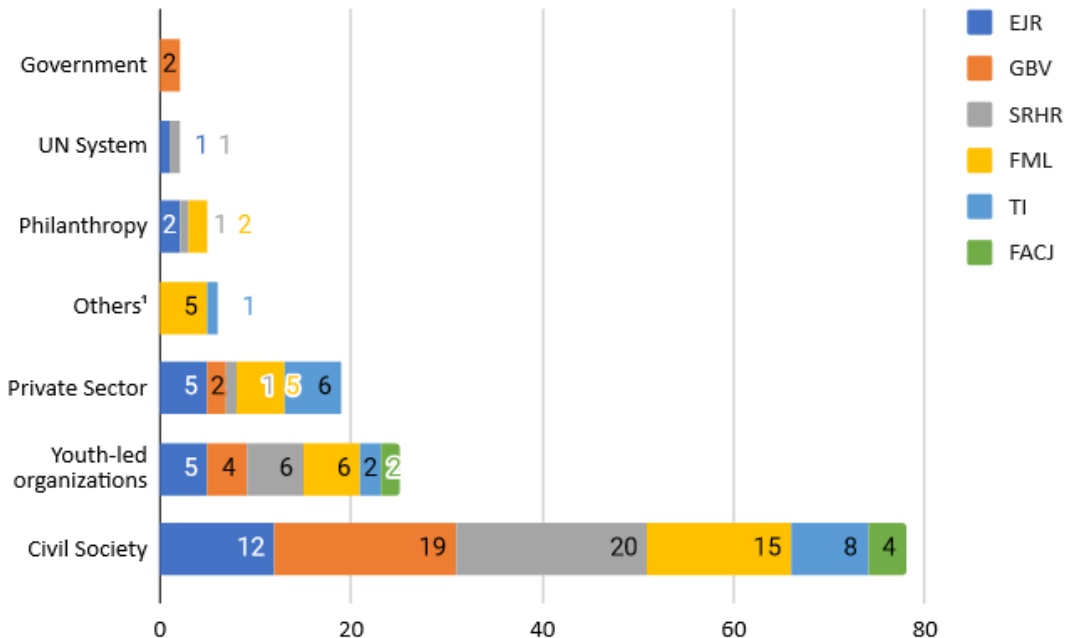
Commitment-makers, stakeholders who have made commitments, will monitor and support the implementation of GEF’s work and mobilise other stakeholders to advance this agenda.



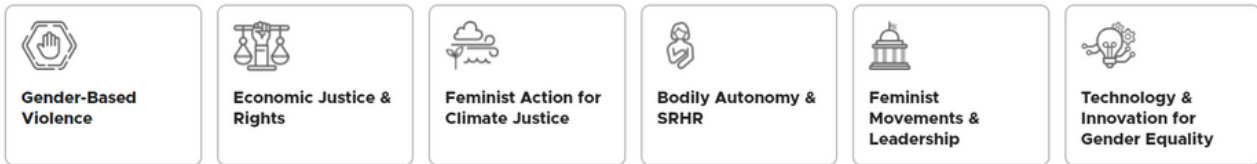
INDIA AND GENERATION EQUALITY FORUM

As per the [Generation Equality Forum Dashboard](#), there are a total of 90 commitments made by any India-level stakeholder. And there are 137 commitments made towards India. For the purpose of this report, we are presenting disaggregated data based on the commitments made towards India, and presenting back some insights.

India's Commitments under the Generation Equality Forum



Others includes Media, Academia, National Institution, International or regional organization



The **Action Coalition on Gender Based Violence** aims to change social norms, ensure that an intersectional, evidence-driven approach is integrated into all efforts to prevent and respond to GBV, that there are legal frameworks in place to respond to and prevent GBV. And that all survivors of GBV can safely access comprehensive support services. **India has 27 commitments under this AC.**

The **Action Coalition on Economic Justice and Rights** aims to create systems which ensure that the distribution of resources is equitable, that there is no gender discrimination in the labour market or while accessing services and there is gender equality in decision making bodies, trade entities and enterprises. It also aims to ensure that domestic and care work are valued and distributed equitably. **India has 25 commitments under this AC.**

