

Feminist Concerns with the SOTF Impact Coalitions

Open Letter to UNCSC and UN Leaders and Decision-Makers

Dear Civil Society Conference Leaders and United Nations Decision-Makers,

We, the undersigned global, South-led, intersectional feminist, human rights, Indigenous Peoples, persons with disabilities, gender equality, youth-led, women's rights organizations, and others, working across justice movements, would like to express our deep concerns with the formation of Impact Coalitions, which have become the focus and main outcome of the United Nations Civil Society Conference (UNCSC). We are disappointed to see this UNCSC process become the primary way in which civil society, including feminists, can feed into the upcoming Pact and Summit of the Future (SOTF), the drafting and negotiations of which have been ongoing since December. We find that the purpose of the Impact Coalitions, including their conception, implementation and impact beyond this conference, remains unclear and do not truly advance a multilateral, multi-stakeholder, participatory and inclusive process as originally promised. In this regard, we would like to share the following concerns and reject the Impact Coalitions extending beyond the UNCSC. We propose that instead, time, energy, and resources be focused on strengthening, resourcing, and increasing the access of existing civil society engagement mechanisms, such as the Major Groups and other Stakeholders (MGoS) and multi-stakeholder platforms, such as the Generation Equality Forum (GEF) Action Coalitions and the Compact on Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action (WPS-HA Compact).

Our concerns include:

1. **The Impact Coalitions lack adequate and transparent information around their role, formal positioning in the UN structure, resourcing, and sustainability.** We are overwhelmingly concerned about the lack of clarity and transparency on the purpose, structure and positionality of the Impact Coalitions within the UN system. Specifically, we remain unconvinced that the Impact Coalitions will have any long-term impact on UN processes or existing civil society advocacy efforts. The UNCSC organizers and Impact Coalition leaders have not adequately or transparently defined the onboarding or engagement process for stakeholders. The Impact Coalitions do not have a funding mechanism to remunerate civil society's leadership and participation in these coalitions, which further risks limiting civil society access and participation in the SOTF process – while they rely entirely on the free labor of our organizations. The selection process for the themes and participants of the Impact Coalitions has been characterized by a concerning lack of transparency. This has led to duplicative, overlapping mandates, and no clarity on who has convened or joined the Coalitions. This gives rise to significant concern surrounding a lack of participation, leadership and representation from diverse civil society, including inter alia, youth and feminist stakeholders from the Global South. We note that this confusion will create a structure where Impact Coalitions work in silos, rather than coordinating together, on intersecting and similar issues. Further, we remain

unconvinced on the intended long-term impact of these Impact Coalitions post-SOTF, and have yet to see the sustainability of these Coalitions in a post-2030 accountability mechanism. The lack of transparency on the roadmap of work shifts the burden to civil society to protect against backsliding on human rights and gender equality indefinitely.

2. **The Impact Coalitions duplicate, delegitimise, and undermine existing civil society engagement mechanisms**, such as the MGoS, and multi-stakeholder coalitions, such as the GEF Action Coalitions and the WPS-HA Compact. Not only are these existing mechanisms underfunded and overstretched, but they are also struggling with shrinking civic space at the UN. More broadly, the Impact Coalitions risk diverting attention away from the wider issues of shrinking civic space and civil society access at the UN. By creating and asking civil society to join Impact Coalitions, we divert our already limited and critical time, technical and financial resources from existing, established civil society mechanisms and coalitions. This leads us to work in silos rather than in community, and duplicates our work without applying lessons learned and moving towards more efficient and meaningful participation within the existing processes and spaces.
3. **The Impact Coalitions are not set up as inclusive and safe spaces and risk worsening the corporate and anti-rights capture of the UN, including strong backlash on gender equality and women's rights across all UN processes.** We are already facing increasing backlash from anti-rights organizations who seek to undermine the mandates and participation of the MGoS and Action Coalitions in UN processes. We must ensure that our resources are combined to work in unison to uphold all human rights and to prevent the regression of all human rights. Because the selection of chairs and participating organizations has not been transparent, there is no oversight or accountability structure for their implementation to ensure that all Impact Coalitions are based on the values of equality, justice, and human rights. Similarly, there is no accountability or repercussions for Impact Coalition participants that do not respect the human rights for all individuals and who use the Impact Coalitions to promote an anti-rights agenda.
4. **The Impact Coalitions critically lack meaningful participation and leadership of Global South feminist and women's rights organizations**, including in the broader SOTF process, and the lack of response to the concerns already raised by some Action Coalition leaders on establishing separate processes.
5. **The Impact Coalitions do not clearly articulate their intention or strategy to influence the Pact of the Future, the Declaration for Future Generations, or the Global Digital Compact**, given that many negotiations have already begun and several iterations of the text have been shared. The strategic value-add of the Impact Coalitions and how they will engage with Member States remains unclear and can distract from the effort that is needed to ensure the meaningful and inclusive participation of CSOs in the SOTF processes.

