



## Action Coalition on Economic Justice and Rights – Youth Dialogue

### *“Young Women leading Economic Justice and Rights”*

#### Urgency and Opportunity in 2021

The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action was created twenty-five years ago by advocates who wanted to change the status of women globally by the year 2020 and was unanimously adopted by 189 countries. The declaration remains the strongest international consensus on gender equality and women’s rights ever produced by the world’s governments.

Unfortunately, it has been more than two decades since the declaration, and no country in the world has achieved gender equality. Instead, abundant data show that considerable gender gaps remain. Women’s global labor force participation is now lower than it was 25 years ago. The gender pay gap has mostly remained unchanged. Women and girls everywhere are still less likely to have access to productive resources than men. Girls are far more likely to face poverty compared to boys, whereas those between 15 and 29 years of age are three times more likely to be outside the labor force and not in school than young men of the same age.

After decades of slow and fragile progress, the COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated gender divisions and inequalities and is poised to bring an additional 47 million women and girls into poverty. 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. Girls have had their education disrupted, do not have equal access to online learning, are at greater risk of exploitation, child labour and risk of violence in their homes. The world needs a reckoning moment for gender equality and human rights, and the responsibility lies on all of us.

UN Women, in collaboration with the governments of Mexico and France, and philanthropic, civil society, international organization and private sector leaders have launched a renewed movement for gender equality. The movement will kick off with the Generation Equality Forum, a global, multi-stakeholder gathering that aims to undertake concrete, ambitious and transformative actions to achieve immediate and irreversible progress towards gender equality. The year 2021 will represent a critical moment for engagement, the opportunity to hear the voices of a new generation of gender equality advocates and offers a once-in-a-generation opportunity to address what the UN Secretary-General has called “unfinished business of our time, and the greatest human rights challenge in our world.”

## The Action Coalition on Economic Justice and Rights

There are six Action Coalitions under the framework of the Generation Equality, including Gender-based Violence, Economic Justice and Rights, Bodily Autonomy and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, Feminist Action for Climate Justice, Technology and Innovation, and Feminist Leadership and Movements. These are global, innovative partnerships that focus on achieving tangible results to advance gender equality. Through an innovative, multi-stakeholder and collaborative process, the coalitions will define and launch a set of concrete, ambitious and immediate actions within the period of 2021-2026.

As with the other Action Coalitions, the theme of Economic Justice and Rights was chosen for an Action Coalition because of its potential to catalyze progress towards gender equality and the human rights of all women and girls globally. This theme will play an instrumental role in ensuring a gender-just recovery to COVID-19, achieving gender equality and accelerating progress towards all other Action Coalitions.

## Youth engagement in the AC process

Young women and girls have a crucial role to play in building and designing this Action Coalition. It is a priority of the Action Coalition on Economic Justice and Rights to center its focus on adolescent girls and young women who will or are in the process of transitioning into the labour force. Strengthening young women's economic empowerment and skills development is one urgent approach to push for gender equality and inclusive growth. Structural inequalities begin even before women enter the world of work, with girls disadvantaged in education systems and access to opportunities. Further, girls are at risk of child labour and young women are at risk of precarious working conditions including risk of violence and harassment. It is critical that youth voices are elevated in considering how the Action Coalition approaches these myriad issues.

The Forum already benefits from the Generation Equality Youth [Task Force](#), which has been put in place to guide efforts to place young people at the center of the Beijing+25 process. The Economic Justice and Rights Action Coalition also benefits from two youth led organizations as an integral part of its leadership structure and who represent one of the stakeholder groups actively designing and shaping the actions to be advanced by the coalition.

The leaders of the Action Coalition on Economic Justice and Rights also seek to hear diverse youth's points of view, experiences, ideas and contributions and make sure young women and girls are in the driving seat and can contribute to the coalition's blueprint development process.

## Intersectional approach

An intersectional approach addresses the intersection between gender and other inequalities and the complex, cumulative ways in which the effects of multiple forms of discrimination combine and overlap.

Using an intersectional approach means meeting the holistic needs of diverse women and girls without any forms discrimination, including due to sexuality, gender identity or expression, age, disability, ethnicity, race, indigeneity, civil status, economic or migration status, caste, HIV status, religion, etc.

The Action Coalition leaders have committed while designing and implementing the actions to take into account individual’s overlapping identities and mutually constitutive experiences, to seek other points of view and the intersectional narratives of marginalized individuals or groups.

## Youth Dialogue Details

**Date: Tuesday, May 11 2021 | 9am EST**

**Duration: 90 minutes**

**Agenda:**

5 minutes	Welcome	Moderator
5 minutes	Opening Remarks	EJR Youth Leader representative: Manki Maroua (TBC)
15 minutes	Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overview of the AC for Economic Justice and Rights</li> <li>• Overview of the process</li> </ul>	EJR Thematic Lead
60 minutes	Dialogue <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trafficking and modern slavery - An issue of economic justice</li> <li>• What are the key issues under EJR?</li> <li>• What do you hope the AC on EJR will achieve?</li> <li>• Where are the current strengths/gaps under the EJR AC?</li> <li>• What proposals do you have for potential solutions?</li> <li>• Recommendations and commitments (for the AC and individual commitments from youth)</li> <li>• Q&amp;A</li> </ul>	Youth representative  All participants, Moderator
5 minutes	Closing Remarks	EJR Youth Leader representative: Anyar (TBC)