



# **Inclusive, Impactful & Inspiring: Enhancing the Beijing+25 & Generation Equality Forum**

**A Right Here Right Now Position Paper**

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RIGHT HERE  
RIGHT NOW

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Shake The Dust on behalf of the RHRN partnership

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# Acronyms

AA-HA	Global Accelerated Action for the Health of Adolescents
CAT	Committee against Torture
CEDAW	Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women
CERD	Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
CESCR	Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
CRC	Committee on the Rights of the Child
CSE	Comprehensive Sexuality Education
CSW	Commission on the Status of Women
GEF	Generation Equality Forum
HRC	Human Rights Committee
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
MYP	Meaningful Youth Participation
RHRN	Right Here Right Now
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SRH	Sexual and Reproductive Health
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS
WHO	World Health Organization



# Why This Paper?

The Beijing +25 process was launched as a celebration of key anniversaries for the gender equality movement taking place in 2020. The global processes and gatherings planned as part of the Beijing +25 process mark the 25th Anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and its key outcome document, the Beijing Platform for Action. Moreover, it celebrates the 10th Anniversary of UN Women and the 20th Anniversary of Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women Peace and Security.

The Generation Equality Forum (GEF) are key in the Beijing +25 global activities. Two fora are to be led by the Mexican government and the French government, whereby the former will support the development of action plans on gender equality led by so-called Action Coalitions, and the latter will offer room for a public launch of these plans. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and related public health measures, key Beijing +25 activities and the GEF planned for 2020 have been shifted to 2021 and will largely take place remotely and online. The Mexico GEF is planned for the 29 to 31 March in Mexico City (by videoconference) and Paris in June (potentially in a hybrid mode).

In total, six Action Coalitions have been formed to develop blueprints to guide global action on gender equality and girls' and women's human rights for the next five years (2021-2026) on the following thematic issues: 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, and Feminist Movements and Leadership.

The following position paper provides an overview of the current status of affairs relating to **Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE), Adolescent-Friendly Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) Services, Access to Safe and Legal Abortion, LGBTI Rights and Meaningful Youth Participation (MYP)**. It also underlines RHRN's position and provides recommendations on ways to refine the Beijing+25 / GEF process and spaces to be **inclusive to all, impactful in its results and inspirational for future action**.

## Who Are We?



**Right Here Right Now (RHRN)** is a global strategic partnership that strives for the protection, respect and fulfilment of the sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) of young people, including girls, young women and young lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) individuals, across Africa and Asia.

## Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE)

Support for the benefits and value of CSE has been underlined by key human rights and UN bodies. In 2018, UNESCO, UNFPA, and UN Women presented the revised UN [Technical Guidance on Sexuality Education at 'Education for a Healthy Future'](#) on the sideline of the 62nd session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). More recently, UNFPA launched its [International Technical and Programmatic Guidance on Out-of-School CSE](#) report in 2020, underlining the importance of providing comprehensive sexuality education in out-of-school settings. Support for CSE has also been brought forward by the [Committee on the Rights of the Child](#) (CRC) and the [Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights](#) (CESCR) along with other UN bodies ( UNICEF, WHO, UNAIDS).

Nevertheless, key challenges persist at a global scale. Opposition toward efforts to improve CSE provision coupled with misconceptions and myths on CSE, hinder progress on integrating and implementing policies on CSE. Here, engrained and perpetuated negative attitudes amongst key community stakeholders and the broader public, often formed by

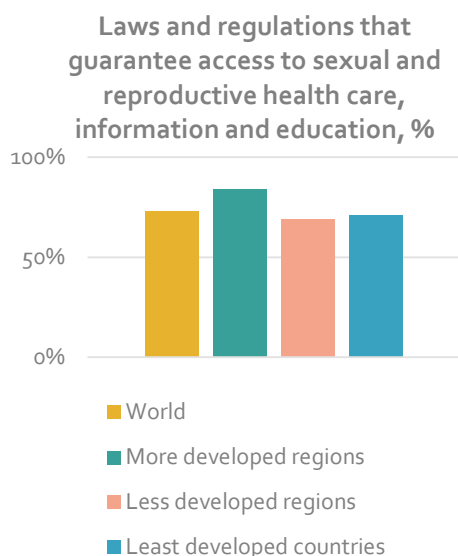


misconceptions and untruths towards CSE, fuel opposition towards its integration. Consequently, structured anti-rights movements are also able to take root in driving action against the implementation of CSE.<sup>1</sup>

