



KENYA SEX WORKERS ALLIANCE (KESWA)

Generation Equality and Beijing+25 Advocacy Strategy in Kenya

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Contents

| | |
|---|----------|
| Introduction | 2 |
| Kenya's commitments to women and girls' human rights | 3 |
| Generation Equality/Beijing+25 review | 4 |
| Generation Equality/Beijing+25 review timeline/roadmap | 4 |
| Proposed Strategic Approach | 1 |

Introduction

Globally, patriarchal societies thrive due to policies and socio-cultural practices that normalize gender discrimination and exclude marginalized populations. The Beijing Platform for Action adopted by 189 governments during the 4th world conference on women in 1995 is lauded as the most comprehensive policy on gender equality, women's and girls' empowerment. The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action provided a foundational framework to accelerate the attainment of gender equality and fulfillment of women's and girls' human rights in their diversity. As we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the framework, it is crucial to be cognizant that the celebration falls within the period of SDGs implementation, review, and follow up. Gender equality and women's empowerment are espoused in the SDGs framework, and the United Nations Secretary-General has declared 2020-2030 the Decade of Action. Notably, more than 8 of the 17 goals have explicit gender targets and indicators, and the overall promise of the SDGs is to LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND. Therefore, this strategy in proposing the approach and entry points will also be mindful of opportunities beyond the Beijing+25 review to extend into SDGs 5 implementation and beyond. The extension into SDG5 implementation ensures that KESWA is brought into the broader ecosystem of Gender and SDGs implementation, review and follow up in Kenya, across the region, and globally.

This advocacy strategy will also respond to the realization that women's rights organizations, including sex workers movements, have continued to invest in expert gendered analysis on broader policy issues. This is important towards attaining the dynamic Beijing Platform for Action and the gender agenda within the SDGs framework to ensure alignment with existing national, regional, and global commitments on women's rights.

Below is an underpinning globally renowned truth and fact regarding gender equality guiding the coordination, the agenda-setting, and the final commitment process for the overall Generation Equality process.

Despite the commitments made in Beijing to take strategic, bold Action in 12 critical areas of concern and some ensuing progress in these areas, **not a single country today can claim to have achieved gender equality**. The Beijing Platform for Action...is a **rallying point to achieve the human rights of all women and girls finally** and will be a moment for global mobilization.

The Generation Equality Forum

Finally, this strategy is underpinned by the fact that Kenya has put in place measures and investments towards gender equality and human rights and, most importantly, stepped up to take active leadership in the Action Coalitions and specifically as one of the government leads for the GBV Coalition. Therefore, the departure point for its development is the need to ensure that strategies and approaches adopted by KESWA to guide their work on generation Equality are aware of the existing analysis, opportunities, and progress on gender-responsive planning at the national and county level in the context of the Beijing+25 review process, Kenya's commitments and ongoing processes and opportunities therein. This forms a basis for an expectation that any multi-lateral process and its formulation upholds the principle of non-discrimination and inclusion for all (including sex workers movements), especially in processes, policy-making, and programming that affects marginalized and key populations.

Kenya's commitments to women and girls' human rights

In Kenya, gender equality and women's empowerment are enshrined in the constitution, which guarantees respect for human rights, equality, freedom, democracy, social justice, and the rule of law. Also, Kenya is bound either through ratification or as a signatory to international and regional frameworks on women's rights, which include;

- Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) –ratified 1984, last report was in 2018.¹
- Beijing Platform for Action adopted in 1995 and 25 years review report submitted in 2019²
- International Conference on population and development in 1994
- Maputo protocol
- East African Gender Policy (2018)

Since 2003, Kenya has institutionalized its commitment to addressing gender inequalities, and its actualization has been evidenced in progress made for several decades grounded in the 2010 Constitution. Tremendous achievements were made between 2003 and 2013. Some of the Key policy milestones included:

