

Call for contributions

2nd XOESE FRANCOPHONE FORUM

DEADLINE:
20 APRIL 2023

Theme:

**Building the Francophone
Feminist Movement: Where To
Start?**



XOESE
The Francophone Women's Fund
Le Fonds pour les Femmes Francophones

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1. Context



The **XOESE International Francophone Forum** is an event dedicated to exclusively strengthening Francophone women's rights movement. It brings together key leaders of the movement, women's rights and social justice advocates from different social movements, as well as development practitioners, donors and policy makers.

The first edition of the Francophone Forum took place in November 2021 and was marked by four days of meetings, exchanges and work between key actors of the movement of all ages, backgrounds and experiences. The participants had the opportunity to interact with each other and with the partners who support them.

This first edition allowed the movement's actors to spend enriching moments of exchange on issues that they do not usually address, at least not in a formal space, and to develop strategies to work together to strengthen their movement, beyond their differences and divergences. In the evaluation of Forum 2021, 77% of participants reported that their commitment to working towards common goals with other activists or organizations had increased.

In order to perpetuate this framework of exchange between women's movement actors, XOESE is launching the second edition of the Francophone Forum which will be held in a hybrid format: face-to-face in Lomé and simultaneously online from **November 27 to 30, 2023** on the theme: "**Building the Francophone Feminist Movement: Where to Start?**"

2. Goals and objectives of the 2023 Forum



The goals of the Francophone Forum 2023 are to:

1. **Increase the feminist commitment** of the Francophone women's movement;
2. **Increase the commitment of donors and other stakeholders** to strategically and sustainably support the Francophone women's movement.

More specifically, it aims to:

- 1 To create a **safe space** for honest and constructive exchange and discussion on the fundamentals of the women's movement and the feminist movement.
- 2 Demystify feminism and facilitate **its appropriation and the integration** of its principles into the daily lives of the movement's actors.
- 3 To give the opportunity to the actresses of the movement to **Reinvent their solutions** to the problems of their communities by conducting in-depth reflections on the effectiveness and efficiency of their intervention strategies.
- 4 Create **opportunities for interaction** between women in the movement and their donors in order to strengthen their ties, increase their mutual understanding of their challenges and expectations, and facilitate the transfer of resources to the movement.

3. The Forum's space



The environment of the Forum will be:

- An **open space**: we will ensure that the Forum is a welcoming space for all participants;
- An **accessible and inclusive space**: we will organize discussions with participants from marginalized groups (women with disabilities, indigenous women, LGBTQI+, migrants, refugees, internally displaced persons, etc.) in order to improve our knowledge and practices regarding accessibility and inclusiveness;
- A **collaborative space**: that will allow us to create or strengthen current, intergenerational and transnational links among various activists from the current fragmented movements;
- A **caring space**: this event will allow us to begin discussions on how to address issues of personal and collective care within the movement (how each advocate should care for herself and her sisters), how to maintain the energy and strength of the movement, how to prevent burnout and how to take good care of ourselves while caring for our beneficiaries with limited resources;
- A **relaxing and friendly space**: where fun, recreational and relaxing activities will be organized/led by specialists to contribute to the general well-being of the Forum participants;

3. The Forum's space



- A **space for meetings and exchanges**: where activists and the actors who support them from different backgrounds will have the opportunity to meet, exchange, build links, form alliances, develop strategies, make commitments, invent new solutions for the strengthening and sustainability of the movement.



4. Call for contributions of activities



4.1. Who can contribute to the creation of the space and contents of Forum 2023?

All feminist, women's and young francophone women's organizations

All leaders of feminist organizations, networks and platforms, women and young francophone women

Donors who fund feminist organizations of Francophone women and young women

Decision-makers and planners within state structures (ministries, ...) who support the feminist movement of Francophone women and young women

Key-actors in the private sector who support the Francophone women and young women's movement

Allies and supporters ¹ of the feminist movement of francophone women and young women

¹Allies and supporters of the movement are natural or legal persons who make direct donations and/or contribute to the improvement of the living conditions of girls, women and young women at the local, national, regional or international level, offering support, solutions, tools and services that can be useful to the construction of the Francophone movement.

4. Call for contributions of activities



4.2 Forum Theme and Sub-themes

The central theme of the Forum is "**Building the Francophone Feminist Movement: Where to Start?**"

The sub-themes are:

1. **FEMINIST MOVEMENT AND WOMEN'S MOVEMENT: Different? Complementary? Or contradictory?**
 - What is feminism?
 - What are the foundations of feminism and how can we reclaim it?
 - What are the feminist principles?
 - How has feminism evolved?
 - Re-examining the foundations of feminism / our feminist identity: why do we declare ourselves feminists?
 - North-South and South-South feminist dialogue
 - etc.

2. **ASSUMING OUR FEMINISM: Revisiting and Improving our practices**
 - Practicing Feminism in the daily life of organizations: How?
 - Understanding the national, regional and international contexts in which we work: Challenges and opportunities.
 - Reviewing and feminizing our policy documents and guidelines?
 - Strengthen our feminist beliefs and capacities?
 - What are the tools of feminist theory? Feminist advocacy and strategies?
 - Where can we find the resources to make these changes?

4. Call for contributions of activities



- Improve the presentation of our reports through a better reading of the results and impacts of our actions.
- Restorative justice.
- Feminism and intersectionality: Ecofeminism, feminist economics, Afrofeminism, etc.
- Plurality of Feminisms (Urban (androcentric) / Rural Feminisms, Elitist Feminism, ...)
- Young feminists.
- Intergenerationality: Passing the baton.
- Leadership and Transition: How to succeed?
- Technology and feminism.
- Strengthening the feminist sisterhood: sisters to sisters.
- Our feminist elders/ancestors: Forgetting or remembering them.
- etc.

