

Technology and Innovation for Gender Equality

ACTION COALITION



Dear Members and Partners to the Action Coalition on Technology and Innovation for Gender Equality,

Greetings to you all! I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all leaders and commitment makers across the six Action Coalitions for your invaluable contributions to the success of CSW67. Your active and insightful engagement these past months as well as presence at CSW67, both in-person and online, played a critical role in achieving a successful Session and Agreed Conclusions. Your commitment has been truly remarkable, exemplifying the potential and might of the multistakeholder model. Please accept my warmest congratulations!

As you know, there were numerous productive activities in and around CSW67. While we have tried to acknowledge as many of them as possible within this newsletter, if you don't see an event or activity mentioned, please know that your hard work did not go unnoticed or unappreciated. We see you, we celebrate you, and we are immensely proud of you.

UN Women's corporate event was just one of our Coalition's sources of pride. Our collaboration ahead of this event ensured that 800 people, and hundreds more online, could gather to shape a more open, safe, and equal digital future for all women and girls. We are proud to have brought together an incredible international community of leaders, experts, and change-makers! We are also grateful for all our partners without whom this event would have not been possible. The creative energy in the room was palpable, and it will remain one of the highlights of CSW67.

We trust that you will enjoy reading this comprehensive and informative newsletter. This quarter's issue showcases the numerous activities and successes of our Action Coalition Leaders and Commitment Makers at CSW67, with special emphasis on our youth leader and partner events. We also recognize the unique work that many of you are doing out in the field to advance our coalition's goals.

Yet, a long journey is still ahead of us, and we know we can count on your unwavering support in the upcoming key milestones of our "Year of Action", most notably Women Deliver in July and the GEF Midpoint to take place on September 17 in NYC. Please stay tuned for more information, as UN Women will provide updates on the midpoint plans soon.

We are excited to maintain our current level of engagement in the coming months, promoting a vision of a more equitable and interconnected world that values women and girls.

Warm regards,

Hélène Molinier

AC T&I Activities & Highlights

Preparing for CSW67

The first quarter of 2023 has been a deeply important period of progress for the Action Coalition. With its focus on innovation and technology, CSW67 has presented a seismic opportunity to catapult our goals into action by stakeholders at the international, national, regional, and local levels. In the run-up to CSW67, a thorough plan of engagement with leaders and commitment makers was developed to ensure collective understanding of the opportunities presented by CSW67 and to enable us to leverage each member's respective strengths and contributions to secure the most progressive outcomes possible.

The work of the Action Coalition to date was instrumental in shaping the deliverables of CSW67. Our Action Coalition Blueprint formed the basis for the deliberations of the Expert Group Meeting and heavily informed the thematic focuses of the Report of the Secretary-General. We counted on your expertise and guidance to ensure the recommendations of the Secretary-General's Report were practical, action-orientated and envisioned the kind of digital future we are striving for.

As forecast in our previous newsletter, the [EGM Publication](#) and [Report of the Secretary-General](#) have now been published. The Expert Guidance and Substantive Inputs to Preparations for CSW67 include the EGM Report, a Glossary of Key Terms, Summaries of all the Expert Papers, and a Normative Analysis, all available in Arabic, French, Russian, and Spanish. The Report of the Secretary-General is available in all six official UN languages. The full set of background, expert, and observer papers are also available [online](#) and provide extensive insight into various dimensions of the priority theme.

The recommendations of the Secretary-General's Report, which were heavily informed by our Blueprint, provided the groundwork for the now-published [Agreed Conclusions](#), a set of

concrete recommendations on the priority theme for governments, intergovernmental bodies, civil society actors, and other relevant stakeholders, to be implemented at the international, national, regional and local level. We are deeply proud that the vision and ambitions of the Action Coalition are reflected at the heart of globally agreed frameworks and workstreams and stand ready and energized to support their implementation.