Moreover, there is a global trend in lacking a comprehensive approach to providing sexuality education and information to young people. Low and middle-income countries face seven key challenges: 1) a lack of peer-to-peer learning and participatory approaches, 2) limited resources and materials on CSE, 3) insufficient preparation of teachers to provide CSE curricula, 4) the limited involvement of key stakeholders in the planning and implementation of CSE (including youth, the school community, parents and faith-based organizations), 5) a lower perceived status of CSE compared to

other educational subjects (resulting into CSE not being tested and comprehensively integrated into curricula), 6) a lack of clarity of where CSE falls in policymaking responsibilities of government agencies/ministries, and 7) missing systemic and classroom level monitoring and evaluation of CSE<sup>2</sup>. Many of these challenges are also visible in high-income countries and hinder progress on implementing comprehensive CSE curricula.

### SRH Services, Information & Education in Numbers



Retrieved from the UNFPA (2020), [State of World Population 2020](#). Sidenote: **Laws and regulations that guarantee access to sexual and reproductive health care, information and education:** The extent to which countries have national laws and regulations that guarantee full and equal access to women and men aged 15 years and older to sexual and reproductive health care, information and education (SDG indicator 5.6.2).

## Adolescent-Friendly Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) Services

Global appreciation has grown on the importance of ensuring that young people, and more specifically adolescents, have access to youth-friendly SRH services. Examples include the aforementioned 2019 International Technical Guidance on Sexuality Education and Committee on Rights of the Child’s (CRC) [Convention on the Rights of Children 2016 general comment](#), along with the UN’s [Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescent's Health 2016-2030](#), and the WHO’s [Global Accelerated Action for the Health of Adolescents \(AA-HA!\)](#).

Still, key challenges remain. National laws and legislature prohibiting or limiting (e.g., by restrictions based on age or marital status, or the need for parental or guardian consent) access to adolescent-friendly SRH services form the first barrier for young people<sup>3</sup>. In cases where national policy frameworks are designed to support adolescent-friendly SRH services, barriers remain in the implementation of the defined policies. As in the case of CSE implementation, opposition (supported by anti-rights movements in specific settings) towards SRH services remain persistent at all levels hindering efforts to implement adolescent-friendly services. Moreover, existing social taboos and native attitudes curb implementation efforts and deter

<sup>1</sup> UNESCO (2019), [Facing the facts: the case for comprehensive sexuality education](#)

<sup>2</sup> UNESCO (2019), [From ideas to action: addressing barriers to comprehensive sexuality education in the classroom](#)

<sup>3</sup> OHCHR (2020). [Information Series on Sexual And Reproductive Health And Rights: Adolescents](#)



young people from accessing services where they are available (e.g., stigma by health practitioners towards adolescents / unmarried youth exploring family planning options).

## Access to Safe and Legal Abortion

The 1995 Beijing Platform of Action built on language introduced during the 1994 [International Conference on Population and Development](#) (ICPD) on unsafe abortions. It urged governments to put into place structures for safe abortions and post-abortion care and encouraged them to review punitive laws against people that have undergone an abortion.

On multiple occasions, key human rights committees have since underlined the importance of providing access to safe abortions and removing restrictive abortion laws. These committees include the CRC, CESCR, Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), Human Rights Committee (HRC), Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD), Committee against Torture (CAT)<sup>4</sup>.

