

## Global Unions Trade Union Guide for the UN Women's Generation Equality Forum (Mexico and France)

The virtual [Generation Equality Forum \(GEF\) in Mexico](#) (29- 31 March, 2021) takes place right after the UNCSW65. Some related events during the UNCSW65 will offer opportunities to learn more about the Generation Equality Forum and to contribute by sharing our key trade union priorities. This chapter will guide you through the process of the Generation Equality Forum (GEF) and further tips to join this initiative. The Trade Union Briefings will also provide further guidance (planned for 12, 22 and 26 March).

**To participate at the GEF in Mexico, register here: in [English](#), [Spanish](#) or [French](#).**

### The Generation Equality Forum at a glance:

#### Key dates:

- [GEF Forum in Mexico](#) (Mexico City 29 - 31 March 2021)
- [GEF Forum in France](#) (Paris, 29 June – 2 July 2021)
- Presentation of the results and commitments at the 76<sup>th</sup> UN General Assembly (14-30 September, 2021)

The [Generation Equality Forum \(GEF\)](#) is convened by UN Women and co-chaired by the governments of Mexico and France and with the participation of civil society.

**The forum aims** at urgent action and accountability on gender equality to assess progress and shape an agenda for concrete action, and, within the context of the Covid-19 pandemic, to advance gender equality by 2030, including:

- the full implementation of the [Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action](#), adopted twenty-five years after the historical [Fourth World Conference on Women](#) and
- the advancement of gender equality within the context of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

In this context, the [Generation Equality Forum](#) is bringing diverse voices and stakeholders to the table. It will call for leadership and commitments to collaborate on a shared gender-equality agenda for our future. Stakeholders to be involved are from civil society, governments, academia, international bodies, collectives, community groups, business, cities, parliaments, trade unions, and the media. And it offers opportunities to establish intergenerational and multi-stakeholder partnerships.

One of the key elements of the GEF are the [six Action Coalitions](#) (English, [Spanish](#) and [French](#)). The Action Coalitions aim **to launch impactful, transformative and measurable commitments – to be realised by 2026** – and to inspire multiple stakeholders to join. The thematic areas of the six Action Coalitions are:

1. Gender-based violence
2. Economic justice and rights
3. Bodily autonomy and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR)
4. Feminist action for climate justice
5. Technology and innovation for gender equality
6. Feminist movements and leadership

[Here is the list of Action Coalitions](#) and its current leads.

The [Action Coalition on Economic Justice and Rights](#), of which ITUC is one of the leads, is the opportunity for lobby and advocacy to ensure that 1) our trade union priorities are included and 2) stakeholders, including governments, make deep commitments around those priorities. Our priorities are built around a gender-responsive and equitable New Social Contract, including labour rights and protections for women; gender-responsive universal social protection and investments in the care economy; and a world of work free from violence and harassment.

### **Generation Equality Forum in Mexico (Mexico City 29 - 31 March 2021)**

**The programme** (available in [English](#), [Spanish](#) and [French](#)) includes in-depth thematic dialogues, 'Action Coalition' sessions, cultural moments, and other speaker networking opportunities, organised with a civil society lens. The programme will be run twice each day to allow participation in different time zones.

The Forum in Mexico will highlight the need for the Generation Equality agenda, issue a global call to action to accelerate gender equality implementation, and energise civil society and feminist movements in the drive towards securing commitments to propel acceleration in the gender equality agenda. The closing segment will be a stage for civil society to present its manifesto to the forum. The closing will also kick off the global Call to Action to drive commitments from Mexico City to Paris.

The programme includes a presentation and debate around the (draft) blueprints and commitments of each Action Coalition, including on Economic Justice and Rights.

In addition, a Compact on Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action will work to drive action and resources toward this agenda.

### **How to participate?**

#### **In the lead up to the GEF in Mexico:**

- Participate and share our priorities during the GEF-related events during the UNCSW65 (for instance, Germany is hosting a [side event on the Action Coalition on Economic Justice and Rights](#) on 17 March). GEF-related events will be included in the **short list of daily UNCSW65 events**.

- Share your trade union views on the Generation Equality [Public Conversations](#) platform: you need to sign up first, followed by a confirmation email to access the Forum. The Forum is in [English](#), [Spanish](#), [French](#) and [Russian](#). We encourage you all to particularly share your views here: the [Action Coalition on Economic Justice and Rights](#) (in [English](#), [French](#), [Spanish](#) and [Russian](#)).

#### **During and after the GEF in Mexico:**

- **To participate at the GEF in Mexico, go to the [Mexico Forum's online platform](#)** and register here in [English](#), [Spanish](#) or [French](#). Inform your Global Unions delegation when you are registered. This way we can keep you informed and coordinate our input.
- **Join the Action Coalition on Economic Justice and Rights.** You can join by applying as a commitment maker from 30 March until the GEF in France (June 2021). To coordinate our trade union input, please inform us that you applied ([equality@ituc-csi.org](mailto:equality@ituc-csi.org)). You can indicate your interest now to become a member/commitment member via this **online form** – available in [English](#), [Spanish](#) and [French](#). More information on the criteria to apply is available [here](#) (in English only).

#### **Generation Equality Forum in France (Paris, 29 June – 2 July, 2021)**

The Forum will be attended by heads of state and will showcase commitments from governments, corporations and civil society. Commitments aim at increased investments for gender equality and law and policy reforms to protect and advance women's rights. The leads of each of the Action Coalitions, including on economic justice and rights, are expected to make public their commitments while other stakeholders will be mobilised to follow, e.g., by becoming a 'commitment maker'. The Forum also aims to establish a multi-stakeholder ecosystem to advance gender equality.

UN Women will announce more details soon on this webpage: [English](#), [Spanish](#) and [French](#).