



# GWL Voices's Statement on the Summit of the Future

GWL Voices has advocated for the inclusion of women's rights as a cross-cutting theme in the the Pact of the Future, ensuring that inclusivity and equity are woven throughout the proposed actions in the Pact.

As world leaders gather for the Summit on Sept. 22 and 23, **we urge governments to commit to strengthen multilateralism, enhance the role and effectiveness of the UN and ensure that the rights of women and girls are at the center of all reform and action priorities.** The participation and full representation of women in the international system is vital in the design of a UN that is can respond to the challenges of today. The future of our societies hinges on our ability to transcend divisions and develop cooperative solutions that protect the planet, enhance economies, and respect our rights. GWL Voices calls on world leaders, governments, parliaments, civil society, and multilateral organizations to:

# 1

## Ensure no backsliding on rights and provisions for gender equality and the rights of women and girls

**It is crucial to prevent any backsliding on the hard-won rights and regulatory frameworks that safeguard the progress of women and girls globally,** including the Beijing Platform for Action and the Generation Equality Action Coalitions. These initiatives have laid essential foundations for gender equality, ensuring access to education, economic participation, healthcare, and protection from violence and discrimination. Weakening these commitments risks undoing decades of progress, undermining the rights of women and girls to lead empowered, secure, and equitable lives. **Now more than ever, we must reinforce and expand these frameworks, not retreat from them.**

## Support an ambitious reform of the UN Commission on the Status of Women

The section on "Transforming Global Governance" in the Pact of the Future includes mandates to make the UN system more "representative, effective, and responsive to contemporary global challenges." To that end, the Pact includes a specific mandate to **reform the UN Commission on the Status of Women.** GWL Voices believes this offers a historic opportunity to **elevate the status of the CSW and strengthen its systems for accountability, monitoring and implementation** of the CEDAW Convention and other related international instruments, including Agenda 2030, the Addis Ababa Financing for Development Action Agenda, and the Paris Agreement

# 2



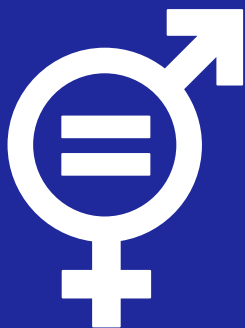
# 3

## Express public support for the election of a female Secretary General

The Pact of the Future states that in the selection and appointment process for the next UN Secretary General, governments should take into account “... the regrettable fact that there has never been a woman Secretary General.” **GWL Voices sees the inclusion of this phrase as a historic signal of the openness of governments to electing a female SG in 2026**, and it urges them to publicly express their support for this breakthrough.

**We are pleased that the final version of the Pact includes the following considerations:**

## 5 GENDER EQUALITY



- **Women’s rights and gender equality** remain crosscutting themes throughout the Pact as agreed in the initial stages of the negotiations.
- The language of the Pact does not represent a retreat from the Beijing Declaration but rather **an accelerator for the implementation** of its Platform for Action.
- It retains a reference to the chapeau language on gender equality and the **Beijing Declaration** as it appeared in Revision 3.
- It addresses the need to enhance and implement the **Women, Peace and Security Agenda**.
- It calls for revitalization of **CSW**.
- Encourage Member States to **nominate women candidates** for the next Secretary General.



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## Our Commitment:

- **GWL Voices will engage, monitor and support** the implementation of the actions enshrined in the Pact of the Future and work zealously to ensure that women's rights and gender equality remain central to the overall UN reform agenda.
- **GWL Voices will actively engage in the discussions** on the much needed upgrading of the UN Commission on the Status of Women that measurably increase its ability to monitor the implementation of the CEDAW convention and other related international instruments
- **GWL Voices, will work** with allied organizations and governments to work **for the selection of the first ever female UN Secretary General in 2026.**

Leading change, **driving leadership.**