Still, approximately 3.9 million girls aged 15-19 years undergo unsafe abortions annually<sup>5, 6</sup>. Key challenges persist in decriminalizing abortion. Restrictive regulations (re-)criminalizing or limiting access to safe abortions persist in all regions of the world<sup>7</sup>. Here, anti-choice movements driven by conservative and religious groups have been crucial in the push-back against the introduction and expansion of decriminalization and legalization laws. An example, includes anti-choice movements using the phenomenon of sex-selective abortions as an argument to introduce additional barriers and hindering laws to safe abortion access - on the basis of gender discrimination.<sup>8</sup>

Aside from restrictive laws, barriers to access safe abortions include the poor availability of services, which can be attributed to numerous factors. Amongst others, governments may be lagging behind in taking the next step and implementing programmes (incl. facilities, services and trained personnel) to increase the availability of safe abortion care. Alternatively, barriers in healthcare providers' and the public's knowledge, acceptance and implementation of supportive safe abortion laws can also hinder the implementation of abortion laws (e.g., in the case of conscientious objections of health-care providers).<sup>9</sup>

Other barriers to access to safe abortion care include high costs associated with the procedure, stigma and discrimination, and unnecessary requirements linked to the procedure (e.g., mandatory waiting periods, counselling, third-party authorization, and unnecessary medical tests)<sup>10</sup>.

### Colonial Legacies: Hindering Norms & Values on SRHR

The impact of colonialism on present-day socio-cultural norms and values related to SRHR, brings forth a legacy that lives on across the globe. Increasingly more [research](#) is published on the negative impact that colonization has had in former colonies: by [utilizing sexuality as a tool for social control](#), [classifying acceptable forms of sexuality and regulating women's bodies](#). This was coupled with the breakdown of existing norms in [local and indigenous](#) communities that valued positive SRHR practices and attitudes.

In many countries, SRHR landscapes remain defined by their colonial pasts. For example, [research](#) indicates that British colonial experience has left a damaging legacy on LGBTI rights in former colonies, who are more likely to (still) have criminalizing laws impacting LGBTI individuals.

[Decolonising sexual and reproductive health and rights](#) remains an important pillar in ensuring rights-based national and foreign policies.

<sup>4</sup> Overview to be found at: Center for Reproductive Rights (2008), [Abortion and Human Rights Government Duties to Ease Restrictions and Ensure Access to Safe Services](#)

<sup>5</sup> OHCHR (2020), [Information Series on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights: Adolescents](#)

<sup>6</sup> Guttmacher Institute (2019), [Adding It Up: Investing in Sexual and Reproductive Health 2019](#)

<sup>7</sup> For an overview see: Center for Reproductive Rights (2019), [World's Abortion Laws Map](#)

<sup>8</sup> ARROW (2019), [Reclaiming & Redefining Rights ICPD+25: Status of SRHR in Asia and the Pacific Region](#)

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>10</sup> WHO (2020), [Preventing unsafe abortion](#)





## COVID – 19 Impact on SRHR & Youth

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic continues to exacerbate existing inequalities and forms new barriers for young people and their SRHR. Amongst others, the challenges below increase young people's vulnerability and restrict them from enjoying their rights fully. Moving forward, in order to curb or limit the negative impacts of the pandemic particular attention needs to be given to address SRHR barriers that adolescents and youth face. This calls for increasing political will to uphold SRHR, supporting universal health coverage that includes SRH and abortion services, continuing funding for SRHR programs, expanding tele-health options for self-care, sensitizing teachers/ social workers/health practitioners to reach the most vulnerable, exploring opportunities to ensure access to SRH information, including CSE, despite COVID-regulations and ensuring young people's meaningful participation at all steps of COVID-19 policy formulation, implementation and monitoring.

