



2<sup>nd</sup> XOESE FRANCOPHONE FORUM

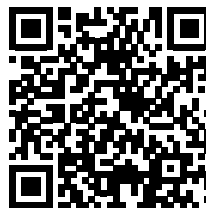
**XOESE**  
The Francophone Women's Fund  
Le Fonds pour les Femmes Francophones

# Call **for** Registrations

Deadline **10 SEPT**  
2023

Theme :  
**Building the Francophone  
Feminist Movement:  
Where to Start?**

📍 **Lome and Online**



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<https://t.ly/hCiG5>

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## CONTEXT

The XOESE International Francophone Forum is an event dedicated exclusively to strengthening the francophone women's rights movement. It brings together key leaders of the movement, defenders of women's rights and social justice 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 four days of meetings, exchanges and work between key players in the movement of all ages, from all backgrounds and with different experiences. Participants had the opportunity to interact with each other and with the partners who support them.

This first edition gave an opportunity to the movement's stakeholders to spend some enriching time, exchanging views on issues that they do not usually address, at least not in a formal setting, and to develop strategies for working together to strengthen their movement, beyond their differences and divergences. In the evaluation of Forum 2021, 77% of participants said that their commitment to working towards common goals with other activists or organizations had been strengthened.

In order to perpetuate this framework for exchanges between players in the women's movement, XOESE is launching the second edition of the Francophone Forum, which will be held in a hybrid format: **In person in Lomé (Togo) and simultaneously online, from 27 to 30 November 2023** on the theme: «**Building the Francophone Feminist Movement: Where to Start?**



# 2

## GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE 2023 FORUM

The goals of the 2023 Francophone Forum are to :

- 1.** Increase the feminist commitment of the Francophone women's movement;
- 2.** Increase the commitment of donors and other stakeholders to strategic and sustainable support for the Francophone women's movement.

More specifically, it aims to :

- 1** Create a safe space for open and constructive exchanges and discussions on the fundamentals of the women's movement and the feminist movement;
- 2** Demystify feminism and make it easier for those involved in the movement to adopt and integrate its principles into their daily lives;
- 3** Give women involved in the movement the opportunity to re-invent solutions to the problems of their communities by carrying out in-depth reflections on the effectiveness and efficiency of their operational strategies;
- 4** Create opportunities for interaction between the movement's stakeholders and their donors with the purpose of strengthening their ties, increasing their mutual understanding of their challenges and expectations, and facilitating the transfer of resources.

# 3

## FORUM 2023 SPACES

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 be organizing discussions with participants from marginalized groups (women with disabilities, indigenous women, LGBTQI+, migrants, refugees, Internally Displaced persons "IDPs", etc.) in order to improve our knowledge and practices in terms of accessibility and inclusiveness;

**A collaborative space:** \_\_\_\_\_

to help create or strengthen current, intergenerational and transnational links between various activists from today's fragmented movements;

**A caring space:** \_\_\_\_\_

This will allow us to begin discussions on how to address issues of personal and collective care within the movement (how each advocate should take care of herself and her sisters), how to maintain the energy and strength of the movement, prevent burnout, take good care of ourselves while taking care of 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 participants of the Forum;

**A space for meetings and exchanges:** \_\_\_\_\_

where activists and supporters from different backgrounds will have the opportunity to meet, exchange ideas, build connections, form alliances, develop strategies, make commitments and invent new solutions to strengthen and sustain the movement.

# 4

## FORUM 2023 PARTICIPANTS

### 4.1. Who are the participants of the 2023 Forum ?

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- All feminist organizations, women, young women and individuals;
- Leaders of French-speaking women's and young women's organizations, feminist networks and platforms
- Donors who fund feminist organizations of French-speaking women and young women
- Decision-makers and policy planners within government structures (ministries, etc.) who support the francophone feminist movement
- Key players in the private sector who support the francophone women's and young women's movement
- Allies and supporters <sup>1</sup> of the francophone women's and young women's feminist movement

### 4.2. Theme and Sub-themes of the 2023 Forum

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

he sub-themes are:

#### Sub-theme 1

#### **Feminist Movement and Women's Movement: Different? Complementary? or Contradictory?**

- What is feminism?
- The basics: understanding and owning feminism
- What are feminist Principles?
- How has feminism evolved?
- Re-examine the foundations of feminism / our feminist identity: why do we declare ourselves feminists?
- North-South and South-South feminist dialogue, etc.

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

## Sub-theme 2

### Claiming our feminism: Revisiting and improving our practices

- Practicing feminism on a daily basis in 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 convictions and capacities?
- What are the tools of the feminist theory?
- Feminist advocacy and strategies?
- Where can we find the resources to make these changes?
- Improving the presentation of our reports through a better understanding of the results and the impact of our actions.
- Restorative justice
- Feminism and intersectionality: Ecofeminism, feminist economics, Afrofeminism, etc.
- Plurality of feminisms (urban “androcentric”/rural feminisms, elitist feminism, etc.)
- Young feminists
- Intergenerationality: Passing the baton
- Leadership and Transition: How to make it work?
- Technology and feminism

## Sub-theme 3

### Feminist taboos and the unspoken, unacknowledged needs of women defenders: let's dare to discuss them!

This sub-theme will provide an opportunity for open and transparent discussion of various «taboos» or uneasy subjects that are not usually discussed (but which undermine our movement):

- Sexuality: Let's discuss it without filter;
- Sexual orientation: questioning and acceptance;
- Sexual and reproductive health and rights;
- Mental health: a feminist issue?
- Attacks within the movement: breaking the silence and putting an end to degrading and insulting comments and practices that are harmful to the movement and to impunity.
- Security of women defenders
- Risks and means of mitigation
- Strengthening the feminist sisterhood: sisters to sisters
- Our feminist elders/ancestors: forgetting them or remembering them
- etc.