2023 World Economic Forum

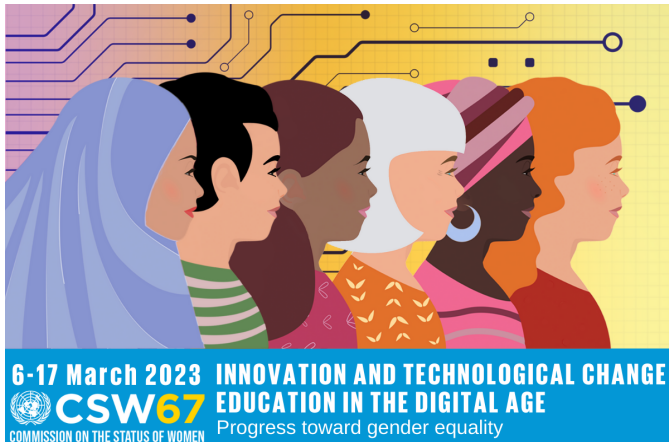
The Action Coalition utilized the 2023 World Economic Forum (WEF) to advance its messaging and efforts as Generation Equality advocates. UN Women hosted public events, held bilateral meetings with various partners, and launched the first Gender Equality Hub. A panel discussion on the topic of "Activating Technology and Innovation for Gender Equality" was held and offered a valuable opportunity to rally support for investment and implementation in gender equality and encouraged new and existing partners to join as Commitment Makers. Kate Behncken, Corporate Vice President, Microsoft Philanthropies, and Caitlin Kraft-Buchman, Founder of A+ Alliance, were instrumental in sustaining the collective advocacy and uplifting Generation Equality across all spaces and partners at Davos.



Caitlin Kraft-Buchman, Asa Tamsons, Kate Behncken, and Jill Kouri speak with Sarah Hendriks in a high-level panel at WEF

The Coalition was pleased to leverage the opportunities and connections made at Davos to further support preparation efforts for CSW67.

Action Coalition Commitment Makers Virtual Town Hall Meeting



Central to the engagement plan with leaders and commitment makers was the Coalition's first virtual Town Hall meeting. The event on 26 January provided a platform for commitment makers to join forces and align their efforts and ambitions ahead of CSW67 and the coalition's flagship event.

The Secretary-General's Report was presented by Helene Molinier, Action Coalition Manager and CSW67 substantive lead. This also provided the opportunity to discuss key thematic messages to ensure collective understanding of the way forward, and members shared their plans and aspirations to facilitate coordination and ensure the Coalition approached CSW67 as a united movement. The full event can be viewed [here](#) (passcode: MvRK.Ff1)

At the Margin of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW67)



CSW 67, with its priority theme of "Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls," was a stepping stone for the Action Coalition Innovation & Technology's Year of Action. This event paved the way for a concerted push forward in 2023, which will be instrumental in shaping new global

standards on gender and digital technologies and achieving concrete change for women and girls worldwide.

Given the immediate linkages with the CSW67 priority theme, the Action Coalition was called upon to host UN Women's corporate event, "**Open, Safe and Equal – Shaping a Feminist Digital Future**", which brought together leaders from across sectors and was co-hosted by the UN Foundation. This event marked the first major public-facing moment for Generation Equality since its launch in 2021, serving as a pivotal moment to showcase progress while emphasizing the continued action required to empower women and girls around the world.



Ms. Sanda Ojiambo, Executive Director and CEO of the United Nations Global Compact and moderator of the event. Photo: UN Women/Ryan Brown

Moderated by Ms. Sanda Ojiambo, Executive Director and CEO of the United Nations Global Compact, the event kicked off with the announcement of the **Generation Equality Midpoint**, to be co-hosted by UN Women and the government of Tanzania on 17 September 2023 during the high-level week of the UN General Assembly and the SDG Summit. Next, the Action Coalition Youth Leader Esther Mwema from Digital Grassroots facilitated the opening panel discussion by stressing the pivotal importance of this CSW for the younger generation and for young girls who still struggle to access technologies and become leaders in this sector.



Ms. Jeanette Bayisenge, Minister of Gender and Family Promotion of the Government of Rwanda. Photo: UN Women/Ryan Brown

Throughout the event, panelists engaged in thoughtful discussions on a variety of topics, including the principles of a feminist digital future, the importance of multi-stakeholder partnerships, and the role of technology and innovation in promoting gender equality and empowering women and girls.



