



6. Accountability in action: Holding decision-makers to account

WHAT TO DO?

- Advocate for women's priorities, inclusion and leadership, and highlight when gaps emerge. Decision-makers are accountable to women, and setting out your priorities clearly is an important and effective way of holding them to account.

WHY DO IT?

- Holding the decision-makers who make promises and declarations to account.
- Keeping the priorities of adolescent girls, young women and women broadly on the agenda.
- Ensuring commitments and policies are actioned and move beyond rhetoric.
- Expands visibility and engagement of communities in decision-making processes.
- Helps to focus attention on actions and investment that are truly 'fit for purpose' and informed by community realities, priorities, and community endorsed strategies.

WHO BENEFITS?

- Diverse communities of women and girls
- Policy structures
- Local, national, regional and global advocacy processes
- Government
- Multilaterals
- Families
- Broader communities working to create change

STEP-BY-STEP

1. Ensure that you and your community are informed about the content and context of decisions that have been taken and are going to be taken, major meetings and decision-making processes, timelines and participants.
2. Take every opportunity to engage in the process and different structures (working groups, advisory groups, commissions)
3. Establish professional connections through email, social media, in-person meeting attendance and other means as available to embed yourself into decision-making spaces
4. Network with groups focused on advocacy, accountability, monitoring, evaluation
5. Collaboratively monitor frameworks, policies, interventions and investments tied to key government decisions
6. Survey your communities (in-person, through organizations, on social media, through existing advocacy groups, by hosting events)
7. Create sign-on letters and petitions, supported by community and subject matter experts, calling for transparency, accountability and specific actions

8. Document impact, gaps, policy-conflicts, funding challenges, rights violations, access issues, etc.
9. Share findings in social media campaigns, blogs, shadow reports, white papers and through calls for input by government and community partners
10. As possible, attend any stake holder consultations, community dialogues or meetings that offer opportunities to share the lived impact of decisions, identify challenges, highlight community priorities and provide suggested strategies to achieve success
11. To achieve maximum effectiveness, these accountability processes should be ongoing, community driven, accurately informed and collaborative



IN ACTION: SIGN ON LETTER CALLING FOR COMMITMENT, LEADERSHIP, COORDINATION, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND INVESTMENT

#WhatWomenWant noted a shrinking space for women across decision-making fora, decreases in funding for women's rights work, increased conservatism and lack of space and investments in women's collaborative advocacy around high level decision-making processes. Therefore, in advance of the United Nations Commission of the Status of Women (CSW) and in advance of the of the United Nations for the High-Level Political Forum, #WhatWomenWant developed a sign-on letter that brought together leaders, activists, experts, community members, allies, and women in all our diversity to call on UNAIDS for continued political will, strategic focus, and inclusion of women and girls in policy and practice.

The response from the community was significant and led to attention, response, and investment from UNAIDS to increase women's participation in advocacy and accountability. This resulted in a global stakeholder convening giving women an opportunity to build and expand partnerships, review political commitments, identify priorities, partner with UNAIDS Gender Team, UN Women and other leaders across the UN family. This activism and momentum also served as a cornerstone for the #TeamWomen multi-stakeholder platform for women. The outcomes continue with advocacy, action and calls for accountability as we move in the next phases of realizing the Sustainable Development Goals.