We therefore urge that you:

1. **Refrain from creating new structures** that lack purpose, impact, or resources; that further drain resources and effort from already capable and existing CSO engagement mechanisms; and that divert attention away from broader issues related to shrinking space for diverse civil society participation. We urge you to instead support, strengthen, and resource existing civil society-led mechanisms, including the MGoS, the GEF Action Coalitions and the WPS-HA Compact, who have official stakeholder status in the 2030 Agenda and Beijing processes, all of which the SOTF is meant to accelerate.
2. **Strengthen the existing mechanisms through which CSOs input into UN processes, including the MGoS, the GEF Action Coalitions, and the WPS-HA Compact**, by having these groups monitor, integrate, and implement the outcomes of the UNCSC. Built on the pillars of mutual trust and intergenerational and cross-regional expertise, the MGoS serve as a mechanism to enable broad, diverse, and autonomous self-organisation by the widest range of recognised constituencies. As a formally recognized mechanism by Member States, the MGoS should persist in facilitating diverse stakeholder engagement in this process. Similarly, GEF Action Coalitions are global, multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize governments, civil society, international organizations and the private sector to catalyze collective action, create intergenerational and cross-regional dialogue, and increase investments to advance gender justice. Likewise, the WPS-HA Compact serves as a multistakeholder process that drives transformative action for sustainable and inclusive peace through monitoring and assessment of progress on gender equality and peace processes, focusing on financing and advocacy. The work of the MGoS, the GEF Action Coalitions, and the WPS-HA Compact must be further resourced, strengthened, and made more accessible to all civil society, especially those from structurally excluded communities in the Global South. We therefore recommend that the MGoS and GEF Action Coalitions are better resourced and supported to lead the conversations and outcomes related to the SOTF, including by sharing the key outcomes from this conference.
3. **Clearly articulate how the UNCSC recommendations will be incorporated into the formal SOTF outcome documents**—the Pact of the Future, Declaration for Future Generations, and Global Digital Compact—and how these outcomes will be centered at the September SOTF meetings in New York. We call for a formal presentation of these outcomes to Member States, and the transparent and comprehensive incorporation of civil society’s demands into future iterations of the SOTF negotiated documents.
4. **Establish and communicate clear accountability mechanisms** with practical steps from the outcomes of the UN Civil Society Conference leading up to the Summit of the Future. Meaningful engagement of CSOs and feminist movements cannot be an afterthought and tokenistic. It must be included in the design phase from the onset of the process.

We thank you for your consideration and remain committed to working with all UN and UNCSC leaders and decision-makers, including the co-chairs and the expert and planning

sub-committees, to strengthen the outcomes of the UNCSC to reflect and amplify the real needs and demands of feminist movements and organizations. We look forward to jointly building the UN we need, for feminist futures towards and beyond the SOTF.