### Direct Impact of COVID-19 Regulations on SRHR

Increased risk of gender-based violence

Shifting political attention away from SRHR to COVID-19

More unpaid domestic work faced by women & girls

Limited CSE due to lockdowns & restricted mobility

Scaling-down of SRH services & disrupted supply chains

Limited access to safe spaces & social support for youth

### Long-term COVID-19 SRHR Consequences

Shrinking space for youth to engage in COVID-19 response

Increase in homophobic & transphobic rhetoric & attacks on LGBTI community

Disrupted education, unemployment & insecurity

Increase of unmet need for family-planning : unintended pregnancies & STI's

Diversion & deminishing national & foreign SRHR funding

Increase of early forced / child marriages & harmful practices

## LGBTI Rights

The realization of LGBTI rights at the global scale has found support through various human rights mechanisms and fora. Amongst others, the statements of human rights committees (e.g., CRC and CESCR) have built a solid foundation, along with the appointment of an [Independent Expert on sexual orientation and gender identity](#) in 2016.

Nevertheless, more progress is needed to ensure that all LGBTI individuals can enjoy their rights fully. Still, 35 % of UN member states criminalize consensual same-sex acts as of 2020 (67 member states). Moreover, laws and policies that contribute to the discrimination, stigma and violence against LGBTI individuals and groups remain implemented within various countries and regions across the globe. Examples include legal barriers to their freedom of expression and civic engagement, their rights to not be discriminated against because of their sexual orientation and their rights to have a family (i.e., marriage and adoption). In line with this, an increase in homophobic and transphobic rhetoric is apparent in countries where religious and conservative moments are growing and negatively influencing the public opinion on and acceptance of LGBTI individuals and these rights.<sup>11</sup>

## Meaningful Youth Participation (MYP)

Youth participation, and more specifically its meaningful implementation, has grown in global recognition and integration. The foundation for integrated youth policies was laid in the 1990 [UN Convention on the Rights of the Child](#), and youth engagement has since been anchored and expanded in several key declarations and commitments. This includes: the 1994 [ICPD Program of Action](#), the 1995 [World Program of Action on Youth](#) and the 1998 [Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies](#) and its successor, the [Lisbon+21 Declaration](#). Furthermore, several resolutions on Youth and Human Rights drafted by the UN HRC, the UN Security Council Resolutions on Youth, Peace and Security ([2250](#) and [2419](#)) and the ECOSOC Youth forum have expanded youth development and empowerment to other multilateral spaces. Moreover, the introduction of the [UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth](#) has nested youth issues within the UN's high-level governance structures through this ambassador position.

Still, progress remains slow, with structural barriers hindering the meaningful engagement of young people in policy-making processes and implementing the aforementioned commitments. Here, inequalities disproportionately affecting young people, the lack of open spaces for young people to engage in monitoring and accountability spaces and limited enabling conditions hinder young people's

<sup>11</sup> ILGA World (2020), [State-Sponsored Homophobia 2020: Global Legislation Overview Update](#)



meaningful and sustained participation. What's more, even when young people are invited to participate in processes and policies that impact their lives, they often face manipulation and tokenism. This limits their ability to play a meaningful role and be heard. Even more stringent are the barriers that the most marginalized and vulnerable youth face due to the additional challenges they face, including: insecurity, displacement, socio-economic hardships, stigma and discrimination, and more.<sup>12</sup>

**The Beijing +25/ GEF process risks falling short on its incorporation of meaningful youth participation.** Reports and stringent critique – ranging from personal accounts from actors engaging in the process to formal civil society statements - highlight numerous roadblocks and shortcomings thus far. Amongst others, accounts indicate a lack of external transparency and accountability: on how the organizing bodies plan to commit to strategically ensuring meaningful youth participation through the various stages of Beijing +25/ GEF, how young people and youth-led organizations are being engaged within the GEF and current Action Coalitions, and which opportunities exist for young people and youth-led organizations to engage in the future with the Beijing+25/GEF activities and processes. The absence of funding for youth engagement (e.g., funding for the Beijing +25 Youth Taskforce) and the exclusion of youth-led organizations in previous stages and ongoing dialogues (e.g., absence of youth-led organizations as leaders of Action Coalitions at the initial stages of the GEF process) reflect that **meaningful youth participation has been an afterthought rather than a core aspect in the design and execution of this high-level movement.**

These observations do not stand alone and unfold against a backdrop of broader challenges in the Beijing+25/GEF process: fragmented political commitments and priorities, barriers in adapting to limitations and opportunities posed by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, a weak integration of accountability mechanisms, and hierarchical structures and internal complexities hindering the transparency, simplicity and clarity of operational plans. These factors all negatively impact young people's and youth-led organizations' opportunities to not only participate in the process, but to do so in a meaningful and sustainable way.

