

Female Leadership Forum:

“Scaling Impact: Actionable Models for Women’s Leadership”

2026 NGO CSW FORUM 70
VIRTUAL PARALLEL EVENT

Organized by:

Junior Chamber International (JCI)

Proposed Date and Time:

18 March 2026 (Wednesday) | 12:30am - 2:00 PM GMT

Languages:

English, Spanish, French, Japanese
Interpretation will be provided.

1. Background

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is the principal global intergovernmental platform dedicated to advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women. While meaningful progress has been made, significant gaps remain in women's representation in leadership, access to decision-making spaces and full economic participation across sectors and regions.

Women's leadership is essential for inclusive governance, sustainable economic growth, innovation and social cohesion. Evidence consistently shows that diverse leadership strengthens institutional effectiveness, improves accountability and accelerates progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). However, structural barriers, limited access to leadership pathways and unequal opportunities continue to restrict women's advancement into positions of authority in both public and private institutions.

The **Female Leadership Forum: Scaling Impact: Actionable Models for Women's Leadership** will convene women leaders, policymakers, entrepreneurs, youth representatives and civil society organizations to examine these persistent challenges and identify practical, scalable solutions. The Forum will combine expert dialogue with structured interactive engagement to better understand what prevents women from advancing into decision-making roles and how institutions can respond effectively.

By focusing on both barriers and solutions, the Forum aims to contribute to stronger leadership systems that advance gender equality and sustainable development.

2. About Junior Chamber International (JCI)

Junior Chamber International (JCI) is a global network of over 200,000 enterprising young leaders and alumni across 110+ countries, committed to creating positive change through leadership development and community action.

JCI equips emerging leaders with practical skills, international networks and opportunities to drive impact in business, public service and civil society. The organization actively supports women's leadership through training programs, entrepreneurship initiatives, advocacy platforms and cross-sector partnerships.

By strengthening leadership capacity and promoting women's participation in decision-making, JCI contributes to building more inclusive institutions and advancing sustainable development worldwide.

3. Objectives of the Parallel Event, including relation with the SDGs

The Female Leadership Forum is designed as an interactive and solution-oriented platform aimed at generating insight, strengthening collaboration and promoting practical action.

The objectives are to:

1. Understand key barriers

Identify where and why women face obstacles in advancing into decision-making roles across sectors and regions.

2. Analyze structural causes

Examine the institutional, economic, cultural and policy factors that limit women's leadership progression.

3. Identify scalable solutions

Highlight practical models and reforms that have demonstrated measurable impact and can be adapted across different contexts.

4. Strengthen collaboration

Encourage partnerships between governments, private sector actors, civil society organizations and youth networks to expand leadership opportunities for women.

5. Generate actionable outcomes

Provide participants with concrete ideas and realistic next steps that can be implemented within their own institutions and communities.

The event contributes directly to:

- SDG 5: Gender Equality
- SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth
- SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions
- SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

Based on previous JCI events, the Forum aims to engage at least 500 online participants, with additional outreach through live streaming and digital dissemination.

4. Programme and Names of Speakers / Panelists (Tentative)

- **Welcome by Host (2 mins)**
Georgina Matamoros, Women in Leadership Commission Chairperson, JCI
- **Opening Remarks (3 mins)**
Alejandra Castillo, 2026 President, JCI
- **Keynote Address: Women's Leadership for Sustainable Impact (15 mins)**
Proposed Speakers (TBC)
 - Monika Froehler is the Chief Executive Officer, **Ban Ki-Moon Foundation**
 - UN Woman
- **Panel Discussion: What Prevents Women from Advancing into Decision-Making Roles? (30 mins)**
 - **Moderator:** Natalia Cardenas, JCI Partnerships Director
 - **Panelists:**
 - Dr. Márcia Balisciano, Chief Sustainability Officer and Global Head of Corporate Responsibility, **RELX**
 - Aleyna Sayin, President, **AIESEC International**
 - Sanjana Chhantyal, Former member of the 2024 cohort **UN Women ROAP's 30 for 2030 Youth Leader**
 - Shannon Kroban, Head of Education and Training, **SDG Academy**

- **Key Discussion Areas:**
 - The importance of women's participation in decision-making
 - Why representation alone is not sufficient
 - The need for institutional and structural change
 - The link between women's leadership and sustainable development
- **Breakout Workshop: Interactive Dialogue and Audience Engagement (30 minutes)**
 - **Key Discussion Topic:**
What Prevents Women from Advancing into Decision-Making Roles?
 - Participants will take part in four parallel breakout sessions, conducted in a different language (English, Spanish, French, and Japanese).
 - These sessions are designed to engage diverse audiences and to create a truly intercultural and global exchange, enriched by a wide range of perspectives and experiences.
 - The breakout sessions will be moderated by members of JCI Board of Directors and representatives of the of JCI Women in Leadership Commission for each language:
 - English: **Rycho Cheuk, Deputy Chair of the JCI Women in Leadership Commission**
 - Spanish: **Virginia de Gorositza, Representative for JCI Women in Leadership for America**
 - French: **Rokaya Jamaly, JCI Vice President assigned to Africa and the Middle East**
 - Japanese: **Marii Kitamura, Past JCI Vice President assigned to Asia and the Pacific**
 - Each session is designed to foster **active participation**, allowing attendees to share their experiences and insights, guided by the moderators to ensure meaningful and inclusive dialogue.
 - The workshop will follow a structured process:
 1. **Identify the main barrier**
Participants discuss the most significant obstacle preventing women from advancing into decision-making roles in their region or sector.

2. **Understand the root cause**

Groups analyze whether the barrier is institutional, economic, cultural or policy-related, and identify who has the power to address it.

3. **Design one realistic action**

Each group proposes one practical solution that could be implemented within 12 months, identifying:

- The key stakeholder responsible
- The first concrete step
- One measurable indicator of success
- Total number of participants per breakout room and the number of facilitators will be confirmed once we have the final number of registrations.

● **Closing Reflections and Call to Action (10 minutes)**

Host: Georgina Matamorros, Women in Leadership Commission Chairperson, JCI

The session will conclude with:

1. A summary of recurring barriers identified across regions
2. Examples of practical solutions proposed
3. A call for continued collaboration and partnership

JCI will compile key insights for future initiatives and partnerships aimed at strengthening women's leadership systems.

5. Platform for Virtual Parallel Event

Platform: Zoom

Registration Link: <https://jci-go.link/JCIxCSW70>