- The Sessional Paper No. 4 on AIDS in Kenya to provide policy framework within AIDS Prevention and Control. Subsequent strategies that have been developed over time and acknowledge the gendered impact of HIV and AIDS including impact on key populations such as female sex workers.
- Introduction of affirmative action in University admission by according girls one point lower for admission. The same has remained in place to attract girls to science-based subjects and courses.
- Several successive government policy agenda have included gender issues. These include the Economic Recovery Strategy for Wealth Creation-2003, Poverty Reduction Strategy paper, National Development plan-2001-2007 and the Medium Term Expenditure Frameworks (MTP I, II and III). The vision 2030 agenda with the social pillar that requires gender consideration in all planning at all levels.
- In 2000, the National Gender Policy was adopted to mainstream needs and concerns of men and women, boys and girls into the development agenda. Sessional paper No 2 of 2006 on Gender Equality and Development operationalizes the policy.
- FGM Act of 2011 and establishment of Anti-FGM board
- Establishment of Ministry of Gender Sports, Culture and Social Services within the Government's Organizational Structure and deployment of gender officers in all government ministries
- Establishment of the oversight body; National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC),
- Gender Research and Documentation Centre
- Kenya National Action Plan on United Nation Security Council resolution 1325 Secretariat

Despite the progressive legal and policy provisions and the subsequent enactment of laws to safeguard women and young girls as outlined above, discrimination against women and girls is still widespread in Kenya. This is worse for women and girls who are part of marginalized groups such as sex workers

¹ See documents including concluding observation of the dialogue at www.ohchr.org

² https://www.uneca.org/sites/default/files/uploaded-documents/Beijing25/kenyas_report_on_beijing25_may_2019.pdf

Generation Equality/Beijing+25 review

There were two policy processes scheduled to guide the 25th review of the Platform for Action this year. Firstly, member states were to report during CSW64 on how far they have come in the implementation of the agenda. Access the official website of UN women³ for more information about Beijing+25. Secondly, with the 25th anniversary of this visionary agenda, UN Women has announced 6 action coalitions, which they wish to inspire tangible action. These are:

-  Gender-Based Violence,
-  Economic justice and rights,
-  Feminist action for climate justice,
-  Feminist movements and leadership.
-  Technology and innovation for gender equality,
-  Bodily autonomy and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR),

These are to be finalized during the Generation Equality Forums in Mexico and France in the summer. Below is the revised timeline for the Generation Equality process aimed at coordinating a multi-lateral process to guide the development policy commitments in the above action coalition themes. Governments will then have 5 years, or whatever timeframe is decided during the forums, to accomplish these actions.

Generation Equality/Beijing+25 review timeline/roadmap

Below reflects the current Generation Equality/Beijing+25 review process timeline and roadmap as it stands. Subject to review and update depending on COVID19




The audacious REVISED journey towards the Generation Equality Forum in 2021







Effective and meaningful engagement in the Generation Equality process

³ <http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw64-2020>

From the retrospective report on KESWA's engagement on Beijing+25 review, members have not engaged in any of the processes undertaken at the national level. The lack of engagement is notable both in terms of gaps in capacity and an overall lack of engagement with the policy processes. Below are some of the processes undertaken by the Kenya government as part of the Beijing+25 review process in Kenya

-  Development of a report by the Kenya government
-  Beijing+25 parallel CSO report
-  Kenya government is one of the Action Coalition leaders for the GBV Action Coalition

Despite lack of engagement by the members, the secretariat has been involved in regional and global processes in the following ways

-  As members of the CSOs advisory group
-  Participation in the regional review meeting through FEMNET's support
-  Engaging as part of various Action Coalitions
-  The secretariat has attended and participate in

Below are strategic entry points and opportunities that KESWA should leverage to inform a strategic advocacy approach of their engagement within the Beijing+25 review process.