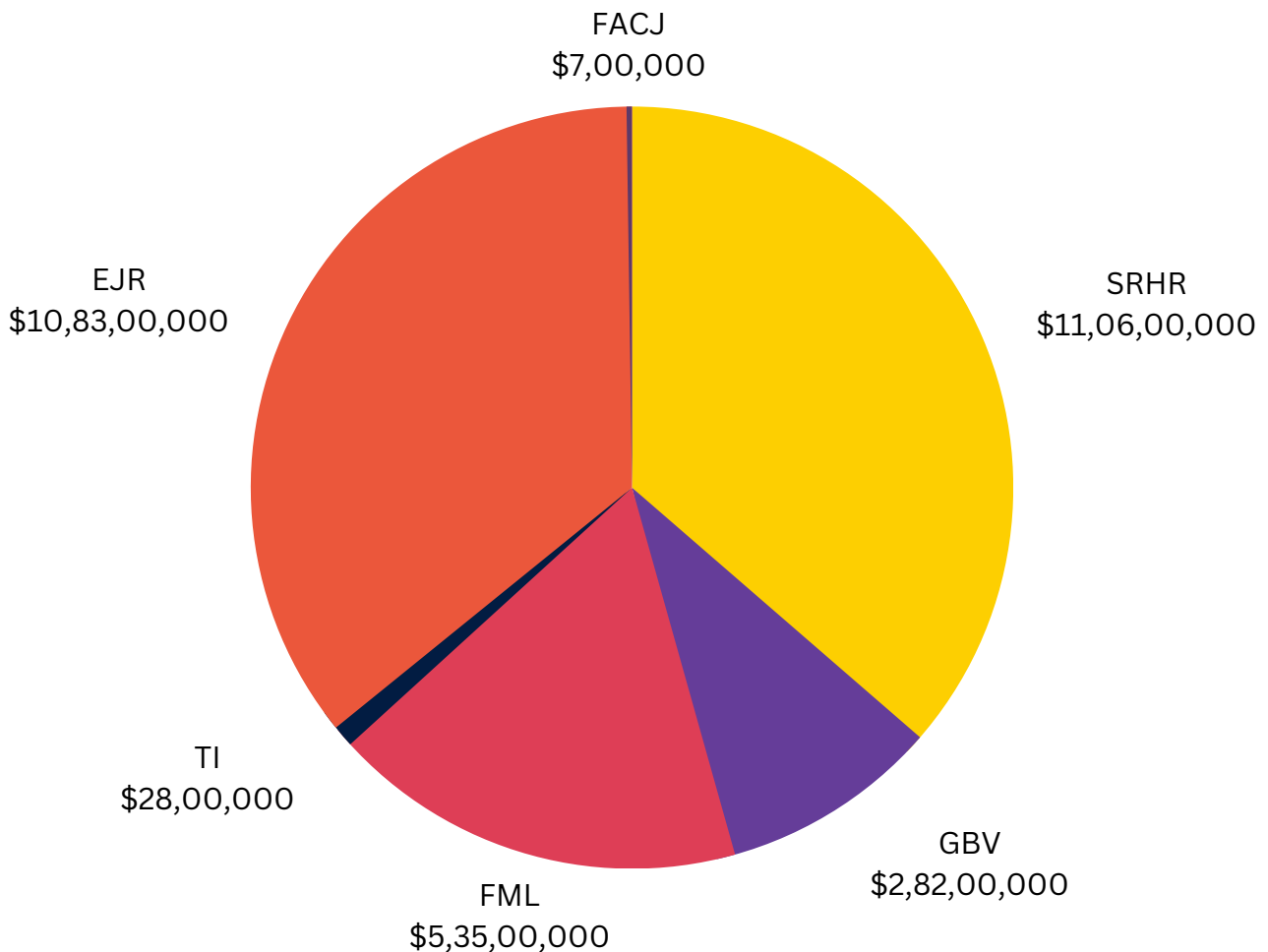
The **Action Coalition on Feminist Action for Climate Justice** aims to ensure that there is gender equality in decision making processes, including in key climate policy instruments. It aims to ensure that women and girls access and control over natural resources, including land ownership. It also aims to hold funders accountable to shift funding to reframe risk, prioritize women's organizations as priority partners, support resilient communities and ensure that women and girls are able to access such funding and climate technologies. **India has 6 commitments under this AC.**

