

Generation Equality Forum Commitments:  
**What Did African Leaders in  
Government, Civil Society  
and Private Sector Promise?**

A Mapping & Analysis of GEF Commitments for Africa

August 2022



# **The African Women's Development and Communication Network**

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**#GEFOneYearOn**

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	Acronyms
Action Coalitions	ACs
Africa Development Bank	AfDB
African Union	AU
Accountability Framework Working Group	AFWG
African Women's Development and Communication Network	FEMNET
Civil Society	CSOs
Congo Democratic Republic of the	DRC
Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women	CEDAW
Commission on the Status of Women	CSW
Economic Justice and Rights	EJR
Family Planning	FP
Female Genital Mutilation	FGM
Feminist Action and Climate Justice	FACJ
Feminist Movement and Leadership	FML
Gender Based Violence	GBV
Generation Equality Forum	GEF
Information and Communications Technology	ICT
International Labour Organisation	ILO
Intimate Partner Violence	IPV
Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex	LGBTI
Science technology, engineering and mathematics	STEM
Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights	SRHR
Sexual Violence in Conflict	SVC
Sustainable development goals	SDGs
Technology and Innovation for Gender Equality	TI
United Nations	UN
Violence against Women and Girls	VAWG
Young Women's Leadership Institute	YWLI
Young Youth Network for Good Leadership in Nigeria	YYNGLIN

# Introduction

This year 2022, marks the 27th year anniversary of [Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action \(BDPFA\)](#) unanimously endorsed during the [1995 Fourth World Conference on Women](#) that solidified and set global targets for achieving gender equality and women's rights. Although the Beijing+25 anniversary was subdued to virtual commemoration due to the outbreak of [coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\)](#), women and girls across Africa were relentless to ensure that the Beijing fire did not die. The COVID-19 pandemic revealed the persistent systemic and structural barriers to achieving a just, equal, sustainable and inclusive world. **A consistent clarion call by feminists, activists and gender advocates was the urgent need for a system change and dismantling of entrenched patriarchal and neoliberal development models.**

While there has been notable progress especially around enacting legal and policy frameworks across Africa, lack of adequate resourcing to facilitate implementation and potent pushback by growing opposition on the women's movement continues to derail the Beijing promise and agenda for equality, sustainable development and peace.

The core objective of achieving gender equality and advancing women's rights remains a cross-cutting theme contributing towards the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) (SDGs). In 2015, the SDGs became a universal call to action to end inequalities and create an equal, fair and inclusive world for all people. The SDG goal number 5 on gender equality and other subsets of other goals made way for the Generation Equality Forum process.



DATA

MAP

DIRECTORY

View the statistics and data trends of all Commitments or select an Action Coalition below to view data specific to the theme.

**\*Commitments have gone under validation and revision by partners and reflect submissions made up to 10 September 2022.**

View by Action Coalition

See all



Gender-Based  
Violence



Economic Justice &  
Rights



Feminist Action for  
Climate Justice



Bodily Autonomy &  
SRHR



Feminist  
Movements &  
Leadership



Technology &  
Innovation for  
Gender Equality

[Generation Equality Forum](#) (GEF) is a multistakeholder global gathering for gender equality leaders, feminists and activists representing civil society, young people

movements, governments, philanthropy, UN agencies, academia and private sector, convened by UN Women and co-hosted by the governments of Mexico and France. The GEF design is centred on data and evidence, which is critical in monitoring and analysing progress made towards gender equality commitments. The launch of the Generation Equality Forum in 2021 culminated in the activation of the six Action Coalitions that co-developed the [Global Acceleration Plan for Gender Equality](#) that promises to transform the lives of women and girls around the world by 2026. These six Action Coalitions (AC) are:

1. Gender-Based Violence
2. Economic justice and rights
3. Bodily autonomy and sexual and reproductive health and rights
4. Feminist action for climate justice
5. Technology and innovation for Gender Equality
6. Feminist movements and leadership

## Action Coalition Co-Leaders

**Over 90+ partners have joined the Action Coalition Leadership Structures**

	Member States	United Nations Agencies & International Organizations	Civil Society Organizations	Youth-led organizations	Private companies & Philanthropies
Gender-Based Violence					
Economic Justice and Rights					
Bodily Autonomy and SRHR					
Feminist Action for Climate Justice					
Technology and Innovation for Gender Equality					
Feminist Movements and Leadership					

The African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET), a pan-African feminist and membership-based organisation working to advance women's rights is a co-leader in Economic Justice and Rights Action Coalition. **FEMNET is keen to work closely with the EJR co-leaders to advance progress in the four key pillars:-**

1. Increase women's economic empowerment by transforming the care economy.
2. Expand decent work and employment in formal and informal economies.
3. Increase women's access to and control over productive resources.
4. Promote inclusive gender-transformative economies.

**FEMNET is also committed to mobilizing, informing and igniting inter-generational and cross-sectoral conversations** across the continent throughout the five years of GEF implementation. This will position African women and girls in all their diversity to engage meaningfully and influence the GEF processes to deliver real and concrete results at the grassroots level. It will also ensure their voices, priorities, and locally-led solutions contribute to the Generation Equality Forum and its Action Coalition processes.

This Mapping and Analysis of GEF commitments in Africa, provides a **continental overview of the [GEF dashboard of commitments made by different African leaders](#)** in civil society and women's rights organizations, government, private sector and young people movements across the six Action Coalitions. This mapping also **analyses the processes and co-creation steps taken in the GEF multilateralism** that brings together the leadership and participation of the various multi-stakeholders. We believe that this mapping and analysis will **enable meaningful engagement between and among African leaders** in government, civil society, young people movement and private sector in the implementation and tracking of the GEF commitments and more so serve as a tool for:-

- **Awareness** – to popularise the GEF commitments by different leaders.
- **Accountability** – to monitor and analyse progress in implementation over the five years (2021 – 2026).
- **Agenda setting** – to link and complement ongoing processes and commitments like the SDGs, Maputo Protocol, CEDAW and national policies and constitutional frameworks.
- **Advocacy** - to encourage other leaders to become commitment makers and honour the commitments.

