



## **Summit of the Future Action Days Side Event**

### ***The Future Girls Want : Advancing Transformative Actions for Adolescent Girls and Youth***

20 September 2024, 09.00-10:30, Harvard Club New York

**Organized by:** Plan International, the Government of Canada, the Government of the Republic of Guatemala, the Government of the Republic of South Africa, the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone, the Government of the United States of America, and UN Women, UNICEF, the World Bank, as well as partners SheDecides, Adolescent Girls Investment Plan (AGIP), the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health (PMNCH) and Terre des Hommes.

#### **Background on the event (one paragraph)**

Girls continue to be the largest excluded group in the world, and adolescent girls are often invisible in global policymaking and development agendas. The UN Summit of the Future was a pivotal moment, presenting a critical opportunity to recalibrate the future of global governance and sustainable development. To that end, Plan International and its partners have been advocating during the months leading up to the Summit for Member States to prioritize and commit to 8 Transformative Actions for Adolescent Girls and Young People. These Actions, taken from the revised drafts of the Pact for the Future, have been identified by young people and their allies to be most transformative for adolescent girls and young people. At the center of this event were the youth delegates supported by Plan International at the Summit, young advocates from Jordan, Guatemala and Canada. Numerous partners, including various Member States, UN agencies, and CSO partners, expressed their support for the event and its key messages, all sharing a vision of a gender-equal future and its implementation in the post-Summit/2030 agenda.

### **Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)**

Girl and young women advocates posed questions to Member State representatives from Sierra Leone and Guatemala, as well as UNICEF's Associate Director of Gender Equality and South Africa SRHR Trust Regional Policy Advisor – on the following topics, urging them to share practical steps that could be implemented to support the 8 Transformative Actions.

- **Gender-based violence:** In conversation with Minister Mahoi of Sierra Leone, young advocate Maryam spoke about how adolescent girls and young people feel unsafe, both online and offline. Minister Mahoi talked about the importance of enacting laws to prosecute perpetrators and gave the example of the 2020 Cyber Bullying Act in Sierra Leone.
- **Sexual and reproductive health and rights:** Youth advocate Aseel from Jordan spoke with SRHR Advocacy Advisor of South Africa SRHR Trust on commitments governments could make to ensure the SRHR of adolescent girls and young women, so they are protected and prioritized in national development plans, and how young people could be involved in creating SRHR policies that are responsive to their needs.
- **Education/employment:** Young advocate Marya discussed the issues of education and employment with the Deputy Secretary Maldonado of Guatemala. Marya shared her experiences as one of the few people with a disability in educational spaces. She spoke on the need for more accessible pathways for marginalized youth and emphasized that young people should be co-creators, not just participants, in decision-making.
- **Meaningful youth engagement:** Finally, Maryam discussed the issue of meaningful youth engagement with Associate Director for Gender Equality of UNICEF, Lauren Rumble

### **Key recommendations for action (5 - 6 bullet points)**

- Member States should protect, strengthen, commit to, and champion the 8 Transformative Actions in all ways possible beyond the Summit of the Future.
- Member States should make commitments to and investments for adolescent girls and young people in the Summit of the Future and beyond.
- Member States should commit to implement the Transformative Actions beyond the Summit of the Future, including those made in the Pact for the Future.

- Member States, multilateral agencies, and CSO partners should ensure the voices of girls and young people are amplified and central to the political discourse.
- Member States, multilateral agencies, and CSO partners should increase political momentum and accountability on advancing gender equality and girls' rights in the aftermath of the Summit.
- Member states, multilateral agencies, and CSO partners should strengthen partnerships among stakeholders for the realization of girls' rights and enhanced opportunities for them.

**Webpage to find more information:**

[This is the Future Girls Want | Plan International \(plan-international.org\)](https://www.plan-international.org/en/this-is-the-future-girls-want)