

## **G7 Foreign Affairs Ministerial meeting, April 5-6 in Dinard Recommendations of the Women 7 (W7)**

### **Preamble**

In 2019, nearly 132 million people around the world will need humanitarian assistance. Humanitarian crises, whether related to conflict or natural disasters, have a disproportionate impact on women and girls. They exacerbate discrimination and violence against them and increase the risk of their rights being violated. Women are still too often left out of the negotiations. Between 1990 and 2017, women represented only 2% of mediators, 8% of negotiators and 5% of the signatories to peace processes.

France has made gender equality one of the main priorities of the 2019 G7. Within this framework, the Foreign Affairs' Ministerial Meeting must make concrete commitments to effectively tackle gender-based violence and empower women and girls. G7 policies and investments should take into account the interdependencies between health, education, economic empowerment, and peace and security.

The G7 countries, as major donors but also because of their diplomatic influence, have a responsibility to implement the UN Security Council's resolutions on women, peace and security, to ensure the protection of all civilians in crisis contexts, especially women and girls, and to ensure their effective participation in decision-making processes.

Previous G7 Summits have already made several commitments in this area, but their implementation needs to be accelerated. The Whistler Declaration, the Charlevoix Commitment, the Women, Peace and Security Partnerships Initiative, adopted last year, must be supported by action plans and investments to ensure their translation into concrete results.

G7 countries and partner countries must reaffirm their commitment to respect international humanitarian law and their existing human rights commitments. No security imperative can be used to challenge these principles. At the same time, women's and girls' rights must be given greater consideration in the context of the humanitarian-development-peace nexus in order to ensure that all interventions are focused on addressing the root causes of inequality between women and men.

As members of the Women 7 (W7), bringing together feminist civil society organisations from G7 and developing countries, we call on the Foreign Ministers meeting in Dinard to help create a global dynamic for gender equality, as stated by Jean-Yves le Drian in his statement on the priorities of the French G7 Presidency. This first Ministerial Meeting will set the tone for the French Presidency's ability to rally all G7 countries and partner countries around a foreign policy that takes into account and acts fully in favour of gender equality.

We call on G7 countries to:

1. Strengthen the prevention and protection of women and girls from gender-based and sexual violence.
2. Put women at the heart of conflict prevention, conflict resolution, humanitarian response and recovery in their countries and communities

3. Promote a gender-responsive approach within the Sahel Alliance
4. Adopt and implement a feminist foreign policy, composed of a feminist diplomacy and feminist official development assistance

## **Recommendations of the W7**

### **1. Strengthening the prevention and protection of women and girls from gender-based and sexual violence.**

Regardless of their income, their social class or their country, women and girls are, to varying degrees, victims of physical, sexual or psychological violence. According to the World Health Organization, 35% of women report that they have been exposed to physical or sexual violence inflicted by an intimate partner or sexual violence inflicted by a non-partner during their lifetime. In crisis contexts, women and girls face many negative consequences that G7 countries and their partner countries must tackle.

G7 States, both in their development policy and through their diplomatic relations, must take concrete measures to prevent gender and sexual violence and ensure women's and girls' protection against these human rights violations. We call on G7 States to:

- **Adopt an intersectional and contextualised approach in any humanitarian response**, that is, taking into account specific needs and expectations of women and girls, men and boys, based on factors such as their gender, age, disability, ethnicity, or socioeconomic status, working closely with local movements and associations, in particular women and girls led organisations. To do so, it is fundamental to support the collection of disaggregated data (beyond disaggregation by sex and by age) in humanitarian contexts.
- **Strengthen access to quality basic services for women and girls, including access to health or education.** G7 countries must contribute to the establishment of basic services that are regularly assessed by users directly with the staff concerned (medical teams, teaching staff) to ensure real accountability and continuous improvement in the quality of services. G7 countries must also fund programs that ensure women and adolescent girls' access to services for their sexual and reproductive health and rights with special emphasis on comprehensive and gender-sensitive sexuality and relationship education.
- **Fight actively against the continuum of gender-based and sexual violence** in a crisis context by dedicating specific funding to the fight against gender-based and sexual violence and its prevention. In particular, G7 countries must carry out programmes to prevent and fight against harmful practices such as forced, early and child marriages or female genital mutilation, in close partnership with local and national authorities, community leaders and families. Violence prevention also requires awareness-raising and training of all actors on the ground, including police, defence and security forces, and humanitarian workers.

- **Put an end to the violations committed against children affected by conflict**, with a particular attention to girls, beginning with the prevention of recruitment, conflict, and other grave violations against children. (in line with the Paris and Vancouver principles), as well as the [6 grave violations](#) identified by the United Nations Security Council.
- **Fight against impunity and ensure access for all to rights and to justice**, including working with G7 partner countries to strengthen national justice systems and to ensure easier access to these systems for victims of gender-based and sexual violence. States must also commit to protecting human rights defenders, who, as a result of their commitment, may be the target of acts of violence, intimidation and threats that could endanger their lives.

## **2. Putting women at the heart of conflict prevention, conflict resolution, humanitarian response and recovery in their countries and communities**

While women and girls are particularly vulnerable in humanitarian crises, they have a key role to play in conflict prevention and resolution, and in recovery and reconstruction processes. It is essential that G7 countries recall and implement this basic principle laid down in the United Nations Security Council resolutions on women, peace and security. As donors, G7 countries must ensure that the actions they support fully meet the expectations of local people affected by crises, and that they are subject to real transparency towards them.

