

GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR SUSTAINABLE FEMINIST MOVEMENTS

KICK-OFF MEETING REPORT
AND SURVEY RESULTS



BACKGROUND

Formally announced at the Generation Equality Forum, the Global Alliance for Sustainable Feminist Movements (Global Alliance) is an emerging multi-stakeholder initiative focused on exponentially increasing, sustaining, and improving financial and political support for women's rights and feminist organizations and movements. As a multi-stakeholder platform, we hope to become a place where our collective actions and efforts help us have an impact that is more than the sum of our individual parts.

Through the Global Alliance, we hope to mobilize more and better funding for feminist organizations and movements - though we will not be a funding mechanism ourselves. But we also hope to go deeper than that. We hope to be a platform for regular, meaningful dialogue and mutual learning where funders of all kinds and feminist civil society come together around shared priorities.

Currently, the Global Alliance is in its Design Phase until its planned launch in June 2022. The Design Phase is a period of co-creation during which members of the Reference Group share insights, ideas, and feedback on a range of topics that will determine the work, principles, and structure of the Global Alliance. Currently, the plan is to solicit feedback during the Design Phase about:

1. The objectives of the Global Alliance
2. The principles of the Global Alliance
3. The scope of work and potential actions of the Global Alliance
4. The membership structure, criteria, and benefits of the Global Alliance
5. The governance structure of the Global Alliance, outside of the membership structure
6. The accountability framework of the Global Alliance

A Planning Group currently consisting of 13 organizations has the responsibility of ensuring the integrity of the Design Phase and acting in a decision-making role until a governance structure is formalized. The participation of the Reference Group and the engagement we have together in our virtual meetings, as well as throughout the other parts of the Design Phase is an example of our commitments to collective action and co-creation.

On December 8 and 9, 2021, members of the Planning and Reference Groups of the Global Alliance for Sustainable Feminist Movements first met to learn about each other, introduce the Design Phase and current structure of the Global Alliance, and share feedback about the draft objectives in the concept note. In advance of the virtual consultations, the Planning Group shared a brief survey with the Reference Group to learn more about what the Reference Group is interested in doing and how Reference Group members prefer to participate during the Design Phase.

This document outlines the key findings from the survey, feedback received during the virtual consultations, and next steps in the process.

Survey Results and Meeting Outcomes

For two weeks prior to the virtual consultations, a survey in English, Spanish, and French, was open to all Reference Group members. The survey was designed to help the Planning Group understand who is in the Reference Group, why they joined, and what they hope to get out of the Design Phase. In total, 78 responses were received (57 in English, 20 in Spanish, and 1 in French) meaning that 55% of Reference Group members responded to the survey.

Design Phase Feedback

During the virtual consultations and through the surveys, Reference Group members shared what they were most interested in contributing to during the Design Phase. It was very clear through the survey and the consultations that the community is most excited to think about what the Global Alliance will actually do once it begins its work.

DESIGN PHASE TOPIC	TOTAL NUMBER OF RESPONSES	% OF RESPONDENTS EXPRESSING INTEREST
Brainstorming areas of work	63	81%
Refining the goals	40	51%
Creating principles	27	35%
Defining membership criteria	27	35%
Developing the accountability framework	25	32%
Developing the governance structure	23	29%
Other	3	4%

In order to structure a Design Phase that meets the needs and expectations of the Reference Group, the survey also asked Reference Group members about their preferred methods of providing feedback.

These preferences will guide the Design Phase. Opportunities to engage via email, one-on-one conversations, or through written comments will be available, while most of the engagement opportunities in the future will focus on short surveys and polls and small group conversations.

Feedback Method	Total Number of Responses	% of Respondents Expressing Preference
Completing short surveys or polls	59	76%
Participating in small groups (5-20 people)	48	62%
Participating in moderated meetings (20-50 people)	30	38%
Providing written comments	28	36%
Participating in conversations via email	23	29%
Participating in one-on-one conversations	14	18%
Sharing published materials	8	10%
Sending voice messages	3	4%
Other	1	1%

During the virtual meetings, it became clear that some Reference Group members also desire to play a more formative role in the Design Phase rather than playing a reactive role. The Planning Group is actively looking for opportunities to provide interested Reference Group members with more active roles during the Design Phase.

The Planning Group also recognizes that this is an iterative, emergent process and that preferences for feedback may change as we learn more about this process together.

