



Colmena fund
for Women's Political Power

New York, USA
24th September 2025

Colmena Fund Commits USD 9 million to Support Women's Political Leadership in the Global South

- ***In the next two years, it will support at least 50 organizations in Asia, Africa, Middle East and Latin America.***
- ***The investment portfolios will focus on issues such as: addressing technology-facilitated gender-based violence (TFGBV), empowering women's leadership in climate action, and supporting women leaders in fragile and conflict-affected settings.***

As part of the Clinton Global Initiative (CGI) 2025 Annual Meeting, Colmena Fund today announced a \$9 million Commitment to Action to advance women's political leadership across the Global South. Over the next two years, the fund will resource at least 50 organizations in Asia, Africa, the Middle East, and Latin America, supporting women from marginalized and diverse backgrounds who are driving transformative change in their communities.

"In a year where democracy is under pressure and women's rights face severe rollbacks, feminist political leadership is a necessity. This commitment reflects our belief that resourcing pro-human rights leaders, especially those closest to the margins, is the most powerful way to protect democracy and reimagine politics," said Suyen Barahona, Executive Director of Colmena Fund.

Colmena Fund will focus its investment in organizations working on critical areas such as: countering technology-facilitated gender-based violence; supporting women's political leadership in contexts of conflict and transition; amplifying the political leadership of women in Africa and Asia; and promoting the transformative power of women's political leadership in climate action.



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The Colmena Fund currently supports partners in Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ivory Coast, Jordan, Kenya, Mexico, South Africa, Tanzania, Tunisia, Thailand, Philippines, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Mongolia, and Uganda. These projects combat gendered political violence, strengthen Afro-feminist, Dalit, and Indigenous leadership, cultivate young women leaders, build intergenerational alliances, create safe and empowering spaces in public life, and prepare women and gender-diverse leaders to thrive in office.

Colmena Fund's partner organizations are nurturing leaderships that champion democracy and human rights, advancing inclusive policies, economic empowerment, environmental sustainability, and securing lasting peace and stability. Across the Global South, women and gender-diverse leaders are reimagining political power, yet they continue to face systemic barriers, including institutional discrimination, cultural exclusion, harassment, and violence that prevent them from entering and sustaining political roles.

Despite their proven effectiveness, women remain underrepresented in politics—especially those from marginalized and diverse backgrounds. According to Saskia Brechenmacher's *2024 Super Election Year Analysis*, last year, a record number of countries held elections, but the number of women parliamentarians rose only minimally, from 26.9 percent to 27.2 percent; and out of 31 presidential races, only 5 produced female winners: Iceland, Mexico, Moldova, North Macedonia, and Namibia.

These barriers are aggravated in the context of concerted global and transnational efforts against achieving gender equality; escalating conflicts worldwide; increasing climate disasters; undermining bodily autonomy; shrinking civic actors and democratic spaces; and significant reductions of budgets for advancing gender equality, climate action, democracy, and human rights.



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About the Colmena Fund

Colmena Fund is a non-partisan, independent fund, dedicated to accelerating women's feminist and democratic political leadership through critical funding and infrastructure in the Global South. It is the only fund specifically designed to provide holistic support for marginalized women to thrive and succeed throughout every stage of their political leadership journey.

Recently, the fund commissioned and financed the report [🔗 *The 2024 Super Election Year for Women in Politics: Stagnation, Setbacks, and Surprising Wins*](#) and produced the podcast series [🔗 *Resist. Persist and Reimagine*](#), available on Spotify and other platforms.

The Colmena Fund is fiscally sponsored by Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors,

About the Clinton Global Initiative (CGI)

Founded by President Bill Clinton in 2005, the Clinton Global Initiative is a community of doers representing a broad cross section of society and dedicated to the idea that we can accomplish more together than we can apart. Through CGI's unique model, more than 10,000 organizations have launched more than 4,000 Commitments to Action – new, specific, and measurable projects and programs – that are making a difference in the lives of more than 500 million people in 180 countries.

We invite you to learn more about Colmena Fund and the work of its partner organizations at [🔗 *www.colmena.fund*](#) and on social media:

- in** LinkedIn - [colmenafund](#)
-  Instagram - [@colmenafund](#)
-  Threads - [@colmenafund](#)
-  Bluesky - [@colmenafund.bsky.social](#)
- f** Facebook - [@fund.colmena](#)

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