## Right Here Right Now's Position

Right Here Right Now:

- **Envisions** a future where young people's SRHR are protected, respected and fulfilled: free from stigma, discrimination and violence, and with access to comprehensive youth-friendly services, comprehensive information, and spaces for young people's voices.
- **Underlines** the importance of advancing regional and international action to involve CSO's and young people in decision-making bodies and processes as a way to increase support amongst UN member states, multilateral organizations, donors and progressive countries for CSE, adolescent-friendly SRH, safe abortion rights, LGBTI rights and MYP.
- **Emphasizes** the importance of (sub-)national action in ensuring that partnerships are developed with increased ability, viability and resilience; CSO's and young people are included by legislators, policy- and decision-makers thus increasing these actors' knowledge, skills and political will; that public support of SRHR champions is fostered and societal support increases for positive SRHR policies and practices.
- **Highlights** the unique and important role of monitoring and accountability mechanisms at all levels in ensuring young people's SRHR.
- **Calls** for the implementation of inclusive & progressive SRHR national legislations, policies and budgets, along with improved accountability for regional norms, standards and policies.

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<sup>12</sup> ActionAid, Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, Restless Development and UN Major Group on Children and Youth (2020), [Believe in Better – A working paper on young people's inclusion in accountability processes](#)



# Recommendations

In line with our position, we provide the following overall and specific recommendations to ensure a Beijing +25 and GEF process that is inclusive and impactful and that inspires committed action for young people's rights over the next five years.

## Overall

We call on UN member states and other relevant actors, including those actively engaging in the Beijing+25/ GEF Action Coalitions, to:

- **Adopt** a comprehensive, progressive, holistic definition of SRHR as proposed by the [Guttmacher-Lancet Commission](#), and utilize this definition of SRHR as the basis for all commitments and Action Coalition documents related to the Beijing +25 / GEF process given its comprehensive nature.
- **Acknowledge and address** the impact of shrinking spaces for civil society and human rights defenders by ensuring that spaces and processes, including the Beijing +25/ GEF, are open to their full and meaningful engagement and that these actors are sufficiently supported (incl. financially) in their engagement– with special attention to youth-led movements, grass-roots organizations and people in vulnerable situations.
- **Recognize** the global pushback by conservative/ religious/ anti-rights movements in hindering young people's SRHR, and address this in key action points following from the Beijing +25/ GEF process.
- **Strengthen** data collection mechanisms to ensure a rights-based approach. Here, ensuring the use of disaggregated data is key in the follow-up of commitments and action points made as part of Beijing+25/ GEF, such as those according to income, age, gender, marital status, disability, migration and citizenship status, education level, geographic location, ethnicity, and other relevant characteristics.
- **Reinforce** monitoring and accountability mechanisms at all levels, through structured frameworks, increased reporting, adequate funding for monitoring and evaluation, improved transparency and better oversight of developments and follow-up measures.
- **Increase** financing for the development and implementation of laws, policies and frameworks designed to ensure young people's rights, including their sexual and reproductive health and rights, are met and prioritized.
- **Remember** the commitment to 'Leave No One Behind' in ensuring that the most marginalized youth and their rights are not forgotten. This calls for a streamlined approach in including and developing tailored action points for, amongst others, LGBTI+ youth, indigenous youth, young people living with disabilities and young people living in humanitarian, fragile or conflict situations.
- **Note** the ongoing and lasting negative consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic on CSE, adolescent-friendly SRH services, access to safe and legal abortion, LGBTI rights and MYP. Thus, taking these into account in Action Coalition dialogues and recommendations.

