



Communiqué

High-Level Generation Equality Africa Regional Meeting on Financing for Gender Equality

November 15 – 17, 2023

Venue: Johari Rotana Hotel, Dar es Salaam
United Republic of Tanzania

The High-Level Africa Generation Equality Meeting on Financing for Gender Equality organized by the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania from November 15-17, 2023, in Dar-es-Salaam, provided a platform for participants to reconfirm their commitments to the goals of Generation Equality to scale-up action and investments for gender equality.

Building on Generation Equality's Midpoint Summit which took place in New York in September 2023, the meeting brought together multiple stakeholders from government ministers, financial institutions, UN agencies, development partners, civil society organizations, the private sector and others, to drive impactful change in the lives of women and girls in Africa. The meeting was built on the macroeconomic consequences of gender gaps: Closing gender gaps helps drive sustainable growth, economic and financial stability, and positive development outcomes for all.

Recognizing the opportunities of macroeconomics and fiscal policies in reversing decades of under-prioritization of gender, participants identified the importance of gender responsive budgeting and innovative sources of development financing for meeting the targets of the selected Action Coalitions of Generation Equality: **Gender-Based Violence, Economic Justice and Rights, Technology and Innovation for Gender Equality, Women Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action Compact, and Women's Health.**

Investing in women's rights and gender equality is at the heart of sustainable development, as an accelerator in achieving Beijing Platform for Action and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Agenda 2030 and African Union Agenda 2063. When women participate in the labour market, they tend to be concentrated in the informal sector with low productivity, and with restricted access to and control over resources. According to the UNDESA and the UN Women report, Progress on the SDGs: The Gender Snapshot 2022, it will take at least 40 years to achieve equal representation in national parliaments. If current trends continue, by 2030, more women and girls will live in extreme poverty in sub-Saharan Africa than they do today. Women and girls in conflict and post-conflict settings are especially disadvantaged. More than half of all girls not enrolled in formal education worldwide are found there.

Global challenges, such as the COVID-19 pandemic and its low-growth shock-prone aftermath, conflict, climate change, digitalization and the drawbacks on women's rights, are further exacerbating gender inequality. Recognizing that gender equality is a macro-critical issue, actions in the gender equality agenda, including through putting a gender-lens on core macroeconomic policy and structural reform agenda, through gender responsive budgeting, and increased global and appropriate national funding, are essential to right the course and put gender equality back on track.

The High-Level meeting reaffirmed that Generation Equality is a powerful force for change and must be sustained with strong and determined actions, greater accountability, transparency and reporting, as well as an unwavering resolve to deliver results. While remarkable achievements have been realized in forging partnerships with the private sector, financial institutions and civil society organization in meeting the sector-specific challenges of the selected Action Coalitions, the need of the hour is defining a strategy to move forward.

The High-Level meeting provided an appropriate platform to launch this communiqué that summarizes the views of different stakeholders from policymakers to civil society organizations, private sector, youth leaders and others that reflect their views and recommendations to develop a roadmap on financing for gender equality with a focus on gender-based violence, women's economic justice and rights, technology and innovation, women, peace and security and humanitarian action and women's health. They noted that a roadmap can usher in transformative changes in women's economic status that holds the key to improving their status in other different domains.

The following summarizes the recommendations made during the various sessions of the high-level meeting:

1. Action Coalition on Gender Based Violence

- Consolidate and sustain the gains of the promising efforts towards multisectoral, coordinated, and multipronged efforts to address gender-based violence (GBV) supported by diverse and unconventional sources of financing.
 - Ensure a holistic and multi-sectoral approach.
 - Ensure effective coordination of key actors including the government, police, judiciary, development partners, CSOs, academia, etc. to help in monitoring of the resources both at the national and local levels.
 - Standardization of data collection tools and mechanisms for better results.
 - Proper utilization of the tools to support the response using high level leadership as part of accountability.
 - Engagement of non-state actors, men and boys should be at the center of the GBV prevention and responsive initiatives.

- Increase, monitor and track financial investments in GBV prevention and response to realize the impact envisioned by existing policies and programmes.
 - Gender-responsive budgeting (GRB) is an essential powerful tool to address gender gaps including GBV prevention and response.
- Create collective accountability and reporting arrangements against policy commitments to upscale financial and political actions to end GBV by all relevant stakeholders and actors through an effective implementation of the National Action Plan on GBV.
 - Promote reforms and the adoption of legal, policy, and other mechanisms;
 - Ratifications of global framework and domesticate at national level;
 - the adoption of GBV law;
 - the establishment of Family Courts;
 - the promotion of access to justice for the GBV survivors through fast-tracking of hearing of their cases, etc.
- The adoption of Costed National Strategies and Roadmaps for effective prevention and response to GBV in line with international and regional human rights commitments.
 - Combating child marriage; and
 - Female genital mutilation (FGM).

