

STATEMENT

ACT Alliance statement at the end of CSW69

March, 2025

As members of the ACT Alliance, we strongly affirm the importance of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. Despite 30 years of progress towards advancing gender justice, we lament the pushbacks experienced, including in spaces such as the UN Commission on the Status of Women.

As faith and rights-based actors we are rooted in our communities and have locally-based leadership and resources that contribute to the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action.

We acknowledge the role of the church and other faith-based actors in reinforcing gender injustices, including sexual and gender-based violence. We are committed to mobilising faith-based actors to address root causes, counter backlashes, and advance gender justice.

We thank the Member States and civil society, who worked tirelessly to ensure a Political Declaration was reached. However, the process demonstrated that progress is not permanent unless it is protected.

We call for accelerated action to:

- Reform discriminatory laws and practices, transform gender stereotypes and negative social norms, and address multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination;
- Reaffirm the need to ensure adequate, predictable, sustainable and long-term funding, including transparent allocations of resources to local actors, including faith and rights-based actors, as a means to eliminate structural inequalities;

- Recognise the importance of men and boys fully engaging as strategic partners and allies for the advancement of gender equality, preventing and ending gender-based violence and promoting positive masculinities;
- Ensure women's full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership at all levels and spaces of decision-making, including in all stages of peace processes.

The revitalisation of CSW is an opportunity to ensure we improve accountability for the existing commitments of Member States, including:

- Strengthening synergies between CSW and UN mechanisms and bodies, for example CEDAW and the Paris Agreement;
- Protecting civic space and defending multilateralism
- Countering the anti-rights agenda, including working with faith and rights-based actors, who are strategic stakeholders in advancing gender equality.

We know we cannot do this alone and call upon you all for the transformative action required to defend the human rights of women and girls in all their diversity are protected, and push forward to ensure we leave no one behind.