

Women Deliver at UNGA81

8–28 SEPTEMBER 2026 | NEW YORK, UNITED STATES

Strategy for Engagement

Women Deliver will use UNGA81 to launch the implementation phase of the Melbourne Declaration for Gender Equality, build political and financial support for its shared vision, and strengthen the partnerships needed to carry it forward.

CONTEXT

Why UNGA81 matters

The 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA81) will take place amid overlapping global crises, from the climate emergency to genocide and war. Trust in the multilateral system is eroding as some Member States walk away from their obligations and commitments to human rights, peace, and democracy. The UN is also facing severe financial pressure, advancing the UN80 reform process, and preparing for the selection of its next Secretary-General.



900+

people
helped shape
the Declaration

Despite these challenges, people working for gender equality are continuing to organize and act. At the Women Deliver 2026 Conference (WD2026), more than 900 people from across movements, civil society, States, philanthropy, and multilateral institutions came together to name the systemic failures that prevent girls, women, and gender-diverse people from fully enjoying their rights — and to define a shared political vision through the Melbourne Declaration for Gender Equality.

FIVE MONTHS LATER

Five months later, UNGA81 offers an important opportunity to carry that momentum forward. As partners, States, and funders convene in New York, Women Deliver will launch the Declaration's implementation phase and share our emerging role in leveraging our convening power to turn a collective vision into action.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Our focus at UNGA81

2 goals

1

Continue to spark collective political imagination.

Bring diverse actors together to imagine what a more effective and just gender equality ecosystem could look like, building on the shared political direction articulated in the Melbourne Declaration.

2

Build commitment to a shared political vision.

Ignite and reinforce interest in the shared political vision expressed in the Melbourne Declaration, while demonstrating Women Deliver's evolving role in connecting actors, strengthening political alignment, and helping turn that vision into collective action

WHAT WE AIM TO ACHIEVE



Launch the implementation phase of the Melbourne Declaration.

Introduce clear next steps to civil society, multilateral partners, States, and funders.

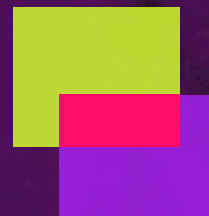


Build stronger networks for collective action.

Connect partners across sectors and issue areas who are committed to implementing the Melbourne Declaration and shaping shared responses to future political opportunities and challenges.

MELBOURNE DECLARATION

FOR GENDER EQUALITY



*What comes next,
we build together.*

The shared vision we are advancing

The Melbourne Declaration calls for a fundamental shift in how the gender equality ecosystem works. In practice, this means:

States uphold their human rights obligations.

The gender equality ecosystem should help create the conditions for States to respect, protect, and fulfil the rights of all people and the planet — and for people, civil society, and social movements to hold them accountable.

Feminist movements and local civil society have the resources and influence they need.

Their priorities, knowledge, language, and political aims — particularly those of people most affected by injustice — should shape the work of the wider ecosystem.

The wider ecosystem aligns behind justice and accountability.

Institutions should align their resources and influence behind locally defined priorities and movement leadership, challenge donor-driven models and unjust power structures, and work in solidarity across movements and borders.

HOW WE'RE ENGAGING AT UNGA81

Priority events designed to move the Melbourne Declaration from a shared vision to coordinated action.

Our Shared Declaration for Gender Equality

The formal launch of the Melbourne Declaration's implementation phase, outlining what comes next and how partners can take action.

Date: September 18 | Time: 6-8 PM | Location: AG Studios, 52 Walker St, New York, NY 10013
Women Deliver and global partners across the gender equality ecosystem; RSVP [here](#).

Working Meeting on a Coordination Structure

A focused working session to help shape a shared structure for coordinating the implementation of the Melbourne Declaration.

Date: September 21 | Time: 2-4 PM | Location provided upon RSVP
Women Deliver; invitation only – contact jfan@womendeliver.org

Consultation with State Signatories

A consultation with signatories to explore how States can promote the Declaration, encourage further signatures, and use it to inform foreign policy.

Date: [TBD] | Time: [TBD] | Location: [TBD]
Co-host [TBC]; invitation only

Feminist Health Systems Charter Consultation

A consultation with global health partners to share the [Feminist Health Systems Charter](#), take stock of progress, and discuss coordination for the next phase of work.

Date: September 22 | Time: 10:30 AM - 12 PM | Location provided upon RSVP
Women Deliver invitation only – contact hasan@womendeliver.org

HOW PARTNERS CAN TAKE PART

Partners will be invited to:

- **Endorse the Melbourne Declaration.**
- Join a working group or future coordination structure.
- Integrate the Declaration into their advocacy, policy, funding, or organizational plans.
- Adapt and apply its ideas within their own national, regional, or thematic context.

INTENDED OUTCOME

UNGA81 should leave partners with a clearer understanding of the Melbourne Declaration's implementation phase, practical ways to take part, and stronger political, financial, and cross-sector connections for carrying the work forward.