Marlene Schiappa, Secretary of State from the Government of France in charge of the Social and Solidarity Economy and Associative Life (France), Photo: UN Women / Ryan Brown

The event featured notable guests such as **Dr. Sima Sami Bahous**, Executive Director at UN Women, **H.E. Ms. Angellah Kairuki**, Minister of State, President's Office - Regional Administration and Local Government United Republic of Tanzania, **Catherine Russell**, Executive Director at UNICEF, **Doreen Bogdan-Martin**, Secretary General at ITU, **Jeannette Bayisenge**, Minister of Gender and Family Promotion, Government of Rwanda, **Marlene Schiappa**, Secretary of State in charge of the Social

and Solidarity Economy and Associative Life (France), **Caitlin Kraft-Buchman**, Co-Founder at A+ Alliance, **Michelle Bachelet**, Former President of Chile, Former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and **Thomas Blomqvist**, Minister for Nordic Cooperation and Equality, Finland.



Ms. Doreen Bogdan-Martin, Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union; Ms. Sima Bahous, Executive Director of UN Women; Ms. Catherine Russell, Executive Director of UNICEF; Action Coalition Youth Leader Esther Mwema from Digital Grassroots. Photo: UN Women/Ryan Brown

In case you missed the event, you can watch the interview compilation of the [Action Coalition Leaders at CSW67 call for #TechForEquality](#) and you can [watch](#) the full session or [read](#) the press release.

Just as the Action Coalition's work helped shape the outcomes of CSW67, so CSW67 has reinforced and amplified the Coalition's status. The Action Coalition received significant public support throughout high-level discussions at CSW67. In his remarks at the UN Celebration to mark International Women's Day, the **UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres cited our Coalition as an example of an effective UN initiative working to advance women's leadership in science and technology**. The power of our multi-stakeholder platform was also recognized by **UN Women Executive Director Sima Bahous, who praised the Coalition for 'accelerating progressive change and concrete impact'**. As the Agreed Conclusions move to the implementation stage, the Action Coalition will assume a fundamental role in ensuring they generate a digital

future that embodies inclusivity, intersectionality and feminist leadership.

The milestones achieved by our coalition's leaders and commitment makers in the last three months have launched our year of action. The [Joint Statement](#) of the leaders to place gender equality at the heart of the Global Digital Compact (GDC) has been endorsed by more than 80 partners and the AC T&I members have pledged to continue seeking unique opportunities to strengthen cooperation at the intersection of gender and technical change.

Youth Networks Highlights

Esther Mwema (Digital Grassroots)

Ms. Mwema, representing Digital Grassroots the Youth Leader for the Action Coalition, demonstrated a remarkable level of engagement throughout CSW67. Her notable contributions included moderating the [Opening Panel](#) at UN Women's Open, Safe and Equal – Shaping a feminist digital future and serving as a speaker at various events, such as the *UN Women's Adolescent Girl Leadership Town Hall*, NGO CSW's panel, *CSW67 & Generation Equality: Committing to Achieving Global Gender Equality*, [New Frontiers in Skills4Girls](#) panel hosted by UNICEF, Finland, and Digital Grassroots, UNICEF's Roundtable discussion, *Financing Outcomes for Girls and Women*, and UN Women's [Youth Forum Event](#).



Esther Mwema takes part in a panel discussion on the theme 'Snapshot of Promising Epic Wins for Generation Girls' during the side event 'New Frontiers in Skills4Girls'

Furthermore, Ms. Mwema's active participation extended to events hosted by LinkedIn and Microsoft, as well as the Global Fund for Women. She continued sharing her insightful perspectives in a [UNICEF blog post](#) and was featured in an article published by UN Women, which can be accessed [here](#). Ms. Mwema's demonstrated commitment and achievements are a testament to her dedication and expertise in promoting gender equality and empowering young women and girls.

Christine Li (YWB)

Christine Li, one of Youth Well Being's adolescent global youth ambassadors, attended UN Women's CSW67 side event, "Open, Safe and Equal – Shaping a Feminist Digital Future," and shared her invaluable insights in a report. She highlighted the challenges and opportunities for women and girls in digital spaces, including the prevalence of online harassment and gender-based discrimination. Despite these statistics, she expressed hope and pride in seeing women, youth, and people of color come together to elevate women in technology. Christine was inspired by the call to action for collaboration among GEF stakeholders in bridging feminist equality through sustainable technology. Overall, Christine was impressed by the speakers' commitment to promoting gender equality in tech and the need for more diversity and inclusivity in digital spaces. Read Christine's full report [HERE](#).