Sincerely,

1. A+ Alliance for Inclusive Algorithms
2. AbibiNsroma Foundation
3. ACCEDER
4. Acción Ciudadana por la Democracia y el Desarrollo
5. Action Group for Health, Human Rights and HIV/AIDS (AGHA)
6. ActionAid
7. Advocacy for Change Foundation
8. AFAP
9. AFDA Familias Diversas
10. Africa Center for Health Systems and Gender Justice
11. Africa Organisation for Youth African at UN
12. African Diaspora Workers Network (ADWN)
13. African Forum and Network on Debt and Development
14. AFRICAN INITIATIVE OF WOMEN HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS (WHRD INITIATIVE)
15. African Regional Organization of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC-Africa)
16. Afrihealth Optonet Association (AHOA)
17. Agenda Ciudadana por la Educación
18. Aid Organization
19. Aidos
20. AIHMS-Global
21. Akili Dada
22. Akina Mama wa Afrika (AMwA)
23. AMPLIFY Girls
24. Appui Solidaire pour le Renforcement de l'Aide au Développement (ASRAD-BURKINA FASO)
25. Arab Campaign for Education
26. Amref Health Africa
27. Armstrong Women Empowerment CBO
28. ARROW
29. Asia Dalit Rights Forum
30. Asia Pacific Alliance for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
31. Asia Pacific Regional CSOs Engagement Mechanism (APRCM)
32. Asia South Pacific Association for Basic and Adult Education (ASPBAE)
33. Asociación Ciudadana por los Derechos Humanos
34. Asociacion por ti mujer
35. Association d'Aide à l'Éducation de l'Enfant Handicapé (AAEEH)
36. Association d'Entraide Médico-Sociale AEMS-asbl

37. Association des Jeunes Filles pour la Santé de la Reproduction (AJFSR)
38. Association for Farmers Rights Defense (AFRD)
39. Association for Human Rights in Ethiopia (AHRE)
40. Association For Promotion Sustainable Development
41. Association Goo Bi Yazura (AGBY)
42. Association of Voluntary Actions for Society (AVAS)
43. Association pour la Conservation et la Protection des Écosystèmes des Lacs et l'Agriculture Durable
44. Association pour la défense des droits des aides ménagères et domestiques (ADDAD Burkina Faso)
45. Association pour une meilleure insertion socioprofessionnelle des filles et femmes du Cameroun
46. Athena Network
47. AVAS
48. Batonga Foundation
49. Belmont BEC Inc. & TCFWA Inc.
50. Beyond Beijing Committee (BBC) Nepal
51. Binti Network
52. BlueNet Solutions Ltd
53. BOYGIRLS KENYA
54. BPW Australia
55. BRAC
56. Brave Movement
57. Bureau de Recherche en Genre et Développement
58. Business and Professional Women Western Australia
59. Bustop TV
60. Campaña por el Derecho a la Educación en México
61. Carboneguinee
62. Católicas por el Derecho a Decidir Argentina
63. Católicas por el Derecho a Decidir México
64. CEDAW Committee of Trinidad and Tobago
65. Center for Economic and Social Rights (CESR)
66. Center for Reproductive Rights
67. Center for Rights Education and Awareness
68. Centre for Accountability and Inclusive Development (CAAID)
69. Centre for Environment, Human Rights & Development Forum (CEHRDF)
70. Centre for Health Rights Community Based Organization
71. CHOICE for Youth and Sexuality
72. Christian Action for Development and Support
73. Citizen Network For Rural Development Kenya
74. CLADE
75. Coalición Colombiana por el Derecho a la Educación
76. Coalition for Action on 1325
77. Coalition For Grassroots Human Rights Defenders-Kenya

