Concurrent Program Overview, Guidelines, and Requirements

Conference Overview

As one of the largest multi-sectoral convenings to advance gender equality, the Women Deliver 2023 Conference (WD2023) and Global Dialogue are co-created by grassroots advocates, multilateral governments, the private sector, philanthropies, and youth, including from and representing communities facing systemic discrimination.

With sexual and reproductive health and rights at our core, we will center intersectional feminist principles, to address compounding issues impacting girls and women — from climate change to gender-based violence, to unpaid care work — and collectively identify and action evidence-based solutions.

We will enhance our collective power by championing the leadership of grassroots advocates, connecting advocates with decision-makers, and sharing key advocacy strategies. We will come together to break barriers, address challenges, and identify opportunities to advance gender equality and improve the wellbeing of girls and women, in all their intersecting identities.

The theme of WD2023 is **Spaces**, **Solidarity**, and **Solutions**. WD2023 will enable inclusive and co-created spaces that foster solidarity for sustainable solutions on gender equality.

WD2023's Objectives

1. **Catalyze Collective Action to Advance Gender Equality**
   Break barriers, address challenges, and identify opportunities; Create and align on shared goals to make concrete gains
2. **Hold Leaders Accountable**
   Hold decision-makers accountable to actionable commitments and support civil society organizations in tracking and sharing progress
3. **Empower the Feminist Movement**
   Connect the movement and drive solutions, and foster lasting and diverse partnerships
4. **Reframe Who Leads**
   Center grassroots organizations, youth, communities facing systemic discrimination, advocates, and changemakers working on the ground
5. **Create Space**
   Develop an accessible and inclusive space while welcoming all allies

Concurrent Sessions

Concurrent sessions are moderated discussions and interactive workshops that provide a space for participants to delve into key issues, gain knowledge from expert speakers, and learn and enhance their advocacy skills.

As part of Women Deliver's **commitment** to a more transparent and inclusive process for the development of WD2023, Concurrent sessions, for both the on-site and virtual Conference, will be selected through an open application process. Approximately 75 on-site and 45 virtual sessions will be selected, providing space to exchange knowledge, build skills, generate discussion, and share solutions to move the needle on gender equality through solidarity and collective action

Application Process

Applications to organize a Concurrent session will open on 19 July 2022, and close on 1 November 2022. Applications are available and accepted in English, French, and Spanish.

Organizers are strongly encouraged to apply in partnership with another organization(s), coalition, or network. Organizations may submit up to three applications in total for either on-site and/or virtual concurrent sessions.

Applications will be reviewed by the WD2023 Advisory Group and Women Deliver Staff. Women Deliver will notify selected organizers by January 2023.

Concurrent Program Structure

WD2023's Concurrent program will be designed through a cross-cutting approach highlighting the Conference's theme: Spaces, Solidarity, and Solutions. Approximately 75 on-site and 45 virtual sessions will be held, using diverse and innovative learning formats.

WD2023 will adopt a novel approach to organizing the Concurrent program; Concurrent sessions will be organized through a matrix approach developed with the input and feedback from the WD2023 Advisory Group. Through this matrix approach, WD2023 attendees will be able to tailor their experience at the Conference according to **1) WD2023's objectives, 2) their issue areas of interest, 3) their desired learning approaches/formats, and 4) specific advocacy strategies**. Whether it's organizing a skills-building workshop, facilitating a thought leadership panel, or sharing lessons learned from program implementation, Concurrent program applicants are encouraged to think creatively when designing their session.

- **Learning Approach and Format[1] (Select one)**
  - Skills Building
  - Thought Leadership
  - Networking & Partnership Building
  - Sharing Lessons Learned
  - Whole System in a Room
  - Storytelling

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1 Please see the glossary of learning formats in the Appendix for a brief description of each learning approach listed.

o Other

- **WD2023 Objectives (select up to two)**
  o Catalyze Collective Action to Advance Gender Equality
  o Hold Leaders Accountable
  o Empower the Feminist Movement
  o Reframe Who Leads
  o Create Space

- **Issue Areas Covered (Topics) (select up to three)**
  o Accountability
  o Adolescents
  o Arts/Creative Expression
  o Care Economy/Unpaid Care
  o Climate Action
  o Communicable Diseases
  o Crisis & Humanitarian Assistance
  o Digital Rights
  o Disability Rights
  o Economic Justice & Rights
  o Education
  o Environment
  o Faith & Religion
  o Gender-Based Violence & Harmful Practices
  o Gender Equality
  o Gender Financing
  o Health Systems / Universal Health Coverage
  o Health Workforce
  o Human Rights
  o Infrastructure, including Water & Sanitation
  o Labor Rights
  o Land Rights
  o LGBTQIA+ Rights
  o Maternal, Newborn, Child Health
  o Migration
  o Mental Health
  o Noncommunicable Diseases
  o Nutrition / Food Security
  o Racial Justice
  o Sexual & Reproductive Health & Rights / Bodily Autonomy
  o Sex Worker Rights
  o Social Justice

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- o Social Protection
- o Women in Politics and Decision-Making
- o Youth Engagement/ Leadership
- o Other

- **Advocacy Strategies Promoted (select all that apply)**
  - o Accountability
  - o Collective Action
  - o Cross-border Learning
  - o Decolonization
  - o Feminist Movement Building
  - o Intersectionality
  - o Intergenerational Justice
  - o Litigation
  - o LMIC Leadership
  - o Making Space
  - o Partnerships & Coalitions
  - o Peace & Conflict Management
  - o Policy & Advocacy
  - o Power Shifting
  - o Reframing Who Leads
  - o Sustainability
  - o Women's Leadership
  - o Other

Concurrent Session Guidelines

WD2023 will highlight strategies for actioning solutions that are practical, replicable, and have been proven to improve the lives of girls and women, in all their intersecting identities. We encourage organizers to spend a few minutes at the end of their session sharing key messages and next steps that advocates can take in their own work and communities.