FEMNET recognizes the contribution to the GEF process by leaders in women's rights and civil society organizations and networks including those who joined co-created spaces like the **24 FEMNET members who hosted GEF virtual engaging watch parties during the GEF Paris** in July 2021, including: Association of Media Women in Kenya (AMWIK); Young Women's Leadership Institute (YWLI); Feminist for Peace, Rights and Justice Centre (FPRJC); Coast Associations for Persons with Disabilities (CAPWAD); Kadirat Tunisia; Female Students Network Zimbabwe; Associação Mwana Pwo; Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) Senegal; DSW Kenya; EVA Nigeria; Voix des Femme Burkina Faso; Polycom; Global Learning for Sustainability (GLS); Groots Kenya; Women Aspire, Ghana; Women's Forum Sierraleone; Community Healthcare Initiative (CHI) Liberia; GENCED; ROAJELF Mali; New Millennium Women Empowerment Organization (NMWEO); Faith Word Action (FWA); Centre for Accelerated Women's Economic Empowerment (CAWEE); Cercle des Dames Mourides (CDM) and CONAFED (Comité National Femme et Développement).



## The GEF Journey

The GEF commitment maker's decision to come together in the gender equality comes as part of years of several global and regional frameworks have committed to ending gender inequality. The Action Coalition Leaders have also worked in a dynamic way to co-create the draft Action Coalition Blueprints. **The core principles guiding the Action Coalitions inclusively frames by intersectionality, feminist leadership and transformation as principles** that inspire how the Action Coalitions operate and what they aspire to achieve. Feminist practice remains key through the accountability framework process some participants from government, civil society and others recommended using feminist monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning practices and methodologies that recognise that change is not linear. Suggestions to make use of mixed methodologies that assess contributions to progress over time rather than attributions as well as taking note of negative impacts, resistance, reactions, and unexpected outcomes as well as the positive; and build in opportunities for learning throughout the process. **All Action Coalition Leaders and Commitment Makers are encouraged to reflect these principles within their own organisations, governments, institutions, and companies, as well as in their collective work.**

Critically, GEF process, including the blueprints have intentionally included **nuanced and strong human rights language** which unfortunately have been challenged and watered down over time in multilateral negotiations and during the domestication and implementation of policies.

There are key terms, definitions and phases that make this conversation potent and ending of harmful practices essential. Some straightforward definitions include Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG), Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) a harmful persistent cultural practice in several African countries. Early Child and Forced Marriage where girls below 18 years forced into marriage, as well as Sexual Violence in Conflict (SVC) are among the mainstream definitions and discussion points.

Within the GEF specific rhetoric are terms such as the blueprints, which show the priority areas for each Action Coalition. The Blueprints lay out a rationale, present important data and statistics while defining the vision for success.

The blueprints are strategies and tactics grounded in collaborative action through bold – and, as much as possible, collective – stakeholder commitments. The commitments by stakeholders have embarked on a 5-year journey to accelerate equality, leadership and opportunity for women and girls worldwide. This work will culminate in 2026. As such, the blueprints earmark the specific actions.

The Forum's 5-year action journey built around the earlier mentioned [Global Acceleration Plan](#) - a global road map for gender equality that aims to fulfil the promise

of the Beijing Platform for Action and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. For many grassroots organisations, this action includes joint advocacy and multi-year strategies to push the Action Coalition's substantive priorities while leveraging global and regional moments. To this end unpacking the GEF commitments and accountability frameworks toward the commitments is a key part of the process. The **Monitoring and Accountability Framework of the Generation Equality Action Coalitions** intended to track implementation of commitments, chart progress towards the blueprint targets, document transformative process, and elevate stories of impact. Through this, the framework aims to improve the probability of achieving the transformative impact set out in the Global Acceleration Plan, including both the Action Coalitions blueprint targets and the commitments.

## FEMNET's GEF Journey



Since 2020, FEMNET has continued to leverage on her vibrant social media platforms (twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram and WhatsApp) to **engage and curate digital conversations** around the Generation Equality Forum as well as share updates about the GEF process and how to engage and contribute using the following hashtags [#GenerationEqualityAfrica](#) and [#GenerationEquality](#).

FEMNET continues to **host virtual information sharing sessions** via Zoom bringing together her members and the wider feminist and women's movement for not only sharing updates on GEF but also as safe spaces for brainstorming on diverse ways to contribute and influence the processes and outcomes of the GEF Action Coalitions (AC). As a member of the CSAG (Civil Society Advisory Group), co-leader of the Economic Justice and Rights, and several structures of the GEF, continues to consolidate, influence and contribute to GEF processes and design.

In 2020, FEMNET captured critical voices, perspectives and reflections on the 25 years journey after the adoption of the historical Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

(BDPfA) by women, girls and gender non-conforming persons who share what they consider as progress and the urgent actions that are much needed for the authentic realization of women's and girls' rights in all their diversity. [Click here to watch the Documentary.](#)

2

During the GEF Paris launch in June/ July 2021, FEMNET mobilized 24 women rights and feminist organizations in 14 countries across Africa to host watch parties of the GEF opening ceremony. Over 1,300 people, including young girls and adolescents under 18, youth, young women under 25, as well as boys, young men and men, those with disabilities, LGBTQI+, and young mothers participated in these watch parties, enabling them access to the opening and other sessions of the GEF. [Click here to read the GEF report.](#)

At national level FEMNET has been instrumental working closely with her members for example in Kenya contributing to the Presidential Steering committee of GEF implementation convened in the office of the president and in Malawi mobilizing and contributing to the 1st high-level convening on GEF spearheaded by women leaders across Africa. At regional and global platforms, FEMNET has been intentional in raising awareness on GEF processes and commitments through the various policy advocacy engagement for instance with the AU Department of Youth and Women Affairs, GIMAC (Gender is My Agenda Campaign), and the NGO CSW/Africa.

FEMNET intentionally mobilised African women and girls in all their diversity to be commitment makers and evidently most of the commitments made were from African women's rights organizations and youth led organizations. FEMNET also invested significant time in urging her members to push their governments to make commitments that are bold and transformative.

2 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s1DJa3EGE4k>

## FEMNET GEF Commitment

**FEMNET submitted a commitment at GEF Paris**, which is to mobilize and strengthen the capacities of African women and girls in all their diversities in policy advocacy so as to influence macro level economic policies and climate change frameworks to be gender transformative for equitable and sustainable distribution and use of resources in Africa. FEMNET will scale-up the African Feminist Macroeconomic Academy (AFMA) to reach African teenage girls, young women, women political leaders and non-binary persons. AFMA will generate a pool of analytical and passionate advocates of feminist macro-economic policies and practices across generations to co-develop an alternative economic model that is just, equitable, sustainable and feminist.