Reference Group Motivations and Expectations

The pre-meeting survey also included two open-ended questions:

1. What motivated you to join the Reference Group?
2. What do you hope to get out of your participation in the Reference Group?

The results from each question were very similar with Reference Group members most commonly expressing interest in:

- Collective efforts, including joint advocacy, learning, solidarity, and movement strengthening, and
- Building connections across and within stakeholder groups.

Other motivations that emerged less frequently included:

- Representing the viewpoints of specific groups, specifically women and girls with disabilities, Indigenous women and feminists, African women and girls, Central Asian feminists, young people, civil society, “structurally excluded communities,” LBTQI women and non-binary people;
- Staying up-to-date with information about the Global Alliance; and
- Fulfilling an organizational or personal commitment to funding feminist movements.

Of the Reference Group members expressing interest in bringing forth the perspectives of certain groups, they were more likely to come from civil society than the other stakeholders though not exclusively.

These priorities also resonated with what was said during the virtual consultations, especially around calls for joint learning and advocacy.

Feedback on Global Alliance Objectives

During the virtual consultations, the Reference Group members provided feedback on the objectives of the Global Alliance outlined in the concept note:

- Coordinate, strategize, and advocate to increase, sustain, and improve financial and political support for women’s rights organizations and feminist movements
- Collaborate to address emerging challenges to feminist movement building, including the feminist funding ecosystem
- Bring in new actors, funders, and supporters for feminist movements and organizations
- Review and exchange on best-practices, strategies, and funding modalities to ensure funding reaches feminist movements and organizations

Broadly speaking, these objectives resonated with the people present who also offered feedback along the following themes:

- Ensure that the Global Alliance is **inclusive and intersectional** in its language, as well as its actions both during the Design Phase and once it is launched. Several Reference Group members made specific suggestions to increase the inclusivity of the current language.
- Similarly, there were many suggestions to ensure that the Global Alliance **speaks to and with different parts of feminist movements** recognizing the unique needs that exist, such as among young feminists or feminists in conflict and post-conflict affected areas. There was also a hope that the Global Alliance could help build solidarity across different movements, as well as specifically the Generation Equality Forum Action Coalitions, and counter fragmentation, which is sometimes driven by funding priorities. There was also a call for policy coherence and accountability across a wide-range of issues, such as climate justice and military spending.
- Support for the Global Alliance to conduct **collective, joint advocacy** to increase funding and support for feminist movements, as well as for civil society space. Some Reference Group members also suggested that it would be helpful to map and coordinate with other existing initiatives in order not to duplicate existing work. As one participant said, “If we’re only one voice, we’re not much.”

- Many Reference Group members highlighted the importance of the Global Alliance as a **multi-stakeholder space** and hoped to have further conversations about who else should be brought into the process. Other Reference Group members expressed support for this while also cautioning that the Global Alliance needs to be **clear about its ethics and values** while recruiting new actors. Other new actors that Reference Group members mentioned included criminalized populations, feminist groups working at the local level, and non-donor governments.
- Several Reference Group members recommended that the Global Alliance clearly **explain why it is important to strengthen feminist movements** and to be clear about the kind of funding that we want (i.e., core, long-term, flexible funding). One participant said our voices should not be “a pleas for scraps, but a collective insistence on how and why funding feminist movements is so critical.”

Finally, Reference Group members reminded the group that the Global Alliance will need to stay flexible and adapt its objectives as needed and to think carefully about the sequencing of the objectives. There is a lot that we all hope to accomplish together, we must be intentional about planning and carrying out our work recognizing the immensity of the tasks ahead and our own exhaustion in this time of crisis.

NEXT STEPS

The Planning Group is currently reviewing these results and adapting the Design Phase in order to reflect these learnings. In particular, the strong desires for mutual learning, community, and planning the Global Alliance’s work have been noted.

The next virtual consultations are tentatively planned to take place in early-March 2022 with a short survey to be sent in the weeks before the consultation. During this phase, the Planning Group will seek to validate the revised objectives, create a joint context analysis, and begin to plan the work of the Global Alliance. An initial conversation about principles was planned for this first consultation, but this plan is being revised based on the interests expressed through the survey and virtual meetings. The conversation about principles will instead become part of the membership or accountability consultations.

Any questions or feedback about this report can be sent to rjacobson@awid.org or coordination@feministmovements.org.