Successful applicants will amplify diverse viewpoints and elevate new voices in their session by applying an intersectional and intergenerational approach. A diverse group of speakers exposes audience members to a broad spectrum of ideas and opinions, leading to better dialogue and a more engaging session.

Women Deliver Commitments:

All panels must include*:

- at least one speaker from a low- or middle-income country (LMIC),

- at least one youth speaker (under the age of 30), and

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- at least one speaker from a marginalized community or community disproportionately affected by discrimination.[2]

At least 60% of Conference organizers, speakers, and advisors will be from LMICs. An exception to the above session requirements is skills-building sessions, which may be taught or led by one person.

Guidelines for Concurrent Organizers:

- Consider speaker diversity, including geography, gender, age, communities affected by discrimination, etc.

- Ensure various sectors are represented (government, practitioners, civil society organizations (CSOs), academia, the private sector, global/national actors, etc.).

- Sessions must relate to the Conference theme and objectives (see above).

- Apply an intergenerational and intersectional approach.

- Co-create each session by collaborating with speaker(s) and moderator(s) to curate the session.

- Create a productive balance between presentations and dialogue that leaves space for interaction with the audience and to develop/discuss solutions.

- To ensure significant contributions from speakers, Women Deliver suggests no more than five speakers per session, including the moderator.

Feel free to contact us at wd2023@womendeliver.org should you need any assistance getting in touch with speakers. Women Deliver will be eager to facilitate introductions with Young Leaders and other individuals that have expressed interest in speaking opportunities.

Language of Sessions

Currently, WD2023 (on-site and virtual) will provide simultaneous interpretation in English, French, Spanish, and International Sign Language. We encourage concurrent session organizers to prepare their session(s) in any of these languages.

Format of Sessions

To allow for dynamic, transformative, interactive sessions, we invite organizers to experiment with out-of-the-box session formats, and to think creatively about how sessions are conducted. For instance, *skills building sessions* are expected to be interactive; participants should leave with tangible skills and/or new approaches to their work. *Whole System in a Room* sessions are expected to foster a shared understanding and a higher commitment to common goals. We also

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[2] A marginalized community member is defined as someone who identifies with one of the following: ethnic, racial, or religious minority; Indigenous person; informalized worker; intersex, lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer, transgender; migrant or in migration; person living with disabilities; person living in a humanitarian or crisis setting; refugee or displaced person.

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encourage you to consider audience engagement in your format and use of technology, including audience polling, twitter, or short-form storytelling. Session organizers are encouraged to serve as ambassadors and communicators for their sessions by:

- Amplifying sessions outside of the room using technology and social media, including Twitter, Instagram, Facebook Live, and Tik Tok, among others.

- Creating opportunities for people to continue the discussion after the Conference.

A list of possible learning formats and a brief description of each is provided in the Appendix, below. If you would like to implement a learning format that is not outlined, please provide a clear description of your session's intended format in your application. Innovative ideas are most welcome!

Please note that all in-person and virtual sessions will last 90 minutes, it is up to the organizers and speakers to determine how the allotted time will be organized in their respective sessions.

Our Small Thanks

We realize and appreciate the hard work that goes into organizing a Concurrent session. To help cover costs, we offer a discounted registration rate for speakers (up to five individuals) and organizers (up to two individuals) of $500 USD. Additionally, Women Deliver has set aside scholarships (which include registration fees, airfare, hotel, per diem, and health insurance) for concurrent sessions. Session organizers may access these scholarships by requesting financial support for up to one speaker through the application form. Organizers and speakers seeking financial support should also submit a general scholarship application.

Thank you very much for your support and investment in the Women Deliver 2023 Conference. We appreciate your time and effort and look forward to co-creating a successful Concurrent program!

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APPENDIX. SESSION FORMAT GLOSSARY

1. **Skills Building:** Participants gain new skills or deepen their knowledge of skills, tools, or practices that can improve their work and advocacy. Participants should leave with tangible skills and/or new approaches to their work.

2. **Thought Leadership:** Experts in their fields share their expertise, experience, research, and/or knowledge on a particular field or topic.

3. **Networking and Partnership Building**: Focus on capacity building and capacity sharing by expanding your network of stakeholders. Sessions designed to support participant in getting to know one another or r to deepen existing relationships between participants. Sessions can be based on geographic region, topic, area of expertise, or other factors.

4. **Learning from Failure:** Share examples of how learning from mistakes and failure can lead to success. What did you learn from a past failure or from when things did not go as planned? How did you implement lessons learned and how can others apply the same learnings to their own work? How do you build resilience and start again after failure?

5. **Whole System in a Room:** Participants represent as wide a variety of stakeholders involved with addressing an issue as possible. Everyone shares information, interprets it, and decides on action steps collectively. These sessions should foster a shared understanding and a higher commitment to common goals.

6. **Storytelling:** Description of ideas, beliefs, firsthand experiences, and life- lessons through stories or narratives that evoke emotion and deepen insight and understanding.