3. FEMINIST TABOOS AND SILENT, UNACKNOWLEDGED NEEDS

- Dare to discuss them
- This sub-theme will provide an opportunity for unfiltered and transparent discussion of various "taboo" or disturbing topics that are not usually discussed (but which undermine our movement):
- Sexuality: open discussion/ no-hold-barred discussion
- Sexual orientation: questioning and acceptance;
- Sexual and reproductive health and rights;
- Mental health: a feminist issue?
- Assaults within the movement: breaking the silence and ending degrading, insulting and damaging language and practices within the movement and impunity;
- Safety of women defenders;
- Risks and means of mitigation;
- etc.

4. Call for contributions of activities



4. FUNDING THE FRANCOPHONE FEMINIST MOVEMENT

- Where do we find the resources to make the feminist changes we want?
- Where is the money for Francophone women's and young women's organizations?
- Where is the money to build and strengthen the internal system of Francophone women's and young women's organizations and professionalize them?
- Decolonizing funding: How? How? Why? Why? When?
- Unlock existing funds and find new sources of funding?
- Fund the movement differently: dare to support the real needs and agenda of the movement and not those of donors, etc.
- Investing in the financing of knowledge production (studies, analyses, etc.)
- etc.

4. Call for contributions of activities



4.3. Agenda of the Forum 2023 (in co-construction with you)

Each part of the Forum's agenda will be designed in an interactive way to ensure that participants will be able to actively contribute to the event and not just be spectators.

XOESE will initiate many of the Forum's activities directly in collaboration with various partners.

However, we invite all interested legal entities and individuals to contribute to the creation of the space and content by proposing activities in the different formats below, without being limited to them. We strongly encourage the initiators of self-organized activities/sessions to organize them in collaboration with one or more organizations or resource persons;

Self-organized Activities/Sessions will be moments of exchange and discussion around a topic, an idea. They are proposed by a leader of a women's or young women's organization/network/platform, an activist, a financial partner, a ministry of gender or equivalent, national or international institutions actively supporting women's issues.

4. Call for contributions of activities



4.4. Types of activities

The activities that will animate the space of the Forum during the four days will include:



01

**Plenary Sessions
(4)**



02

**Self-organized
sessions**



03

**Donor interaction
space****



04

**Friendly space for
interaction and exchange
between leaders of the
movement****

4. Call for contributions of activities



05

Collective or individual healing sessions



06

Wellness sessions



07

Recreational sessions



08

Exhibition booths



08

Photo booths

Etc...

4. Call for contributions of activities



4.5. Formats of the sessions / self-organized activities

Self-organized sessions are 30-90 minute activities that can facilitate exchanges or discussions on a particular topic related to one or more of the Forum 2023 sub-themes. They can be presented in one of the following formats:

- **Debate Session:** Between two or more facilitators who are experts in their field.
- **Roundtable:** An activity during which a determined number of participants will debate on one or more topics defined by the initiator of the session. It is important to prepare the questions, define the number of speakers and allocate speaking time.
- **Paper session:** A session in which an author(s) orally presents the findings of a successful article, research or project. It is important to define presentation times and to allow time for discussion of specific questions that the presentation will raise.
- **Workshop:** A session in which a specific topic is analyzed and debated in order to solve a defined problem, often through a combination of 2-3 short paper presentations and active discussion.
- **Learning workshop:** Session in which hands-on learning is offered.

4. Call for contributions of activities



- **Fun activities** (art workshops, dance classes, learning workshops, skits...): Any group activity that allows participants to have fun and connect with others in the Forum space.
- **Wellness session:** Any activity that allows participants to relax or feel good (Yoga, massage, zumba, gym, dance (salsa, zumba, bachata...)).
- **Innovative Activity:** Any activity other than those listed above that represents an innovation within the Movement and facilitates interaction and connection among activists.

4.6. Methodology of Activities/Sessions

Sessions will be conducted in **French**. Interpretation services (French-English or English-French) will be available for some sessions. We can exceptionally accept some rare sessions organized in an African language upon request. Sessions will last from **30 to 90 minutes**.

Activities can be facilitated by one or more people. **However, jointly facilitated activities/sessions are strongly encouraged.**

Proposed self-organized activities/sessions must address at least one of the Forum 2023 sub-themes.

Self-organized activities/sessions can be held simultaneously in person and virtually. (**Please specify your choice when filling out the application form**).

4. Call for contributions of activities



4.7. Eligibility criteria

The criteria on which activity proposals will be evaluated are as follows:

- Alignment of the session with the purpose, objectives and focus of the forum
- Relevance of the topic to the forum theme
- Quality and dynamism of the presentation format
- The diversity of the proposed speakers

5. Support



XOESE has a limited budget to support some session presenters. To take advantage of this, you must fill out the request when you submit your session form.

7. How to apply?



To apply, each session/activity organizer must complete the online application form at : <https://fr.surveymonkey.com/r/87JZNCK>

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Proposals should include a brief description of the proposed activity, its duration, format, names and biographies of the speakers.

Summaries and information on the initiators of the selected sessions/activities will be published in the Agenda and on the Forum 2023 website.

Applicants whose contributions are pre-selected will receive an email by **August 1, 2023**.

Reminder



Join us at the International Francophone Forum 2023 and contribute to the reflections to strengthen the Francophone Women's Movement !!!

Until April 20, 2023



Registration link :
<https://fr.surveymonkey.com/r/87JZNCK>

Candidates whose contributions are pre-selected will receive an email by Thursday, August 1, 2023.



2nd XOESE FRANCOPHONE FORUM

**For more information, please contact:
sessions-forum2023@xoese.org**



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ORGANIZATION
OF STATES