

Prospera INWF

**Strategic Framework for
the coming decade**

**Outcomes and learnings from
our 2022 collective process**

Executive summary



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Prospera INWF

Strategic Framework for the coming decade: Outcomes and learnings from our 2022 collective process

In 2022, Prospera, the International Network of Women's Funds, along with the Board, Secretariat team, and Fund Members, dedicated a full year to collectively build our strategic framework for the next decade. We believe that coming together to collectively build our vision and chart a path forward is more important than ever before. It's a pivotal moment for feminist movements, the global aid and philanthropic ecosystems, and the world. Amid deep crises, new and significant opportunities emerge to shape funding and mobilize new resources, and women's and feminist funds have a crucial role to play.

The following pages narrate briefly our year-long journey in building our strategic framework for the next decade, providing valuable insights into strategic visioning within a member-led women's and feminist funds network.

We hope that our process and its outcomes may serve as an inspiration for others to embark on a similar path.



Process



Our strategic framework process had two interrelated goals: first, to chart a strategic path for the next decade, and second, to strengthen the community and health of our network.

It served not only as a profound strategic visioning process but also as an opportunity to explore how to conduct strategic planning for a diverse and complex network like Prospera in a feminist and participatory manner.

Prospera's members were at the center of the process. Together, we engaged in discussions, shared dreams, and collectively defined our vision.

Recognizing the significance of the process itself, we prioritized care and connection, embraced time and language justice, and integrated mindful practices that nurtured our spirits throughout the process.

Designed as an iterative process, each phase delivered unique outcomes that informed subsequent discussions and were used to refine, revise, discard, add, or approach topics from different perspectives. Additionally, each phase contributed to strengthening and building the network, resulting in increased participation and a greater sense of ownership among its members.

The iterative process unfolded across three phases, with each stage generating distinct outcomes that informed subsequent discussions.

Phase 1

January – April 2022

Phase one focused on four critical elements woven together through diverse thematic conversations:

values and practices, context, governance, and vision.

Notable outcomes included:

- The cultivation of a network culture based on collaboration and care
- An enhanced understanding of contextual realities
- Clarified roles within the network

Phase 2

April – July 2022

Phase two aimed to **cultivate collective ownership and foster a shared identity, while making progress in formulating a mission and vision for Prospera.**

It culminated in:

- The creation of purpose statements crafted by different fund clusters, reflecting their unique perspectives and positioning within Prospera

Phase 3

August – November 2022

Phase three marked a **regional configuration where we gathered to assess the progress made so far** and propose additions based on our distinct geographical viewpoints, **further refining Prospera's identity and purpose.**



Achievements & Learnings

The year-long process imparted significant learnings and achievements that underscore the success of this ambitious participatory strategic planning initiative by Prospera:

The building of a feminist funding movement:

Investing in a collective strategic visioning process that prioritized trust-building and belonging fostered a stronger network committed to moving forward together.

A successful member-led approach:

Underlined the importance of ensuring the process is led by members, necessitating the creation of a Steering Committee for oversight.

Strengthening of board-membership connections:

Strengthened connections between the board and membership through deep listening and commitment to mutual learning.

Inclusiveness through diverse modes of participation:

Advocated for creating varied participation avenues (online, in-person, small groups, plenary) to accommodate diverse member preferences.



Supportive external Facilitation is key:

Utilizing a diverse team of external facilitators for the year-long process enriched the design and held a supportive space for discussions.

Welcoming disagreement increases trust & engagement:

Encouraged embracing disagreement and dissent as signs of genuine involvement and allowed space to work through these differing perspectives.

Adherence to feminist principles is fundamental:

Stressed staying true to feminist principles, fostering inclusivity, listening, appreciating diverse voices, transparency, and mutual accountability.

Transparency and communication is key for trust & participation:

Practiced transparency, enhanced communication channels, and promoted robust information flow within Prospera.

Infrastructure and Processes are fundamental:

Highlighted the importance of having robust processes and a dedicated team (Prospera's Secretariat) to ensure a smooth-running process.

