



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

14 September 2020

Subject: Twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women

Excellency,

Reference is made to my letter dated 17 July 2020, regarding the interactive multi-stakeholder hearing in advance of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly to celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, scheduled for Tuesday, 21 July 2020.

The General Assembly resolution 73/340 entitled, “Scope, modalities, format and organization of the high-level meeting on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women” requested the President of the Assembly to prepare a summary of the interactive multi-stakeholder hearing prior to the upcoming high-level meeting of the Assembly to be held on 1 October 2020, in the margins of the general debate of the Assembly at its seventy-fifth session.

In this regard, following this excellent event, I have the pleasure to transmit herewith, the summary of the interactive multi-stakeholder hearing. Gender equality should continue to be central to the response to and recovery from the pandemic, as it remains central to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

I avail of this opportunity to express my solidarity with Member States who are fighting COVID-19 and extend my sincere condolences for their loss.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tijjani Muhammad-Bande', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tijjani Muhammad-Bande

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York



MULTI-STAKEHOLDER HEARING

Accelerating the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls

United Nations Headquarters, New York, 21 July 2020

Summary by the President of the General Assembly

Introduction

On 21 July 2020, the President of the General Assembly, with the support of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), organized and presided over an interactive multi-stakeholder hearing on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. This multi-stakeholder hearing was mandated by Member States (A/73/340) as part of the preparatory process for the high-level meeting of the General Assembly.

The hearing, which took place on a virtual platform due to the COVID-19 pandemic, enabled broad participation by stakeholders who engaged in interactive discussions that took stock of progress in the implementation of the Platform for Action, in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the COVID-19 pandemic. The event facilitated the exchange of experiences, lessons learned and good practices among different stakeholders, with the aim to advance the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

Opening of the multi-stakeholder hearing

The President of the General Assembly acknowledged that the event was an opportunity to learn from voices of change for gender equality. The President advised that while some progress has been made since the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action twenty-five years ago, the COVID-19 pandemic has led to redirection of resources, increases in the unpaid care and domestic work of women and an alarming rise in violence against women. President Muhammad-Bande noted that gender equality was and should continue to be, central to the response to and recovery from the pandemic, as it was central to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The President called on all stakeholders to recommit to action on the Sustainable Development Goals for an equal, just and sustainable world for all.

Gender equality leaders' dialogue

The gender equality leaders' dialogue convened a range of stakeholders including Ministers, a Public Defender, a representative from the private sector, and a youth representative.

Twenty-five years ago, the Beijing Platform for Action set out a comprehensive roadmap for dismantling structural inequalities and realizing gender equality and the empowerment of women. Its vision of development remains relevant today for addressing global challenges such as poverty, inequalities and climate change.

Yet the COVID-19 pandemic has laid bare how, after 25 years of work, gender inequalities continue to undermine the ability of women and girls to attain sustainable socio-economic stability. The pandemic has exacerbated gender-based violence and women's disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work. It has highlighted existing gaps in access to healthcare, education, food, and to finance and other productive assets, and it has amplified the economic insecurity and resource instability faced daily by many women and girls across the globe. While it also heightens vulnerability of women and girls to the impacts of climate change, especially in countries that are already significantly affected by phenomena such as extreme weather events, it also shows that climate resilience is inextricably linked to gender equality. And the pandemic has also shown the effective crisis management by women leaders and their roles ranging from the health sector to national food distribution.

Gender equality and women's and girls' human rights must be at the core of all responses to the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent recovery efforts, and a new green and a digital deal are needed in order to build a sustainable future for all. The full and equal participation and leadership of women at each step of design and implementation are necessary for the effectiveness of such efforts.

Opportunities to utilize the linkages between the Beijing Platform for Action and other global frameworks, such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement, for more effective implementation exist and need to be utilized by all stakeholders in order to build back better from the pandemic and strengthen the resilience of communities and countries. The multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination women and girls continue to face must be addressed through well-resourced and gender-responsive policies, strategies and programmes, as well as their effective monitoring to ensure accountability.

To mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, immediate response measures have included the release of public emergency funds to households, and support for vulnerable workers including women in the informal sector who are not eligible for unemployment benefits. Longer-term recovery measures must employ a gender lens so that the gender-specific impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic can be adequately reflected in recovery policies. Targeted measures should reach those affected by domestic violence, and public childcare programmes should be expanded to support those with disproportionate burdens of unpaid care and domestic work. Inter-ministerial bodies can provide an integrated approach to health, education and socio-economic development and promote a much-needed recognition for the co-responsibility for care between public and private sectors, within households, and between women and men.

