

**Mr. Emmanuel Macron,  
President of the French Republic**

**Paris, June 13, 2019**

**Subject:** Civil society's concerns regarding NGO participation in the G7

Dear Mr. President,

France, when it assumed the Presidency of the G7, expressed its intent to ensure the G7 is more accessible and sets an open process "closely associating citizens". However, the announcement by the French Presidency that civil society organizations would have no access to the G7 Leaders summit and the decision to postpone a one day dialogue with Civil Society Organizations from France and G7 countries in your presence on the very same day as the civil society summit planned for weeks, tell an opposite story.

**We would like to express our deepest concerns about these recent developments, as they undermine the participation of civil society in the G7 process.**

**We therefore ask the French Presidency to commit that it will ensure open and effective participation and access of civil society representatives at the Leaders Summit in August. Moreover, we ask you to make sure the meeting in your presence and a number of Ministers on July 2 will allow for a real discussion on the recommendations prepared by national and international civil society organizations.**

For several years, national and international civil society groups and networks, in particular through G7 constituencies, called on G7 countries to take commitments to promote international solidarity, gender equality and the protection of our planet. Civil society's expertise must be acknowledged, recognized and heard at the highest level so that the decisions taken by G7 leaders are not disconnected from the reality and needs of the people who will be directly affected by the G7 outcomes.

While the French Presidency claims to be progressive, it would not be acceptable for France to roll back on its commitment for a more open G7 and to reduce the role of civil society in this G7 when comparing it to previous presidencies. Such a rollback would represent a dangerous precedent for future summits. In 2018, the Canadian Presidency granted access to the media center of its summit in Charlevoix to non-governmental organizations. If France wants to ensure the transparency and accountability of decisions taken at the G7, it can not show less ambition than its predecessor.

Mr. President, the G7 Leaders Summit is an opportunity for France to reaffirm the value of a transparent and inclusive multilateralism, at a time when some try to undermine the very idea of international cooperation among nations. We hope that you will hear our call to

ensure effective participation of civil society ahead and during the Leaders Summit in August.

Yours sincerely,

*Signatory organizations, many of whom are active members of Civil Society 7, Women 7*

Action contre la Faim  
Action santé mondiale  
Aide et Action  
Alliance Internationale des femmes  
Amnesty International  
Association Chance et Protection Pour Toutes  
Association des Femmes de l' Europe Méridionale  
Association des Femmes Diplômées des Universités (AFFDU)  
Association of German Development and Humanitarian Aid NGOs (VENRO)  
Association Olympe  
AQOCI (Association québécoise des organismes de coopération internationale)  
BPW FRANCE  
CARE France  
CCFD - Terre Solidaire  
Center for Democratic Education  
Club Gen Startuppeuse ESSEC  
Conseil National des Femmes Françaises  
Coordination Sud  
Du Côté des Femmes  
En avant toute(s)  
Equipop  
Fédération Nationale Solidarité Femmes  
Femmes pour le Dire, Femmes pour Agir  
Femmes solidaires  
Greenpeace France  
Humanity Diaspo  
INPADE / FOCO  
International Center for Research on Women  
Japan NGO Center for International Cooperation (JANIC)  
Japan NGO Network for Education (JNNE)  
Le Planning Familial  
ONE  
Oxfam France  
Plan International  
Plan International France  
Regards de Femmes  
Réseau Action Climat France  
Réseau Féministe "Ruptures"  
Réussir l'égalité Femmes-Hommes

Save the Children  
TERRAM PACIS  
Theirworld  
Uhuru Community Development Project  
UNICEF France  
WECF France  
Women Included  
World Vision International