Your Voice in the Africa CSO's Beijing +25 Review

In May 2019, FEMNET commissioned a survey to engage with its members and wider women’s rights movement to add their voice and perspectives to the ongoing Beijing +25 review process.

80% of the respondents were from the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), 6.8% were individual activists/advocates, 4.1% from the academia, 2.7% from government sector, 1.4% from the private sector and 1.4% development partners.

Below are the detailed views and responses:

1. Representation by organization
2. Representation by Language

We received 75 responses representing 21 African countries namely; Kenya, Uganda, Cameroon, Gambia, Zimbabwe, Rwanda, Zambia, Ghana, Nigeria, Guinea Conakry, Senegal, South Africa, Mali, Burkina Faso, South Sudan, Tanzania, DRC, Burundi, Côte D’Ivoire and Ethiopia.
4. Age

50% of the respondents were below 40 years old.

5. Sources of Information about Beijing +25 review process

Majority of the members received information about Beijing +25 from FEMNET list serve, social media, ministries of gender in their countries, emails from UNECA, UN Women, Akili Dada, IAC, Global Fund for Women, CSW, CPD etc. Others also received information from CSO’s in their respective countries.
6. Involvement by the Government in Beijing+25 Review Process

61% of respondents said that their governments involved them, but 31% who were not. Those involved were from Zimbabwe, Uganda, Rwanda, Senegal, Guinea Conakry and DRC through national level consultation meetings, online surveys and drafting of the national reports. They also participated through advocacy campaigns and women groups.

7. Ways that Governments Involved Participating Organizations

CSOs responded to online surveys, a few were in the drafting of the national reports but a majority were in the national level consultation meetings. They also prepared updates to members but the consultations were purely government with limited CSO involvement. They also participated in regional meetings and consulted with the Ministry of Gender in their respective countries. Advocacy campaigns and women’s groups’ participation was also key.
8. Knowledge of other CSOs that are participating in the Beijing +25 Review Process

FEMNET, Women’s Coalition Zimbabwe, UN Women, FIDA, NGOCC, NETRIGHT, Uganda Women's Network (UWONET), Forum for Women in Development (FOWODE), Association des femmes Juristes amongst many other organizations were involved in the Beijing+25 review process.

Plan Kenya, FEMNET, Zimbabwe Women's Lawyers Association, Association Guinéenne des Assistantes Socials (AGUIAS), EU were also mentioned as coordinating CSOs in developing Beijing+25 Shadow report.

9. List of CSOs Participating in B+25 Review

1. FEMNET  https://femnet.org/
2. Women’s Coalition Zimbabwe  http://www.wcoz.org/
3. UN Women  http://www.unwomen.org/en
4. FIDA Kenya  https://www.fidakenya.org/
5. Non-Governmental Organization Coordinating Council (NGOCC)  https://justassociates.org
6. Network For Women’s Right in Ghana (NETRIGHT)  http://netrightghana.org/
7. Uganda Women's Network (UWONET)-  https://www.uwonet.or.ug/
8. Forum for Women in Development (FOWODE)  http://fowode.org
10. List of Lead Organizations in developing Beijing+25 Shadow report

1. FEMNET - https://femnet.org/
4. Association Guinéenne des Assistantes Sociaux (AGUIAS)
5. EU https://europa.eu/

11. Type of Support that Lead Organizations are Receiving

44% of the organizations received technical support, information/knowledge 82% and 17% received financial support.


1. There is need for public and visible multi-stakeholder engagement between the private sector, government, academia and CSOs including women’s rights organizations.
2. The use of social media platforms is critical in ensuring more local level participation of women and girls in the process.
3. Increased awareness on the Beijing+25 review process is important as well as providing technical assistance and training on how to engage in the review processes especially for organizations that are interested in contributing/compiling shadow reports.
4. Beijing review process should be a continuous annual process so that there is continuous and progressive engagement for cumulative information.
5. UN Women in countries needs to be more proactive and help women's CSOs in follow up with the process.

Follow/Engage online on twitter using #Beijing25Africa and tag @FemnetProg