

Seven Must-Haves for a Stronger UN@80

As the United Nations approaches its 80th anniversary, the women leaders of GWL Voices call on Member States and the international community to rise to this historic moment determination. The credibility of multilateralism, and the future of global cooperation depends on it.

1 Recommitment to Multilateralism and the United Nations



At a time of cascading crises, fragmentation, and distrust, we reaffirm the irreplaceable role of the United Nations as the cornerstone of a global coexistence grounded in international law.

The UN remains the only universal forum where national interest can coexist and contribute to the common good of humanity. We call on all Member States to recommit to the principles of the UN Charter, to strengthen the authority and legitimacy of the United Nations, and to strengthen the multilateral system.

2 An enhanced role of the UN in Conflict Prevention and Peace Building



From Gaza to Sudan and from Ukraine to Haiti, armed conflicts are multiplying across the globe, with devastating consequences for civilians, especially women and girls who are disproportionately affected by violence, displacement, and loss of livelihoods.

We call for a United Nations that plays a far greater role in prevention, mediation, and peacebuilding, upholding international law and investing in the protection and participation of women and girls in peace processes.

3 A Profound and Structural UN Reform

The United Nations must not only endure, it must evolve. To remain relevant and fit for purpose, the UN requires bold, structural reform that enhances its efficiency, transparency, accountability, and capacity to deliver.

The 80th anniversary, alongside the mandates of the Pact for the Future and the UN80 initiative offer an unprecedented opportunity to modernize the Organization. Reform cannot be deferred; the time for a more effective, representative, and trusted UN is now.



4 Women in Leadership

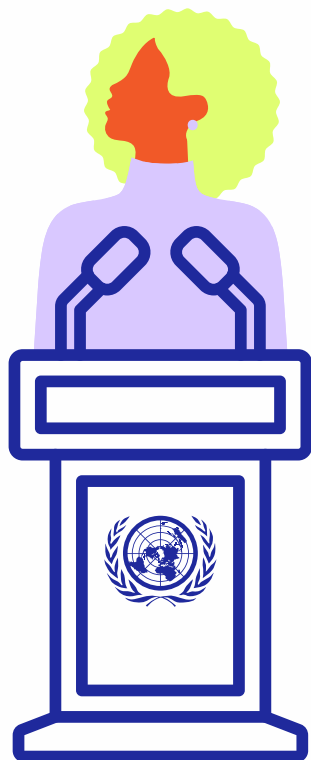


The persistent underrepresentation of women in the highest ranks of the UN and the broader international system undermines the legitimacy and effectiveness of global governance.

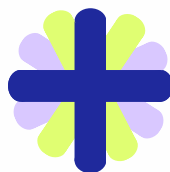
Parity is not an aspiration; it is a right and an imperative. We call for concrete measures to dismantle barriers and ensure that women are present and leading at every decision-making table.

5 A Madam Secretary-General in 2026

After 80 years and nine men, the time has come. The next Secretary-General of the United Nations must be a woman. We call on Member States to nominate and support women candidates of the highest caliber to lead the UN into its next chapter. Only with transformative and visionary leadership can the Organization truly embody the values it stands for.



6 30 Years of the Beijing Platform for Action



BEIJING +30

As we mark three decades since the Beijing Platform for Action, we celebrate the progress made for women and girls worldwide.

Yet, we also sound the alarm against the dangerous regressions we face today—rising violence, shrinking rights, and backlash against gender equality.

We urge world leaders to recommit to the Beijing vision, to protect hard-won gains, and to accelerate transformative action so that women and girls everywhere can live with dignity, equality, and freedom.

7 Urgent Climate Action with Women at the Center

The climate crisis is accelerating, threatening lives, livelihoods, and the very future of our planet. Women and girls, especially in the Global South, bear the brunt of climate impacts, yet remain underrepresented in solutions. We call for urgent climate action that prioritizes gender-responsive investment, adaptation, and leadership.



Expectations for COP30 in Belém, Brazil, are high: the world must deliver a robust climate finance outcome and a well-resourced Gender and Climate Action Plan that puts women and girls at the heart of climate justice.

At UN80, we call for nothing less than courage, vision, and leadership. A recommitment to the United Nations, a reformed and revitalized system, and a gender-equal future are not optional—they are the foundation of peace, justice, and survival in the 21st century.