Governments, parliaments, civil society, the private sector and the international community can draw on good practices for the accelerated implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and adapt these to their current context and response to the COVID-19 pandemic. National coordination mechanisms offer political leadership and help ensure a comprehensive approach to the elimination of discrimination against women and girls, and to addressing inequalities more broadly. Legislation, policies and institutions for addressing gender-based violence are critical tools to respond to spikes in such violence, such as femicide monitoring mechanisms and anti-sexual harassment laws. Inclusive education policies can ensure that all girls are in school, including girls with disabilities, pregnant girls and girls in rural areas, and that early marriage is prevented. The provision of comprehensive information on sexual and reproductive health to boys and girls contributes to shifting gender stereotypes and cultural norms and serves as basis for closing gaps in educational outcomes. Community involvement and male leaders acting as role models can reinforce such shifts, including through the portrayal of people in the full diversity of their humanity. Advertising and other means of communication can be used by different stakeholders, including the private sector, to change stereotypical expectations about responsibilities for unpaid care and domestic work, and to promote women's leadership in all areas of business and public life.

In order to accelerate the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, especially also the context of a gender-responsive COVID-19 recovery, recommended measures and actions include:

- **Resource allocation**, supported by gender-responsive budgeting, can ensure that gender-responsive policies and actions are sustained and impactful. Such allocation should ensure that services for sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence are not interrupted in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Financial relief measures can support women's businesses, including through provision of training and online business tools to enhance access to economic opportunities.
- **Generation, collection and analysis of gender statistics** is required to identify and measure gender-differentiated impacts. Disaggregated data are needed to bring to light how gender, age, class, race and other factors intersect and compound inequalities. Gender analysis should be systematically used to inform the design of policies and inclusive programmes.
- **Political dialogue and multi-stakeholder engagement** through a whole-of-society approach is needed to build partnerships of trust. The private sector can reinforce these efforts by supporting and scaling up the work of women entrepreneurs and by ensuring pay equity.
- **The full and equal participation and leadership of women** is essential in political life, parliaments, the private sector, in research and other institutions to shape decision-making and policy development at all stages and across all sectors.
- **Young leaders** must be considered as trusted partners; and the skills, knowledge and power of young people must be unlocked now to shape transformative solutions that benefit all.

Interactive Panel Discussion: Women's and girls' voices, participation and leadership

The year 2020, 25 years after the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, is a seminal opportunity for advancing women's rights, including their participation in public and political life. Yet, progress towards gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls has been slow and uneven. While recently women leaders have been praised for their responses to the COVID-19 pandemic, they make up only 7 per cent of heads of state and 6 per cent of heads of government.

Slightly under 25 per cent of the world's ministers of health are women. Women make up a mere quarter of parliamentarians around the world.

This imbalance in the distribution of power between women and men in political office reinforces existing gender stereotypes and unequal social norms and reflects male privilege. Women and girls continue to encounter significant barriers to participation and leadership, such as their disproportionate responsibility for unpaid care and domestic work. Their greater economic vulnerability, reduced access to comprehensive health care and quality education, persistence of all forms of violence against women and girls, and a growing gender digital divide are additional challenges to participation in public life. These have all become particularly evident during the COVID-19 pandemic.

While gender parity laws, policies and temporary special measures, such as quotas and benchmarks, have been introduced in many countries, their effective implementation is hindered by lack of political or financial support, inadequacy of related regulations and lack of accountability mechanisms.

The voices and contributions of women from grass-roots organizations tend to be overlooked and minimized, even though they are often the leading women's rights advocates in their communities. A growing concern is the increase in cases of violence against women activists, which is used as a tool to silence them and deter other women from seeking to participating in public life as politicians, human rights defenders, or activists. Women's participation in political activism and in peacebuilding is also encountering growing challenges.

Women who are subject to multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, particularly women with disabilities, young women, indigenous and minority women, as well as other traditionally under-represented groups of women, face even greater challenges in exercising their rights to political participation and in voicing their specific needs. At the same time, it has been shown that having different perspectives, talents and skills at the table contributes to better informed decisions and the development of laws and policies that reflect the needs and aspirations of different groups.

Women's movements around the world are an essential nexus for participation of women with disabilities in public life. Active and meaningful participation of women and girls with disabilities is necessary to ensure they are being consulted on decisions affecting them, in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the Committee's general comment #7. Linking up implementation with that of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women is a promising practice.

