



KEY ASKS

FOR THE ACTION COALITION ON BODILY AUTONOMY AND SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS OF THE GENERATION EQUALITY FORUM

Countdown 2030 Europe (C2030E) is a consortium of European NGOs advocating to ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and family planning (FP) in developing countries through holding European governments to account on their international policy and financial commitments on SRHR. To achieve this mission, amongst other activities, the consortium provides inputs to intergovernmental negotiations and policy processes. **This factsheet aims to inform the Action Coalitions on Bodily Autonomy and SRHR as part of the Generation Equality Forum.**

IPPF_Georgina Goodwin_Burundi

BACKGROUND THE GENERATION EQUALITY FORUM

The Countdown 2030 Europe Consortium welcomes the efforts of the government of the French Republic, the government of Mexico and UN Women to convene a high-level conference to advance the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action - the Generation Equality Forum (GEF). Following the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action was a major step in advancing the recognition of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) at the international level and asserting women's control over their sexuality. **Following the commitments made at the Nairobi Summit on ICPD+25, the GEF Action Coalition on SRHR and Bodily Autonomy comes at a time concrete actions are needed to secure progress on SRHR and prevent a backdrop due to the COVID-19 pandemic.**

Countdown has a strong track record of successful and strategic advocacy to ensure that sexual and reproductive health and family planning are part of European and international agreements and expects to see an ambitious set of actions to ensure the accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action for the years 2021-2026. To this end, Countdown puts forward a number of specific recommendations on the main challenges facing gender equality and SRHR.

COUNTDOWN 2030 EUROPE

SUGGESTIONS

TO EUROPEAN DONORS FOR THE BODILY AUTONOMY AND SRHR ACTION COALITION BLUEPRINT:

Countdown 2030 Europe strongly believes that European donors have a crucial role to play in the adoption and successful implementation of a progressive bodily autonomy and SRHR Action Coalition's Blueprint over the five years to come. **We therefore urge European donors to join the SRHR Action Coalition as Commitment makers and to include in their commitments the recommendations below.** The recommendations are based on the three priorities identified by the SRHR Action Coalition, as well as on the need for the Coalition to focus on key principles such as leaving no one behind and ensuring accountability and implementation.

Three priorities of the SRHR Action Coalition:

COMPREHENSIVE SEXUALITY EDUCATION

- **Provide all young people with the information they need to decide freely and responsibly about their sexuality**, to prevent unintended pregnancies, to stay healthy and to develop the skills to form equal, nurturing and safe relationships, free from discrimination, coercion and violence. Comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) helps improve gender equality and transforms harmful gender norms;
- **Ensure evidence-based CSE in and out of school** in line with UNESCO's International Technical Guidance on Sexuality Education¹ and the International Technical and Programmatic Guidance on Out-of-School CSE²;
- **Invest in a whole-school approach to CSE** by including and training parents and guardians, health providers, community leaders and government officials.

WOMEN AND GIRLS AUTONOMOUS SRHR DECISION-MAKING

- Recognise that the fulfillment of sexual and reproductive rights and bodily autonomy requires the **dismantling of harmful, patriarchal social norms** that prevent the rights of all people from being realised;
- **End all forms of sexual and gender based violence and discrimination against women and girls**, by eliminating harmful practices such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation, in collaboration with the Action Coalition on the fight against gender-based violence (GBV);
- **Recognize that violence against women is motivated by gender inequality**, including gender-based discrimination and discriminatory patriarchal social norms that jeopardize the recognition, enjoyment and exercise of their human rights and fundamental freedoms;
- **Recognize the importance of the full engagement of men and boys for the achievement of gender equality**, human rights and the empowerment of women and girls;
- **Promote participatory processes** that empower women;
- **Promote inclusive and diverse conceptions of masculinity**, and define and protect the rights of persons with non-binary and non-heteronormative gender and sexual orientation choices comprehensively.

SRHR SERVICES

- Commit in the Blueprint to **integrate a comprehensive package of SRHR interventions into national UHC strategies, policies and programmes**;
- Ensure a **focus on safe abortion and access to family planning for all groups** (especially the most marginalised and underserved groups) within this sub-theme;
- **Ensure zero unmet need for family planning information and services and universal availability of quality, affordable and safe modern contraceptives by no later than 2030**;
- **Ensure youth-friendly and stigma-free sexual and reproductive health services** with a focus on marginalised and underserved groups such as unmarried young people, LGBTI people and adolescents;
- Ensure that **SRHR basic humanitarian needs of affected populations** are addressed as critical components of humanitarian responses, and ensure the inclusion of SRHR in the Humanitarian Compact of the GEF;
- **Make the link with the Action Coalition on technology and innovation** to ensure that SRHR, especially CSE and SRH services, benefit from innovation and digital technologies that can help reach the most underserved and marginalised communities and achieve SRHR for all.

OVERARCHING PRINCIPLES

LEAVING NO-ONE BEHIND

- As a cross-cutting theme, we recommend **reaching those furthest behind first**;
- As the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated already existing inequalities, recognize that **those furthest behind face intersecting forms of discrimination, poverty and lack of access to comprehensive SRHR**.

ACCOUNTABILITY

- **Commit to engage civil society, youth associations and feminist organizations** in the discussions and implementation of this blueprint;
- Connect the follow-up of the blueprints with the **accountability process of the Nairobi Summit and 2030 Agenda** to ensure sufficient reporting, monitoring and review on progress made on this set of actions;
- **Ensure that commitments made as part of the GEF are SMART so that Commitment makers can be held accountable for their promises.** In that sense, consider “SMARTening” the commitments made by European donors at the ICPD+25 Nairobi Summit when needed;
- **Design an effective accountability mechanism to ensure the successful implementation of the SRHR Action Coalition blueprint and more broadly of the GEF commitments.** This could be done through using existing mechanisms or through setting up an independent committee, including CSOs, responsible for monitoring the implementation of the GEF commitments and keeping Commitments makers accountable.

GUARANTEE FOR THE SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF GEF COMMITMENTS

- Ensure national and international sustainable funding to provide full access to SRHR. In that sense, we call on **European donors to commit funding to the successful implementation of all the SRHR Action Coalition blueprint’s objectives**;
- Ensure a concrete set of actions that can be implemented by Commitment makers in the Action Coalition on bodily autonomy and SRHR that will ultimately advance SRHR and gender equality over the next five years. In that sense, we once again call on **European donors to make individual SMART political commitments in this Action Coalition to advance SRHR for all**.
- **Pursue further improvements in the accessibility and timeliness of disaggregated population data** based on age, sex, race, ethnicity, disability, HIV status, migrant and marital status, and other characteristics relevant in national contexts.

This factsheet is part of a series of factsheets by Countdown 2030 Europe on the inclusion of SRHR in the various Action Coalition (AC) of the Generation Equality Forum - to ensure an integrated and inclusive approach across the ACs with particular attention to SRHR throughout.

1. <https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/9789231002595>

2. <https://www.unfpa.org/publications/international-technical-and-programmatic-guidance-out-school-comprehensive-sexuality>



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