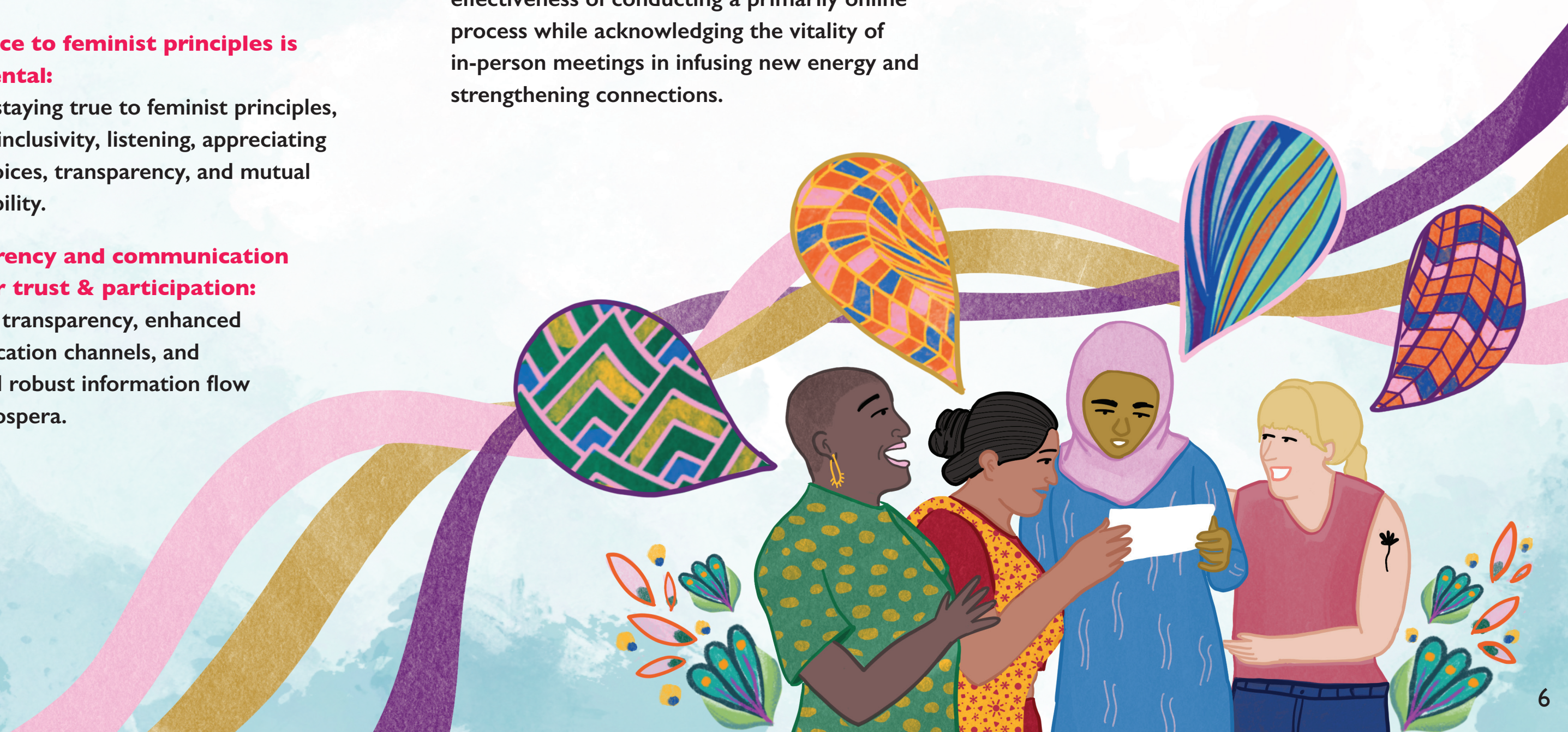
Effective hybrid approach (online and in-person):

Demonstrated the possibility and effectiveness of conducting a primarily online process while acknowledging the vitality of in-person meetings in infusing new energy and strengthening connections.

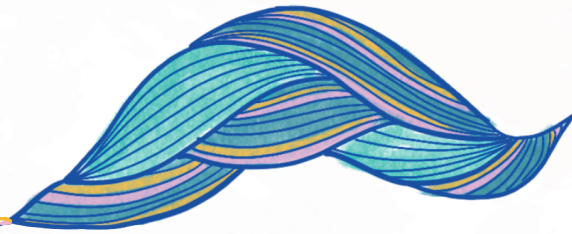
Built consent and endorsement:

Successfully built consent around the strategic vision, which was subsequently endorsed by the entire network.

The process culminated in the creation of Prospera's purpose, vision, mission, and strategic goals for the period spanning 2023-2033.



Strategic Framework



We are a network nurturing transformation by resourcing movements. We are Prospera.