Young people's, and especially young women's, inter-generational co-leadership needs to be embraced by decision-makers, who should welcome young women's participation and contribution in all fora, including in top decision-making positions, such as ministers. A good practice example, showing that change is possible, is the African Youth Front on Coronavirus, established by the African Union to create a space for young people to co-lead on the continental response to the pandemic.

Women often promote a collaborative and feminist agenda built on empathy and transparency as longstanding values, greatly relevant in times of crisis. As the COVID-19 pandemic has exposed and exacerbated existing deep systemic inequalities, the leadership and participation of women and girls in all strands of political, social and economic life is key in the recovery. Women's and girls' voices are, therefore, paramount in ensuring the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and all the SDGs.

To advance women's and girls' voices, participation and leadership, good practices and concrete proposals include:

- **Create laws and policies which support women's participation in political and in public life.** A robust legislative and policy framework is essential to advance women's representation in decision-making, including parity laws and temporary special measures. The availability of accountability mechanisms, political and financial support to ensure their effective implementation and women's access to justice are necessary steps to creating a supportive environment for women's leadership.
- **Ensure a safe environment for women.** Decision-makers, political party leaders and parliamentarians, in particular, must not tolerate impunity for violence against women engaged in public life, as politicians, women human rights defenders, women with disabilities, indigenous women and women belonging to other groups. Creating spaces for dialogue among different stakeholders and supporting women's and girls' agency is critical for ensuring the realization of the human rights of women and girls.
- **Support for women and girls activists.** Women's grass-roots organizations serve as advocates for change in their communities and need to be supported. Their participation and contribution to decision-making needs to be welcomed by all relevant stakeholders. The stigmatization and criminalization of women human rights defenders by state and non-state actors must end.
- **Safeguard intersectionality.** Policy-making in support of women's and girls' voice, leadership and participation should be based on an intersectional approach that recognizes and values the diversity of women's and girls' experiences. Gender impact assessments are a proven tool to highlight the effects of any planned actions on different groups of women of all ages and ensure they all have equal opportunities and access to their rights.
- **Involve men in tackling gender stereotypes and discriminatory social norms.** An agenda to promote "peaceful" or "caring masculinities" is much needed in every part of the world throughout the public and private spheres, including through redistributing unpaid care and domestic work. Governments, businesses, religious organizations and other stakeholders, and male leaders in particular, should lead by example and consider their contributions to transforming existing social norms and advocating for gender equality at all levels.

Interactive panel discussion: Achieving gender equality is everyone's responsibility

Realizing gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls is a societal responsibility. Collaboration, solidarity and partnerships among different stakeholders, including government, public institutions, the private sector, civil society, feminist and women's organizations, men and boys, and the United Nations are needed to ensure that equality is achieved for all, everywhere. In such efforts, all forms of inequality, discrimination and exclusion based on gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation and gender identity, age, disability, among other factors, need to be addressed. The active participation and leadership of diverse women and their communities is critical for progress. While progress has been made in strengthening legislation and policy frameworks that advance women's rights, more efforts are needed to ensure their effective implementation - including through financial and budgetary allocations, and accountability measures.

Successful partnerships to advance gender equality require solidarity, a shared vision, and the engagement and trust of women and their communities. Such partnerships have facilitated legislative

changes, resulted in better social protection for women workers and strengthened social movement building. They have resulted in improved development plans and have benefitted marginalized and excluded groups, such as women and girls with disabilities and indigenous women and their communities.

The private sector, including advertising companies can play a decisive role in awareness raising within the industry and society at large, in particular by addressing gender stereotypes and by influencing cultural norms and behaviour patterns that perpetuate stereotypes and discriminatory attitudes. The media, including social media, can help change public narratives by amplifying the voices and experiences of women and the solutions they bring to societal challenges. Women journalists, sometimes in partnership with civil society organizations, have led the way in changing public narratives about stereotypical expectations of the roles of women and girls.

Partnerships among the branches and levels of the State, and collaboration with civil society actors have contributed to stronger, sometimes parity representation of women in political and public life, resulting in positive changes in the lives of women and girls. At the same time, there is a need for continued awareness raising among men and women in support of a feminist agenda.

Men and boys have a key role to play in the achievement of gender equality for all women and girls. This includes men's responsibility in support of women's leadership and decision-making, and collaboration based on solidarity with feminist and women's movements and organizations in support of their goals. Of particular importance are efforts to address unhealthy forms of patriarchal masculinities and promote role models of healthy and peaceful masculinities.

