



International Day of the Girl 2023 11th Annual IDG Summit Concept Note

Working Group on Girls Overview

The Working Group on Girls is a coalition of national and international organizations dedicated to the human rights of girls. We believe that girls have an important role to play in international policy agendas and human rights frameworks, and we work tirelessly to promote their on-going inclusion throughout the United Nations system.

International Day of the Girl

In 2011, the United Nations declared October 11, the International Day of the Girl (IDG). IDG is celebrated annually and serves as an opportunity to celebrate girlhood.

Since 2012, the Working Group on Girls has leveraged IDG as a moment to bring attention to the voice and issues of girls around the world. Since 2013, the IDG Summit and Girls Speak Out at UN Headquarters on October 11th has served as a platform for girl activists and advocates to bring their issues and concerns to UN stakeholders and demand change.

Concept

This year marks the 10th annual celebration of the Girls Speak Out for International Day of the Girl Child, calling for a push for accountability for girls' rights and investment in girls' leadership and wellbeing. The Working Group on Girls and Allies seek to listen to girls in all their diversity and intersectional identities and hear what **they** need as key stakeholders and partner with them and other stakeholders to advocate for sustainable solutions to the challenges that they face and ensure that their rights are upheld.

The 2023 Girls Speak Out will draw upon the IDG theme of “**Invest in Girls' Rights: Our Leadership & Wellbeing**” focusing on *action for girls' rights*. This begins with fulfilling, protecting, and respecting girls' rights. It demands trusting girls' leadership as equal partners, ensuring there is space for girls to be heard, to participate, and co-lead, and respecting their voices and perspectives and lived realities as decision-makers and as the leaders of today. This also requires investing in and supporting girls' health and wellbeing as well as their education and including girls in determining what their needs are while working in an intergenerational effort to meet those

specific needs. In listening to Girl Advocates' perspectives and Girl Activists who are already making change, the overarching questions at this year's Girls' Speak Out will be: *How are you taking action for girls' rights? How are you investing in, supporting, and working towards the realization of girls' rights?*

- **Girls Speak Out:** On 11 October 2023, Girl Activists and Girl Advocates will participate in a hybrid (virtual and in-person) town hall at the UN designed to deliver organic dialogue between policy makers and girl leaders in all their diversity and Intersectional Identities advocating for action and investment in girls' rights, their leadership and well-being. In a girl-led conversation among girl activists and distinguished members of the UN community, girls will share how they are impacted by the continuing neglect and under-investment in girls' rights and ask candid questions of policy makers around resources they need to be able to reach their full potential and contribute to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Goals. The town hall discussion will also include video submissions from girls who cannot attend live to enhance participation, as well as incorporate direct participation from girls attending in person to engage in the conversation.

Distinguished members of the UN community and commitment makers aligned to Generation Equality and the Sustainable Development Goals will respond to the statements and questions put forth by girls, and speak to how the United Nations can commit to supporting girls' call for accountability in investing and ensuring girls' rights.

In addition, a girl-led, girl-moderated webinar of the discussion will be livestreamed concurrently, to enhance participation in the discussion for virtual attendees. Key points made and issues raised in the webinar discussion will also be recorded for continued advocacy purposes. (The Working group on Girls will have safeguarding mechanisms in place for the webinar).

The Working Group on Girls in partnership with Member States and UN Agencies will facilitate the solicitation and coordination of this IDG event in collaboration with Girl Advocates from various organizations, who will lead the direction of the Girls Speak Out and inform any modifications needed for the event concept.

In addition, the Working Group on Girls has put out a general call for submissions out to girls to respond to this year's IDG theme, which will be highlighted during the Girls Speak Out event, through the Working Group on Girls' social media pages and our summit website. The Working Group on Girls will facilitate the solicitation, coordination and production of these submissions as well, which may include but is not limited to videos, artwork, writings, collaborative video submissions, etc.

IDG 2023 Girls Speak Out Proposed Participants

Girl Advocates and Activists

- 4 Girl Advocates (two in-person, two virtual) who will moderate the dialogue among Girl Activists and UN Representatives
- 6 Girl-Activists (participating in-person and virtually with global representation) who will share their experiences and perspectives with UN Representatives and attendees
- 2 Girl Advocates who will moderate the online webinar chat discussion with virtual attendees (with support from WGG adult coordinators for safeguarding)

Proposed Member State & UN Agency Engagement

- Representatives from the Mission of Canada to the United Nations
 - Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Youth
 - Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations
- Representatives from the Mission of Perú to the United Nations
 - Ministra de la Mujer y Poblaciones Vulnerables
 - Permanent Representative of Perú to the United Nations
- Permanent Representative of Türkiye to the United Nations
- Secretary-General of the United Nations, António Guterres
- Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, Amina J. Mohammed
- UN Under-Secretary-General and UN Women Executive Director, Sima Sami Bahous
- Distinguished Representative from UNICEF
- Distinguished Representative from UNFPA

Attendance: The Girls Speak Out invites girls and girl allies, including representatives from the UN community to attend the Girls' Speak out at the UN, as well as in the digital space. Our first hybrid Girls Speak Out in 2022 allowed for in-person and virtual participation, filling the ECOSOC chamber and increasing online participation, which we seek to replicate for 2023 and in years to come.

Social Media Campaign Hashtags:

#IDG2023

#DayoftheGirl

#IDGxWGG

#GirlsRightsNow

#InvestInGirls

#ActionforGirlsRights