

CONCEPT NOTE

The United Nations Offices in Geneva, the U.S. Mission's Future She Deserves initiative and Women@theTable present :



WHY ?

Gender equality is essential for us to achieve peace, rights and well-being for all. Yet, far too often inequalities in the participation and voice of women and men prevent us from reaching our shared goals. Real change requires greater visibility at the highest levels, sustained through concrete actions that make a real difference in our daily work.

With its broad range of actors and a tradition for inclusive partnerships, International Geneva provides the ideal platform for stronger action to promote gender equality.

WHAT ?

Against this background, the United Nations Offices in Geneva and the U.S. Mission's Future She Deserves initiative will bring together committed leaders to serve as International Geneva Gender Champions for gender equality.

As a leadership network, the International Geneva Gender Champions will generate momentum at the highest level for greater gender equality through strong leadership, public advocacy, talent development and accountability that lead to genuine change in the workplace and in programming. The network draws on the Future She Deserves and the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-SWAP), and reinforces other International Geneva initiatives to facilitate strong cross-cutting links for the greatest possible impact.

Embedded in the unique spirit of International Geneva, the network will emphasize inclusive efforts across thematic and institutional boundaries in order to enable innovation by pooling knowledge and operational capacity.

The creation of the network will also galvanize the sense of common purpose and identity within Geneva by pulling male and female International Geneva Gender Champions together around a shared objective, adding value and amplifying the broader work.

By connecting institutions and individuals in a new constellation, the network will enable a deeper level of engagement where gender equality and diversity become the norm. Critical thinking bolsters gender equality, leverages institutional knowledge and facilitates a necessary exchange of experience that will enrich managerial and programmatic activities of all involved.

HOW ?

All International Geneva Gender Champions commit to:

- Signing up to the Geneva Gender Parity Pledge that aims to strive for gender parity in all discussions in International Geneva;
- Undertaking two additional concrete, measurable, accountable institutional actions in the calendar year to advance gender equality, either in the executive management of the organization or in programmatic work. As the objective of the network is to engage senior leadership and elevate awareness, the actions may be drawn from strategy documents or work plans for the organization. Existing work can be made more visible with a view to strengthening ongoing efforts, or new initiatives can be launched specifically for the network;
- Highlighting the network on their respective home pages, and to reporting annual results and progress on the organization's website;
- Participating in an annual meeting of the network to exchange experience and strategize on how to further advance and embed gender equality.

A dedicated International Geneva Gender Champions website will include a list of possible actions to which individual champions can commit. This list will be open to ideas and suggestions, and will be constantly developed as a resource for the network and the wider community to inspire further action.

The website will also include a list of all those who have joined the network with a link to their individual websites.

All institutions and individuals in International Geneva can sign up to the Geneva Gender Parity Pledge, which is intended as a practical instrument to foster gender parity in the substantive exchanges in all dimensions of the work of International Geneva.

You are encouraged to spread the word on social media and other platforms, including by tweeting under the hash tags #INTGenderChamps and #INTparitypledge.

WHO ?

Permanent Representatives and Permanent Observers, and heads of United Nations and international organizations in Geneva whose leadership is essential.

WHERE ?

Anchored in International Geneva, the collective actions of our executive leadership has a global impact on the culture of work in the individual organizations and integrating the gender dimension.