



G7 Gender Equality Ministerial Meeting

Reaction of the W7

May 10, 2019

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At the end of their meeting on 9 and 10 May, the G7 Ministers for Gender Equality endorsed a declaration in favour of women's and girls' rights. Ministers pledged to adopt the Biarritz partnership, compiling some of the world's most progressive laws for women's rights. Feminist NGOs from the Women 7 consider that while this is good news, such commitment is far from being sufficient! The Women 7 expects more ambitious actions at the G7 Leaders' Summit in Biarritz.

Sexual and reproductive rights are largely absent from the text

While the declaration adopted by the Ministers acknowledges the importance of a dialogue between G7 nations and feminist associations, the text contains a huge gap: it does not mention the importance of sexual and reproductive rights. **This reflects a permanent pushback in some countries on women's right to have control over their bodies.**

G7 countries have also committed to adopt the Biarritz Partnership. The Women 7 welcomes this initiative and expects G7 States to include these laws into their national legislations, to remove all discriminatory laws and to raise the standard of laws towards real gender equality in all countries.

However, the W7 calls on G7 states to not settle with statements of principle! For these new laws to be effectively implemented and have an impact on women and girls' rights, it is critical to establish an action plan and clear deadlines, to allocate funding and to develop shared accountability mechanisms. **In this regard, the Women 7 regrets that the Biarritz Partnership is one of the very few concrete deliverables coming out of this ministerial meeting.**

This ministerial did not live up to expectations

On May 9th 2019, at the Women 7 Summit, feminist associations handed over recommendations to G7 ministers which were much more ambitious than the commitments which were eventually made. The Women 7 calls on Ministers to increase funding for feminist NGOs and to ensure the effective participation of all women and girls in all G7 decisions and beyond.

For the time being, France has announced the creation of a €120 million fund to support feminist associations from the global South. **The Women 7 calls on other G7 countries to follow suit by significantly increasing funding allocated to feminist associations around the world.** In addition, the Women 7 calls on G7 states to be exemplary by providing similar financial support to feminist NGOs working at domestic level.

If France, as president of the G7, is really committed to turning gender equality into a global cause, this ministerial meeting did not live up to expectations. President Emmanuel Macron has a final chance to get it right at the Leaders' Summit by announcing more concrete actions in favour of women's rights. The 100+ feminist associations and organisations of the Women 7 will remain vigilant and mobilized to ensure that France fulfils its commitments toward a truly feminist diplomacy!
The countdown is on.



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**Time passes by, inequalities remain.
Le temps passe, les inégalités persistent.**