



Girls Deliver Pre-Conference 2026

COLLECTIVE ACTION ON GIRL-CENTRED ACCOUNTABILITY EVENT REPORT

As funding for gender equality continues to decline, civic space shrinks, and anti-rights movements gain momentum globally, the need for stronger accountability to adolescent girls has become even more urgent. Across global gender equality spaces since the Beijing Declaration, many commitments have been made to adolescent girls and to their meaningful inclusion in leadership. Yet adolescent girls still remain largely excluded from the formal accountability systems, decision-making spaces, and policy processes meant to protect and advance their rights.

As conversations on accountability, participation, and adolescent girls' leadership continue to gain urgency globally, AGIP convened the **Collective Action on Girl-Centred Accountability** strategy session during the Girls Deliver Pre-Conference 2026 to strengthen dialogue, coordination, and collective action across the girls' rights ecosystem.

The session created space to reflect on the current accountability landscape, explore practical tools and formal mechanisms, and collectively discuss and build understanding on what stronger, more accessible, and more meaningful accountability to adolescent girls should look like in practice. The event also aimed to strengthen collaboration across the ecosystem and ensure that accountability conversations remain grounded in the realities, leadership, and lived experiences of adolescent girls themselves.

OPENING INTERVENTIONS

The session opened with interventions from **Joy Zawadi**, Executive Director of Akili Dada and AGIP Co-Chair, and **Luiza Caleia**, AGAC Board Member and AGAC Cohort 2.

Joy framed girl-centred accountability as accountability intentionally designed with and for adolescent girls, ensuring girls can meaningfully influence decisions, monitor progress, and demand action when commitments are not met. She highlighted the importance of clear commitments, measurable indicators, transparent reporting, and accountability systems that protect girls' dignity, safety, and agency. While acknowledging important global mechanisms such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), she reiterated that **"Women Deliver 2026 is a moment to move from promises to proof. Our task today is to coordinate across this ecosystem and use the mechanisms that already exist in a much more strategic way."**

Luiza Caleia, AGIP Board Member and Girl Advisor from AGIP's Adolescent Girls Advisory Committee Cohort 2, highlighted the importance of girl-centred accountability, stressing that commitments only matter when they translate into real change in girls' lives. Drawing on her experiences as a girl advocate, she called for adolescent girls to be meaningfully included in decision-making, monitoring, and accountability processes, noting that girls must help shape, not just receive, the policies and programmes designed for them: **"Girl-centred accountability is about turning promises into proof—proof that girls matter, that their voices count, and that the world will be held responsible for delivering on their rights."**

ACCOUNTABILITY TOOLS

Building on the opening interventions, participants were introduced to a range of girl-centred accountability tools developed to support advocacy, monitoring, and policy engagement.



- The [Global Girl Bill of Rights](#) – introduced by [Kate Kiama, VP Programs](#) at [Girl Rising](#), is a powerful declaration crowdsourced from over 1,000 girls across 34 countries to demand the fundamental rights every girl deserves. This comprehensive framework outlines 10 core rights, including the right to barrier-free education, equality from harmful stereotypes, and access to leadership and decision-making roles. It also asserts a girl's right to bodily autonomy and protection from harmful traditions and violence, fair protection and recourse under the law, and freedom from early labour and trafficking.
- The [Girls' Rights Platform](#) – introduced by [Jo Westcott-Simpson, Global SRHR Policy & Advocacy Lead](#) at [Plan International](#), is a digital advocacy platform designed to make girls more visible within global policy spaces. It includes a searchable database of UN and international policy documents, advocacy resources, and youth training tools to support accessible, real-time girls' rights advocacy and engagement.
- The [Girl-Centred Accountability Charter](#) – introduced by [Olivia Burns](#), AGIP Program Manager, the Charter, developed by AGIP, outlines key commitments for governments and allies to strengthen accountability to adolescent girls. The Charter calls for meaningful girl participation, accessible accountability mechanisms, transparent reporting, safeguarding, and stronger investment in girl-centred advocacy and leadership.
- The [Girl-Centred Commitment Map](#) – Introduced by [Olivia Burns](#), is designed to track global and regional commitments related to adolescent girls' rights and wellbeing. Created at the recommendation of the Girls Deliver community, the map documents existing commitments and agreements from 1948 until 2025, including country-specific tracking mechanisms. The tool is designed as a living resource that continues to grow and evolve over time with contributions from young advocates and allies.
- The [Adolescent Girls Ecosystem Mapping Tool](#) – introduced by [Christine Khuri](#), Publications Coordinator at [GAGE](#). The tool was developed through the Girls Deliver community, with technical leadership from GAGE, to provide a shared picture of who is doing what, and who is responsible for advancing outcomes for adolescent girls globally. The tool maps a wide range of actors across the ecosystem, including advocacy organisations, youth-led groups, research institutions, funders, and multilateral actors, helping strengthen coordination, visibility, and collective action across the sector.

