

EVENT at UNGA 2019

Champions for Generation Equality

Women Leaders of the World

Concept Note for the event
hosted by UN Women and Council of Women World Leaders (CWWL)

BACKGROUND

2020 will mark 25 years since the Beijing Platform for Action set forth guidelines on how to remove the systemic barriers that hold women back from equal participation in all areas of life. Despite some progress, real change has been slow and today not a single country can claim to have achieved gender equality. Multiple obstacles remain unchanged including the fact that **women's leadership remains limited and in numbers women are still underrepresented in all leading positions, whether in politics, the civil service or the private sector. This needs to change** - and as UN Women is at the centre of mobilizing governments and civil societies to keep the promises of the Beijing Platform for Action, a special focus will be placed on this important issue leading up to 2020.

GENERATION EQUALITY

UN Women has launched a **new campaign: Generation Equality: Realizing women's rights for an equal future** where the demand is „equal pay, equal sharing of unpaid care and domestic work, end to sexual harassment and all forms of violence against women and girls, health-care services that respond to their needs, and their equal participation in political life and decision-making in all areas of life.” With this campaign UN Women is bringing together the next generation of women's rights activists with the gender equality advocates and visionaries who were instrumental in creating the Beijing Platform for Action and providing for an opportunity to join forces and create Generation Equality.

LEADERS FOR GENERATION EQUALITY

Starting at UNGA on the 25th of September 2019 and lasting until the Generation Equality Forum in Paris on the 7th of July 2020, **UN Women will introduce 282 Leaders for Generation Equality** (as many as the days until the Forum). The Leaders will all be female leaders from different sectors of leadership, all parts of the world and age groups that will advocate for and lend their voice, impact and power to the campaign. These women leaders also all represent the change needed in the perception and the traditional picture of (male) leaders and will as such be visible in UN Women's communication, events and action around Generation Equality.

COOPERATION WITH THE COUNCIL OF WOMEN WORLD LEADERS

The Council of Women World Leaders is a network of 75 current and former presidents and prime ministers. It is the only organization in the world dedicated to women heads of state and government. The Council of Women World Leaders Secretariat is hosted at the United Nations Foundation in Washington, D.C., and is an affiliate of the UN Foundation. **UN Women is joining forces with the Council of Women World Leaders and its current Chair, the President of Croatia Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović, creating a strong alliance of female world leaders in pushing forward Generation Equality and achieving its goals.**

THE EVENT

The title of the event **Champions for Generation Equality** reflects on its focus to introduce how the hosts aim to champion for women leaders and Generation Equality with its cooperation. The format is of a launching event with interventions of women world leaders and UN Women Executive Director.

Agenda:

Introducing Generation Equality; the focus on female leaders; the group of Champions that starts with CWWL members but will become a group of 282 female leaders that aim to change the more traditional picture of a leader and advocate for change.

Hosted by:

UN Women & Council of Women World Leaders (CWWL)

Date:

25th of September 2019

Time:

3pm – 3.45pm

Location:

ECOSOC Chamber, UNHQ

Speakers:

Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director of UN Women and Under-Secretary-General of the UN

Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović, President of Croatia and Chair of the Council of Women World Leaders

Kersti Kaljulaid, President of Estonia

Katrín Jakobsdóttir, Prime Minister of Iceland

And other women world leaders