The **Action Coalition on Bodily Autonomy and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights** aims to ensure that SRHR information, education and services are freely available, accessible, acceptable and of high-quality. Feminist organisations are strengthened in their SRHR programs. And governments promote SRHR and ensure that the right to SRHR is ensured and protected. **India has 29 commitments under this AC.**

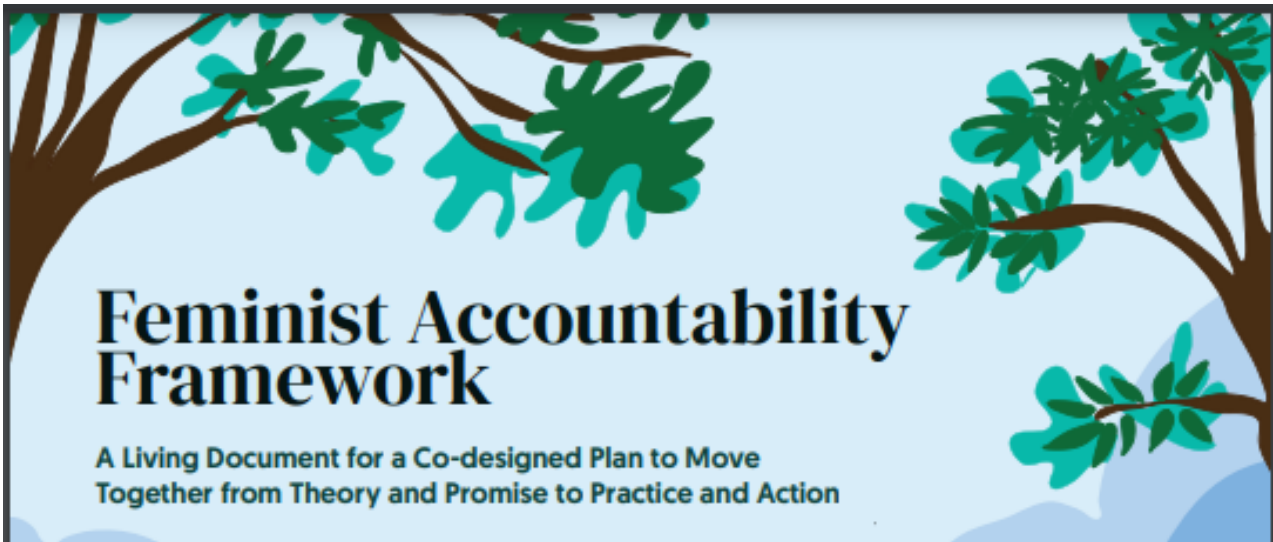
The **Action Coalition for Feminist Movements and Leadership** aims to ensure to support feminist movements and leaders, especially those led by trans, intersex and nonbinary people, indigenous women, young feminists, and other marginalised people, to become sustainable, carry out their work without fear and advance gender equality, peace. **India has 33 commitments under this AC.**

The **Action Coalition on Technology and Innovation for Gender Equality** aims to ensure equal opportunities to safely and meaningfully access, use, lead, and design technology and innovation. It aims to ensure that there is gender equality in innovation sectors, ensure transparency and accountability in digital technology, and expand inclusive digital economies. **India has 17 commitments under this AC.**

**137 COMMITMENTS WERE MADE BY 118
COMMITMENT MAKERS TOWARDS INDIA
WITH \$304.1 MILLION USD COMMITTED
TO FUND WORK WITHIN THE GEF**



- **India received the most commitments** amongst Asia Pacific countries.
- Less than half (**47%**) of all commitments included **committed funding**.
- While **FML had the highest number** of commitments, it has **significantly less committed funding** \$53,500,000 by comparison to other Action Coalitions.
- The **largest share of committed funding**, \$1,106,00,000, went to **Bodily Autonomy and SRHR** Action Coalition.
- The **Gender Based Violence** Action Coalition had the **highest percentage of commitments** with committed funding: **67% of commitments included committed funding**.