DISCUSSION ON TOOLS AND GAPS



The first breakout session created space for participants to reflect on existing accountability tools, identify key gaps and barriers within current systems, and propose practical actions to strengthen girl-centred accountability across the girls' rights ecosystem. Moderated by Luiza Caleia and Kate Kiama, participants shared examples of accountability approaches already being used within their contexts, including youth advisory panels, scorecards, coalition advocacy platforms, and community-based tracking initiatives.

Key gaps identified from Breakout Session 1

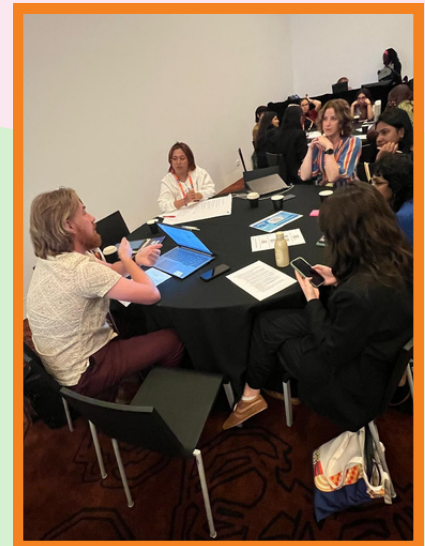
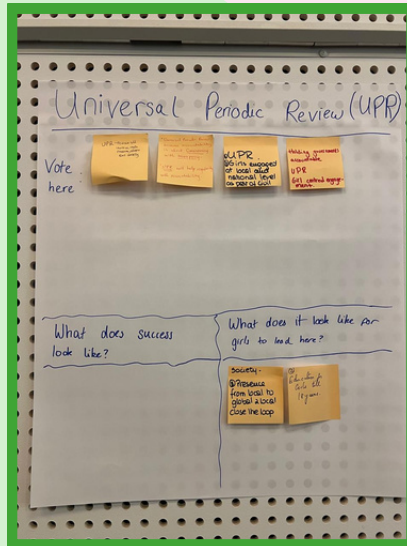
- **Limited awareness of existing accountability tools and mechanisms** - Participants noted that many adolescent girls, grassroots organisations, and communities remain unaware of available accountability platforms and processes, limiting meaningful engagement and follow-up.
- **Limited accessibility of tools across languages and contexts** - Discussions highlighted that many accountability resources are not accessible across local languages, digital realities, or community contexts, excluding many girls from participation.
- **Lack of disaggregated data** - Participants stressed that the absence of detailed and inclusive data continues to make it difficult to fully understand and respond to the diverse realities of adolescent girls.
- **Weak consequences for governments failing to implement commitments** - Concerns were raised around the lack of enforcement and follow-through when governments fail to uphold commitments made within accountability and policy spaces.
- **Insufficient representation and resourcing for girls with disabilities to engage** - Participants highlighted that girls with disabilities continue to face barriers to participation due to limited accessibility, support systems, and targeted investment.
- **Sustainability challenges for youth-led and civil society initiatives** - Discussions reflected growing concerns around shrinking funding and limited long-term support for youth-led and grassroots accountability efforts.
- **Gaps between grassroots realities and high-level policy engagement spaces** - Participants noted that global advocacy and policy discussions often remain disconnected from the everyday realities and priorities of adolescent girls at community level.



ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISMS

The second session was facilitated by Lo Riches, Multilateral Engagement Manager at Women Deliver, who provided an overview of key global accountability mechanisms, including the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), and Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs). Following the presentation, participants moved into breakout discussions to reflect on the opportunities and challenges associated with these mechanisms before taking part in a participatory dotmocracy exercise to identify priority accountability pathways for collective advocacy and adolescent girls' engagement.

The dotmocracy exercise highlighted strong interest in leveraging existing accountability mechanisms to advance adolescent girls' rights. The **Universal Periodic Review (UPR)** emerged as the most highly prioritised mechanism, with participants recognising its potential to strengthen government accountability, elevate adolescent girls' priorities, create opportunities for civil society engagement, and connect local advocacy efforts to global accountability processes. Discussions also reinforced the importance of ensuring girls are meaningfully engaged within these mechanisms and that commitments are followed by concrete action and implementation.