Plan International

Plan International's engagement at CSW67 was centered on the work of a cohort of adolescent girls and young women activists from the She Leads program, a network active in 9 countries across Africa and the Middle East. Together, they developed a written statement for CSW, recommendations for keeping girls safe online, writing an [official declaration](#) with an accompanying [launch video](#), and two youth advocates made interventions: Margaret from Kenya participated [as a speaker](#) in the first-ever Intergenerational Dialogue within the official CSW program, and Hiqmat from Ghana delivered an [Oral Statement](#) in the form of a poem.

Action Coalition Innovation & Technology for Gender Equality Partner Events Take Center Stage at CSW67

Action Coalition on Innovation and Technology for Gender Equality In-Person Meeting



Leaders of the Action Coalition meet in person for the first time at the Permanent Representation of Finland to the UN

The Action Coalition had their first in-person meeting in connection with the CSW67 session. The meeting was opened by Finland's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Elina Kalkku, and attended by different parties, including Finland's Minister of Equality Affairs, H.E. Mr. Thomas Blomqvist, and Rwanda's Minister of Gender and Family Promotion, H.E. Mrs Jeannette Bayisenge.



Minister of Equality Affairs Thomas Blomqvist reminded the Action Coalition that currently, Generation Equality is the world's biggest process to promote gender equality

The Action Coalition recounted its 2026 goals to reduce the gender digital divide by half, to increase investments towards feminist technology and innovation by 50%, to double the proportion of women working in technology and innovation, and to have a majority of countries and tech companies

demonstrating accountability in preventing tech-facilitated gender-based violence. The meeting discussed the priorities and activities of different parties, including ITU's guide on gender mainstreaming in digitalization policies, UNICEF's partnership work around gaming and the preparation of the Women Deliver Forum in Kigali. All the Leaders committed to intensifying cooperation in order to achieve the Action Coalition's goals.

To learn how the leaders of the Generation Equality Action Coalition on Technology and Innovation are advocating for gender equality to be prioritized in the digital revolution, please watch the interview compilation, [Action Coalition Leaders at CSW67 call for #TechForEquality](#).

BBVA at CSW67

BBVA Microfinance Foundation organized the session '**Connecting Women in Latin America: The Roadmap Ahead**' along with the **OECD** and the **Dominican Republic** at the United Nations headquarters in New York during CSW67. Watch the [full session](#) on UN Web TV, read the [press release \(EN\)](#)/ [press release \(Spanish\)](#), or check out the [news video](#) in Spanish.



BBVA hosts *Connecting Women in Latin America: The Roadmap Ahead* at CSW67

Fit for future? A Global Digital Compact for Gender Justice

ITforChange, UNCTAD, <A+> Alliance, UNI Global Union, Ford Foundation, AUC, and others hosted **Fit for future? A Global Digital Compact for Gender**

Justice. Speakers presented a Charter of Demands from feminists in the Global South on centering a gender equality agenda within the Global Digital Compact. The result of extensive consultations with 75+ feminist scholar-practitioners, academics, trade union representatives, and CSO representatives from across the Global South, the full text of the Charter can be accessed [HERE](#).

Why is data critical for gender equality?

On 8 March, the **Government of Finland**, the **Government of Chile** and the **<A+> Alliance** hosted a panel discussion on the importance of applying a gender lens to the design of technological platforms and software to ensure AI does not reinforce existing gender biases. Discussions explored the privacy, data ownership, inequality, security, and data management questions raised by big data, as well as the need to harness data to measure progress on gender equality, ensure gender-responsive policy design and keep organizations honest and accountable.

Platform #5: Strategic collaboration for women's economic empowerment

On 5 March, the **Government of Armenia** and **UNDP** hosted **Platform #5: Strategic collaboration for women's economic empowerment**. The event explored how the creation of an SDG-aligned ecosystem has supported women's entrepreneurship in Armenia.



NGO CSW NY Chair Houry Geudelekian moderates the CSW67 side event: #Platform5: Strategic Collaboration for Women's Economic Empowerment

Improving the health of women and girls through digital innovation, technology and education

On 7 March, the **Government of Rwanda** and the **WHO** hosted **Improving the health of women and girls through digital innovation, technology and education**, a panel discussion exploring advancements in women's health made possible through innovations, with a focus on women and girls facing compounding barriers to health and wellbeing. Watch the full event [HERE](#).