FEMNET will scale up use of information technologies by investing in and supporting young girls' innovators, grassroots movements and collectives and will partner with women media associations to fiercely advocate for sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and bodily autonomy and push for the ratification & implementation of the [ILO Convention 190](#) on ending violence and harassment in the world of work.

## **FEMNET One Year On #Implementing the commitment**

As part of the co creation process on 21 September 2022 FEMNET mobilised GEF Watch party organisations, FEMNET members and other Human rights justice organisations as part of the United Nations General Assembly - UNGA77 side events; to the Launch of the Generation Equality Forum Commitments Mapping: What Did African Leaders in Government, Civil Society and Private Sector Promise? The meeting which took place virtually asked participants totalling 194 if they knew of GEF? Of which 88% had and 12% did not know GEF. The next question asked the 88% if they knew their governments GEF commitments of which 53% said yes and 47% said no. The launch enabled the unpacking of issues to be raised in GEF as we journey towards 2026.

### **What needs to be included in the mapping and analysis of the GEF commitments?**

*Visibility of persons living with disability PLWDs* and commitments along those lines which include key indicators and targets towards PLWDs. All the [action coalition blueprints](#) have intentional actions towards including women in all their diversity, one cannot assume that this covers PLWDs targets set for 2026 and thus it will be key in the two years on to make concrete inclusion of PLWDs.

Engagement of *local and grassroot organisations* is to be included and not just mentioned in all the [action coalition blueprints](#) that speak of inclusion of indigenous organisations, which categorises grassroots organisations. However, African women and girls request specific mention and *key accountability frameworks* that plan to include active and meaningful participation of grassroots organisations. These steps frameworks should include steps to include rural women and organisations that do not have an internet presence.

African women and girls request the inclusion of an *effective tracking tool that is easily accessible and updated timely*, while the GEF mechanism is putting in place accountability frameworks that will track and monitor commitments and progress made from the action coalition level. There is need for the effective use of the GEF commitment dashboard as a more accessible tool to track progress on the commitments made.

Additionally, the mapping must speak of *clear funding commitments* that are traceable and marked out, a well-articulated *balancing of achievements and challenges* and not

just focus on the challenges towards achieving equality. The mapping should include the names of the organisations that made commitments. While these are included in the online live dashboard, the publications must make mention of the organisations that made commitments. This goes together with the need for active participation in the decision-making process by all women and girls' organisations as well as individuals from the continent.

This mapping of GEF commitments on the African continent should assist in ensuring that *GEF commitments are known at community level*. The mapping should work as a **tool in mobilising African women and girls towards holding their governments accountable**. There is potential in the role the mapping can play for African civil society, towards holding private sector, philanthropies and governments to their commitments.

### **What are the key demands as African women and girls to GEF One Year On**

Policies are not working; we need to do what the young generation is asking for to keep telling our leaders enough is enough. We need more African philanthropists and private sector. More specific demands from African women and girls include the need for transparency and empowerment of women. The GEF process should be more *transparent in its empowerment of women*, commitment should not end at policy level but trickle down and up. This demand ties in with the need for sufficient *resourcing and financing of women's rights organisations*, these can come about with *gender responsive budgeting*. Analysis of the GEF commitment maker budgets on gender equality specifically how these budget impact on women, girls and PLWDs within the broader financial budgets will assist bring about equitable distribution of resources.

African women and girls demand adequate *sustainable resources for frontline community activists* and feminists the resources should in the rights hands should bring about. *Improved reporting and data sharing* that enhances stakeholder collaboration and ultimate implementation of equality as set out by GEF. *Policies should be informed* by African women and girls, policies in which African women and girls are seen, heard, and valued. These demands request of *African member stated to live up to* their obligations and commitments made. GEF commitments need to translate and should be integrated into *national and subnational laws*.

African women and girls demand clear implementation towards *ending gender-based violence GBV*, in the GEF process there should be clear policy, laws and funding towards ending GBV. While action coalition 1 in the GEF coalitions is specific to GBV, all coalitions should put in place measure towards ending GBV relevant to each sector and coalition. Awareness raising of GBV laws requires clear *implementation of policies and resources* towards ending GBV.

While GEF has been deliberate about youth led, young voices should be accounted for at decision making levels including community empowerment, *girl's rights to education*

*and creating an inductive learning environment for girls.* Demands for young women and girls' inclusion, leadership, and protection in the GEF process and commitments need to be well articulated by each action coalition blueprint. The demands fit in with the specific six action coalitions which need clear cut commitments towards African women and girls including the most marginalised in hard-to-reach rural areas.

## Analysis of African GEF Commitment Makers

The global overview illustrates **1,007 commitment makers whom have made over 2,703 commitments** recorded in the [GEF commitments accessible on dashboard](#). Of those overall commitments, this report, maps out the African government, civil society, youth and private sector commitments made.

1007

global commitment makers 403 made by African commitment makers

Of the 1,007 global commitment makers 403 made by African commitment makers, of which 813 African commitments made of the 2,703 global total commitments.

54

commitments submitted were from 18 African countries.

Out of 54 African countries, commitments submitted were from 18 African countries, with a combined 101 commitments by African governments out of 492 from global government commitments.

27

from African civil society.

Only South Africa made a commitment to advance [Feminist Action for Climate Justice](#), in fact, out of all commitments, four are from African private sector companies and 27 from African civil society.

30

of the commitments of the 208 overall FACJ commitments are from global governments

Key to also note only 30 of the commitments of the 208 overall FACJ commitments are from global governments, which make South Africa among 30 out of 208 commitments.

117

commitments made by governments across Africa.

Ending [Gender Based Violence](#) has the highest commitments made by African governments with 117 commitments made by governments across Africa.



The biggest financial commitment makers are in Action Coalition 2 on advancing [Economic Justice and Rights](#) with top priority themes submitted by African governments.

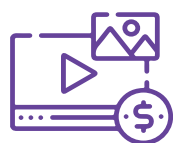
168

commitment makers  
out of the total 1007

The least made commitments are in [Feminist action for climate justice](#) among the global GEF Commitments made. With only 168 commitment makers out of the total 1007 overall commitment makers breakdown.



