

W7 2022 COMMUNIQUÉ

Time to Deliver on Gender Equality



During 2022, the gendered impacts of intersecting environmental, economic, health and social crises have been vividly exposed. The climate crisis is exacerbating and reinforcing existing inequities between low-, middle-, and high-income economies and is undermining efforts to combat gender-based poverty and inequality. The COVID-19 pandemic has shown that chronic underfunding of public social infrastructure has led women, especially the most marginalized, to increasingly fill the gaps with unpaid and underpaid care work. At the same time, gender-based violence and violence against women and girls have intensified over the past two years. Unequal distribution of vaccines remains a driver of global inequality, alongside insufficient access to sexual and reproductive health and rights. Confronted with the war in Ukraine and the devastating impact of other ongoing international, regional, and local conflicts, we are voicing our concerns about increasing militarization and an international arms race. We are deeply troubled by increasing evidence that sexual violence and rape are being used systematically as a weapon of war. There must be rigorous investigation into allegations of sexual violence. G7 leaders must contribute to ending military conflicts now, advocate for global solidarity, and invest in sustainable peace and peacebuilding efforts co-led by women.

Building on the principles of inclusion and intersectionality,¹ Women7 (W7) brings together feminist civil society organizations from all parts of the world.

Together, we call on G7 leaders to build on their commitments to the following principles for a sustainable and gender-just transformation:

- ❖ **Ensure meaningful participation and representation** of women and girls in decision-making at all levels of socioeconomic and political life, promoting the rights of Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC), LGBTIQ*+ communities,² and other groups that face marginalization and systemic discrimination.
- ❖ **Apply gender equality as a cross-cutting principle** and prioritize targeted initiatives towards women's empowerment in domestic and foreign policies in order to overcome traditional and patriarchal power dynamics, gender stereotypes and social norms. Also: address structural discrimination using recognized instruments such as gender impact assessments, gender analysis of legislation, and gender equality markers.
- ❖ **Implement gender responsive budgeting** globally and domestically to make the gendered impacts of all budgets and expenditure visible, including on unpaid care work. Tax reforms must be initiated using an intersectional lens, and sufficient funding must be dedicated to support women's rights associations, youth-led organizations, and feminist activists, NGOs and movements, especially those led by women and marginalized groups.
- ❖ **Invest in a sex and gender responsive, intersectional approach to data generation,** collection, analysis, dissemination, and use in the monitoring, evaluation, learning and reporting of G7 commitments and the development of policies.

It is time for G7 leaders to counteract harmful anti-gender and gender backlash movements and to deliver on concrete political and financial commitments, matched with action and accountability.

¹ **Intersectional approaches call for deconstruction**, targeting, and overcoming of any structural and intersecting forms of discrimination along markers such as race, gender, ethnicity, class, gender identity, ability, nationality, religion, age, geographical location, displacement status, political affiliations and sexual orientation – discrimination that is rooted in expressions of colonialism, capitalism, and the patriarchy.

² **W7 recognizes that the same systems of patriarchy**, rigid binaries, and archaic gender norms that oppress women also **keep LGBTIQ* people marginalized and excluded.**

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We urge G7 leaders to take action on the following issues in particular:

- ❖ **Enable gender-just COVID recovery, adopting transformative economic policies that address structural barriers to gender equality** by investing an additional 2% of each country's GDP in social infrastructure. Recognize the value of unpaid care work across policymaking and reduce women's unpaid care burdens through gender-transformative public care services and investment in appropriate technology and infrastructure.
- ❖ **Eliminate discrimination against women in all their diversity in the world of work and entrepreneurship.** Promote decent work by ratifying, funding and enforcing ILO conventions on collective bargaining and freedom of association (Nos. 98, 151 & 154), as well as on domestic workers (No. 189) and on the elimination of violence and harassment (No. 190). Eliminate the persistent gender pay and pension gap and oblige private companies and governmental institutions to invest in transparency tools, **including ESG standards.** Provide tailored support for women entrepreneurs, and ensure their equal access to finance, markets, and procurement opportunities, including public procurement.
- ❖ **Invest in gender-transformative climate action and in biodiversity conservation measures** that are ecosystem-based, divest from fossil fuels, and ensure the leadership of women in decision-making. Meet and surpass the annual \$100 billion goal and increase grants-based climate finance directed at low- and middle-income countries, with at least 50% for gender-responsive adaptation. Ensure that funding is based on an intersectional approach, that it is accessible to women's rights organizations, feminist groups and local communities, and that it redresses loss and damage.
- ❖ **Commit to the adoption and effective implementation of a feminist foreign policy, placing gender equality as a central goal across all foreign policy and development areas.** Ensure all programs funded by Official Development Assistance (ODA) have a gender lens, with at least **30% of ODA** funding channeled into programs with gender equality as the principal objective and at least **10%** directed at feminist, women-led local NGOs. Fund and implement the Women, Peace and Security Agenda.
- ❖ **Ensure long-term, flexible and sustainable funding for the prevention, mitigation and redress of gender-based violence (GBV),** including comprehensive, integrated, and survivor-centered services, particularly targeting marginalized communities such as BIPOC, LGBTIQ* people, women and girls in conflict and crisis settings, and people with disabilities. Further, implement comprehensive policies and strategies to end violence against women and girls in line with international and regional conventions, including the Istanbul Convention. **Invest an additional 100 million USD of yearly contributions to UN Women and the UN Women-managed UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women.**
- ❖ **Commit to the funding of comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services** as essential services both within and beyond the formal health system **by 2025.** Invest in projects and research as well as in civic education such as comprehensive sex education (CSE) to transform archaic societal attitudes and gender norms, including harmful practices such as female genital mutilation (FGM) and forced and child marriage.
- ❖ **Report annually on progress towards gender equality and accountability with regard to the G7 commitments through effective monitoring mechanisms.** Ensure that international and national accountability mechanisms, including transitional and restorative justice processes, investigate crimes that may amount to gender persecution in conflicts and atrocities. Guarantee the effective implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 2467, which provides for a survivor-centered approach to accountability mechanisms.

Implementation of the above goals must remain accountable to feminist civil society, which will require additional and sufficient financial resources and meaningful involvement to stay engaged with G7 leaders and critically reflect on upcoming G7 presidencies.