



We respectfully submit the following recommendations based on agreed language for ongoing Pact for the Future negotiations:

- Commit to ensuring that all development strategies are gender-responsive and fully respect human rights, including the right to development for girls and work towards eliminating the structural, economic, social, and political barriers to girls' access to resources and information, including barriers to girls' participation on all matters affecting girls, and the multiple forms of discrimination girls face (CSW68, para, 4, (i), (u); Addis Ababa Action Agenda, para 1, 6, 7; Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 12; Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, Section L.8, para 284.a).
- Commit to a multi-pronged approach to eradicate poverty by investing in quality healthcare and education for all children and youth, ensuring access with a specific focus on girls living in poverty, by implementing comprehensive global poverty eradication strategies that address social, structural, and macroeconomic issues recognizing the need to support countries that face particular challenge. Ensure an adequate standard of living for all women and girls by strengthening social protection systems, increasing access to essential public services, and investing in sustainable infrastructure, especially in areas facing extreme poverty (CSW68, para (e), (nn), (oo), (pp); Addis Ababa Action Agenda para 7, Convention on the Rights of the Child, article (6, 28)).
- Invest in equitable, inclusive, and quality education for all young people, with a particular focus on empowering girls and young women, by ensuring that their right to education and development is upheld, equipping them with the knowledge, skills, and agency to realize their full potential and contribute meaningfully to a more sustainable, future (Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, Article 10, CSW68 para (gg), (hh); Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action L.4, 279. a-f, 280. a-d; Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 6, 28, CSW 51 para 14.2a -0).
- Promote and protect the full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership of all young women and girls in decision-making processes in the context of addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and gender-responsive financing, including by addressing the gender-specific barriers, such as all forms of violence, including sexual and gender-based violence, child, early and forced marriage and adolescent pregnancy, as well as the unequal distribution of unpaid care work that cause adolescent girls to fare worse than adolescent boys at higher poverty thresholds, in order to promote sustainable growth and full and productive employment and decent work for all young women (CSW 51 para 14.14.b, CSW68 para (u); Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action L.1, L.8).

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## Working Group on Girls Pact for the Future Submission

The Working Group on Girls (WGG) is a coalition of non-governmental organizations committed to safeguarding girls' rights and promoting their full and meaningful participation in global decision-making by collaborating directly with them and sharing their voices at the United Nations.

Websites: <https://girlsrights.org/wp/who-we-are>, <https://dayofthegirlsummit.org/>

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## Chapeau

Acknowledging that despite some progress, girls continue to struggle to access their full rights. Progress has been obliterated in war and conflict zones, and often regressed amid increasing discriminatory attitudes, harassment, sexual violence, harmful cultural norms, early and forced marriages, insufficient legal safeguards, and unfulfilled commitments to secure girls' rights and provide equal educational and developmental opportunities.

It is, therefore, imperative that we achieve the goals set out in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, if we are to achieve the aims of the UN Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development fully. The lives and complete development of girls rely on these objectives. Immediate, tangible change is crucial for girls. Achieving this demands the wholehearted commitment of all member states and civil society partners.

## Recommendations:

- Eradicate poverty in all its forms: By wielding data-driven policies informed by gender perspectives, ensuring that the diverse challenges faced by girls are tackled head-on by all sectors - governments, civil society, and businesses. No girl shall be left shrouded in the darkness of economic disparity.
- Invest in girls' education and healthcare: Every girl deserves quality education and healthcare, including unfettered access to reproductive health services. Their minds and bodies should be nourished, empowered, and free to flourish. The commodification of these common goods for profit has adversely affected everyone and every community and needs to be regulated.
- Include their voices: Dismantle barriers that limit girls' participation and actively involve girls and women in shaping the policies and programs that directly impact their lives. Girls' voices and perspectives should guide all actions and decisions affecting them.
- Build unshakeable partnerships: Governments, civil society, and communities must stand shoulder-to-shoulder, forging an alliance committed to creating a supportive ecosystem where girls can thrive. No girl shall be left to navigate the path to her potential alone.
- Promote gender equality and the rights of girls: Efforts must be made across all societal levels to eradicate patriarchal and biased mindsets while deconstructing unjust systems that impede the equitable progress of girls, hinder their ability to fully realize their potential and exercise their human rights across all facets of society.

## **Chapter I. Sustainable development and financing for development**

Recognizing the evident feminization of poverty stems from various economic and social factors, leading to disproportionate poverty among girls and women and their experience of poverty differs significantly and often more severely compared to men and boys, and acknowledging that gender inequality stands as the prevailing form of inequality worldwide, commencing before a child's birth and persisting throughout her childhood into adulthood.

Recommendations:

- Invest in gender-sensitive policies and programs: Develop, fund, and implement gender-sensitive policies and programs across all sectors, including education, health, employment, and social protection. Ensure that policies and programs address the specific needs and challenges faced by girls.
- Invest in transforming education: Quality education is more than just reading, writing and arithmetic but is inclusive and develops critical and analytical thinking, empathy, and problem-solving skills, allowing girls to meaningfully participate in social, economic, and political functioning of society.
- Invest in equitable education: Ensure every girl has access to quality and inclusive education that empowers them with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed.
- Invest in social protection programs including access to universal child benefits: A life cycle approach to social protection stands as a vital instrument in tackling both gender disparities and poverty, facilitating children's—particularly girls'—access to education, adequate food, housing, and healthcare. These programs shield households from plummeting into poverty, empowering them to self-sustain and provide proper care for themselves.