- Annexed on this strategy are the Action Coalition leaders that KESWA could use to do outreach and find pathways to plug into the various ACs
- Strategic engagement to influence the blueprints from the Action Coalitions. Below is the timeline of the virtual workshops currently deliberating on the ACTION points to guide the draft policy commitments for the Action Coalition themes
- Work with local women's rights organization on a strategy on how to expand and influence the Kenyan government(leading GBV Action Coalition) to think of their policy commitments beyond FGM and be holistic towards elimination of all forms of GBV and violence against women?
- Develop an action plan on linking up Kenyan national advocacy on the various ACs to the global GEF process across the various Action Coalitions
- Working with CSO AC leaders based in Kenya- PACJA, FEMNET
- Being active in the activation and consultation phase of the timeline

Proposed Strategic Approach

For KESWA, the work in Kenya and beyond should aim to be complementary and to plug into and be situated in a broader ecosystem of the institution's advocacy work and to be grounded in the formation of the broader Generation Equality ecosystem. Institutionally, the advocacy priorities should align with the issue focus areas and KESWA's membership priorities outlined in the retrospective report. Finally, the advocacy approach should leverage KESWA core competencies and track record and should be in line with existing KESWA's programming.

Below are potential Action Coalitions that KESWA should seek to influence or plug into



KESWA: Influence and contribute to the Beijing+25/Generation equality process
 "SDG 5: Achieve Gender Equality and empower all Women and Girls
 SDG Promise: Leave No One Behind



KESWA Strategic Advocacy Goals

Create linkages with existing coalitions, ally women's rights organizations movements and feminist networks engaging in the Beijing+25 review/Generation Equality process

Explore opportunities to engage in movement-building and leverage KESWA networks, membership priorities and strategic vision to influence the policy commitments of select Action Coalitions



KESWA's Strategic Approach to influencing the Generation Equality process

Objective 1: To determine the alignment between the existing Generation Equality Action Coalition themes with KESWA priorities

Objective 2: To Map the landscape, actors, and influencers in the Generation Equality space, in terms of existing initiatives and their focus and strategic positioning in the GEF ecosystem

Objective 3: Understand the entry points, value addition and allies that could facilitate or 'support' grounding for KESWA's advocacy priorities

Annex1: Generation Equality Action Coalition themes leadership

Leadership structures representing stakeholders from across sectors

| | MEMBER STATES | INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS | UN AGENCIES | PHILANTHROPY | CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS |
|--|--|---|--|--|--|
| Gender Based Violence | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Iceland Kenya United Kingdom Uruguay | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> European Commission | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) World Health Organization (WHO) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ford Foundation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ABAAD Resource Center (Regional, Lebanon) Breakthrough (National, India) European Women's Lobby (Regional, Belgium) Global Coalition on Inclusive and Safe Spaces and Cities for Women and Girls (Global) OutRight International (Global) |
| Economic Justice & Rights | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Germany Mexico South Africa Spain Sweden | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Care International (Global) Confederation (Global, Belgium) FEMNET (Regional, Kenya) Husairou Commission (Global, USA) International Trade Union Women's Working Group on Financing for Development (Global) |
| Bodily autonomy and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Argentina Burkina Faso Denmark France | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Financing Facility for Women, Children and Adolescents (GFF) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alliance Droits et Santé (Regional, Ivory Coast) ARROW (Regional, Malaysia) FEIM (Fundación para Estudio e Investigación de la Mujer) (National, Argentina) International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) (Global) International Women's Health Coalition (Global) Youth Coalition for Sexual and Reproductive Rights (Global) |



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28

Leadership structures representing stakeholders from across sectors

| | MEMBER STATES | INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS | UN AGENCIES | PHILANTHROPY | CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS |
|---|---|--|--|---|---|
| Feminist action for climate justice | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Costa Rica (in consortium with the Latin American Faculty of Social Science (FLACSO) and the National Institute for Women (INAMU) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consortium-International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), OECD, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP), United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ALGA (National, Kyrgyzstan) DIVA (National, Fiji) Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (Regional, Kenya) Women's Environment and Development Organization (Global South) |
| Technology and innovation for Gender Equality | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Armenia Finland Tunisia | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) International Telecommunication Union (ITU) | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A+ Alliance (Global) Global Fund for Women (Global) Social Builder (National, France) |
| Feminist movements and leadership | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Canada The Netherlands | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), Women Political Leaders (WPL) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open Society Foundation (OSF) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EuroCentralAsian Lesbian* Community (Regional) Gender Links (Regional, South Africa) International Women's Development Agency (Global) La Asamblea Nacional Política de Mujeres Indígenas (ANPMI) (National, Mexico) Women Enabled International (Global) |



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11