Recommendations from Breakout Session 2

- Strengthen capacity-building and skills development to support adolescent girls, youth advocates, and civil society actors to confidently engage with state-led accountability systems and processes.
- Develop more accessible approaches and resources to unpack accountability mechanisms, particularly for grassroots organisations and adolescent girl advocates engaging these systems for the first time.
- Increase coordination across organisations, movements, and accountability actors to strengthen collective advocacy efforts, reduce duplication, and maximise opportunities for adolescent girls' priorities to be reflected within accountability processes.
- Ensure adolescent girls are meaningfully involved throughout accountability processes from agenda-setting and evidence generation to monitoring, reporting, and follow-up to strengthen the relevance, legitimacy, and impact of accountability mechanisms.

KEY INSIGHTS FROM THE EVENT



1. Accountability must move beyond commitments - Participants stressed that adolescent girls continue to face gaps between global commitments and lived realities due to weak implementation, inconsistent follow-through, and limited consequences when governments fail to deliver on promises. Discussions highlighted the importance of moving beyond declarations and reporting toward stronger monitoring, transparency, implementation, and sustained accountability at local, national, and global levels.

2. Girls must be recognised as leaders within accountability systems - Participants repeatedly emphasised that adolescent girls should not only be consulted symbolically, but meaningfully included in shaping priorities, decision-making, budgeting, monitoring, and accountability processes. Discussions highlighted the importance of creating safer, more accessible, and better resourced pathways for girls to engage within accountability spaces without placing disproportionate responsibility or pressure on them.

3. Existing accountability mechanisms need stronger accessibility and localisation - Through discussions on UPR, CEDAW, CRC, and VNRs, participants reflected that many accountability mechanisms remain highly technical, inaccessible, and disconnected from grassroots realities. Rather than creating new systems, participants called for stronger dissemination, localisation, contextualisation, and coordination of existing accountability tools, alongside greater support for adolescent girls and civil society actors to engage these processes meaningfully.

4. Funding and sustainability remain major barriers to accountability work - Participants highlighted that grassroots organisations, girl-led groups, and civil society actors working on accountability continue to face significant funding constraints, limiting their ability to sustain long-term advocacy, monitoring, follow-up, and engagement within accountability processes. Discussions also stressed the importance of more flexible, accessible, and long-term funding approaches that support grassroots accountability efforts, adolescent girls' leadership, and meaningful participation beyond one-off convenings and consultations.

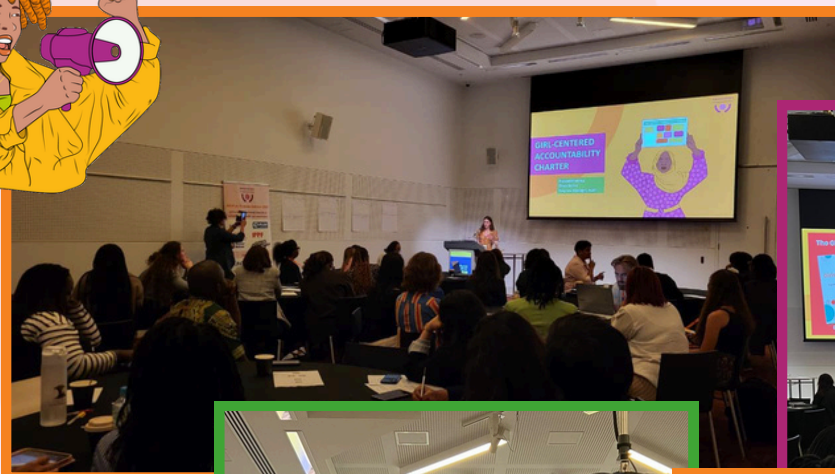
5. Collective action and stronger ecosystem collaboration are essential - Participants emphasised that advancing girl-centred accountability requires stronger collaboration across movements, governments, funders, civil society organisations, youth-led groups, and international actors. Discussions highlighted the importance of strengthening connections between grassroots advocacy, evidence generation, accountability mechanisms, and policy spaces to ensure adolescent girls' priorities are consistently reflected across systems and decision-making processes.



EVENT CONCLUSION

AGIP Programme Manager Olivia Burns closed the session by thanking all speakers, girl leaders, partners, and participants for contributing their time, energy, and insights to the discussion. She also extended appreciation to the Girls Deliver Pre-conference organisers for hosting the space, alongside PMNCH, Girl Rising, the Government of Canada, and AGIP members GAGE, Plan International, and Women Deliver for supporting the event.

Olivia encouraged participants to remain connected through AGIP's ongoing ***girl-centred accountability work*** and invited them to join the ***Adolescent Girls Era Campaign***, a key opportunity to stay engaged with the broader Girls Deliver community, contribute to collective advocacy efforts, and help advance accountability for adolescent girls' rights beyond the conference. Reflecting on the importance of collective action, she emphasised that, ***“while governments remain key duty bearers, advancing girl-centred accountability requires coordinated efforts across the entire ecosystem, with adolescent girls themselves leading the conversation and shaping accountability processes moving forward.”***



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