## **Chapter II. International peace and security**

The waves of conflict and violence crash against girls with devastating force, exposing them to physical, sexual, and psychological violence, displacement, and the loss of vital education and healthcare. Even in calmer areas, invisible currents of marginalization and injustice pull them under, denying them equal participation in peacebuilding and decision-making processes. Amidst the conflict and injustice, girls are not mere passengers clinging to hope. They are a skilled crew capable of steering us toward world peace and security. Meanwhile, their potential lies trapped by perilous waves of violence, marginalization, and exploitation.

Recommendations:

- Build a fortified hull of protection: Implement robust legal frameworks, implement national floors of social protection - inclusive of universal child benefits, foster community-based social protection, and invest in security and justice systems that prioritize girls' well-being.
- Unfurl the sails of education: Ensure equitable access to quality education, including education in conflict-affected areas, equipping girls with life skills, peacebuilding knowledge, and leadership training.
- Calm the storms of exploitation: Strengthen legal frameworks against trafficking and forced labor, raise community awareness, and provide girls with alternative livelihoods and support systems.

- End Gender-based Violence: Work to end gender-based violence in all aspects of life and implement measures to prevent gender-based violence in conflict-affected areas.
- Chart a course for inclusive peacebuilding: Create platforms for girls' voices to be heard, support their leadership in peacebuilding initiatives, and equip them with the skills to navigate conflict resolution processes.

### **Chapter III. Science, technology and innovation and digital cooperation**

Girls stand as captains, not passengers, in the vast digital ocean of science, technology, and innovation (STI). They hold the potential to chart a course towards a more equitable and prosperous future but face treacherous currents like the digital divide, gender biases, online threats, and lack of role models.

#### Recommendations:

- Bridge the digital divide: Invest in infrastructure development, digital literacy programs, and affordable technologies to ensure equitable access for all girls.
- Combat stereotypes and biases: Promote inclusive education, celebrate female role models in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), and implement unconscious bias training to dismantle discriminatory practices.
- Create and maintain safe and secure online spaces: Develop robust online safety mechanisms, empower girls with digital literacy skills, and foster a culture of online respect and responsibility.
- Invest in mentorship and leadership Programs: Connect girls with female mentors in STEM fields, create leadership development opportunities, and celebrate their achievements in innovation.
- Promote data-driven decision-making: Collect and analyze data on girls' access to and participation in STI to inform effective policy interventions.
- Share best practices and knowledge: Create platforms for knowledge exchange and capacity building to accelerate progress on girls' empowerment in the digital sphere.

### **Chapter IV. Youth and future generations**

Across the globe, youth stand poised at a crossroads. Their energy, creativity, and idealism hold the potential to cultivate a brighter future, yet they face an arid landscape of obstacles that threaten to stunt their growth. Access to opportunities, a foundational element for flourishing, remains uneven and riddled with challenges, jeopardizing not just the well-being of young people today but the very fabric of our future generations. The seeds of inequity are sown early. Millions of youths, especially girls, face limited access to quality education, economic disparities, war and conflict, discrimination and marginalization, climate change and environmental degradation.

#### Recommendations:

- Bridge the economic divide: Foster inclusive economic systems that provide opportunities for all young people, including girls, regardless of their background, to contribute and prosper.

- Promote tolerance and inclusion: Dismantle discriminatory barriers and create environments where every young person, including girls, feels valued, respected, and empowered to participate.
- Empower youth as environmental stewards: Equip young people, including girls, with the knowledge and tools to address climate change and environmental challenges, ensuring a sustainable future for all.
- Strengthen global partnerships: Foster collaboration between governments, NGOs, and private sector actors to address the specific needs of girls in different regions. Girls need to be included at the table as they know what they need and deserve the support and skills necessary to live self-sustaining, secure, and stable lives.

## **Chapter V. Transforming global governance**

The world faces a multitude of complex and interconnected challenges that transcend national borders. From climate change and pandemics to economic inequality and cyber threats, these issues demand a fundamental transformation of how we govern ourselves globally.

Recommendations:

- Revitalize multilateralism: Reform and strengthen existing international institutions to make them more transparent, accountable, and effective. This includes promoting greater participation from developing countries, and marginalized communities, streamlining decision-making processes, and enforcing international agreements more effectively.
- Promote global cooperation and solidarity: Foster a spirit of international cooperation and solidarity to address shared challenges. This includes building trust between countries, promoting dialogue and understanding, and working towards common goals that benefit all.
- Ensure equitable representation and voice: Reform global governance structures to ensure that all countries, communities, and individuals, in all their diversity, including gender, have a fair and equal say in decision-making processes. This includes promoting greater participation from developing countries, marginalized groups, and future generations.
- Mobilize resources for global challenges: Develop innovative and sustainable financing mechanisms to address global challenges. This includes increasing public and private sector funding, exploring innovative financial instruments, reforming the international tax system, the global financial architecture, and ensuring equitable access to resources.
- Adapt to emerging technologies: Develop effective frameworks for governing new technologies and addressing the potential risks and opportunities they present. This includes promoting responsible development, ensuring ethical considerations, and mitigating the potential for misuse.