



MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PARTNERSHIPS | SDG 5

Equal rights, equal opportunities

5 GENDER
EQUALITY



Around the world, more and more women are taking control of their lives, going to university, having a career and deciding whether and when they want to have children. But many women still suffer violence and control by others. This ranges from discriminatory laws and insufficient representation in parliaments and top management to the risk of becoming the victim of rape. A culture change is needed, along with more education and welfare.

Women living in the countries of the Global North had to fight for decades to gain many of their rights – and this process is far from over. Women around the globe have been demanding to exercise their rights for a long time. The United Nations drew up Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5 – Gender equality – to advance these efforts.

It starts with legislation: according to the [UN Women National Committee Germany](#), 18 countries make women get their husbands' consent before being allowed to work, 49 countries have no laws protecting women from domestic violence and 37 countries let rapists escape punishment if they are married to the woman or if they marry her later. In many countries women and girls are victims of forced marriage, and in 31 countries genital mutilation is still common practice.

Multi-stakeholder partnerships

Women – and therefore women's issues – have always been and still are underrepresented in parliaments, positions of leadership, the media and research. And often they are not paid equal wages for equal work. Multi-stakeholder partnerships (MSPs) can play an important part in addressing many of these issues by promoting equal rights, enforcing equal pay for work of equal value, changing rules and regulations and general framework conditions and by setting positive examples.

An MSP can be initiated by companies, associations, academic organisations, civil society organisations and public sector institutions. The added value is obtained from the partners pooling core competencies, experience and resources and thereby achieving a greater impact in a particular field.



Partnerships2030 – the MSP platform

On behalf of the [German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development \(BMZ\)](#), the Partnerships2030 project promotes multistakeholder partnerships and thus contributes to implementing the 2030 Agenda. BMZ now promotes around 80 MSPs through the [Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit \(GIZ\) GmbH](#) and [Engagement Global – bengo](#). GIZ implements the Partnerships2030 project, supports MSPs and stakeholders in many different ways, creates networks to link them to partners and provides information.



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The MSP methodology

MSPs are a form of cooperation in which stakeholders from at least three sectors among civil society, the public sector, the private sector and academia join forces as equals in order to contribute to the common good. An MSP can generate a transformative impact through cooperation geared to the long term.

Accelerating Progress for Gender Equality: Action Coalition on Economic Justice and Rights

Launched by the Generation Equality Forum in Mexico City and Paris in summer 2021, the Action Coalition on Economic Justice and Rights is one of six global multi-stakeholder initiatives to accelerate investment and implementation on gender equality in the spirit of SDG 5.

26 years after the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, too little has changed. There, and in multiple forums since, world leaders have pledged to eliminate gender inequality and realise women's and girls' rights. Yet, public commitments have not been met with the advocacy, financing or implementation of laws, policies and programmes needed to achieve these goals.



To change this, the Generation Equality Forum was launched in 2021 in Mexico City and Paris as a civil society centered, multi-stakeholder global movement for gender equality. It is convened by UN Women in partnership with civil society and youth. One of its main outcomes was the launch of six thematic Action Coalitions.

Action Coalitions are global, innovative, multi-stakeholder partnerships that are mobilizing governments, civil society, international organizations, and the private sector to: catalyze transformational change in the lives of women and girls by leveraging the power of collective action; drive an inclusive, cohesive, and impactful global movement and a community of practice; sustain increased public and private investment through commitments for gender

equality; and deliver irreversible and quantifiable results for women and girls.

One of the Action Coalitions focuses on Economic Justice and Rights. Its vision is to make systems gender-responsive and ensure equitable, secure access to resources, services and decision-making; participation

in gender-transformative enterprise and trade; promotion of non-discriminatory labour markets, free of violence and harassment; a care economy that equitably shares and values care and domestic work; and resilience to economic shocks. Guided by this vision, the Action Coalition puts forward four ambitious actions for economic justice and rights, as outlined in the [Global Acceleration Plan](#). Since 2021, over



600 financial, policy, programmatic and advocacy commitments have been made to achieve irreversible progress by 2026. They are now being implemented and tracked through an accountability framework.

According to the first [Generation Equality Accountability Report](#) (2022), 45% of reported commitments on economic justice and rights have a global scope and 76% of the 138 commitments reported on are in progress. Commitment makers have pledged at least \$15 billion to the Action Coalition of which \$11.8 billion has been secured.

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