African philanthropic organisations have five commitment makers from namely, Jumuiya Women Fund (JWF), Urgent Action Fund Africa, Mohammed Enterprises Tanzania Limited (MeTL Group) / Mo Dewji Foundation, Association cœur de femme and Rozaria Memorial Trust represented by Kenya, Tanzania, Togo and Zimbabwe respectively.



Two African Media organisations made commitments, namely, Gemini Spice Magazine – Kenya and Hoa – Tunisia out of the global total 10 organisational commitment makers.

The only African International or regional organisation commitment recorded is by AfDB represented by Côte de Ivoire.

\$1.1m

aimed at advancing  
women leadership.

Aga Khan University is the only academic/research institution across Africa which committed 1.1 million USD aimed at advancing women leadership.



Majority of commitments came from civil society organizations, mostly women's rights organizations with a significant number of commitments from youth/girls led organizations.



Kenya has the most commitments with 124, followed by Nigeria with 111, South Africa - 64, DRC -62, Cameroon with 56 and Tanzania with - 48.

Countries with at least one commitment maker across sectors are namely South Sudan, Guinea, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Morocco, Mauritania, Somalia and Equatorial Guinea.



The African Women's  
Development and  
Communication Network



**The Aga Khan University** is the only academic & research institution in all of Africa to have pledged **1.1 million US dollars** toward the goal of elevating women in leadership positions.

#GenderEqualityAfrica #GenderEquality  
#GEFOneYearOn



[www.femnet.org](http://www.femnet.org)



The African Women's  
Development and  
Communication Network

### COMMITMENTS FOR STRENGTHENING FEMINIST ACTION FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE.

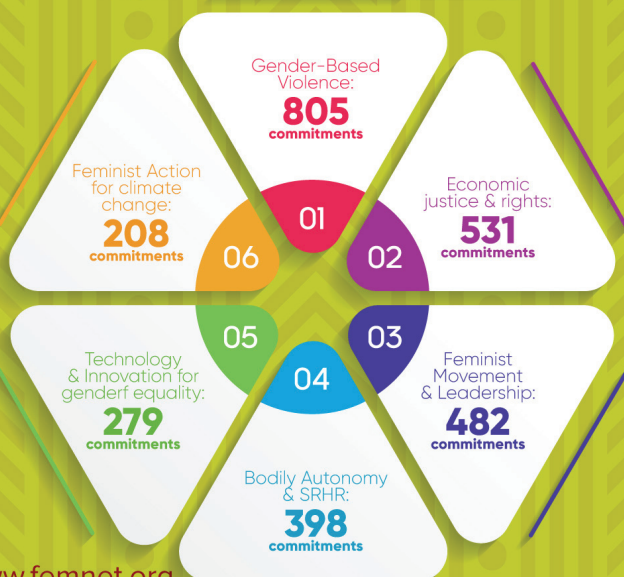


[www.femnet.org](http://www.femnet.org)



The African Women's  
Development and  
Communication Network

### COMMITMENTS FROM AFRICA, PER ACTION COALITION



[www.femnet.org](http://www.femnet.org)



The African Women's  
Development and  
Communication Network

### COMMITMENT FROM CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS IN AFRICA, PER ACTION COALITION.



[www.femnet.org](http://www.femnet.org)



## Analysis of African GEF Commitment Makers

Sectors	Global Commitment makers	African Commitment makers	Commitments made	African commitments
Academic and research institutions	11	2	22	1
Autonomous Communities	25	2	18	5
Civil Society	515	76	1,371	508
Governments	70	18	492	101
Financial institutions	3	1	2	1
International / regional organisations	18	1	80	1
Media Institutions	10	2	10	3
Philanthropies	22	3	65	16
Private Sector Companies	52	16	213	30
National Institutions	12	2	5	1
United Nation Development Systems	24	0	111	2
Youth Led Organisations	152	49	314	144
<b>Total</b>			<b>2,703</b>	<b>813</b>

## Commitment making process

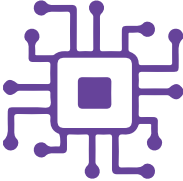

The Core Advisory and GEF convenors together with UN Women, governments of Mexico and France and civil society and youth leaders continue to hold commitment makers accountable. African governments represent both leaders in the Action Coalitions and are commitment makers to specific thematic focus areas. African Member states are engaging in the realisation of the commitments made through co-creation participation with all stakeholders involved. Few highlights to joint commitments and commitment wording made by African government. Global governments are expected to support their commitment with financing (proportionate to capacity), to have ratified or acceded to CEDAW and commit to respect, protect and fulfil the human rights of girls and women in all their diversity. Private Sector Entities must commit to the Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs) and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human rights. These should also be in line with the UN's Due Diligence Screening. Private Sector Entities' commitment should be reflected by a financial contribution. The table below Table 1 looks at the thematic commitments made by African governments (leaders). To date 16 African governments submitted their commitments: Burkina Faso, Gabon, Kenya,

Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Somalia, South Africa, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

### African Governments commitments and AC leaders by thematic area<sup>1</sup>

Action Coalition	African Government Co-leaders	Country commitment makers
<p>Gender-Based Violence</p> 	Kenya	<p>DRC Liberia Madagascar Mozambique Nigeria Senegal Somalia South Africa South Sudan Uganda Tanzania Zimbabwe</p>
<p>Economic justice and rights</p> 	South Africa	<p>Liberia Malawi Mozambique Namibia Nigeria Senegal Somalia South Africa Kenya Tanzania Uganda Zimbabwe</p>
<p>Bodily autonomy and sexual and reproductive health and rights</p> 	Burkina Faso South Africa	<p>Benin Guinea Mali Mozambique Niger Togo</p>
<p>Feminist action for climate justice</p> 	<p>One commitment made by South African government Committed to “Increase direct access to financing for gender-just climate solutions, in particular for women and girls at grassroots levels” over a 5-year period and it is a programmatic commitment</p>	

1. Available on Maps | FGE - Forum Génération Egalité ([forumgenerationegalite.fr](http://forumgenerationegalite.fr)) accessed 25 April 2022

Action Coalition	African Government Co-leaders	Country commitment makers
Technology and innovation for Gender Equality 	Rwanda	Tunisia Nigeria Niger
Feminist movements and leadership 	Malawi	Somalia Gabon South Africa Guinea

## African Government Commitments

Like the rest of the world, the African continent continues to face significant challenges in advancing gender equality and women's empowerment. Kenya's president Uhuru Kenyatta in May 2021, unveiled a national plan aimed at accelerating progress towards gender equality and ending gender based violence in Kenya by 2026<sup>2</sup>. Likewise, President Lazarus Chakwera of Malawi reiterated the Malawi Government's commitment to remain steadfast in supporting women initiatives to drive socio-economic growth<sup>3</sup>. The Malawi government is co-leader in the Feminist Movement and Leadership coalition.