The COVID-19 pandemic and its effects poses a significant challenge to progress for women, and for women's organizations, their mobilization and advocacy due to emergency measures, lockdowns and the pandemic's economic impact. The pandemic has also revealed the importance of collective action, social support networks, community building, solidarity and partnerships and of actors such as trade unions, academia and judicial institutions, in mitigating the gender-specific impact of the pandemic. As countries are planning the recovery, the current distribution of power and privilege needs to be addressed, and all opportunities seized to build more equal, fair and just societies for women and girls, societies where men and public institutions and services equally share responsibility for unpaid care and domestic work, enabling women's equal participation in the workforce.

Concrete proposals and good practices for ensuring that gender equality is seen as everyone's responsibility include:

- **Build collaboration and partnerships** for gender equality that respect the rights of all women and girls in all their diversity, are clear about the responsibilities of duty-bearers, and provide for accountability for results.
- **Work with men and boys** to transform harmful masculinities and raise the next generation of young people on the basis of equality and shared power.
- **Broaden stakeholder engagement** around gender equality issues and feminist agendas by reaching out to and working at all levels, and with all types of stakeholders, including civil society organizations, women's groups, local communities, schools, and families; also work and engage from local to global level, including the United Nations where multilateral fora

provide opportunities for advancing gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.

- **Enhance partnerships between the private sector and public institutions**, through public-private partnerships, that accelerates equal representation in decision-making bodies and processes in public and private institutions.
- **Deepen the engagement of young women and men** and actively promote youth leadership for gender equality in the youth and other social movements to nurture the next generation of gender equality advocates.

Interactive Panel Discussion: Gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment: drivers for sustainable development

The global COVID-19 pandemic highlights the urgency for progress in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action. Women and girls – especially those living in poverty – are disproportionately affected by the pandemic. Far-reaching action is required on universal social protection, access to social services, meaningful and forward-looking education and climate resilience. Such action needs to be underpinned by effective partnerships, supportive economic policies and robust financing. The pandemic has exposed deep inequalities and highlighted the extent to which economies rely on care—both paid and unpaid --to sustain life. It has also shown that States are able to allocate significant resources to keep households and businesses afloat and deliver essential social services. Austerity policies cannot be used to justify inaction.

As countries roll out efforts to respond to the pandemic and reactivate their economies, it is critical that persistent gender inequalities in the world of work are addressed. While there are more men in the informal economy overall, women predominate in lower income countries and in the lowest-paid and most vulnerable occupations. At the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, women informal workers were among the first to lose earnings and they will be last to regain them when economic recovery begins. Universal social protection is a great equalizer, delivering essential support and building resilience to future crises. Such support is most effective when matched with economic policies that target the realities of women informal workers, include their organizations and aim to create opportunities for new and decent work for all.

Access to education has expanded but it does not automatically translate into decent work or political participation for women. In the current context, education needs to build girls' knowledge and skills to adapt to a changing world of work. This means making problem-solving, leadership and collaboration a part of curricula, and expanding learning in the areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). To enable this transition, online education needs to be developed, internet access expanded and safety of girls and women online secured. Women's and girls' lack of control over their own bodies remains a key obstacle towards achieving gender equality in education and employment and sexual education should be part of the solution for addressing it.

Crisis response and recovery also provide the opportunity to tackle the climate emergency and advance more sustainable consumption and production models with gender equality at their core. Women and girls are at the forefront of climate action aimed at achieving environmental sustainability alongside the realization of gender equality, justice and human rights for all. The Paris Agreement provides the clear, internationally agreed goal to limit temperature increases to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. This will require, among other actions, deep cuts to carbon emissions, moving away from fossil fuel energy, achieving seed sovereignty and relief to depleted soils around the world, with

the full and equal participation of women and girls in all their diversity together with inclusive coalitions that advance enjoyment of human rights, protect sexual and reproductive health and rights and help end violence against women and girls.

A gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic requires an increased focus on tackling inequalities. Deliberate policy action is required to redesign all systems, including social protection systems, so that they respond to inequalities based on gender and cover all vulnerable groups of women. Gender responsive budgeting supports policy action to mobilize and target resources to meet the needs of women, men, girls and boys in all their diversity. Social movements have rapidly generated gender impact analyses of the pandemic and provided concrete proposals for action, including recommendations based on learning from previous crises. Women's rights organizations are advocating widely for a green and care-led approach to recovery, including greater fiscal support for sectors that create jobs to address climate change and nurture human capabilities. Policy interventions, such as the proposal of a universal basic income, are also gaining renewed traction in the COVID-19 context. While such a provision could strengthen women's access to personal income, there is a need to proceed carefully and gradually to avoid potential unintended effects on gender equality, in particular an unintended reinforcement of the gender division of labour. More progressive taxation as well as international cooperation should also be pursued to accelerate the recovery and implementation of the Platform for Action.

