



TOWARDS PLANET 50-50 BY 2030

UN WOMEN GLOBAL CIVIL SOCIETY DIALOGUE: GALVANIZING ACTION
FOR ACCOUNTABILITY AND IMPACT



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CIVIL SOCIETY SECTION
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A VIEW FROM THE TOP

The Global Civil Society Dialogue took place in New York, on 23-24 November 2015. The Dialogue was the culmination of a series of regional consultations throughout 2015, led by UN Women, with Civil Society Advisory Group members (CSAGs) and other local constituencies. The Dialogue in New York brought together members of the CSAGs as well as other civil society, social justice and gender equality stakeholders from each region of the world, to discuss prioritized actions with the aim of eliciting concrete and innovative recommendations for the accelerated achievement of the gender equality agenda by 2030.

The discussions were organized into regional groups, including Africa, Arab States, Asia-Pacific, Europe and Central Asia, Latin America and Caribbean and a Global group that comprised participants from developed countries. Breakout discussions were also organized around key themes which have been distilled over the course of the global consultations, including the contraction of democratic spaces for civil society, bridging the funding gap for gender equality, working with men and boys as partners for gender equality, developing a feminist faith discourse on gender equality among others.

Over the two-days a number of strains emerged across both the regional and thematic discussions: *Intersectionality; leading from the ground; the inter-linking challenges facing gender equality and the broad and complex SDG agenda; the diminished space for civil society; the importance of revitalizing the global women's movement; shifting funding priorities and the inadequate fiscal attention to gender equality; optimizing UN Women's voice and influence within the UN system and the international community; the need for more data to strengthen political attention to gender equality and the role of women in peace, security and humanitarian agendas.* Discussions also touched on engagement with key allies such as the private sector, parliamentarians and governments, faith-based organizations, men and boys, youth movements and the media. In addition, there was a session dedicated

to making CSW more relevant to the needs and demands of women's organizations in the 21st century.

Several topics emerged repeatedly throughout the discussions, such as the need for stronger coalitions and networks, increased collaboration with and support from UN Women on strengthening the women's movement, and the crucial interplay of the gender equality agenda with the SDGs and other global agendas.

“In this moment, I think we need to work not only as separate sectors—indigenous women or feminists or left[ists] or funcionarios...We need to build [a] common vision about the human rights, as persons, as peoples and as women. Women in different levels of education or position. Women with different cultures, with different point[s] of view, maybe with different cosmovisions.”

— Tarcila Rivera Zea, Executive Director, Chirapaq; Member of UN Women Global CSAG

The discussions were both broad and deep, and in addition to a wide range of general suggestions, participants put forth several top-level, concrete, innovative recommendations, including:

- Creating a Grand Coalition of Member States for Women's Rights

- Mobilizing for a 5th World Conference on Gender Equality and Women's Rights
- The Creation of a High-level Independent Commission on Financing for Gender Equality
- Making Gender Responsive Budgeting compulsory in specific contexts
- A variety of mapping mechanisms for knowledge development, monitoring and accountability
- Developing operational guidelines for governments on gender-responsive SDG implementation
- Creating localized five-year action plans towards SDG achievement
- Creating a network of student-led UN Women Campus Chapters at universities

“The way all empowered women were together, and the way we all are all planning the strategies to bring change and to make this place a better place for women to live, it was great! The Planet 50/50 concept, the idea, is brilliant and everybody's working towards this...Being a Belochi girl, when I came here what I noticed was how people are so willing to bring that change for women. What I'm going to take back is that hope, that there is something big which is happening here, and people are there to help us. I think this is the need of the hour, this one hope for many women in Pakistan will change their life.”

– Muniba Mazari, UN Women National Ambassador, Pakistan





“We can only dislodge patriarchy’s stubborn hold if we abandon incremental change and coordinate the bold and the big steps we are itching to take. We need an equivalent of that apocryphal story when all the schoolchildren in China jumped together and created an earthquake. We need a series of earthquakes that bring down a pillar of patriarchy every time we jump together, on the same issues and at the same time, in every corner of the world.

There is a critical difference between a thousand women jumping separately and millions of women jumping together at the same time. The first is a fragmented series of small actions. The second can cause an earthquake to make the patriarchal pillars crumble.”

– Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director, UN Women



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