

Global Women Leaders' Call to Action for the Revival of Democracy and Delivering on the Promise of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

The status of women is the status of democracy. Democracy, peace, and economic stability cannot exist without women's rights and leadership, and attacks on those rights are often the first warning sign of democratic decline, escalating violence, and economic instability. As authoritarian threats grow, many women are not only resisting — they are leading the fight against them. From the frontlines of conflict zones to the halls of parliaments, women and girls are mobilizing, organizing, and building resilient communities rooted in equality and justice.

As we mark thirty years since the [Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action](#), it is time to reclaim democratic power, fulfill the promise of Beijing, and rebuild an international order based on international law and anchored in the [United Nations Charter](#) and the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#). We can no longer simply react to backlash and attacks. Across all our differences, we must unite to shape a bold vision for communities where democracy drives economic growth, strengthens civic participation and social cohesion, and delivers human rights and genuine equality for all.

This Compact — developed and signed by a group of prominent global women leaders — calls on governments, civil society, academic institutions, women's organizations, and all allies to unite against authoritarianism, which has been fueling fear and division through racism, sexism, and deepening social class inequalities. Through this Compact, we commit to advancing women's leadership as a central pillar to the renewal of democracy, because when women thrive, democracy thrives — and so do communities, nations, and the world. **Together, we issue the following call to action:**

Reframe the narrative around gender equality and its benefits for all

- 01** Amplify the extensive existing data that shows that men are co-beneficiaries of women's equality and that equitable societies create better lives for everyone. Highlight how gender stereotypes and inequitable cultural norms inhibit social and economic welfare and wellbeing, using storytelling and awareness campaigns to connect to a broad range of audiences.
- 02** Engage men and boys directly as positive allies who can help break down toxic stereotypes by sharing that equality is a win-win: higher incomes, stronger families, safer communities, shared responsibilities, and greater individual freedom for everyone to reach their full potential. When women and girls prosper, so do men and boys.

Mobilize movements that bring together diverse actors and issues to advance broad social change

- 03** Catalyze movements for positive change by helping women sustain their activism and work through secure and sustainable financing mechanisms. This means creating transparent funding pipelines and channeling resources in a participatory way directly to women-led initiatives, both formal and informal.
- 04** Bring together diverse women's rights groups with the movements for democracy, climate action, labor rights, and other intersecting global challenges that impact communities.

Counter online gendered backlash and information warfare through regulatory action and awareness campaigns

- 05 Demand that tech companies address the role their platforms play in enabling online abuse of women and girls and the weaponization and monetization of misogyny. Ensure that they act systematically and preventively, actively reducing the dissemination of harmful content while mitigating the adverse effects of their products on civic discourse, electoral processes, public security, gender-based violence, public health, and the physical and mental well-being of individuals, particularly minors.
- 06 Hold authoritarian regimes accountable for spreading disinformation aimed at undermining women leaders. Promote policies that protect digital rights and establish multi-stakeholder oversight bodies to address regulatory gaps and counter the spread of falsehoods.
- 07 Promote and protect freedom of expression for everyone, while giving special attention to the most vulnerable groups, denouncing hate, and amplifying positive narratives.

Protect and advance democracy by strengthening and empowering women's civic participation and leadership

- 08 Recognize the weaponization of misogyny and attacks against women political leaders as signs of democratic backsliding, and develop counter-authoritarian tools and tactics that affirm women's rights and are based on domestic context and needs.
- 09 Increase the number of women in politics by empowering women leaders, expanding services that support women candidates, and providing legal, technical, and financial assistance throughout their political journeys. Advance social protections, care infrastructure, and political systems that enable women's diverse participation at all levels of society.
- 10 Take an expansive approach to supporting and promoting democracy, going beyond elections and looking comprehensively at democratic governance at all levels, processes, and at all times. Work to redefine and reaffirm democracy for everyday people, emphasizing how it can benefit communities worldwide, giving special attention to how it can deliver for women and families.

Signed by the Global Women Leaders Network

Hillary Rodham Clinton *Melanne Verveer*

Co-Chaired by the 67th US Secretary of State, Hillary Rodham Clinton, and Former US Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues, Melanne Verveer.

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Commit to Advancing Women's
Leadership to Safeguard
Democracy and Peace

