



Recommendations from the Women 7 (W7) G7 Finance ministerial meeting

Develop and implement feminist domestic and foreign policies combining in particular feminist diplomacy and Official Development Assistance (ODA)

In order to bring sustainable and structural change in favour of gender equality, G7 States must adopt a feminist approach in their domestic and foreign policies, working closely with feminist organizations. Currently, organizations for women's and girls' rights receive very little support from governments and donors. It is important that G7 countries set an example in their national contexts, in order to be as legitimate and relevant as possible in their actions abroad. **The W7 calls on G7 leaders to adopt and implement feminist domestic policies and a feminist foreign policy, particularly undertaking measures to:**

Fund the fight for women's and girls' rights and increase funding for feminist organisations

- **Achieve UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5** "Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls" **by 2030 by adopting an ambitious roadmap** with specific, time-bound benchmarks and indicators that allow progress to be tracked and impact documented.
- **Adopt and implement a feminist foreign policy, comprising a feminist ODA and a feminist diplomacy. The G7 leaders must ensure that at least 85% of the entirety of their ODA, in terms of volume, integrates gender¹ as a significant or main objective by 2025, of which at least 20% dedicated to projects with gender equality as their main objective.** G7 countries must commit themselves from this moment to ensure that 100% of their ODA is reviewed according to the OECD Gender Equality Policy Marker. This should be paired with an accountability mechanism to ensure that the projects being marked with the policy markers actually meet the OECD minimum requirements. Adopting a feminist foreign policy also means to ensure that in all the actions taken by G7 countries abroad (diplomatic actions, trade, defence, etc), women's and girls' rights are included and taken into account.
- **Create a global initiative led by G7 countries, based on the example of the Muskoka Initiative, to implement actions to reinforce women's and girls' rights in the countries of the Global South and to support local feminist associations** (projects that qualify for a score 2 according to the OECD marker). This initiative can draw on France's financial commitment, amounting to 120 million euros for gender equality, and be matched by all G7 countries multi-annually.

¹ A similar objective is included as well in the European Union Gender Action Plan (2016-2020)



Clear tracking mechanisms must be established to ensure these measures reach and support the work of local feminist organizations, including small structures that normally do not have stable human and financial resources.

- **Undertake measures to facilitate access to funding for local feminist organizations, particularly by making granting regulations and procedures less burdensome.** We call on G7 leaders to adopt and implement specific measures such as : making funding more easily accessible to small structures; prioritizing long term flexible funding to allow structural social and gender norms change; prioritizing partnerships with local organizations in case funding is allocated to an international organization; avoiding imposing 50% co-financing; limiting cash-requirements to advance funding; alleviating reporting mechanisms; planning for a financial mechanism that allows to disburse amounts of different sizes; ensuring the participation of women and girls from diverse backgrounds within the development agencies' committees in charge of selecting projects, etc.
- **Make gender analysis mandatory across all aid policies** and ensure all programming has at least one well-resourced intermediate level outcome that specifically addresses structural gender inequalities. Ensure staff are well trained, have adequate guidance on what a feminist approach entails and are empowered to turn down projects that do not meet quality standards on equality.
- **Implement gender budgeting in all decision making processes** and, together with partners organizations, develop statistical systems based on indicators that are gender disaggregated and consider women in all their diversity. Regularly make public the budgets that are allocated in a transversal manner across ministries for women's and girls' rights.
- **Make "impact studies" mandatory** (from national to municipal level), separate and complementary to the implementation of gender budgeting or traditional project evaluation processes. Their analysis should focus on direct and indirect effects and consider compensatory measures or specific provisions if the legislative measures considered, proposed legislation or projects have a negative impact on women's rights or the reduction of inequalities between women and men. These studies should also be made mandatory prior to the adoption of the local authorities' budget or any cross-cutting policy document.
- **Significantly increase national budgets for women's and girls' rights within G7 countries,** particularly the ones dedicated to ministries and institutional mechanisms for women's and girls' rights, as well as the grants allocated to feminist associations working within G7 countries. These grants must cover as well their operational costs, which are essential to ensure the sustainability and the strengthening of feminist associations.
- **Systematically consult and let feminist associations,** national and international, **contribute to the design, implementation and evaluation of legislation, public policies, and initiatives.**



Ensure that all these processes include a majority of women and no less than 50% of those who are directly affected by the particular issue at hand. It is necessary to promote and facilitate the access of women to leadership positions in all sectors of public action and political governance and to include targets in terms of parity as well as penalties in case the objectives are not respected.

Invest in initiatives for women's economic empowerment through a comprehensive gender approach

G7 leaders will commit to invest in several initiatives on women's economic empowerment, for example on digital financial inclusion and on female entrepreneurship in the Sahel. It is essential that these are implemented through a comprehensive gender approach, which includes tackling harmful social norms and improving women's access to basic services, including sexual and reproductive health and rights.

