



# **G7 Environment Ministerial Meeting**

**Recommendations of the W7**

May 5, 2019

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### PREAMBLE

Climate change, the loss of biodiversity, and their devastating consequences (soil degradation, massive increases in chronic diseases, ever-growing impacts of natural disasters) are one of the greatest injustices of our time. They most severely affect populations who are the least responsible for greenhouse gas emissions and have the least options and resources to adapt and bounce back from climate shocks and environmental degradation. The poorest half of the world's population, mostly from developing countries, is responsible for only 10% of global greenhouse gas emissions. If nothing changes, an additional 120 million people could fall into the poverty trap by 2030 as a result of climate change impacts.

Women and girls are disproportionately affected by climate change, notably due to persistent cultural and structural gender inequalities. Women in developing countries, who rely heavily on natural resources to support themselves and their families, see their workload increase when resources become scarce due to droughts, floods and erratic rains. Due to limited access to and control over income and land, and lower representation in decision-making processes, women face many barriers to access resources, gain employment and use their experiences and capabilities to the development of resilient and low carbon economies.

However, women are at the forefront of the response to environmental and climate challenges: they propose and implement solutions to restore sustainable livelihoods for their families and communities and to protect ecosystems. The French G7 presidency has put the fight against inequality at the heart of its agenda and must ensure that ambitious commitments will be taken and followed by concrete actions by G7 countries. They must work to create a framework in which women and girls will have the means, power and agency to pursue their priority actions and to contribute fully to decision-making and the design of policies addressing environmental, climate and energy issues.

As the world's richest nations and the most responsible for climate change,  
G7 countries must commit to:

1. Scale up climate ambition at home in response to the climate crisis
2. Implement robust rights-based sustainable development and climate policies
3. Significantly increase climate finance and women's organisations' access to climate funding
4. Support and provide opportunities for women's leadership and participation in environmental and climate decision-making



## WOMEN 7 RECOMMENDATIONS

### 1. Scale up climate ambition at home in response to the climate emergency

Following the publication in October 2018 of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) special report on a + 1.5°C world, G7 nations must demonstrate their willingness to lead in implementing the commitments made under the Paris Agreement. They must significantly scale up their own efforts for the reduction of domestic emissions in order to ensure that global warming does not exceed 1.5°C. It is a matter of taking responsibility for global justice, and a necessity for the survival of those populations who are the most vulnerable to climate change impacts.

Only a few weeks ahead of the United Nations Secretary General's Summit on Climate Change, to be held on 23 September in New York City, G7 leaders must seize the G7 summit as an opportunity to:

- **Affirm their willingness to announce more ambitious commitments at the UNSG Summit:** raise the ambition of their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) by 2020 and commit to achieve net zero emissions well before 2050.
- **Commit to include in their updated NDCs significantly more ambitious greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets by 2030**, consistent with their fair share for the 1.5°C limit, and more ambitious concrete measures which deliver immediate emissions reductions towards these targets.
- **Welcome and confirm their commitment to speedily implement the conclusions of the IPCC 1.5°C Special report** without any conditions
- **Welcome the Paris Agreement rulebook** adopted at COP24 in Katowice, which includes several references to the importance of taking gender equality into account in climate action planning.

### 2. Implement robust rights-based sustainable development and climate policies

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by the international community clearly demonstrates the need for an inclusive approach to strengthen the resilience of most vulnerable populations and to ensure a transition towards low carbon societies. The Paris Agreement is also the first international environmental treaty to commit states to apply their existing human rights obligations to climate action and environmental protection. The resolution of the 4th United Nations Environment Assembly «Promote gender equality, and the human rights and empowerment of women and girls in environmental governance», adopted in Nairobi on 12 March 2019, recognises the right to a healthy environment, and calls for increased women's participation in local-level environmental policy-making and for the promotion of gender-responsive and non-discriminatory environmental policies and measures.



We therefore call on G7 states, who have endorsed these various fundamental texts, to:

- **Ensure the systematic integration of human rights and gender equality in public policies** related to the environment, sustainable development, climate change and energy transition, ensuring a meaningful contribution of civil society to the development, implementation and monitoring of policies. In particular, countries must mobilise technical and financial resources to enable gender mainstreaming in national policies and to support their own territories (cities, rural areas) in adapting to the changing climate and environment, including on energy transition, transportation, health, support to agroecology and sustainable rural development.
- **Commit, in their revised NDCs, to taking into account human rights, gender equality,** food security, just transition, indigenous peoples' rights, intergenerational equity, protection of ecosystems and biodiversity in their climate change policies.
- **Support scientific research and the production of data, knowledge and statistical models on the impacts of changes related to the environment, biodiversity, climate and societies on women, men, girls and boys.** Such data, which remains insufficient at this stage, is essential to conduct an accurate needs assessment and to develop adequate public policies which have a tangible and lasting impact.
- **Guarantee the right to a healthy environment by reducing the exposure of people, especially the most vulnerable, to environmental pollutants and toxic substances,** through the implementation of national strategies to eliminate environmental pollutants and regular peer reviews. G7 countries must urgently call for the removal of endocrine disruptors from everyday consumer products, including periodic protections, which can have a very detrimental effect on women's and girls' health.
- **Respect and strengthen their commitments under the Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm** multilateral conventions and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), aimed at reducing toxic pollution from pesticides, chemicals and waste, as well as the Minamata Convention on the Elimination of Mercury, and to strengthen gender mainstreaming in these processes.
- **Promote a new model of trade that is compatible with the Paris Agreement.** The implementation of trade benefits in the context of bilateral trade agreements should be made conditional to the respect of the Paris Agreement. Trade deals such as CETA, JEFTA and investment deals to which G7 countries will be Parties should be suspended in case of withdrawal from the Paris agreement, withdrawal from the UNFCCC or in case of non-compliance with national climate objectives.