78. Coalition for Sustainable Development of Russia
79. Coast Sex Workers Alliance
80. CommonHealth
81. Community Care Collective
82. Community-Led Solutions CBO
83. Congratulation Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd
84. Conserve Initiative
85. Consortium of Women Empowerment
86. Corporación Miles Chile
87. Delete Nothing
88. DHEWA (Development for Health Education Work & Awareness) Welfare Society
Chakwal Pakistan
89. DISABILITY PEOPLES FORUM UGANDA
90. Diverse Empowerment Foundation
91. Diverse Voices and Action (DIVA) for Equality
92. Dr Uzo Adirieje Foundation (DUZAFOND)
93. ECE-RCEM
94. Echoes of Women in Africa
95. Education and Academia Stakeholder Group
96. Education as a Vaccine
97. Elimu Yetu Coalition
98. Elite LBQ
99. Empathy for Life Integrated Development Association (ELiDA)
100. Equal Voices
101. Equality Bahamas
102. Equality Rights Alliance
103. Equally Unique Initiative
104. Equipop
105. ETC Group (Action Group on Erosion, Technology and Concentration)
106. Ethiopian Women Rights Advocates
107. Fahari ya jamii
108. Family Organization for Empowerment (FOREM)
109. Federation of Deaf Women Empowerment Network- Kenya (FEDWEN)
110. Federation of Free Workers (FFW)
111. Feminist Humanitarian Network
112. Feminist Manch
113. Femme Forte Ug
114. FEMNET African Women's Development and Communication Network
115. Fiji Women's Rights Movement (FWRM)
116. Fiji Youth SRHR Alliance
117. For Equality
118. Forum for Women in Development, Democracy and Justice (FODDAJ)
119. Fòs Feminista
120. Framework Convention on Global Health Alliance

121. Frontline AIDS
122. Fundacion Arcoiris por el respeto a la diversidad sexual
123. Fundación para Estudio e Investigación de la Mujer (FEIM)
124. Galck+
125. Gatef Organization
126. GDMR
127. Gears for Change Initiative
128. Gen Africa Foundation
129. Gender and Economy Research Center NPGE
130. Gender Links
131. GESTOS - Brazil
132. Girl Concern
133. Girls Education Mission
134. GIRLxGIRL
135. Global African SHEROES Union
136. Global Campaign for Education
137. Global Digital Inclusion Partnership (GDIP)
138. Global Health Awareness Research Foundation (GHARF)
139. Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (GI-ESCR)
140. Global Network of People Living with HIV
141. Global Network of Women Peacebuilders
142. Global South Coalition for Dignified Menstruation
143. Gramin Punarnirman Sansthan
144. Green Hill
145. Greenspring Development Initiative
146. GROOTS KENYA
147. Groupe de Réflexion et d'Initiative pour l'Avancement de la Grand'Anse (GRIAG)
148. Helga
149. Hope Beyond Foundation
150. Hope For Future Generations
151. Hope Single Mothers with Disabilities
152. HRC RIGHT TO INFORMATION TRUST NGO
153. ILGA World
154. Inclusive Voices of Intersex Transgender and Queer Foundation
155. Indian Crisis & Support Agency
156. Indian Social Action Forum
157. Indigenous Peoples Major Group for Sustainable Development
158. Initiative Pananetugri pour le Bien etre de la Femme (IPBF)
159. INITIATIVE FOR EQUALITY AND NON DISCRIMINATION
160. Initiative for Right View (IRV)
161. Interconnected Justice Kenya
162. International Community of Women Living with HIV Southern Africa ICWSA
163. International Council for Adult Education
164. International Disability Alliance

