



Common Ask Framework

This note sets out a final draft of a 'common ask framework'. Background data, analysis, and resources can be found in the Towards a "Common Ask" For Resourcing Feminist Movements: [Background Paper](#).

We welcome feedback and discussion on these proposals. We are grateful for the guidance, inputs and feedback all of those accompanying us on this journey.

The Common Ask Framework is a collective effort by many feminist stakeholders spearheaded by the Walking the Talk consortium. Together Equipop (France), Restless Development (UK), the Centre for Feminist Foreign Policy (Germany), Hivos (the Netherlands), and ODI Europe (EU) are building momentum to mobilize substantially more and better quality resources for feminist movements and women's rights organizations especially in the Global South.

We will use the Financing for Development process to push certain asks, including but not limited to our own flagship event [Financing for Feminist Futures](#) (for which 13 research teams are exploring (new) ways to increase funding for women's rights organizations and feminist movements).

We encourage you to use the Common Ask Framework in your own advocacy and share your experiences via www.f4ff.global

Resources for Feminist Movements

It is clear that progress on gender equality is stalled. According to the [Equal Measures 2030 2024 SDG Gender Index](#), nearly 40% of countries saw stagnation or decline in key gender equality indicators. One of the key steps to reverse this trend is new and better resourcing of feminist organizations and movements. Strong, independent feminist movements strengthen democracies, build peace, address the climate catastrophe, and drive change toward economic, political, and social equality.

Box 1 - Our definition of feminist organizations and movements

The Walking the Talk definition of feminist organizations and movements builds on the collective work and values of the five consortium members as well as the many women's rights activists, funds, organizations and movements that make up the global feminist civil society ecosystem. We support the definition used by the Alliance for Feminist Movements: *Feminist civil society are organizations that promote women's, girls', trans and/or intersex peoples' human rights as their primary mission, not just a part of their programs, and are led by the people they aim to serve.*

A more detailed definition that is also useful is the one used by Action Coalition 6 of Generation Equality Forum: *feminist-led organizations and movements to refer to the activists, women's human rights defenders and groups who A) work from feminist and women's rights perspectives; B) are led by the people they serve; C) have the promotion of women's, girls', and/or all trans, intersex and nonbinary people's human rights as their primary mission; D) push for structural change and address issues at their root; E) work on issues which are marginalized, and contested.*

Our focus is on feminist organizations and movements in the Global South and East. It is important to prioritize these brave actors of change who are consistently marginalized by current funding flows.

Recommendations to governments providing ODA

Walking the Talk's primary focus is Official Development Assistance. We support the ongoing calls for increases in ODA, noting that the 0.7% of GNI target should be the floor/threshold rather than a ceiling.

We call on governments providing ODA to:

Ask 1: Invest a minimum of 15% of overall allocable bilateral assistance in initiatives that have gender equality as the principal objective (to be achieved in five years).

Ask 2: Increase overall funding to women's rights organizations, networks and funds, aiming for 10% of gender equality principal investments flowing through these entities within five years.

Ask 3: Invest a minimum 15% of bilateral allocable assistance in both the humanitarian sector and climate financing allocations that have gender equality as a principal objective AND that a minimum of 10% of these investments flow to women's rights organizations, networks and funds within five years. (A specific target is required for these two critical sectors.)

Ask 4: Advocate, through positions on Executive Boards, evaluations, reviews, etc., and through direct agreements with multilateral entities so that they:

- a) Meet existing targets for gender equality funding, such as the UN's 15% minimum percentage of programming with gender equality as the primary objective and the commitment to raise USD 300M for women's organizations in conflict and crisis settings
- b) Set new targets and timelines where they do not exist, in order to advance progress and support accountability.
- c) Report on investments with gender equality as the principal objective and funding to women's rights organizations, networks, and funds.

Ask 5: Improve the 'quality' of funding to feminist organizations. See Box 3.

