

Open letter to UN Women on GEF Accountability for Adolescent Girls

Dear Executive Director Sima Bahous,

In a series of dialogues leading up to Generation Equality Forums (GEF) in Mexico and Paris, adolescent girls clearly demanded that there is a need to convene an advisory body to work with UN Women on the effective integration of adolescent girls' needs, priorities, and rights in GEF decision-making spaces. They received a commitment from UN Women at the highest level, from former Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka: UN Women would facilitate the formation of such an Adolescent Girls Advisory Body (AGAB).

Despite the [Terms of Reference for this body](#) being launched in February 2022, UN Women are yet to fulfil this commitment.

AGIP recognises that young leaders are represented at the Multistakeholder Steering Group and welcomes that UN Women are contributing to a UN cross-agency approach to safeguarding and meaningful youth engagement. However, AGIP members are deeply disappointed that thus far, no official communication through public channels such as the [GEF website](#) or [GEF accountability Platform](#) has been issued on the status of the AGAB. AGIP and its partners are concerned that with the GEF mid-point approaching soon, setting up the AGAB or introducing an alternative arrangement for meaningful engagement and inclusion will become more difficult.

We would like to highlight that this puts UN Women at risk of losing credibility with adolescent girls and their allies, as well as falling short of ambition and commitment to youth engagement made by other UN offices, including the UN Secretary General. UN Women are not just falling behind with their own commitment, but also with the current times: numerous organisations – AGIP included – are establishing meaningful ways to include adolescent girls in decision-making.

AGIP remains open to advising UN Women on accountability for adolescent girls. We will continue to support any efforts designed to advance safeguarding and meaningful youth engagement across UN agencies and beyond.

Furthermore, AGIP is committed to continue to drive accountability for adolescent girls within the GEF process. We aim to engage more directly with Action Coalition Leaders and work toward setting up independent adolescent girl accountability mechanisms. To enable us to hold commitment makers accountable to adolescent girls, we respectfully request that UN Women provide transparent and detailed information on the status of existing commitments.

We stand with the adolescent girls and young leaders whose time, energy, and resources went into establishing the AGAB and are currently not being honoured. We call on UN Women to urgently state their renewed commitment to respectful and transparent partnership with girls by publishing an official status update on the AGAB on the [GEF website](#) or [GEF accountability Platform](#). Finally, we urge UN Women to return to their original commitment and establish the AGAB as promised.

In solidarity with adolescent girls globally,

The Adolescent Girls Investment Plan



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