While much progress has been made in health and educational outcomes for women and girls in the region, much more has yet to be done. The Action Coalition leaders have made five-year commitments to working on the commitments made in the GEF forums both Mexico and Paris. Whilst Commitment Makers have designed commitment for a minimum of one year (which can be extended), there tend to be several commitment made by the same commitment makers with civil societies

<sup>2</sup> <https://kenya.unfpa.org/en/news/generation-equality-kenya-unveils-new-commitments-accelerate-end-gender-based-violence> [accessed 15 July 2022]

<sup>3</sup> <https://africa.unwomen.org/en/stories/news/2022/06/intergeneration-dialogue-on-generation-equality-and-womens-leadership-in-malawi-this-is-malawi-a-land-of-women-who-lead-and-men-who-celebrate-them> [accessed 15 July 2022]

making the most commitments compared to government. In summary, out of 54 African countries, commitments submitted were from 18 African countries, with a combined 101 commitments by African governments out of 492 from global government commitments.

Working through the context of COVID-19, according to World Health Organisation (WHO) the African regional status report to date recorded over 8,857,168 cases of COVID-19, which affect the socio-economic performance of the continent<sup>4</sup>. The pandemic has upended societies and dramatically altered everyday life because of many African countries bold quarantine and lockdown measures taken to control the spread of COVID-19 in 2020 through to 2021. This has come at a cost such as the collapse of health systems and a painful economic crisis and recession throughout the region. Member states in Africa during the pandemic deployed national budgets and redirected Central bank support to develop policies as mitigation of the health and economic crises. The policy responses were country-by-country-specific because African countries are not closely intertwined. While the African Union (AU) responded by establishing the COVID-19 Response Fund in March 2020, the aim was set out to strengthen the continental response to COVID-19 and mitigate its socio economic and humanitarian impact on African populations. Supported by the Bureau of the African Union Heads of State and Government the Fund commended African countries for enhancing health security in Africa by local production of vaccines. However, the AU fund commission expressed concern regarding the low levels of purchase of vaccines from African vaccine manufacturers by both local and international procurers<sup>5</sup>. The economic effect of the health crises were not in isolation of the previously existing inequalities and struggling economies on the continent. The exact socio-economic impact of COVID-19 and the consequence of each policy response on African countries is still unknown. Bearing this in mind, of the 663 **economic justice and rights EJR** commitments made, of these 113 from global government, 11 African governments made EJR commitments namely Guinea, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Senegal, South Africa, Somalia, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe. Some of the commitment descriptions include commitments by Tanzania to create enabling policy and legal environment and support women and young women to expand decent work in the formal and informal economy to attain economic justice by 2026. Tanzania also committed at government led to expand women's access to and control over productive resources through increasing access to and control over land, gender – responsive financial products and services, and number of firms owned by women by 2026 through. While Malawi committed to adopting policies and implement programmes aimed at reducing and redistributing the unpaid care work through a. adopting a paternity leave policy and b. adopting a

4 <https://who.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/0c9b3a8b68d0437a8cf28581e9c063a9> [accessed 19 July 2022]

5 <https://africacdc.org/download/communique-of-the-video-teleconference-vtc-meeting-of-the-bureau-of-the-assembly-of-the-african-union-au-heads-of-state-and-government-extended-to-african-vaccine-manufacturing-countries-held-on-1/> [accessed 13 July 2022]

policy that will make care work visible and accessible by 2026.

The most commitments made by African governments are commitments towards **gender-based violence (GBV)** totalling 292<sup>6</sup>. Notably, Kenya is the global leader of the Action Coalition on Gender Based Violence. These commitments include commitments by Madagascar “By 2021 committed to ensure adoption of 2019 GBV enforcement texts, including mobilise state actors from different sectors on the responsibilities established by law. Strengthen the involvement of CSOs in strategic planning processes on gender equality and the fight against GBV. Establish a national gender equality policy while operationalise a GBV database collection system - Provide school-based sexuality education including GBV and FP. By 2025: - Advocate for budget allocation to sector ministries for GBV response. Including strengthening the GBV response system: quality, accessible, inclusive and comprehensive services.

Strong government commitment where also made in technology and innovation TI for gender equality thematic area only six from namely Rwanda and Niger making up the commitments. For one the Rwanda Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion committed to enforce gender parity in scholarships allowance in the Regional Centre of Excellence for ICT. Additionally, mobilise resources to establish a Regional Network of women in science for increased collaboration between women in science and mentorship of the girl child these made in collaboration with digital skills for innovative East African Industry. At a policy and programmatic level also committed to reduce the gender gap in STEM. Finally to mobilize actors for institutionalization of a GBV protection system in emergencies.





6 Based on updated data on the GEF Dashboard dated 6 September 2022 <https://commitments.generationequality.org/dashboard/directory/> [accessed 9 September 2022]



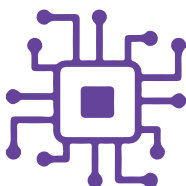
## Commitments by African Civil Society CSOs

African civil society made the most profound commitments at both leadership and commitment making level in the GEF Action Coalition thematic areas totalling 479. It is worth noting that commitments to policy and advocacy stances as well as actual financial commitments have been made from the global south CSO representation. In the table 2 below, we provide the CSO thematic leaders and the commitment makes from African continent. With the feminist approach and Beijing plus 25 foundations, central to the process and principles of GEF is **transparency**, **all** stakeholders commit too and emphasise the importance of transparency. In practice this meant that all commitments and self-reporting on implementation of those commitments is publicly available and presented in a way that is accessible, usable, and understandable; and that expectations on reporting are clear, accessible, and understandable. Majority of commitments came from civil society organizations, mostly women's rights organizations with a significant number of commitments from youth/girls led organisations. **Civil society in Kenya has the most commitments with 124, followed by Nigeria with 111; South Africa has 64, DRC with 62, Cameroon with 56 and Tanzania with 48.** The table below shows the distribution of African civil society across action coalitions.