WHAT IS FAF?

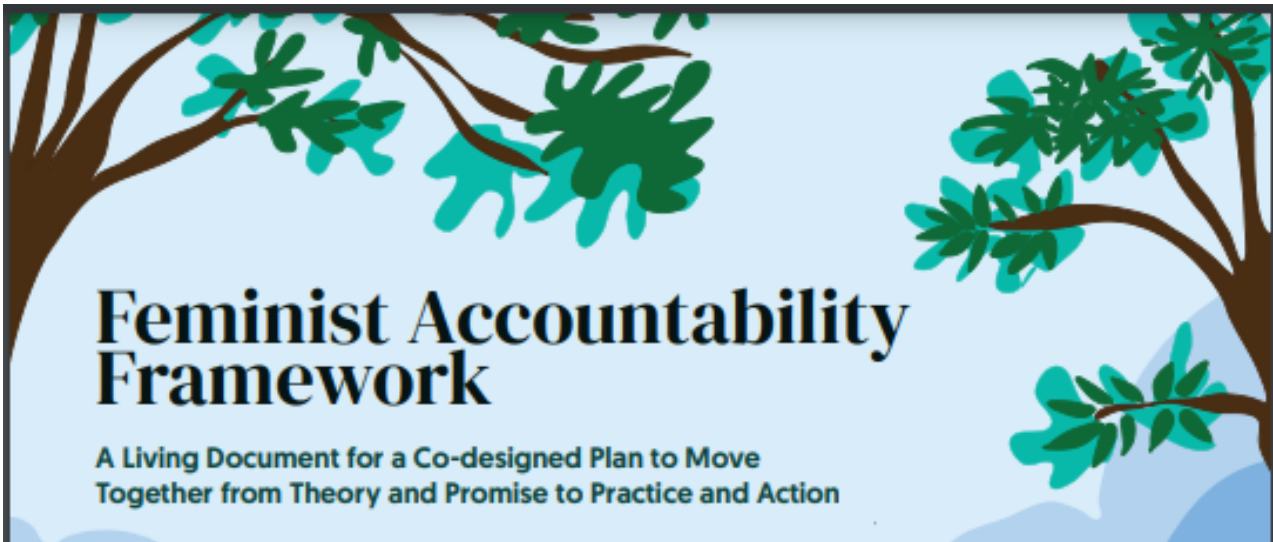
The Feminist Accountability Framework (FAF) is an actionable and evolving plan to help move the Generation Equality Forum from promises to action. It summarizes the co-design process to create Feminist Accountability, our findings to date as well as our three-part plan of gathering additional data, receiving community feedback, and supporting evidence-based and community-led advocacy.

WHO CREATED FAF?

The Feminist Accountability Framework is co-designed and led by 22 grassroots organizations in the Global South and facilitated by Global Fund for Women. In addition to bringing representation beyond traditionally well-resourced groups, the co-design group also brings extensive engagement across all GEF Action Coalitions as well as expertise in grassroots mobilization; community-led processes; data collection and analysis; communications; and advocacy. Our local, national, regional, and global perspectives inform all that we do. And the bonds we have formed with one another help to facilitate work centered in justice, collectivity, and transparency.

WHAT ARE THE MAIN FINDINGS OF FAF?

Based on UN Women's research, two major barriers to accountability have been identified: a deficiency in data transparency and a significant discrepancy between existing commitments and the requirements of feminist entities. For GEF to successfully realize gender equality by 2026, it's crucial that data is not only transparent but also easily decipherable. Feminist organizations must be able to accurately track where commitments are directed, the specifics of financial and resource allocations, and whether these represent new or previous pledges, as well as monitor the actual disbursement of these funds.