## CSE

- **Recognize** that young people have a right to access sexuality education which is accessible and shared comprehensively. Hereby, understanding that the provision of CSE as integral to improving the health and rights of adolescents and youth, as well as realizing gender equality and sustainable development.
- **Acknowledge** the key role that states and communities can play in supporting young people access to comprehensive sexuality education and information by, putting in place stronger legal and policy frameworks, bolstering implementation plans that are adequately monitored, and fostering supportive environments by changing social norms and increasing political will.



- **Prioritize** the integration and streamlining of CSE curricula through global collaborative efforts, regional commitments and national policy formulation and implementation plans which bolster young people’s access to CSE both within the school setting and beyond. Hereby ensuring adequate reporting takes place to monitor progress and sufficient funding is made available for key actors implementing and benefiting from CSE.

## Adolescent-friendly SRH Services

- **Respect** young people’s right to adolescent-friendly SRH services and recognize the positive impact this has on improving gender equality and ensuring sustainable development.
- **Tackle** barriers to the development and implementation of policy frameworks supporting adolescent-friendly SRH services through targeted recommendations for key actors. With an eye on barriers specifically affecting adolescent girls, unmarried and LGBTI youth. Including: removing law and structural restrictions that hinder young people’s access to services and a stronger commitment to increase the dialogue and collaboration with healthcare providers, community leaders and communities to shift existing norms.
- **Drive** health systems strengthening and universal health coverage forward as supportive measures to ensure the availability, accessibility, acceptability and quality of adolescent-friendly SRH services. Thus, ensuring that increased financial investments are made and funding is allocated where it is most needed.

## Access to Safe and Legal Abortion

- **Underscore and protect** young people’s right to bodily autonomy and sexual and reproductive health and rights, to make their own well-informed decisions without fear of force, stigma or discrimination.
- **Remove** legal and regulatory barriers that directly or indirectly hinder access to abortion and post-abortion care. Amongst others, this includes decriminalizing abortion, rolling-back (domestic/foreign) policies limiting funding for abortion care and regulations prohibiting self-managed abortion and telemedicine services.
- **Push forward** efforts to introduce and implement policies that support young people seeking abortion services and post-abortion care; initiatives that challenge stigma and harmful norms within communities; efforts to support human rights defenders and safe abortion providers that are under attack; and measures monitoring opposition movements and holding accountable those perpetuating myths and misinformation for religious or political motives.

## LGBTI Rights

- **Reiterate** the intrinsic and unnegotiable rights of LGBTI individuals to live free without violence and discrimination, to enjoy their sexual and reproductive health and rights to the fullest extent, and to mobilize action to defend their civic freedoms.
- **Protect** LGBTI individuals and communities against all forms of violence and discrimination, by strengthening institutional mechanisms for them to report acts of violence safely and without fear of retribution and retracting laws that criminalize and discriminate against them due to their sexual orientation, gender identity and expression.
- **Safeguard** LGBTI individuals’ right to access to SRH services free from stigma and discrimination, by improving the quality and availability of SRH services that account for their needs (amongst others, including addressing negative norms and perceptions amongst healthcare practitioners and ensuring privacy and confidentiality) and scaling-up adolescent-friendly services for LGBTI youth.



- **Account for** the diverse and unique challenges faced by LGBTI individuals and communities through the comprehensive integration of both tailored and overarching solutions that address these barriers, with attention to those relating to their sexual and reproductive health and rights.

## Meaningful Youth Participation

- **Ensure** young people’s meaningful participation in the Beijing +25/ GEF process (with special attention to actions on CSE, adolescent-friendly SRH services, access to safe and legal abortion, LGBTI rights and MYP), to ensure that their needs are met and impactful recommendations are formed to drive action at the international, regional and national level.