Digital empowerment of women in conflict settings: why it matters

On 8 March, the **Government of Finland**, the **OSCE** and **UN Women** hosted **Digital empowerment of women in conflict settings: why it matters**. Discussions explored the opportunities presented by digitalization for the economic participation for women refugees and IDPs. Watch the full event [HERE](#).

New Frontiers in Skills4Girls

On March 8, the Governments of Finland and Sweden and **UNICEF**, Digital Grassroots, and Women in Games organized an intergenerational co-creation dialogue to bring voices and ideas to connect and explore across ecosystems – including gaming, gender equality, government, innovative finance, and technology – to delivers the skills girls want and need, today and for their futures. This was also the occasion to unveil the Game Changers Coalition, a collaboration with the gaming industry to equip a generation of girls to become the coders, designers, and leaders of the digital future.

Celebrating Our Leaders and Commitment Makers

Finland's Generation Equality youth group demands action from the tech sector to combat online gender-based violence

In November 2022, **Finland's Generation Equality youth group** published a manifest demanding the technology sector take action to prevent and eliminate online gender-based violence (OGBV). OGBV is a growing issue, and the problem is amplified among young people. The manifest includes ten concrete actions technology sector stakeholders can implement to address this issue. The youth group has distributed the manifest to technology sector stakeholders and discussed it on morning TV on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. Finland's Generation Equality youth group consists of 15-29-year-old activists. It is coordinated by UN Women Finland and Plan International Finland and collaborates with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland. Read the manifest [HERE](#).

Action coalition co-lead Koç Group's community response to the earthquake in Türkiye

Together with subsidiary companies, **Koç Group** is building temporary settlement areas in three cities to accommodate at least 20.000 people, including basic social services like schools, health centers, nurseries, and other social amenities such as sports areas, music and art workshops, libraries, computer rooms, youth centers and spaces for women to engage them in decision making in the communities and economic inclusion. At least \$100+ million has been allocated for the aid efforts.

The team is responsible to support the architects and urban planners to design the areas with a gender-responsive and accessibility approach. In addition, the Koç Group is consulting and partnering with UN agencies and NGOs to develop long-term programs for children, women, youth,

elderly and disabled populations to meet their special needs and to support them in the recovery period.

UN Women is currently working with partners and the UN system to provide support for the needs of women and girls in the affected regions in Türkiye and Syria.

Research on #MonetizingMisogyny

#ShePersisted launched [ground-breaking research](#) that examines the patterns, motives, and modus operandi of major gendered disinformation campaigns and their links to the undermining of democracy and women's rights globally. The publication helps increase understanding of the real-world, personal harm that disinformation causes to women politicians, as well as influence high-level conversations on democracy, technology, and women's rights. It covers gendered disinformation campaigns against women in politics in Brazil, Hungary, India, Italy and Tunisia.



Upcoming AC Technology & Innovation Events

2nd Quarter

June 5th– 8th 2023: [RightsCon](#)

The 12th edition of RightsCon—the world's leading summit on human rights in the digital age—will take place in San José, Costa Rica and online. The annual conference brings together human rights activists, technologists, policymakers, and business leaders to discuss the intersection of technology and human rights and aims to create a space for collaboration, networking, and knowledge-sharing around digital rights issues such as privacy, free expression, and access to information. **The Action Coalition on T&I has been officially invited to host a concurrent session during the conference.** Further details regarding the event will be announced soon.

Please share any news or plans you have concerning these events.

3rd Quarter

July 17th– 20th 2023: [Women Deliver Conference](#)

WD2023 will be the world's largest conference on gender equality and the health, rights, and well-being of girls and women in the 21st century, set to take place in Kigali, Rwanda and virtually. The global conference, held every three years, brings together thousands of activists, advocates, policymakers, and leaders from around the world to share knowledge, ideas, and solutions to address gender inequalities and promote the advancement of women and girls. **The Action Coalition on T&I has been officially invited to host a concurrent session during the conference.** Further details regarding the event will be announced soon.

Please share any news or plans you have concerning this event.

Do you have news to share?

Please reach out to TI.actioncoalition@unwomen.org to be featured in our next newsletter out in July.

You can be featured on the Action Coalition [Social Media wall](#) by using **#techforequality** in your posts.

Do you want to be added to the Coalition's mailing list? Please fill out the form link [HERE](#).