### Civil Society Organisations African Commitments by AC thematic area

Action Coalition (AC)	African CSO Co Leaders	Civil Society commitment makers at a glance
Gender-Based Violence 117 African CSO commitment makers with 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Union Africaine “Femwise Africa</li> <li>• ONG”Plus de Sida dans les Familles</li> <li>• Women’s Hope Foundation</li> <li>• YW4A Kenya Kisii County</li> <li>• Urias Bodley Initiative</li> </ul>
Economic justice and rights 77 African CSO commitment makers with FEMNET an AC Leader 	African Women’s Development and Communication Network (FEMNET) – AC Leader	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Actions pour la conservation de la nature et le développement communautaire (ACNDC)</li> <li>• Africa Mondo</li> <li>• African Leaders Factory Initiative (ALFI)</li> <li>• Workplace Inclusion MENA</li> </ul>

## Civil Society Organisations African Commitments by AC thematic area

Action Coalition (AC)	African CSO Co Leaders	Civil Society commitment makers at a glance
<p>Bodily autonomy and sexual and reproductive health and rights 69 African CSO commitment makers</p> 	<p>African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET) – AC Leader</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Association De Lutte Contre Les Violences Faites Aux Femmes Extreme Nord Cameroun</li> <li>• WAFAA International</li> <li>• White Ribbon Alliance</li> <li>• SRHR Trust Southern Africa</li> <li>• Federation of Women Lawyers Kenya, FIDA</li> <li>• Female Students Network Trust</li> </ul>
<p>Feminist action for climate justice 27 African CSOs commitment makers with Pan-Africa Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) an AC leader</p> 	<p>Pan-Africa Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) AC leader</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Voix de femmes</li> <li>• Lady of Peace Community Foundation</li> <li>• Cellule Nigerienne des Jeunes Filles Leaders</li> <li>• Girl Up Dar Es Salaam</li> <li>• Female Students Network Trust</li> </ul>
<p>Technology and innovation for Gender Equality 35 African CSOs commitment makers</p> 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Association des Jeunes Leaders pour le Développement</li> <li>• Action pour le développement de la jeune fille</li> <li>• Kashif Organization for Breast Cancer</li> <li>• Connect4Africa</li> <li>• Advocacy For Children's Right Initiative</li> </ul>

## Civil Society Organisations African Commitments by AC thematic area

Action Coalition (AC)	African CSO Co Leaders	Civil Society commitment makers at a glance
<p>Feminist movements and leadership 78 African CSOs commitment makers with Gender Links an AC leader</p> 	<p>Gender Links</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Women's Hope Foundation</li> <li>• Rural Women Network Kenya</li> <li>• Nigeria Women Agro Allied Farmers</li> <li>• African Leaders Factory Initiative (ALFI)</li> <li>• Masimanyane Women's Rights International</li> <li>• Emerging Women Leaders Tanzania (EWLT)</li> </ul>

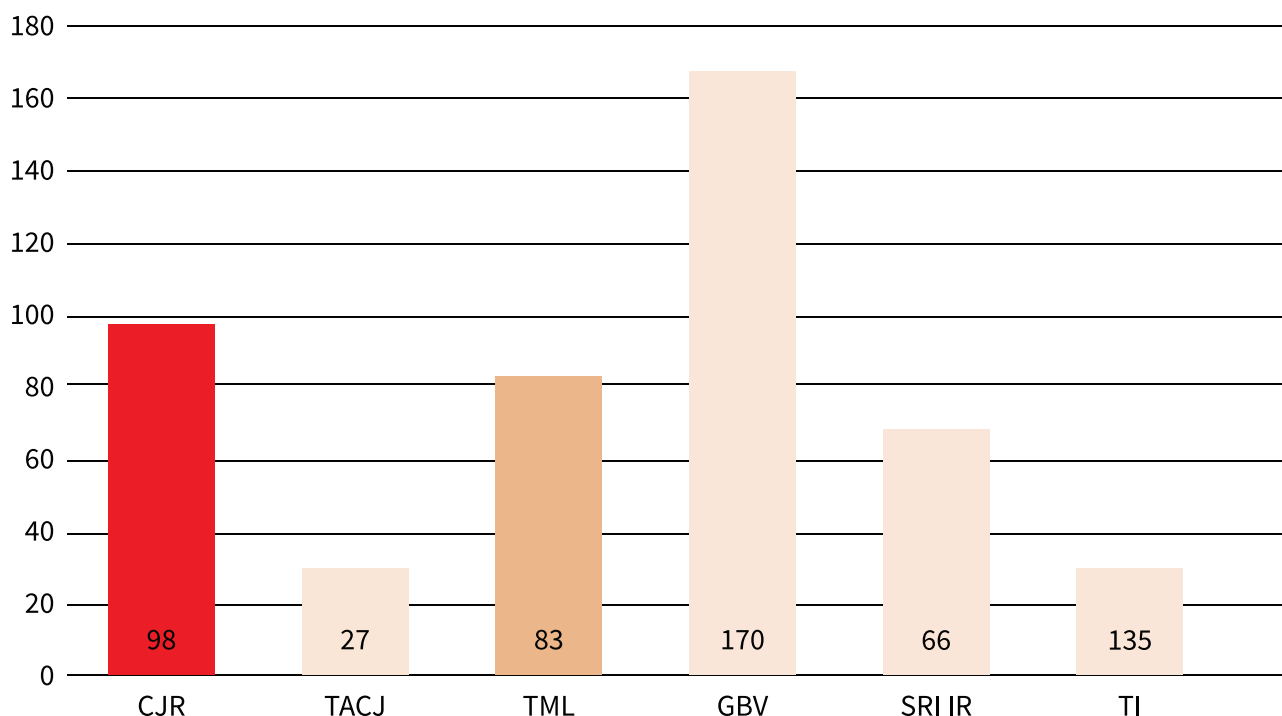
## African Civil Society Organisation Journey

The journey to becoming commitment makers and leaders is one that each organisation can narrate passionately with purpose and determination. Following Paris 2021, in an open session 50 feminists, advocates, activists and strategists documented ways to ensure commitments made in Paris are realised by the different commitment makers within the five-year timeline (2022 - 2026) and result in real transformative change for women and girls in all their diversity. This May 2022 planned actions include a commitment reporting survey that will go out to commitment makers this will enable UN Women as the main GEF Secretariat in establishing the next steps in this multi-stakeholder implementation process. Additionally, an online Accountability Platform to be launched at the UN General Assembly 77 from the 13 to 27th September 2022 alongside the first annual Generation Equality Monitoring and Accountability report. Prior to this in July 2021, an Accountability Framework Working Group (AFWG) was convened through open call to AC Leaders to volunteer as an advisory body to guide this development process. The AFWG provides guidance, feedback, and advice to the Action Coalition members and UN Women in the process of designing a clear, inclusive, and measurable Monitoring and Accountability Framework aligning to the Action Coalition principles.