INDIA AND FAF

TYPF has been involved with the Generation Equality Forum from its very beginning. As part of both mechanisms within the GEF, TYPF has been active member of processes like the Civil Society Advisory Group (CSAG), the Multi-Stakeholder Leadership Group (MSLG) and as National Gender Youth Activists (NGYAs). Subsequently we also co-anchored the youth dialogues before the Paris and Mexico Forum and actively contributed in the framing of the Young Feminist Manifesto. As a youth-led, youth focused feminist organisation, we have also had conversations about the GEF with the stakeholders we work with; including fellow activists, other young people and adolescents.

As the India data lead for the Feminist Accountability Framework, we conversed with other organisations involved in the GEF space and learnt from them. This included organisations and activists from the larger Asia-Pacific region and also from other Global South regions. This enabled us to think of the issues that affect both India in particular and the GEF mechanism at large.

By far the feedback we received the most from these conversations, our consultations and other engagements with actors within the GEF spaces has been the need to publicise this forum. Outside of those already involved in the process, there is very little awareness about the GEF mechanism at the grassroots level. This lack of awareness has in turn created an unequal power dynamic within the mechanism and has made it difficult to establish a true accountability structure for the GEF. It is therefore essential to address this power imbalance before speaking



*What is the expectation and what are the goals of this framework?
Since the framework is being piloted in other countries, is there a chance for cross-learning?
How is this process moving towards SDGs? What value does the GEF process add to existing mechanisms?
Is there another lead agency apart from UN Women which can be a part of the GEF process?
What will happen with the data that is collected? The survey results reveal that many people are confused about the survey itself.*

These conversations have also highlighted the GEF mechanism is inaccessible and difficult for those not already involved in the forum to enter. Stakeholders also spoke about their difficulties in understanding the commitments and deciphering the budgetary contributions.



During one of the consultations, a commitment maker also pointed out that putting CSOs, which raise funds for their work, and funding organisations on the same level creates the illusion that both have access to the same resources. Expecting CSOs to contribute as much funding as funders creates an uneven power dynamic.

In analysing the platform, stakeholders also detailed that because of the mechanism's emphasis on funding, there is disproportionate focus on funding agencies, philanthropies and donors without an adequate measure of *what* is being funded or accountability for *who* is receiving this funding. This also means that Action Coalitions are not allowed to be true co-creation spaces.



During one of the consultations, a youth activist also expressed that the Feminist Accountability Framework is also data driven. They further expressed the FAF and other mechanisms like it are often extractive and ask for young and marginalised people to offer their insights time and time again without providing any information about how such information will be used.

This has also meant that there is not enough attention paid to ensuring the participation and engagement of young people and marginalised groups. This in turn obstructs the Forum from taking an intersectional approach outlined in the Global Acceleration Plan.

These points also emphasise the need for a true accountability mechanism, which exhibits data gathered from commitment makers on a public platform. Without an accountability mechanism which allows all stakeholders, not just UN agencies, to view the progress made by commitment makers, it is impossible to adequately address the other issues outlined by CSOs, grassroots activists and other stakeholders.

INDIA AND FAF SURVEY

A survey was designed by the FAF co creators as a means to reach out to more people in order to garner insights towards the GEF and FAF processes. While the methodology did allow us to reach out to more people, their primary feedback to us while engaging with the survey was that it was extractive in nature.

Almost 100 people began the survey, however, only 84 of them completed the same. Upon enquiring, most people maintained that the survey was too long, and the language contained a lot of jargon which made them feel further alienated from the GEF process. Since the TYPF team was in also conversing with the survey respondents one-to-one, they had some insightful responses to the questions posed in the survey, however, needed some context of GEF as well as what will we do with their response.

The survey contained 50 questions, most of them multiple choice. For example, “*In the priority area Feminist Movements and Leadership, what are the 3 most important topics that needs to be addressed in your country*”

A rudimentary analysis of their responses to this question offers us the top three topics the respondents believe need to be addressed under the abovementioned priority area, however, without access to the context of the country and the community experiences, this data does not lend to the larger narratives of power, and intersectional experiences of historically marginalised communities in India.