Building on the commitments made last year in Charlevoix, we call on G7 states to:

- **Advocate for greater participation of women in peace processes.** Peace agreements have a 35% chance of lasting at least 15 years if women have been involved in the process. And yet, women represent only 8% of negotiating teams. We call on G7 States to:
  - Use their political leverage to ensure that women's organizations are invited to peace negotiating tables, and that their voices are included and listened to throughout peace processes. They must call for peace agreements to fully integrate gender equality issues and women's and girls' rights.
  - Adopt a target whereby at least one in every three appointments of mediators is a woman and nominate women to key positions such as senior/chief mediator and special envoy.
- **Actively promote the systematic involvement of women, girls and women-led organisations throughout the humanitarian response.** G7 countries should announce new funding to support partnerships between humanitarian, human rights and local women's and girls' organisations aiming at developing models for conflict prevention and mitigation, humanitarian response and post-conflict recovery that address the priority needs of affected populations but also strengthen their rights. As donors, G7 countries must also use their influence with UN agencies to ensure that the voices of women and girls are systematically considered in crisis coordination and decision-making mechanisms, including in the development and validation of

annual policy documents (“Humanitarian Needs Overview”, “Humanitarian Response Plan”).

- **Strengthen their National Action Plans on Women, Peace and Security and secure their funding.** G7 States must commit to engaging civil society organisations in their countries, but also in developing countries in which their National Action Plans (NAPs) on women, peace and security will be implemented, in the development, implementation and monitoring of NAPs. G7 States must also support their NAPs with budget plans by 2020 and ensure regular reporting of progress made and problems encountered.
- **Strengthen women’s role and increase gender responsiveness within peacekeeping operations.** The G7 countries must work to eliminate the barriers and obstacles to increase the number of women in peacekeeping operations, building on the Elsie Initiative. They must as well systematically integrate gender advisors into the operational planning processes of G7 military forces so as to assist in securing local support, and ensuring safety and projecting stability. G7 countries should also ensure the presence of at least one gender advisor per political, peacebuilding or peacekeeping mission they are involved in by 2020, and ensure they are an integral part of mission strategies, planning and decision-making.

### **3. Promoting a gender-responsive approach within the Sahel Alliance**

While the French Presidency of the G7 aims to unite all G7 countries within the Sahel Alliance to improve cooperation around development issues in this specific region, the W7 considers that this opportunity must be seized to foster gender mainstreaming in the strategies and projects promoted by the Alliance. G7 countries should strongly encourage the Sahel Alliance to:

- **Endorse a roadmap with dedicated funding to mainstream gender equality in the Alliance funded programmes, across all 6 areas of intervention.** Currently, the Alliance’s projects are gender-blind and do not have a specific focus on women and girls’ access to rights and on how to tackle the challenges they encounter.
- **Establish a seventh thematic area of intervention with the main objective of gender equality and women and girls’ empowerment,** in order to earmark funding for this purpose. Beyond the necessity to mainstream gender equality in all projects, some of them must be based solely on the promotion and access of women and girls to their rights, education, employment, protection, and issues concerning women, peace and security. Promoting peace, the empowerment of African youth and more specifically the empowerment of women and girls would contribute to the emergence of strong, stable and prosperous Sahel countries.

### **4. Adopting and implementing a feminist foreign policy, composed of a feminist diplomacy and feminist official development assistance**

- Each G7 State must commit to achieving SDG 5 “Achieving Gender Equality and Empowering All Women and Girls” by 2030, by adopting an **ambitious roadmap with specific indicators with clear timelines** for regular monitoring and reporting of progress and obstacles, and for a real assessment of the impact of the undertaken actions.
- In addition to a feminist diplomacy, G7 countries must commit to gender budgeting and massively increase their funding for gender equality. G7 countries must ensure that **85% of their ODA includes gender as a significant or main objective by 2021**, of which at least 20% dedicated to projects with gender equality as their main objective. Sweden has demonstrated the feasibility of this commitment, having close to 25% of their ODA on gender as principal objective.
- G7 States must also **increase funding for local and community organisations**, associations and movements that fight for the rights of women and girls on a daily basis.
- This massive increase in ODA for the rights of women and girls can help strengthen the role of women and girls in crisis response and conflict prevention and resolution, as well as build resilience and a pathway to transition toward longer-term social and economic development. This includes **funding activities to prevent and respond to gender-based violence as well as capacity building for local women’s and girls’ organisations to fully participate in peace negotiations and decisions affecting society as a whole** once stability is restored.
- Finally, building on the Charlevoix Commitment on equality and economic growth and the Taormina Roadmap and the 25X25 commitments, **G7 Governments should adopt an action plan on women’s economic empowerment for the coming year** that promotes financial inclusion and access to decent work for all women, supported by publicly-funded care services.

## Note

The Women 7 (W7) constituency brings together civil society organisations from the G7 countries and developing countries invested in women’s and girls’ rights. Its mission is to ensure that concrete commitments in favour of gender equality are taken throughout the whole G7 process.

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