Identity & Purpose

Prospera is a global political network made up of bold, intersectional, diverse, and autonomous women's and feminist funds with the mandate to support and accompany movements led by women, girls, trans, intersex, and non-binary people, and collectives. Prospera and the movements we support work to end the oppressive systems of patriarchy, capitalism, ableism, colonialism, xenophobia, fascism, and racism.

We are a diverse and interconnected network committed to resource justice through our feminist grantmaking as well as our advocacy work. We aim to transform power and shift practices within the global aid and philanthropic ecosystems to redistribute resources to intersectional feminist and women's movements, particularly to those who are structurally marginalized due to their race, class, gender, caste, ethnicity, sexuality, impairments or other situations of inequalities, primarily in the Global South and East in equitable and socially just ways.

Vision

We work for a feminist world where all structures of exclusion, oppression, and inequity are transformed into diversity, inclusion, freedom, equality, and justice. A world where all can live joyful and dignified lives, where democracy and human rights are upheld, and where the planet flourishes along with people.

We believe fiercely in the power of feminist movements to bring this world into being and in the unique role that our funds play in resourcing them toward such an end.

Mission

Prospera INWF members fund and support women's and feminist movements so they are resilient and can pursue their activism for a more just world. We uplift their voice, leadership, and power by redistributing resources to diverse feminist groups, organizations, and collectives in countries located in the Global South and East, by shifting power and putting flexible money directly into their hands.

Strategic Goals 2023-2033

Over the next ten years, Prospera will work together to influence philanthropy in ways that shift power and resources towards movements located primarily in the Global South and East through the following interrelated strategies:

Build Collective Power for Influence:

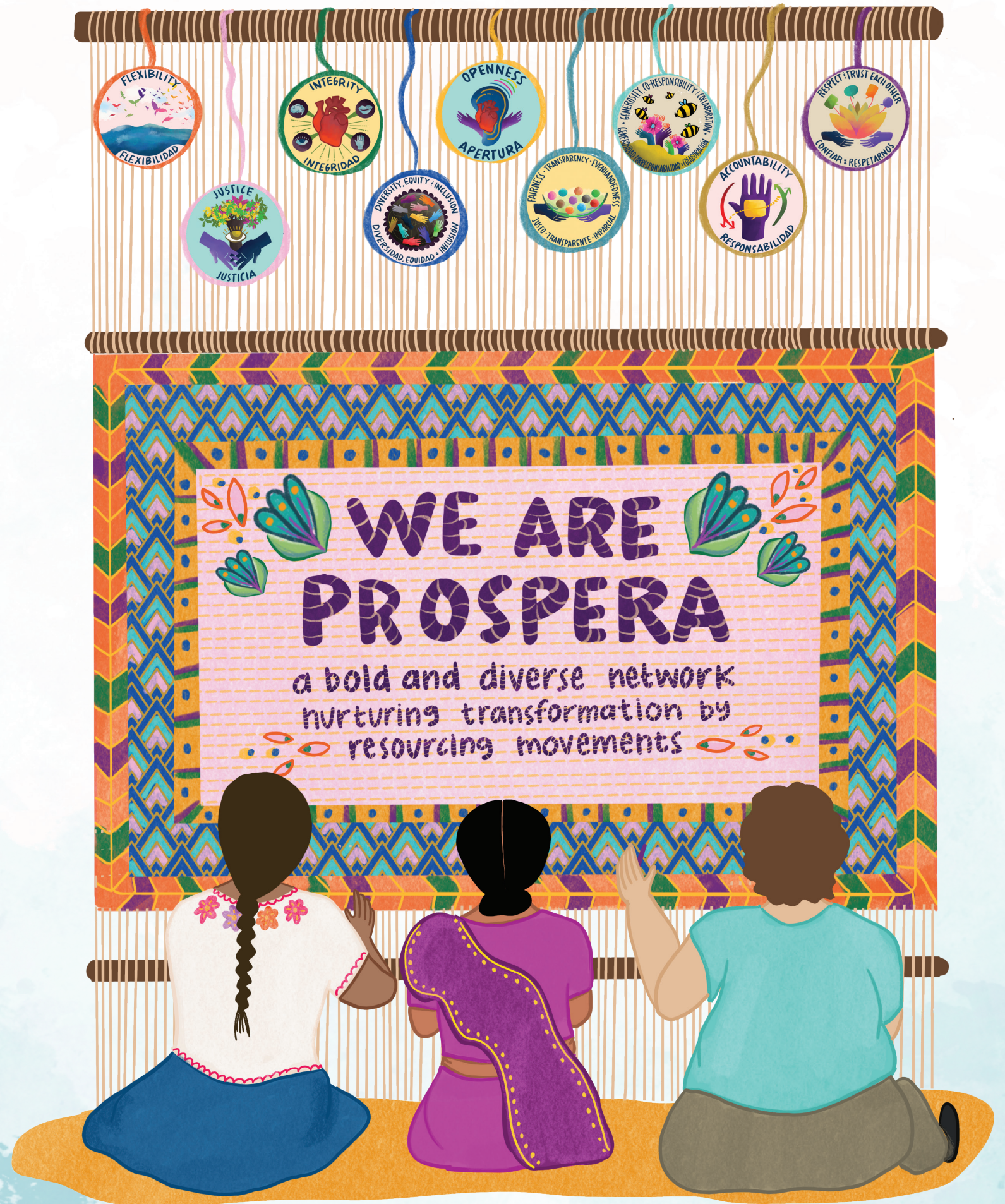
Prospera aims to bolster the collective influence and power of its members within the funding ecosystem, directing increased and improved resources toward feminist movements. This involves strategic convenings, the design of effective mechanisms and strategies, and targeted collaboration to establish a shared political agenda, promoting alignment and public leadership as a feminist funding network. It also requires effective communications and narrative shift work emanating from Global South and East philanthropy and movements.