- **Promote women's economic empowerment through entrepreneurship** by investing on training on income-generating activity and company creation at home and abroad, particularly within the Sahel region, by supporting the development of projects through funding and/or by facilitating women's access to relevant investment funds and by promoting support mechanisms. These measures should must be accompanied by **the creation of funds to support little or middle-sized projects led by women entrepreneurs.**
- **Make it mandatory for any employer (private or public) to create specific gender-specific data on wage gaps** within the company and, where a gap is identified, apply a catch-up approach to eradicate the gender pay gap.
- Implement local mechanisms to **take women**, especially but not only southern and rural women, **out of the informal economy** through income declaration programmes and social contributions (social protection, pensions).
- **Design financial services for the 1 billion estimated unbanked women.** G7 States must closely work with local authorities and feminist civil society organizations in their own national context and beyond, to:
 - Ensure that the specific needs of women who currently do not have access to formal financial services are taken into account, by specifically considering the barriers they face. For example, it is necessary to identify whether they cannot access these services for geographical reasons, social norms, or because of specific discriminatory regulations and policies, or because of a lack of financial literacy or training etc. Specific measures to address and remove these barriers must be implemented. Specific attention should be paid to the most marginalized groups.



- Ensure that all financial institutions remove their existing discriminatory policies and rules and regulations, for example the ones that impede women from accessing loans and funding because of their marital or family status.
- Invest in innovative technologies meant to foster women's access to financial services. Such initiatives must integrate a critical gender approach, addressing and specifically tackling the existing social, cultural, and economic barriers that hinder women's access to and control over financial resources.
- **Invest in appropriate, accessible, high quality social infrastructure and social protection** and promote men's equal engagement in care work so that unpaid care work is shared more equitably between families and the public sector. This includes investments in family leave for sick relatives, elder or disability care, paid and non-transferable parental leave for both parents, universal child care and human and social services. Specific measures should be taken to support single mothers. Particular attention must be paid to the needs of the most marginalised groups, including women of colour, women with disabilities, LGBTI+ people, migrant and refugee women.
- **Ensure women's equal rights to economic resources and access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property and natural resources.** By doing so, G7 countries will not only improve women's financial security, but will also build their resilience to climate shocks. They must address legal, regulatory, and social barriers that prevent women from equally participating in the economy and remove restrictions based on gender and discriminatory laws on inheritance and land ownership.

Commit to a gender-responsive funding to support the political commitments for women's and girls' rights

The finance ministerial meeting is the last ministerial meeting before the leaders' summit in August. To ensure that the deliverables adopted in the past ministerial meetings are truly gender-transformative, this last ministerial meeting on finance must be the moment where G7 finance ministers commit to fund the initiatives included in these deliverables and decide to adopt new ones.

The Women 7 calls on the G7 finance ministers to adopt a gender-responsive financial package to be endorsed by the leaders at the summit in August. **For the deliverables of this G7 to be effectively gender-responsive, we call on G7 leaders to invest at least 1.3 billion USD by 2022. These funds must be un-earmarked and additional.** This overall amount does not include the financial commitments G7 leaders should make on the initiative on female entrepreneurship in the Sahel.

These amounts do not include the investments that G7 States must make in their domestic policies in favor of gender equality. **We call on the G7 States to significantly increase the proportion of their**



national budget dedicated to women's and girls' rights, and to consult closely national feminist associations.

We also call on G7 leaders to pledge additional funds for the initiative on female entrepreneurship in the Sahel region. These funds should be provided mainly in a grant form. We call on G7 countries to co-build this initiative with governments of the Sahel region and with local civil society organizations working on women's rights and on female entrepreneurship in the Sahel region.

The Women 7 also calls on G7 States to not only adopt legislative commitments with the Biarritz Partnership but also to secure additional funding to implement effectively these laws in their domestic context.

The Women 7 also calls on G7 members to include specific targets and an accountability mechanism to follow up the commitments made by the G7 countries on this gender-responsive financial package.

All the financial commitments on gender equality made by G7 members must be part of an overall increase of gender ODA in G7 countries (with a significant increase of gender markers 1 and 2 of the OECD). These funding must be new and additional, flexible and multi-year, time bound and trackable.

The following table gives indications of the average minimum amount required for the initiatives to be truly and effectively gender-responsive and it gives an overview of the total minimum amount that G7 members should allocate to gender equality for these initiatives. The Women 7 reminds G7 leaders that support to these initiatives should go in parallel with substantial investments on gender equality at national level.



Initiatives	Total (in USD million)	Per G7 member (including the EU) (on average)
The G7 Initiative on Digital Financial Inclusion and Women's Economic Empowerment	200	25 ²
Support to female entrepreneurs in the Sahel region (AFAWA and We-Fi) with the African development bank	TBD	TBD ³
Doubling ODA for education in the Sahel (including the "Gender at the center" initiative for gender-responsive education plans)	102 ⁴	12.75 ⁵
Fund for feminist organisations	1080	135 ⁶
Dr. Denis Mukwege Foundation	8	1 ⁷
TOTAL	1390	173.75⁸

² Based on an estimation of the French commitment for this initiative.

³ We do not have enough information on this mechanism to recommend an exact figure but we do have recommendations on what this initiative should include (see above).

⁴ Based on the actual amount of ODA committed to education in G7 countries.

⁵ On top of that, G7 countries should meet the internationally recognised targets of 15% of total official development assistance (ODA) and at least 4% of humanitarian aid to the education sector.

⁶ Based on the French commitment of €120 million.

⁷ Based on the German commitment of €900 000.

⁸ This amount does not include G7 members' contribution to the AFAWA initiative.