### 3. Significantly increase climate finance and women's organisations' access to climate funding

Funding dedicated to tackle climate change remains well below the identified needs and the commitments made by the international community ten years ago. Yet international cooperation is essential to ensure the full implementation of the Paris Agreement. G7 leaders must reaffirm and fulfil their commitment to do their fair share toward the goal of mobilising \$100 billion a year by 2020 to support climate action in developing countries and ensure a balance of funding between adaptation and mitigation action. They must seize the opportunity of the Heads of States and Governments' Summit in August to announce their intent to more than double their own individual contributions to the Green Climate Fund from the initial resource mobilisation as part of the ongoing GCF replenishment. It is also essential that G7 countries contribute to facilitating access of local women's organisations to climate finance, both in supporting the policy changes needed in existing climate funds and also in targeting bilateral climate financing to be more directly accessible by those groups.

We therefore call on G7 nations to:

- **Commit to earmark 85% of the volume of climate-relevant official development assistance to projects and initiatives taking into account gender equality as either a “significant” or “principal” objective** (note 1 or 2 from OECD gender marker), including that at least 20% of such gender-relevant ODA targets gender equality as the main or “principal” objective (note 2). Criteria to assess the gender-responsiveness of projects would include:
  - use of sex-disaggregated climate vulnerability and capacity analysis and related project-specific action plans with a budget, indicators and assigned responsibilities,
  - inclusion of most marginalised local populations, including women and girls, in the identification of needs, as well as the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of projects and programs,
  - awareness-raising of community members, women and men, girls and boys, as well as authorities, on gender inequality and differentiated vulnerability,
  - increased access and ability to influence for both women and men over local and national decision-making structures on climate change.
- **Increase support to local women's organisations working on environmental and climate issues** (adaptation, technology transfer, etc.) and sharing of good practices between networks. G7 countries should also **advocate for increased direct access of local civil society organisations, including women's groups and youth leaders, to international climate funds**, including the Green Climate Fund. G7 countries should call for the creation of Fund-level access opportunities, such as a dedicated stakeholder participation set-aside, independent of project financing to be approved by National Designated Entities.



- **Support the continued strengthening and implementation of gender equality policies and time-bound action plans** with clear indicators, dedicated budgets and shared responsibilities **in multilateral funding mechanisms on climate change**, including the Green Climate Fund and the Global Environment Facility.
- **Continue and increase funding the implementation of the gender action plan** of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and support further additional gender mainstreaming efforts under the UNFCCC.
- **Undertake a collective and objective reporting on progress towards the G7 2015 goal to increase by up to 400 million the number of people in the most vulnerable developing countries who have access to direct or indirect insurance coverage** against the negative impact of climate change-related hazards by 2020 and to support the development of early warning systems in the most vulnerable countries. G7 nations should endorse the InsuResilience Global Partnership's pro-poor principles and commit to engaging in and supporting the efforts to elaborate and implement Climate Disaster Resilience Index (CDRI) development-impact, gender equality and inclusivity indicators and standards in collaboration with civil society and V20 countries in the InsuResilience Global Partnership.
- **Support the strengthening of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage (WIM)** under the UNFCCC, which will be reviewed in 2019. In particular, G7 countries should call on the WIM to put in place new and additional sources of funding to address the worst impacts of climate change on vulnerable populations and communities which already go beyond their abilities to build resilience against, such as loss of land, culture, livelihoods.
- **Follow through with the commitment taken by G7 countries to end fossil fuel subsidies by 2025 by submitting national roadmaps outlining actions to be implemented as of 2019**, and related social measures to ensure a just transition for the most vulnerable populations in the context of this fossil fuel phase out.

#### 4. Support and provide opportunities for women's leadership and participation in environmental and climate decision-making

The goals set in the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement cannot be achieved without the leadership, participation, action and knowledge of women. We therefore call on G7 countries to support women's capacity-building and access to political fora in order for them to effectively contribute to international, regional and national decision-making processes on the environment, climate change and disaster risk management:

- **Ensure gender parity at all levels on national delegations** participating in international negotiations on climate change and environment-related issues, and support the leadership of women negotiators as chairpersons or facilitators in the international arena.



- **Support the capacity building of women and girls so that they can fully contribute to local, national and regional decision-making and planning processes related to the environment, climate change and disaster risk management**, notably through the organisation of workshops, the provision of e-learning modules and opportunities for experience-sharing as well as technology development and transfer in both the global North and the global South, and especially by supporting South-to-South peer learning.

**Note:**

The Women 7 (W7) movement brings together civil society organisations from 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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**Time passes by, inequalities remain.  
Le temps passe, les inégalités persistent.**