- Where can we find the resources to bring about the feminist changes we want?
- Where are the funds for Francophone women's and young women's organizations?
- Where are the funds to build and strengthen the internal systems of French-speaking women's and young women's organizations and professionalize them?
- Decolonising funding: How? 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,
- Invest in funding the production of knowledge (studies, analyses, etc.)
- etc.

### **4.3. Forum 2023 agenda (co-constructed with you)**

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Every part of the Forum's agenda will be designed to be interactive, ensuring that participants contribute actively to the event and not just as spectators.

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

The self-organized Activities/Sessions will be moments of exchange and discussion around a subject or an idea. They will be 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, or national or international institutions actively supporting the cause of women.



## 4.4. Types of activities

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The activities taking place at the Forum over the four days will include

- Plenary sessions (4)
- Self-organized sessions (in person and/or virtual)
- Space for interaction with donors (requires advance registration)
- Friendly space for interaction and exchange between movement leaders (requires advance registration to reserve space)
- Group (small group) or individual healing sessions
- Wellness sessions (gym, yoga, massage, etc.)
- Recreational sessions
- Exhibition stands
- Photo stands
- etc.

## 4.5. Formats of self-organized sessions

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

- Debate session: between two or more moderators who are experts in their fields
- Round table: an activity during which a set number of participants will debate on one or more topics defined by the session initiator or facilitator. It is important to prepare the questions well-ahead, define the number of speakers and allocate speaking time.
- Paper presentation session: Session during which one or more authors orally present the conclusions of a successful article, research or project. It is important to define the presentation time and to allow time for discussion on the specific questions that will arise from the presentation.
- 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 during which practical learning is offered.
- Fun activities (art workshops, dance classes, sketches, etc.): Any group activity that allows participants to have fun and connect with one another in the Forum space.
- Wellness sessions: Relaxation or wellness activity (yoga, massage, zumba, gym, dance (salsa, zumba, bachata, zouk, etc.)
- Innovative activities: Any activity other than those listed above that represents an innovation within the Movement and facilitates interaction and connection between activists.

## 4.6. Methodology of Activities/Sessions

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Sessions will be conducted in French. Interpretation (French-English or English-French) will be available for some sessions. Exceptionally, we will be able to accept some rare sessions organized in an African language on request.





# 5

## VIRTUALITY OF THE FORUM

The 2021 Forum was 100% online, the second edition of the Francophone Forum from 27th-30th November 2023 will be in a hybrid format, with four plenary sessions and around forty sessions organized by XOESE and its partners. These sessions will be accessible simultaneously, both in person and online, thanks to the spaces set up for the occasion. This means that the Forum can be followed by anyone who is unable to attend in person.



# 6

## CONDITIONS TO TAKE PART TO THE FORUM

### 6.1. Registration to the Forum

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The 2023 Francophone Forum will be held in a hybrid format: In person in Lomé (Togo) and simultaneously online, from 27 to 30 November 2023 around the theme: «Building the Francophone Feminist Movement: Where to Start?»

The discussions that will take place over the four days of the Forum will be structured around the following sub-themes:

- Feminist movement and women's movement: Different? Complementary? or Contradictory?
- Embracing our feminism: revising and improving our practices
- Feminist taboos, the unspoken and unacknowledged needs of defenders: let's dare to discuss them!
- Financing the francophone feminist movement: Reinventing our solutions

**TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FORUM, YOU MUST REGISTER HERE:**

<https://xoese.org/en/evenements/2023-francophone-forum/>

### 6.2. Registration fees

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#### Online Forum

Online registration will give you the opportunity to follow the Forum as if you were present in Lomé, thanks to high-quality digital access to the virtual rooms and live broadcasts of key sessions. To enable us to offer this quality of broadcasting, we are asking each participant to contribute **by paying a registration fee of 21 EUR (13775 FCFA).**

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\* Payment details will be sent once your application has been validated

## On-site Forum

The capacity of the of the venue where the Forum will take place in Lomé is limited to 500 participants and the participation is subject to selection and payment of registration fees, which amount to :

- Young activist: **103,500 CFA** (112 Euros)
- Activist and other Actors: **146 935 CFA** (224 Euros)
- Donor: **219 090 CFA** or 334 Euros
- Other Actor : **146 935 CFA** or 224 Euros

For in person participants, the registration fees will include: the Forum work kit, lunches, coffee breaks and Gala dinner indicated in the Forum Programme.

***Note : Registration does not include travel or visa costs, accommodation costs, travel insurance or costs related to the requirements of the COVID-19 test. Registration fees will not be refunded but can be transferred to a person of your choice. Contact: [inscription@xoese.org](mailto:inscription@xoese.org)***

***DEADLINE for registration to the in person Forum in Lomé: 10 September 2023***

XOESE reserves the right to offer **a partial or full reduction on the registration fee to participants who have the skills and volunteer to give 5 to 15 hours of their time to:** lead recreational activities such as yoga, classical dance, ballroom dance, African dance, gymnastics, zumba, kizomba, singing, theater, amateur audio/video recording, cooking classes, pastry-making, etc...



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## HOW TO REGISTER?

To register, participants must complete the online registration form at:

<https://xoese.org/en/evenements/2023-francophone-forum/>

**DEADLINE**

**10 September 2023**

If your registration is successful, we will get back to you with confirmation of your selection and the payment details.

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**For more information, Contact:**

[inscription@xoese.org](mailto:inscription@xoese.org)

*Register to the 2023 International Francophone Forum and come and contribute to the reflections to strengthen the Francophone Women's Movement!*



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