One of the intent of GEF is to “to ensure accountability for commitments already made, secure transformative new commitments and enlarge and energize global cross-sector movements for equality.” And to make meaningful strides towards the same, we need to engage various stakeholders in all the processes. Processes that include finding the gaps in existing data and centering stories that get left unheard. And to ensure that historically marginalised communities are in intentionally invited and engaged in rooms where data is being analysed so that our lived experiences can provide the context which is needed to co-create global narratives.

An example of data read without context could be the various interpretations we can have based on the responses (given in the table below) to the question,

“*Which groups would you advocate with to ensure that actions and funding on GEF match with the country requirements? Please select maximum 3.*”

Type of Stakeholder(s)	No of responses
<i>UN Agencies (UN Women, UNFPA, or other UN Offices)</i>	57
<i>National Government</i>	37
<i>Local Government</i>	38
<i>Civil Society Groups</i>	38
<i>Private Sector</i>	23
<i>Philanthropies and Donors</i>	41
<i>Academia</i>	13
<i>Media</i>	7
<i>International Financial Institutions</i>	15
<i>Multilateral Organizations</i>	7

Based on these insights, and collated feedback from folks engaged during the survey and consultation processes, we find ourselves asking more questions while attempting to answer a few:

THE GEF ALREADY HAS AN INTERNAL ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISM, WHY DO WE NEED ANOTHER?

While there is an accountability mechanism built into the GEF, it only captures data. It does not allow for a qualitative analysis.

This mechanism and the data it captures are both limited to stakeholders already within the GEF and do not allow for external scrutiny.

The accountability tool is in effect only a reporting mechanism, with no true accountability for commitment-makers for not conforming to the principles of the GEF.

HOW DOES ONE FIND OUT ABOUT THE ORGANISATIONS RECEIVING FUNDING ALLOTTED UNDER GEF?

The UN does an annual survey which tracks the commitment makers, their spendings and budget. The data from this survey goes to UN women. However, this means that the funding data is unavailable for external stakeholders.

Organisations which raise money for the work undertaken under the ambit of the commitments, this funding amount should not count towards India's total amount. Further, because of the lack of clarity surrounding commitments which span multiple ACs or countries made by a single commitment maker, there is ambiguity surrounding the distribution of funds. It is also worth noting that the same commitment, which speaks to multiple ACs, is counted within each AC resulting in a duplication of data.

THE DASHBOARD CALCULATES THAT INDIA HAS 219 COMMITMENTS, WHY ARE WE ONLY LOOKING AT 137 COMMITMENTS?

It is important to note that the dashboard counts every commitment where India is mentioned as an implementation country, include global commitments.

Commitments do not clearly spell out how they are distributed. Therefore, it is difficult to conclusively how many actually speak to meaningful work in a particular country.

It is also worth noting that many commitments cover multiple ACs and are counted in each AC, resulting in a duplication of data.

WHAT DOES COMMITTING FUNDING MEAN FOR ORGANISATIONS WHICH ARE COMMITMENT MAKERS? DOES THAT MEAN THEY HAVE TO ASSIGN MONEY FOR THE AC?

One of the Action Coalition of the initial drafts asked CSO to put down amounts but the CSO decided to advocate for prerogative of philanthropies and government to raise funds while the organisations as civil society representatives will commit to strengthened and long term interventions.

The group then emphasised the need for greater transparency within funding data and for funders in particular to ensure accountability and that there is an accurate assessment of funding available



WHICH PART IS NEW FUNDING? IS THERE ANY TRACKING FOR THAT? WHERE IS THE NEW MONEY COMING FROM?

There is a need for more transparency and accessibility for funding within the GEF. Currently, it is very difficult to measure which parts of the funding are new and which come from existing budgets.

WHO IS THE TARGET AUDIENCE FOR ACCOUNTABILITY? WHAT SHOULD UN WOMEN FOCUS ON?