165. International Network of Liberal Women
166. International Planned Parenthood Federation Africa Region (IPPFAR)
167. International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF)
168. International Trade Unions Confederation
169. International Women's Fund Azerbaijan
170. Inuka Women foundation
171. Ipas
172. IRDAS
173. IYAlliance
174. Journalists for Human Rights
175. Jóvenes Redlac
176. Kamukunji Paralegal Trust (KAPLET)
177. Karachi Research Chair
178. KEFEADO
179. Kenya Female Advisory Organization
180. Kenya Human Rights Commission
181. Kenya Sex Worker's Alliance
182. Kenyan Peasants League
183. Key Watch Ghana / Intersex Movement Ghana
184. KIASWA
185. Kisleb Lbq Organization
186. KP Consortium
187. KuchuTimes Media Group
188. Ku.Sal Marginalized Women Organization
189. Lake Region Womxn Health and Equal Rights
190. Lanka Fundamental Rights Organization
191. LARWHER
192. Last Mile4D
193. Launch Girls
194. LEDESER, Strategic Litigation on Sexual and Reproductive Rights, Civil Association
195. LEHA KENYA
196. LIFE HEALTH EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION TRUST
197. Linda Mazingira Initiative Kenya
198. Love To Help Organization
199. Madhira Institute
200. Make Mothers Matter
201. Mapinduzi Community (MACO)
202. Men2men
203. MenaFem Movement for Economic development and Ecological Justice
204. MenEngage Alliance
205. Most at Risk Young Mothers and Teenage Girls Living with HIV Initiative (MOYOTE)
206. Mother and Child Rehabilitation Center
207. MOVMIENTO UJERES DOMINICO HAITIANA (MUDHA)
208. MSWHARI C.B.O

209. MWA
210. NairoBits Trust
211. Nala Feminist Collective
212. Namibia Diverse Women's Association (NDWA)
213. National Campaign for Sustainable Development Nepal
214. National Foundation for Australian Women
215. NAWO
216. NETRIGHT
217. Network for Community Development
218. New Women Connectors
219. Nexus Youth Initiative
220. Ngao Inclusive Hub
221. NGO Federation of Nepal
222. Nguvu Collective
223. Norsaac
224. North American Climate, Conservation and Environment (NACCE)
225. NTBC-K
226. ODRI- Office against Discrimination, Racism and Intolerance
227. Okogun Odigie Safewomb International Foundation
228. ONG Plus de Sida dans les Familles
229. Organisation des Jeunes la Voix du Social pour le Développement (OJVSD)
230. Organisation Yinéyinédián pour la Nature et le Développement Durable (OND)
231. Pakistan Development Alliance
232. Pan African Positive Women's Coalition-Zimbabwe
233. Participatory Development Action Program
234. Pathways for Women's Empowerment and Development/ Integrated Agricultural Training Center (PaWED-IATC)
235. Pathways Policy Institute (PPI)
236. Patiska Platform - New Technologies and Older Women
237. Peace Track Initiative
238. Peperusha Binti CBO
239. Programme d'Actions pour le Développement au Congo asbl (RDC)
240. PROMSEX, Centro de Promocion y Defensa de los Derechos Sexuales y Reproductivos
241. Psychological Responsiveness NGO, Mongolia
242. Purple Royale: Trans Voices Amplified
243. Pussy Power Movement
244. Q-Initiative CBO
245. Queerprism256 podcast
246. Radha Paudel Foundation
247. Rainbow Women of Kenya
248. Raise Your Voice CBO
249. Realizing Sexual and Reproductive Justice (RESURJ)
250. RECODEF Sénégal