In summary, the most commitments made are GBV commitments towards ending gender based violence, worded specifically by Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA) they are commit to advocacy programmes seek to lobby for action, policies, laws and practices to be responsive to women's rights needs and interests. We will work with different partners as a way of leveraging our resources whilst multiplying our capacity

by reaching a wider clientele. We not only include and propagate women's right issues but also substantive equality of rights in economic, political and social spheres. Second highest commitments made are in economic justice and rights thematic

**African CSO Commitments by AC Thematic Area**



area where commitments by CSOs include, Nigeria RENDRA foundation working towards strengthening female financial inclusion by 2026. This they envision doing by strengthening entrepreneurship and livelihood of low-income women through access to microcredits, micro insurance and micro-pension to promote resilience especially during crisis. The six-step commitment envisions also advocating against gender-discriminatory practices and stereotypes that limit women's access to formal financial services and engage custodians of tradition, community leaders, and men and boys as allies. Other profound commitment included Green Planet - DRC - International Organization and United Nations Development System committing to strengthen training on women's rights Develop quality and accessible services for survivors of gender-based violence. We are an organization that intervenes in the fields of the promotion of women's rights and empowerment, food security and the promotion of social cohesion and peaceful management of conflicts by coaching young girls and boys as peacemakers.

There is wide distribution of types of CSOs in Africa whom contextually work as institutions whose members engage primarily complex multi layered none state activities. CSOs in Africa are a plethora of community based, grassroots and registered institutes that engage in a wide variety of thematic activities, socio-economic, cultural, voluntary, household and community level. As they work towards preserving and

transforming their identity by exercising all sorts of advocacy, lobbying and other pressures upon state institutions. Among these COFEM from as the Collectif des Femmes du Mali (COFEM) is the first women's group in Mali that defends women and their rights. They are committed to ensuring increased awareness and training sessions, the establishment of a GBV specialist cell. While other such as White Ribbon Alliance – Malawi are committed to educate 500,000 women and adolescent girls through direct engagement, social media and mass communication in the Power Model and Self-Care. For them to take bold health seeking behaviours without requiring consent from another person, challenge toxic masculinity that impedes their wellbeing and health, challenge sexual oriented harmful cultural practices that expose women to contracting HIV and other infections and be able to make informed choices free of violence, discrimination, and coercion.

Action Coalition thematic area Bodily Autonomy, Sexual, Reproductive Health, and Rights (SRHR) are the fourth highest commitment makers as feminist organisations both on the African continent are unapologetically taking up spaces. In Africa there continues to be policy and penal codes that criminalises Trans, intersex and nonbinary people increasing the advocacy and commitment needs in LGBTI rights on the continent. This commitment works towards empowering women and girls, in all their diversity, to exercise their SRHR and make autonomous decisions about their bodies. Some of the commitment slogans such as “my body, my choice. Bodily Autonomy”. While descriptions include regional CSO - SRHR Africa Trust Regional (SAT) commitment to mobilising and capacitating young people as champions for SRHR advocacy in six countries, Botswana, Malawi, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Further expanding that this will be done through Youth Hub (Safe Spaces) strategy that will enable experience sharing and the designing of solutions that will promote equitable access to youth-friendly SRHR services by and for young people. Key gatekeepers such

## THE 6 ACTION COALITIONS of the Equality Generation Forum



Gender-based violence



Economic justice and rights



Bodily autonomy and sexual and reproductive health and rights



Feminist action for climate justice



Technology and innovation for Gender Equality



Feminist movements and leadership

as religious, traditional and local leaders engaged as key enablers of young people's access to comprehensive, youth friendly SRHR information and services. Notably, SAT committed to create and strengthen already-existing partnerships in marginalised communities to ensure continuity of service provision and SRHR education as well as continue harnessing the power of digital and social media to raise awareness amongst various stakeholders, on the importance of bodily autonomy and SRHR for young people's safe transition into adulthood<sup>1</sup>.

## Private Sector Commitments

Of the 52 global private sector, commitment makers a total 16 are from African private sector with 30 commitments out of the global 216 commitments made. This is encouraging and impressive considering that globally private sector commitment towards human rights and gender equality do not have direct obligations. There is general disconnect in private sector social engagement if not heavily regulated by governments. Top Model Uganda (TMF) externally committed to training our models about advocacy, these will be used as ambassadors training fellow students and scale back to their native districts to train local women and girls using already established system of local government. Private sector organisations must firstly ensure they have the right practice before they can commit to external commitments. Internally, TMF committed to creating measures internally, which will include policies related to gender, non-discrimination and actually recruit "women battling GBV. While also empowering open communication that empower staff with motivational psychologist. Work life balance are key and so they will encourage family work activities.

In line with CSW 66, priority theme is the feminist action for climate justice commitment by Village Farmers Initiative (VFI) – Nigeria to promote mainstreaming of traditional ecological knowledge of the indigenous women in the transformation of the agricultural landscape, ecosystem restoration and conservation of Africa's food sovereignty. Also known as Maklumi Technology Services Limited – VFI strategically work to enhance indigenous knowledge, skills and expertise with innovative technologies, ICT and digital tools in climate change adaptation and mitigation, ecosystem restoration and conservation of biodiversity. Clear steps also outlined towards achieving this goal sighting awareness creation and education in collaboration and partnership with relevant stakeholders. Currently organising and coordinating a network of ten farmer group clusters in the disadvantaged and underserved communities in Nigeria to bridge the demand and supply gap in agriculture. The priority theme for CSW 66 is "achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes"<sup>2</sup>. The table below shows distribution of commitments made by the private sector in Africa according to country and AC thematic area.