2. Action Coalition on Economic Justice and Rights (EJR)

- Commit to continuing capacity development of Ministers of Finance on the significance of the linkage between gender, macroeconomics and fiscal policies.
- Increase national and international spending on action-oriented gender-responsive economic development and gender equality initiatives in alignment with national development priorities, and Agendas 2063 and 2030.
- Promote and integrate action-oriented GRB at the centre of public policy, increase the focus of national budgets on gender equality and ensure gender analysis through policy formulation in line with SDG Indicator 5.c.1.
- Invest in the recommendation of 3-10% of national income in public quality care systems and services.
- Support decent work and equitable employment conditions through ensuring pay transparency, equal pay and eliminating violence and harassment in the world of work.
- Expand women's access to and control over land, gender responsive financial products and services, the number of women-owned firms and others.

- Work towards establishing a more gender-transformative economic system that values people and the planet.

3. Action Coalition on Technology and Innovation for Gender Equality

- Address gaps in policies, strategies, laws, regulations and procedures to ensure that African women and girls are at the centre of change in technological innovation, and of the process of transforming Africa's development.
- Equip women and girls with the necessary skills to access, use, create, and work with technologies and innovations.
- Include gender as one of the evaluation criteria for digital projects; set and measure concrete gender-equity targets and make data publicly available for use by stakeholders according to the national laws and procedures.
- Encourage African countries and technology companies to demonstrate accountability by implementing policies and solutions against online channels and other technology applied for the perpetuation of GBV and discrimination.
- Increase investments towards feminist technology and innovation by 50% to support women's leadership as innovators with an improved ability to respond to women and girls' most pressing needs.

4. Compact on Women Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action

- Adequately finance National Action Plans on Women, Peace and Security with their integration into national planning and budgeting processes at the national and local level through sectoral plans and developing financial mechanisms and channels that ensures continuous funding, fostering sustainability and ownership.
- Undertake sustained efforts to scale-up the share of national budget funding and international cooperation that goes to women-led organizations, networks, women and girls in humanitarian action, post-conflict recovery, as well as in peacebuilding and conflict prevention. The establishment of specific indicators and/or specific partnerships, and the strengthening of women's movements is key.
- Urge all Member States and civil society including women- and youth- led organizations, academia, international financial institutions and the private sector to become Signatories to the Compact on Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action (WPS-HA Compact) to increase

commitments, investments and accountability for women, peace and security and humanitarian action.

- Identify new partnerships, new ways of financing and strengthened coordination among actors to enable effective advancement and implementation of the women, peace and security agenda including by establishing partnerships with non-traditional actors such as international financial institutions, the private sector and link commitments to the WPS-HA Compact.
- Recognise the importance of data collection and monitoring which needs to be supported by adequate financial resources to develop, implement and assess the impact of the National Action Plans on Women, Peace and Security including the tracking of progress on gender-responsive indicators and allocation of financing per geographical area.
- Prioritize and garner political will to support women, peace and security mainstreaming in national development plans and national and local peace architecture and strengthen the participation and role of women in emerging issues such as climate change and cybersecurity.

5. Action Coalition focusing on Women's Health

- Review the current financing landscape for women and girls' health in Africa.
- Unpack the key priorities and region-wise financing needs, which according to research costs only USD10.60 a year per person at national level for comprehensive package of women's health services.
- Creating environment where diseases and climate change are addressed as mutual drivers of public health problems among women and girls.
- Assess the existing approaches to prioritize and finance women's and girls' health in Africa to identify entry points for targeted interventions supported by adequate financing.
- Work collectively towards implementing the key actions that are catalytic for advancing regional and domestic financing support for women's and girls' health to reiterate the major stakeholders' commitments towards gender equality; and
- Investing in improving the health of women and girls, both in terms of access and quality. Since investing in women's and girls' health, is an investment in gender equality as well as in Generation Equality.

6. Generation Equality Accountability Framework

- Generation Equality commitment makers to jointly work on establishing systematic means of tracking financial commitments in organization-wide budgets, including revised tools and methodology to monitor allocations and expenditure, transparency of old and new

investments, to close the data gaps concerning funds pledged, secured and spent towards Civil Society Organizations, youth and adolescent girls.

- Increased reporting on financial commitment is primary for tracking investments towards generation equality.

- Meaningful participation of young people and Civil Society Organizations in Generation Equality is primary for accelerating ambition of gender equality and the Sustainable Development Goals.