251. Red de Defensoras del ambiente y el buen Vivir
252. Red de Salud de las Mujeres Latinoamericanas y del Caribe/ Latin American and Caribbean Women's Health Network
253. Red Ecofeminista Latinoamericana y del Caribe
254. Reproductive Health Network Kenya
255. Réseau Africa Volontaire (RAV)
256. Réseau Femme et Développement au Nord Kivu
257. Réseau MUSONET
258. Resource Center for Women and Girls
259. RFSL
260. Rural Woman Empowerment Initiative
261. Rutgers
262. Sahaj
263. SEDRA Extensión, Desarrollo Rural Agrícola
264. SERAC-Bangladesh
265. Siaya LBQTGNC Feminist Community
266. Sinatsisa Lubombo Women and Girls Empowerment organization
267. Smartladies Women Group
268. Society for Conservation and Sustainability of Energy and Environment in Nigeria (SOCSEEN)
269. Society to Heighten Awareness of Women and Children Abuse (SOTHAWACA)
270. Sonke Gender Justice
271. Soroptimist International
272. Soroptimist International Perth Club
273. SRHR Africa Trust (SAT)
274. Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities
275. Stonyhills Africa
276. Success Capital Organisation
277. Sukaar Welfare Organization
278. Sustainable Development Foundation
279. Sustainable Research Foundation
280. Swop Ambassadors
281. Tag a Life International (TaLI)
282. Tanga Community of Feminists
283. Temple of Understanding
284. The Amazon Leadership Initiative TheALI
285. The Eagles for Life Kenya
286. The Gender Lab
287. The Grail
288. The Hummingbird Grassroots Centre
289. The Iridescent Family
290. The Lotus Identity
291. The Organisation for Young Women's Dignity (TOFYWD)
292. The Populace Foundation International (TPFI)

293. The Queer Republic
294. The YP Foundation
295. Together 2030
296. TransHuman Project
297. Tribeless Youth
298. Trust for Indigenous Culture and Health (TICAH)
299. Twaweza Community Development Agenda
300. Ubuntu Law and Justice Centre
301. UHAI EASHRI
302. Unathi Children's Network
303. Union Women Youth Center Azerbaijan
304. United Youth Social Symposium for Education and Development and Development (UYSSSED)
305. University of the Witwatersrand
306. Utu Wetu Trust
307. Uzalendo Afrika Initiative
308. Vecinas Feministas por la Justicia Sexual y Reproductiva de América Latina
309. Vikas Adhyayan Kendra
310. VIKASH-SAMUKHYA
311. Vision for Children and Youth Forum
312. Vision GRAM-International
313. VSO Make Way Program
314. VWA FANM AYISYÈN (VFA)
315. Wangu Kanja Foundation
316. We Believe Community Organization
317. We Women Lanka
318. WECF International
319. WEDO
320. Wemos
321. Western Kenya Lbqt Feminist Forum (WKLFF)
322. WHRD
323. WO=MEN Dutch Gender Platform
324. Womankind Worldwide
325. Women and Modern World Social Charitable Center
326. Women and Rural Development Networks
327. Women Can Do It
328. Women Collective Kenya
329. Women Deliver
330. Women Empower and Mentor All (WEmpower)
331. Women Empowerment Against Poverty of Nepal (WEAPoN)
332. Women Enabled International
333. Women for a Change
334. Women Human Rights Defenders Hub (Kenya Hub)
335. Women Human Rights Defenders Network in Malawi

336. Women in Adult and Vocational Education (WAVE)
337. Women in Global Health Niger (WGH-Niger)
338. Women of the South Speak Out (WOSSO)
339. Women Working Group (WWG)
340. Women's Development Innovators
341. Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights
342. Women's Health Initiative Ghana
343. Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)
344. Women's International Peace Centre
345. Women's Leadership Centre
346. Women's Major Group
347. Women@TheTable
348. WOMENLINE
349. World Health Improvement Program Rehabilitation Organization - TB Care and Control Jammu and Kashmir
350. WUNRN-Women's UN Report Network
351. Y+ Global
352. Youth Empowerment Movement Kenya (YEM Kenya)
353. Yesaid Society
354. Young Feminist Europe
355. Young Feminist Network (YFemN)
356. Young Voluntary for the Environment
357. Youth Advocacy Development Network
358. Youth Advocacy Network Sri Lanka
359. Youth and Women for Change in Eswatini
360. Youth Changers Kenya
361. Youth Coalition For Sexual and Reproductive Rights
362. Youth for Sustainable Development
363. Youth Fraternity for Change
364. Zamara Foundation
365. Zambia National Traditional Counselors Association
366. Zipcare Women Initiative