1 <https://commitments.generationequality.org/dashboard/data/> [accessed 10 July 2022]

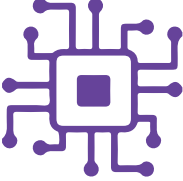

2 <https://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw66-2022> [accessed 23 July 2022]

Action Coalition (AC)	Private Sector	Country
<b>1. Gender-Based Violence</b>	Lucy O’Ora Consulting Limited	Nigeria
	United Bank for Africa	Nigeria
	YOON WI CONSEIL	Senegal
	Top Model Uganda	Uganda
<b>2. Economic justice and rights</b>	Maklummy Technology Services Limited	Nigeria
	The Nanny Academy	Nigeria
	YOON WI CONSEIL	Senegal
	MipangoApp	Tanzania
	NMB Bank	Tanzania
<b>3. Bodily autonomy and sexual and reproductive health and rights</b>	None	
<b>4. Feminist action for climate justice</b>	Emergency Response Africa	Nigeria
	Lucy O’Ora Consulting Limited	Nigeria
	Future Pro	Nigeria
	YOON WI CONSEIL	Senegal
<b>5. Technology and innovation for Gender Equality</b>	Lonadek	Nigeria
	Maklummy Technology Services Limited	Nigeria
	United Bank for Africa	Nigeria
	Women Green Energy Institute	Nigeria
	Mara phones	Rwanda
	Pixaweb Technologies	Sierra Leone
6. Feminist movements and leadership	Lucy O’Ora Consulting Limited	Nigeria
	Yoon Wi Conseil	Senegal

## Youth-Led Organisations and GEF

The GEF process has seen an amazing rise in youth led organisations, both on the African continent and globally. In order to measure progress with the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action of which youth play a crucial role. In Africa, alone Youth Led Organisations made a total 144 commitments towards GEF’s five-year commitments. One such organisational commitment by Young Youth Network for Good Leadership in Nigeria (YINGLIN), committed to “strengthening Gender-Responsive Policing for Victims/Survivors of GBV. Through, Accelerating Global Action to End Harmful Practices against Women and Girls in all their diversity scaling up evidence driven prevention”. The table below shows the impressive youth commitments and leadership.

Action Coalition (AC)	Youth Led Organisations	Country
<p>1. Gender-Based Violence</p> 	<p>39 African Youth Led organisations made commitments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Benin Botswana</li> <li>• Burkina Faso</li> <li>• Cameroon</li> <li>• Democratic Republic of Congo</li> <li>• Kenya Libya</li> <li>• Mali Morocco</li> <li>• Nigeria South Africa</li> <li>• South Sudan</li> <li>• Tanzania United Republic of</li> <li>• Togo Zimbabwe</li> </ul>
<p>2. Economic justice and rights</p> 	<p>17 African Youth Led organisations made commitments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Botswana</li> <li>• Cameroon</li> <li>• Democratic Republic of Congo Kenya</li> <li>• Senegal</li> <li>• South Africa</li> <li>• South Sudan</li> <li>• Togo Uganda</li> </ul>
<p>3. Bodily autonomy and sexual and reproductive health and rights</p> 	<p>29 African Youth Led organisations made commitments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Burkina Faso Cameroon</li> <li>• Democratic Republic of Congo Côte d'Ivoire</li> <li>• Kenya Libya</li> <li>• Mali Morocco</li> <li>• Nigeria Eswatini</li> <li>• Tanzania Uganda</li> <li>• Zimbabwe</li> </ul>
<p>4. Feminist action for climate justice</p> 	<p>14 African Youth Led organisations made commitments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Benin Burkina Faso</li> <li>• Cameroon</li> <li>• Democratic Republic of Congo Guinea</li> <li>• Mali South Africa</li> <li>• Uganda Zimbabwe</li> </ul>

Action Coalition (AC)	Youth Led Organisations	Country
5. Technology and innovation for Gender Equality 	14 African Youth Led organisations made commitments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Benin Burkina Faso</li> <li>• Cameroon</li> <li>• Democratic Republic of Congo Guinea</li> <li>• Mali South Africa</li> <li>• Uganda Zimbabwe</li> </ul>
6. Feminist movements and leadership 	27 African Youth Led organisations made commitments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Benin Burkina Faso</li> <li>• Cameroon</li> <li>• Côte d'Ivoire</li> <li>• Guinea Kenya</li> <li>• Mali Morocco</li> <li>• Nigeria Senegal</li> <li>• South Africa</li> <li>• South Sudan</li> <li>• Tanzania Togo</li> <li>• Uganda Zimbabwe</li> </ul>

The GEF process has seen the most engagement with youth and adolescent co creation and commitment making. In the accountability framework should be guidelines that speak to the process of countries reporting to the United Nations (UN) and CSW every five years. While national governments compile country reports, civil society plays an important role to expose discrepancies in country reports through shadow reports. In this process, youth-led organisations are called to also take on the baton and hold themselves and CSOs accountable to tangible change. Crucially, women's rights and feminist organisations remain central in the struggle for gender justice therefore act as a corrective model to official targets and views of the state of gender equality/justice in achieving set commitments. The youth leaders stressed the importance of bringing in a decolonisation lens to the work of GEF accountability, which means examining, unpacking, and reshaping power dynamics particularly those that linked to resource flows and decision-making about them; and ensuring leadership and participation from diverse groups from the Global South.

## Philanthropy Commitment Makers

Sixteen commitments made on the African continent by Philanthropies. This number is a poor reflection of the commitments by philanthropies, and we ask where do philanthropies commit their resources and finances?

Commitments are from four African countries namely Kenya, Tanzania, Togo and Zimbabwe.

## Conclusion

In conclusion based on this desktop analysis of the GEF commitment dashboard, the UN Women articles and reported updates of the action coalition blueprint processes as well as formulation of the accountability framework, it is clear that the **403 African leaders who have made commitments need to mobilize their fellow leaders** from government, CSOs/ WROs, private sector, philanthropy, academia, media and youth-led networks to also submit their commitments to UN Women and ensure the commitments made are implemented at the community local level.

**FEMNET acknowledges the self-sacrificing efforts by several feminist and women's movement leaders, in self-organizing and contributing their own strained resources towards the GEF processes.**

FEMNET also recognizes efforts by UN Women in sharing GEF related information with GEF co-leaders especially during the monthly workshops and using digital platforms. However, **without targeted investment and sustainable resourcing of community frontline feminist and women's rights organizations to cascade GEF information using diverse offline approaches, then local communities will continue to be disconnected and left behind.**

In this second year of the GEF implementation, it is critical for the **GEF leaders to re-think and re-strategize community mobilization and invest in massive groundswell mobilization** which is critical in igniting and sustaining the GEF flame.