'Building back better' from the COVID-19 pandemic in a manner that will benefit all women and girls requires an inclusive approach that is based on people's lived experiences; a democratization of decision-making processes to ensure a diversity of voices is taken into account in the process; and resources generated by the economy with the aim of enhancing all people's well-being. Concrete proposals and good practices for 'building back better' and drive sustainable development from a gender perspective include:

- **Universal, gender-responsive social protection systems.** In response to the pandemic, some countries have made important progress in a very short time, for example, by extending unemployment benefits and cash transfers to domestic workers or making emergency cash transfers available to all. The idea of a global fund for a universal social protection floor has also re-emerged.
- **Integrated national care systems** that articulate public policy (social protection, labour market and economic policies) with community-based solutions to reduce and redistribute care responsibilities and guarantee the rights of both caregivers and those who depend on them.
- **Investments in social infrastructure for economic recovery and job creation.** Fiscal stimulus should not only focus on physical infrastructure but also on social services, such as health, education and social care where job creation potential and returns in terms of human wellbeing are high.
- **Climate action** needs to be community-led and government supported. It takes deliberate, focused work to ensure that this action integrates a gender responsive approach with meaningful participation of women's organizations and networks. It is essential that those most affected by gender and climate injustices are part of climate work at all levels.
- **Diffusion of open access online education** targeting basic skills and workforce development to create new opportunities for women and girls as well as online training to tackle and prevent violence against women and girls, in collaboration with women's organizations.

- **Shock-responsive, trust-based partnerships** between civil society and other stakeholders that can be mobilized quickly and effectively when crises hit.
- **Mobilization and spending of resources to respond to the current pandemic and advance gender equality and the empowerment of women**, particularly in developing countries, including through debt cancellation, issuing of special drawing rights, tackling tax avoidance and evasion, and progressive taxation. Gender responsive budgeting is a critical strategy to ensure a COVID-19 response and recovery based on equality, climate resilience and care.
- **Ensuring government and civil society work together to identify innovative solutions** for gender responsive recovery from COVID-19. An effective way forward will capitalize on the wealth of expertise from social movements combined with government willingness to invest to rebuild.

A conversation about the future

The Executive Director of UN-Women spoke with the United Nations Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth and a civil society youth representative to discuss what the future holds with regard to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

Achieving gender equality, women’s and girls’ rights and their empowerment requires collaboration across social movements, cross-generational cooperation and inclusive decision-making processes, including at the global level.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes the need for peaceful, just, and inclusive societies. While the youth, peace and security, and gender equality movements, respectively, engage dynamically around social change agendas, they have often done so separately and not in coordination with each other. These separate tracks have resulted in some tension among these movements, reducing opportunities for young women and girls to engage in and benefit from the multiple streams of work in a mutually reinforcing manner. Youth movements, for example, tend to favour young men, with insufficient effort to engage young women’s leadership and participation. At the same time, the youth movement sometimes experiences difficulties accessing policy-making spaces, including at the global intergovernmental level, where women’s movements over generations have very successfully advocated and organized.

The Generation Equality Forum will provide a platform for cross-sectional and inter-generational exchange and collaboration. The forum is a civil society-centred, global gathering for gender equality, convened by UN Women and co-hosted by the governments of Mexico and France. The forum will begin in Mexico City, Mexico, and culminate in Paris, France, in the first half of 2021 and aims to launch a set of concrete, ambitious, and transformative actions to achieve immediate and irreversible progress towards gender equality. Youth representatives are involved in co-leading the development of the Action Coalitions and are expected to play an active role in the implementation phase.

In future, we need to focus on:

- **Cross-generational cooperation to advance and accelerate the achievement of gender equality and women’s and girls’ empowerment.** Such cross-generational cooperation should be characterized by co-leadership and extend beyond youth representation in policy discussions and programme development. True co-leadership requires youth inclusion in shaping the agenda, and in programme implementation and operational decisions. Co-

leadership also requires that all stakeholders share critical insights on how to address the generational divide and build cross-generational solidarity.

