

Action Coalition on Technology and Innovation for Gender Equality - Roundtable

“Young Women leading Tech and Innovation”

27th January 2021

Urgency and Opportunity in 2021

After decades of slow and fragile progress, the global pandemic has further exacerbated gender divisions and inequalities. Emerging evidence on the impact of COVID-19 suggests that women's and girls' lives will be affected disproportionately and differently from men and boys. Across the globe, women earn less, save less, hold less secure jobs, and are more likely to be employed in the informal sector. Their capacity to absorb economic shocks is, therefore, less than that of men. Girls have had their education disrupted, do not have equal access to online learning, are at greater risk of exploitation, child labor and risk of violence in their homes.

UN Women, in collaboration with the governments of Mexico and France, and philanthropic, civil society, international organizations and private sector leaders have launched a renewed movement for gender equality. The movement will kick off with the Generation Equality Forum that aims to undertake concrete, ambitious and transformative actions to achieve immediate and irreversible progress towards gender equality.

Then and now

Two decades since the Beijing Declaration, no country in the world has achieved gender equality. Women's global labor force participation is now lower than it was 25 years ago. The pay gap has mostly remained unchanged. Women and girls everywhere are still less likely to have access to technology. Girls are far less likely to see women run countries or companies, and they are far more likely to face poverty.

Generation Equality and the Action Coalition on Technology and Innovation

UN Women is organizing two Generation Equality Forum (GEFs) in Mexico City in March 2021 and in Paris in June 2021

Generation Equality Action Coalitions are global, innovative partnerships that focus on achieving tangible results to advance gender equality. These coalitions focus on 6 themes:

- Gender-based violence
- Economic justice and rights
- Bodily autonomy and sexual and reproductive health and rights
- Feminist action for climate justice
- Technology and innovation for Gender Equality
- Feminist movements and leadership

By singling out innovation and technology as one of the 6 Action Coalitions theme, the GEF's conveners are urging the world to focus on harnessing technology to advance gender equality. They are also recognizing the catalyzing role technology can have in helping achieve all the other coalitions' objectives and accelerating progress.

A whole generation has grown in the digital age, in close contact with the internet through computers, tablets or mobile phones. These “digital natives” have a unique perspective on how to harness technology to advance gender equality. They also have a critical role to play to amplify the voices of the youth excluded from the digital world and the most at risk of being left behind.

The roundtable was organized to give the opportunity to young women and girls all around the world to share their experience and lead an open dialogue to formulate concrete asks for the coalition’s leaders while they are developing the coalitions’ blueprint.

Four youth presenters shared about their work, the key elements they want to see change in their direct environment, the role they want to play to make change happen, and what they hope the Action Coalition will achieve.

Each presenter focused on a topic relating with one of the coalition 4 potential sub-themes:

- Developing gender-transformative tech solutions
- Bridging the gender gap in digital access and literacy
- Building safe digital spaces for women free from abuse and discrimination
- Building inclusive innovation ecosystems

Source: Generation Equality Concept Note

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**Action Coalition on
Technology and Innovation
for Gender Equality**



REALIZING WOMEN'S RIGHTS FOR AN EQUAL FUTURE



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In partnership
with civil society
and youth