Ask 6: Improve the quality of the current systems for tracking gender equality ODA to address inconsistencies across entities, quality control, and timeliness. Support reporting by new actors in order to better track the breadth of investments

Box 2 – Recommendations to improve the quality of feminist funding

Feminist movements are asking for:

- Core, flexible funding (rather than specific project funding). If you cannot give more, give core!
- Long-term funding (ideally eight plus years, like the Black Feminist Fund).
- Funding for 'self-led' groups (groups led by representatives of the communities they work with and for).
- Funding for organizations working for transformative change. This includes those impacted by multiple oppressions, working at intersections, often excluded from traditional funding patterns, etc. For example, Indigenous women's organizations, sex worker organizations, organizations far from the capital.
- Minimal bureaucracy (end lengthy application forms, co-financing requirements, multiple audits, ongoing reporting requirements, etc.)
- Elimination of processes that pit organizations against each other (change lengthy application and reporting processes).
- Participatory grantmaking and community inputs into funding decisions, that shift power and support decolonizing processes.
- Recognition of the differences among organizations operating internationally – INGOs, women's and other feminist funds, etc. INGOs do not necessarily fund in ways that support local agendas.
- Partnerships with women's funds, feminist funds, and other activist-led funds to ensure that funding reaches the grassroots.
- Prioritisation of listening, learning, humility, and solidarity. Build trust. Invest in understanding specific contexts.
- Investments in international, regional, and national feminist partnerships and networks.

Bilateral ODA funders can:

- Invest in funding modalities that operate in ways consistent with the points above. A [2020 report](#) outlines nine feminist programs as examples.
- Broaden the base of support inside funding institutions for feminist movements and organizations. This can be part of discussions on localization, 'decolonizing aid', achieving the SDGs, etc.
- Re-assess conventional definitions of 'risk' to incorporate current discussions on reframing risk including re-calibrating compliance factors and adding the 'dangers of not funding feminist organizations.'
- Experiment with pooled and/or collaborative funds to support feminist funding modalities.
- Support pilot initiatives that open doors to new ways of working with feminist funding modalities and local women's organizations. Expand support for 'regranting' in contribution/grant agreements.
- Centre the safety and security of activists in reporting, data management and public disclosures.
- Build in flexibility and longer-term funding cycles.
- Encourage funding for the full-diversity of feminist actors.
- Allow funding for holistic security, safety, wellbeing, and collective care of activists.
- Strengthen feminist monitoring, evaluation, and learning practices.
- Strengthen internal capacities to understand, support, and engage with feminist movements and feminist funders. Establish advisory groups, outreach initiatives, ongoing consultative processes and other mechanisms to learn from the full diversity of feminist actors.
- Provide public reporting on their investments on what they are learning on overcoming obstacles to feminist funding practices.
- Show up as an ally and advocate for both "more and better" funding for feminist organizations and movements.

We look forward to more discussion and refinement of this section of the framework.

Recommendation to multilateral organizations (including UN entities and international financial institutions)

Ask 7: We call on multilateral organizations (including international financial institutions and United Nations' entities) to both set ambitious targets and report on progress on funding with gender equality as the principal objective and investments in women's rights organizations, networks, and funds.

Recommendation to philanthropic organizations

Ask 8: We call on philanthropic entities and individuals to work alongside other donors to achieve the USD 1.5B annual investment in women's rights organizations, networks, and funds and feminist movements called for by [Shake the Table](#) and the [Bridgespan Group](#).

Recommendations to all

Ask 9: We recognize that realizing feminist visions of change requires more than greater ODA investments in gender equality outcomes and feminist movements. The **global financial architecture** is in urgent need of reform and

restructuring to put people and the planet first. We call on all international actors to move with good faith and effectiveness to reform the global financial architecture so that it supports a more sustainable, equitable, and peaceful planet.

Ask 10: We call on governments, philanthropy, civil society to test and develop **creative and new mechanisms to resource feminist movements**. This could be gender bonds, using a small percentage of a new wealth tax, gender lens investing, new partnerships with IFIs, social finance initiatives, or others.

Ask 11: We call on all governments and other funding entities to regularly and publicly report on their investments in feminist movements (both to the OECD and as part of their public reporting). We also urge key actors to come together to produce a regular report (perhaps every three years) that provides a reliable, comprehensive overview of feminist resourcing from all sources. These actions would strengthen **accountability**.

Ask 12: We call on governments and philanthropic entities to track investments in organizations participating with **anti-gender/anti-rights** initiatives and develop strategies to restrict funding to organizations with homophobic, misogynist agendas that work to rollback global commitments to the rights of women and LGBTIQ people.