

**INFORMAL SPOTLIGHT SESSION - MEANINGFUL, EFFECTIVE AND INCLUSIVE PARTNERSHIPS FOR  
GENDER EQUALITY**

**2 February 2022, 16:00-16:50 EST**

**Concept Note**

*As of 20 January 2022*

**Organizers:** Women’s Major Group & LGBTI Stakeholder Group, Campaign of Campaigns & Global Policy Forum

**Background:**

Gender equality is acknowledged as being at the core of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and cutting across 17 the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). However, among the SDGs, Goal 5 has seen the most regress during COVID-19. While the effects of the pandemic are deepening inequalities, increasing gender-based violence and school drop-outs, women and girls in all of their diversity remain at the forefront of the response to COVID-19, with the burden of care work exponentially increasing. Recovering from the effects of the pandemic justly in a transformative and sustainable manner, advancing progress on SDG5, through effective, meaningful, equal and inclusive partnerships will be vital.

While “partnerships” are being given increasing attention throughout the United Nations system and other intergovernmental fora, the definition of partnerships has been narrowing. From the introduction of Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) to newer concepts such as “multistakeholderism” and “networked multilateralism”, the private sector in particular has been gaining increased access to and influence in many policymaking spaces. At the same time, efforts to democratize these spaces and to be inclusive of all stakeholders appear to be leaving behind civil society, specifically the most marginalized organizations including feminist and grassroots women-led organizations, and movements from the Global South.

The power imbalance and lack of accountability in the way partnerships are currently being approached needs to be replaced with a more accountable and equitable system that operates in the interests of people and the planet, rather than profit. The Generation Equality Forum process, which has gained attention and commitments from various actors from governments, to civil society, private sector to youth-led organizations and philanthropy, has been a significant process to show the effects of this power imbalance to varying degrees.

With these in mind, this Spotlight Session, organized by the Women’s Major Group, LGBTI Stakeholder Group, Campaign of Campaigns and Global Policy Forum, will look at how we can learn from the failings of the current partnerships systems in place, and what measures are needed to support more meaningful partnerships for gender equality that are effective, inclusive, balanced, and accountable and that can deliver on the ambitions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

**Format:**

- Logistic & Technical announcements (2 min)
- Introduction by the moderator (5 min)
- Directed questions to panelists (30 min)
- Q&A session (13min)

**Moderator:**

Barbara Adams, Global Policy Forum

**Panelists:**

- Andrea Rivas, LGBTI Stakeholder Group
- Member State Representatives (Mexico - TBC)
- Member State Representatives (Denmark - TBC)
- Representative from Civil Society (TBC)
- Representative from Civil Society (TBC)