One of the core stakeholders identified for accountability were funders and philanthropic organisations which have committed to the GEF. The group emphasised that it is essential to create a space where other stakeholders can freely dialogue with funders and ask for accountability on their commitments.

Apart from funders, the group also felt that there needs to be room for governmental engagement. As India's government has not made any commitments, it is important to ensure that they are brought into this process and ensure their engagement.



The group felt that this was one of the central questions that needed to be addressed before further actions were planned.



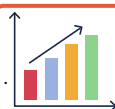
The group also felt that it is necessary to question the power dynamics within this mechanism.

IT IS ALSO IMPORTANT TO QUESTION HOW THIS WORK IS DONE AND WHICH STAKEHOLDERS HOLD POWER WITHIN THIS MECHANISM.

The work within GEF needs to be decentralised and not kept within a singular agency as that puts undue pressure and limits opportunities for advocacy.

WHAT SHOULD BE THE POLITICAL ASK FOR THE ADVOCACY AGENDA?

The group's deliberation on this question was inconclusive. The group felt that there was a need to clarify the targets for such advocacy first, along with what the group hopes to achieve overall.



The group also emphasised that a political ask would be dependent on the analysis of the data generated from the platform; namely about the commitments and funding.



FEMINIST LEADERSHIP

Feminist leadership aims to explicitly and intentionally redistribute power and responsibility in a way that is inclusive, participatory, and mindful of gender, age, race, social class, sexual orientation, ability and other intersecting identities. It involves a continuous commitment to keep vigilant about - and challenge - the (re)production of practices and behaviours that deter collaboration, proactive listening and that benefit a few at the expense of others.

REFLECTIONS

The GEF has challenges in directly addressing the on-the-ground inequities, particularly affecting the youth and marginalized groups. The absence of comprehensive data has made the process of ensuring accountability complex.

Evaluating the AC on GBV revealed participants' concerns that the commitments are not aligned with the actual work happening at the grassroots. There's a distinct lack of focus on pressing issues like FGM/C, marital rape, and both online and psychological violence, issues which the Indian Penal Code hasn't adequately addressed.

Discussing the AC on SRHR brought to light the hurdles posed by the criminalization of adolescent sexuality in India, which significantly impedes the execution of meaningful initiatives.

In the conversations surrounding the AC on FML, participants raised fundamental questions about the nature of 'feminist' leadership and its measurability. Grassroots professionals underlined their limited access and participation in structures like the GEF.

The AC on FACJ drew attention due to the noticeably low commitments for India, especially given the critical nature of the issue. It's alarming to note that globally, while FACJ receives substantial financial backing, it registers the fewest commitments.

The AC on EJR discussions highlighted the urgency to monitor women in the informal labor sector, a segment that doesn't enjoy the same protections as the formal sector. Even within the formal setup, there's a continuous need to ensure women and marginalized groups are not merely token participants but hold significant roles.

The portrayal of care work primarily as a 'women's issue' reinforces gender-based labor divides. Those making commitments in this area must strive to ensure this labor is both recognized and fairly compensated.

Industries with inherent biases should be a focus under both AC on Technology and Innovation. Their goals should adopt an intersectional lens.

For India's AC on TI, prioritizing internet access for rural areas is crucial. There's also a push for protections against online violence.



TRANSFORMATION

Action Coalitions seek to transform structures, systems and power that reinforce inequalities as an end goal, and in their own ways of working. In so doing, the Action Coalitions seek to build a collective vision through approaches that value co-creation, dialogue, shared perspective, and centering the voices of historically marginalized groups. Youth leadership is critical to the transformative vision of the Generation Equality Action Coalitions.

PRIORITIES

Based on our engagement with different platforms and stakeholders within the Generation Equality Forum ecosystem, these are a few priority areas identified that need intervention. With the GEF mid point moment being commemorated in September 2023, we therefore have an opportunity to collectively reflect on this process, and ensure that implementation of the process

GEF'S PLACE IN THE GENDER EQUALITY LANDSCAPE

The GEF is recognized as a platform for collaboration among commitment makers for gender equality. However, there are concerns about its visibility at regional and national levels for some organizations. To address this, the GEF should focus on decentralized engagement, regional consultations in local languages, and better outreach strategies to engage marginalized communities and stakeholders.