**In the long-term this calls for the following key action points to be taken along in the Beijing +25/GEF process:**

- **Increase** political will within the Beijing +25/GEF governance, organizing bodies and funders to move beyond tokenism by:
  - Underlining the importance of civil society engagement and MYP for a stronger impact at the governance level;
  - Collectively committing to increase MYP strengthening moving forward;
  - Developing and communicating concrete action plans to improve and expand MYP in equal collaboration with the Beijing +25 Youth Taskforce and a broader youth constituency.
- **Take urgent action** to simplify and increase transparency surrounding the Beijing +25/ GEF process, with an eye on leveraging meaningful participation. This includes (but is not limited to):
  - Increasing clarity and public updates on (shifts in) the Beijing+25/GEF process, structures and timelines;
  - Bringing structural attention to the impact of power dynamics on diversity and inclusion;
  - Breaking down unnecessary complexities within the process;
  - Taking youth along in this process and highlighting how they can engage.
- **Enhance** avenues for collaboration and connection amongst actors engaging in the Beijing +25/GEF process. Amongst others, there is a need for:
  - Stronger cooperation and communication across and between Action Coalitions;
  - Safe spaces for young people (incl. the Beijing +25 Youth Taskforce) to independently strategize and come together;
  - More room for open dialogue on next steps and roadblocks in the Beijing +25/GEF process to build trust and commitment among all engaging actors.
- **Earmark** funding to anchor MYP in the Beijing +25/GEF process: ensuring financial investments specifically for youth and their participation is key in making sure that they can engage on equal footing as counterparts that have the financial means they miss.

**In the short- to medium-term this calls for the following key action points to be taken up by the Beijing +25/GEF governance, organizing bodies and funders:**

- **Publish** a regular public communique highlighting which sessions, spaces and opportunities are available and will be made available for (external) youth-led organizations and young people to connect with the



organisers of the GEF to safely and openly discuss the process so far, and how youth can be involved meaningfully going forward. This communicate must be easily accessible and widely distribute through Beijing +25/ GEF's online channels.

- **Create** dialogues amongst and between Action Coalition leaders on how they plan to ensure meaningful youth participation, taking into account internal power-dynamics and participatory approaches, and providing youth-led organizations that are Action Coalition leaders to voice ideas on ways to anchor MYP within Action Coalitions' way of working and blueprints moving forward.
  - **Ensure** multiple feedback rounds for the blueprints for maximum participation of civil society.
  - **Provide** adequate financial compensation for Beijing+25 Youth Task Force members and other young leaders engaging in the GEF process as soon as possible.
  - **Share** regular and timely updates from the Action Coalition leaders, UN Women and the Core Advisory Group that are comprehensive and include outcomes from strategic discussions, so all actors (especially youth) engaging with the process are up-to-date and can plan ahead.
- **Commit** to developing monitoring and accountability mechanisms with an eye on youth as a key demographic and includes young people's meaningful and sustained participation in reviewing and evaluating the implementation and continuation of the Beijing +25 action points and commitments.

## Conclusion

In short, this position paper underlines that while advancements have been made in specific areas, stronger commitments and increased investments are needed to accelerate progress without leaving young people on the margins. With over 1.8 billion young people between 10-24 years of age, young people's rights and inclusion is paramount to the successes that the Beijing+25/ GEF will bring over the next five years and far beyond.

**Right Here Right Now will continue to work with our allies and partners in the Beijing +25/ GEF process to ensure young people are heard. We remain committed to supporting adolescents and youth to realize their health, rights, and wellbeing, exercise informed and meaningful decision-making power throughout and over all aspects of their lives. This generation demands action - we demand action- and will hold all that make commitments accountable. We believe that Beijing +25 and the Generation Equality Forum can be historic processes in accelerating action on young people's SRHR. However, we underline that this is only possible if the aforementioned recommendations are taken on board. Only then will the Beijing +25 and the Generation Equality Forum bring forward inclusive progress, bolster impactful solutions and spark inspiration worldwide.**





We are a global advocacy partnership in pursuit of the fulfilment of young people’s SRHR – free of stigma, discrimination and violence. In our partner countries across Africa, Asia and Latin America, and at international level, we strengthen the capacity of young people and civil society organisations for joint SRHR advocacy. Ultimately, we want to reinforce institutional accountability, and realise the adoption, budget allocation and implementation of SRHR-progressive and inclusive policies.