Advocate for Funding Shifts:

Prospera plans to advocate and exert influence on five key target audiences to shape funding flows in the desired direction. This includes engaging with Global South and East philanthropy, bilateral donors, individual philanthropists, private foundations, and corporations. The strategy involves differentiated advocacy approaches tailored to each audience, leveraging strategic communication, research, storytelling, and positive cases for funding to underscore the transformative impact of women's and feminist funds on movement building.

Strengthen the Prospera Network:

Prospera will focus on fortifying and enhancing its network by supporting the resilience of women's and feminist funds at both individual and collective levels. This involves facilitating alliances, communities of practice, and collaborative efforts among members, exploring areas like resource mobilization, financial resilience, organizational growth, narrative transformation, strategic communications, and feminist leadership. Additionally, the establishment of a pooled funding mechanism for under-resourced members and enhancing connections, collaborations, and learning within the network will be a priority. Prospera will continue to embody its values, emphasizing trust, co-responsibility, transparency, and collective care, guiding its journey in the coming decade.



Prospera INWF Strategic Framework

Vision

A feminist world where everyone can live joyful & dignified lives, where democracy and human rights are upheld, and where the planet flourishes along with people.

We believe fiercely in the power of feminist movements to bring this world into being & in the unique role that women's and feminist funds play in resourcing them towards this end.

Commitment

Continue to redistribute resources primarily to movements located in the Global South & East so they are well resourced, resilient & enabled to pursue their activism for a more just & feminist world.



Purpose & Identity

We are a global, diverse, bold & political network nurturing transformation by resourcing & accompanying movements led by women, girls, trans, intersex & non-binary people & collectives based primarily in the Global South & East working to end oppressive systems.

Goals

Build and strengthen the Prospera network, through supporting the resilience of women's and feminist funds individually and collectively.

Shift power.
Transform philanthropy.
Influence key audiences and shape philanthropic narratives to elevate the catalytic impact of Prospera members in movement building.

Build the collective power of our members to influence the funding ecosystem to drive more and better resources to feminist movements.



This will be our south star for the next decade

We invite all of our funding partners, allies, movement partners, and communities to ask us questions, challenge us along the way and ensure that we are accountable to each other and to achieving our mission.

Keep investing in feminist participatory processes!



*A WORLD where we all can live joyful & dignified
lives, where democracy & human rights are upheld
and where the planet flourishes along with people.*



Acknowledgements

Our strategic framework process was a journey driven by the Prospera network. We would like to thank the Executive Board, Prospera's Secretariat team, our Steering Committee, and the 44 women's and feminist funds who actively engaged in the process. Our collective endeavor would not have been possible without such an incredible, dedicated, and committed team!

A special thanks to the facilitation team: shashyázhi charley, Ingrid Benedict, Shaamela Cassiem, Ishita Chaudhry, Manuela Garza Ascencio, and Claudia Lopez, for designing an impeccable process with so much soul.

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The full list of people who supported this process can be seen here: bit.ly/Gratitude-Prospera-Network

Thank you!