- **Robust and sustained communications among movements and across generations for advancing shared agendas.** The creation of spaces and opportunities for participation and constructive dialogue will encourage and solidify collaborative approaches and foster civic engagements. Encouraging youth volunteering in social organizations will help prevent feelings of exclusion and distrust, while involving different generations in formulating objectives and putting forward solutions.

Closing of the multi-stakeholder hearing

The closing statement of the President of the General Assembly referred to gender equality as the defining issue of our time. He encouraged all stakeholders to continue the conversation within and among communities in order to amplify the voice of every girl, listen to the words of every woman, facilitate the inclusion of the most vulnerable and marginalized women, and to elect more women. The President noted that investing in our shared future requires investing in girls and women. This requires new partnerships between governments, civil society and the private sector to be forged. The President stated that the high-level meeting of the General Assembly to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, on 1 October, must be our moment of change.

Annex: List of speakers and moderators

Gender equality leaders' dialogue

Moderator: **Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda**, Chief Executive Officer, Rozaria Memorial Trust

Speakers:

- **H.E. Elizabeth Gómez Alcorta**, Minister of Women, Genders and Diversity, Argentina
- **H.E. Zaruhi Batoyan**, Minister of Labour and Social Affairs, Armenia
- **H.E. Frankie Campbell**, Minister of Social Services and Urban Development, Bahamas
- **H.E. Jung-ok Lee**, Minister of Gender Equality and Family, Republic of Korea
- **H.E. David Moinina Sengeh**, Minister of Primary and Secondary Education, Sierra Leone
- **Nino Lomjaria**, Public Defender of Georgia, national human rights institution
- **Allison Tummon Kamphuis**, Global Program Leader Gender Equality & Community Impact, The Procter & Gamble Company, private sector representative
- **Abel Koka**, Project leader of Tutimize Ahadi project at Restless Development in Tanzania, member of the Beijing+25 Youth Task Force, Youth leader

Women's and girls' voices, participation and leadership (Interactive panel discussion 1)

Moderator: **Chidi King**, Director of the Equality Department of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)

Speakers:

- **Jessica Vega Ortega**, President of Global Conclave of Indigenous Youth; promoter and defender of the individual and collective rights of Indigenous Peoples
- **Aya Chebbi**, African Union's Envoy on Youth
- **Risnawati Utami**, Member, United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- **Jeff Hearn**, PhD, Senior Professor of Gender Studies, Örebro University, Sweden
- **Lydia Alpízar Durán**, Co-Executive Director, Mexico and Central America Initiative of Women Human Rights Defenders (IM-Defensoras)
- **Salam Al-Nukta**, Founder and CEO of ChangeMakers, and member of the Beijing+25 Youth Task Force

Achieving gender equality is everyone's responsibility (Interactive panel discussion 2)

Moderator: **Eddie Ndopu**, United Nations Secretary-General's Global Advocates for the Sustainable Development Goals and Humanity & Inclusion's Global Ambassador

Speakers:

- **Humberto Carolo**, Global Co-Chair, Men Engage and Executive Director, White Ribbon
- **Anthony Keedi**, Program Manager, Masculinities and Engaging Men in Gender Equality, ABAAD Resource Center for Gender Equality, MENA Region
- **Misun Woo**, Regional Coordinator, Asia Pacific Forum on Women in Law and Development (APWLD)
- **Stephan Loerke**, CEO, World Federation of Advertisers and founding member of the Unstereotype Alliance
- **Martha Lucía Micher Camarena**, Member of Parliament and leader of the Gender Commission of the Upper House of Mexico

Gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment: drivers for sustainable development
(Interactive panel discussion 3)

Moderator: **Magdalena Sepúlveda Carmona**, Executive Director, Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Speakers:

- **Rachel Moussié**, Deputy Director, Social Protection Programme, Women in Informal Employment (WIEGO)
- **Mary-Ann Stephenson**, Director, Women's Budget Group
- **Corina Rodriguez Enriquez**, Executive Committee Member, Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN)
- **Leyla Zuleikha Makhmudova**, Co-founder, FemAgora Feminist Foundation
- **Noelene Nabulivou**, Co-founder, Diverse Voices and Action for Equality (DIVA)
- **Emmanuelle Larroque**, Founder and Director, Social Builder

A conversation about the future

Participants:

- **Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka**, Executive Director of UN Women
- **Jayathma Wickramanayake**, United Nations Secretary General's Envoy on Youth
- **Hajer Sharief**, Co-founder of "Together we build it"