TIMELINE AND PROGRESS OF GEF

The timeline and progress of GEF's impact on advancing gender equality globally need to be clearly communicated to all stakeholders. Providing transparent updates on the work done so far and the achievements made will enhance accountability and foster confidence in the initiative.

ACTION COALITIONS FOR GENERATION EQUALITY

Action coalitions are essential for advancing gender equality globally. To ensure success, the GEF should define specific strategies and indicators for each action area and ensure they align with the work being done with communities. Additionally, the GEF should work on expanding data collection to include all forms of violence, especially psychological and economic violence, and advocate for issues like FGMC and marital rape.

INCLUSIVITY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES

The GEF should prioritize inclusivity and meaningful participation of young people and marginalized communities who have not participated in such processes before. Developing mechanisms to engage and empower these groups, providing incentives, and creating affirmative action approaches will be crucial in achieving inclusive outcomes.



INTERSECTIONALITY

Action Coalitions seek to put an intersectional approach into practice by shedding light on the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination that are experienced by many women and girls because of their identities, realities, backgrounds, and unequal access to power and resources, and addressing them. It requires recognizing the unique challenges faced by people who experience intersecting forms of discrimination and the power dynamics and systems that reinforce them, and meaningfully and intentionally working to counter them.

INVOLVEMENT OF GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES

The absence of government authorities' involvement in certain action areas, particularly in SRHR, is a gap that needs to be addressed. The GEF should work on strengthening collaborations with government institutions and ensure that key decision-makers are engaged in all relevant initiatives.

INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISM FOR UNDERREPRESENTED STAKEHOLDERS

To address the gap of limited access and representation for marginalized youth and those from different linguistic and cultural backgrounds, the GEF should consider creating an institutional mechanism within the initiative. This mechanism could provide support, resources, and representation for underrepresented stakeholders.

FEMINIST ACCOUNTABILITY FRAMEWORK

There should be clarity on the expectations and goals of the feminist accountability framework and ensure cross-learning from pilot projects in other countries. Emphasizing the value of the GEF process in contributing to SDGs will enhance its impact and relevance. Additionally, exploring partnerships with other lead agencies apart from UN Women can strengthen the GEF's reach and effectiveness.

ACTION COALITION GAPS AND ASKS

The gaps identified within each action coalition should be addressed through concrete action plans. This may involve advocating for collective work on-ground, improving data collection methods, and facilitating dialogues with organizations implementing Comprehensive Sexuality Education. Furthermore, creating a definition of feminist leadership that is inclusive and relevant to existing movements will support the Action Coalition for Feminist Movements and Leadership.

ADDRESSING CHALLENGES WITH DATABASE AND SURVEY CLARITY

The GEF should address challenges with the database and clarify survey questions to ensure stakeholders have a clear understanding of the process. Providing accessible language and jargon-free reporting mechanisms will foster greater engagement and participation.

ANNEXURE

Generation Equality Forum website

A primer on Action Coalitions

Commitments Dashboard

Global Acceleration Plan

Action Coalition on Gender Based Violence

Action Coalition on Technology and Innovation for Gender Equality

Action Coalition on Bodily Autonomy and Sexual and Reproductive
Health and Rights

Action Coalition on Feminist Movements and Leadership

Action Coalition on Feminist Action for Climate Justice

Action Coalition on Economic Justice and Rights

Compact on Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action

Feminist Accountability

A process for the Generation Equality Forum (GEF).

Generation Equality Forum Commitments: A Mapping & Analysis of
GEF Commitments for Africa (August 2022).

Young Feminist Manifesto



theypfoundation.org



[instagram.com/theypfoundation](https://www.instagram.com/theypfoundation)



[facebook.com/theypfoundation](https://www.facebook.com/theypfoundation)



twitter.com/theypfoundation



<https://youtube.com/@TheYPFoundationIN>



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