



G7 GERMANY 2015

G7 Forum for Dialogue with Women

Women's Economic Empowerment

Key Messages

Women's economic participation and inclusion is a fundamental right and furthermore essential to improve the global economy. Economic autonomy is key for women's emancipation and empowerment. It includes education, legal rights, access to jobs, equal salaries and training

- Societies and economies fail if gender inequalities persist in education, labour force participation, access to resources and assets. Diversity leads to innovation competitiveness and well being of the people.
- Global commitment has to take gender equality as a critical area for investment and needs to be increased.
- Women's economic participation is crucial to economic transformation, resilience and growth, to social security.

Politicians, the business sector, academia as well as the civil society need to get engaged into the women's Agenda. We have to shape the public opinion.

The G7 has to show leadership in their own countries.

We urge the G7 to make a strong commitment to promote gender equality as well as the full participation and empowerment of women and girls. We have to move with a sense of urgency and agree to fundamental principles:

- Ensure **physical security** to overcome discrimination, sexual harassment, and violence against women
- Guarantee **economic rights**, such as property rights, access to credit, equal job opportunities and equal salaries including social protection, reduction of unpaid work,
- Ensure **full access to financial markets and services**

- Underline **full access** to digital economy
- Ensure **full access to education at all levels**: skills, technical and vocational training, life long learning.

We need the G7 government leadership on gender equality to implement integrated approaches or temporary measures, like quota models, for women's economic participation, including through state-owned corporations, public services as well as procurement.

The B7 and private sector, as provider of jobs and income for women as employees or entrepreneurs through the supply chains, needs to be a major partner.

Women Entrepreneurship is crucial and women have to be encouraged and supported (education/ qualification) to become entrepreneurs. The specific needs of female entrepreneurs have to be addressed and women's professional networks and mentoring programs promoted. Stronger self-confidence is important for women to enter the business sector and become entrepreneurs.

At the same time the G7 has to influence the global Agenda and use its power to influence the G20 and the whole international community

Urgent action is needed and the SDGs 5 regarding gender equality, in terms of scale and resources, have to be a success. By 2030 we have to reach a situation that is irreversible and we have to measure the progress.

- We welcome the G7 commitment to increase the number of women and girls qualified through technical and vocational education and training measures in developing countries by one third (compared to "business as usual") by 2030 is an important step, but we have to know how this will be implemented.
- We urge governments to recognise the full potential of women employed in the informal sector (black market) and continue the efforts to better understand the gender gaps behind gender inequality in order to enhance women's' educational and professional opportunities.
- Women and girls need to get access to qualification systems (TVET), to technology and knowledge, the labour market and better paid jobs, to economic and financial services as well as to greater livelihood security.

- Women need full access to financial services and markets and also financial inclusion is critical for the entrepreneurship of women.
- The Women's Empowerment Principles have to be supported and implemented on a broad scale in order to support women's economic participation.

Conclusions are, we need:

- ➔ measurable and disaggregated data (what is counted, counts)
- ➔ G7 Advisory board as a useful tool to follow up and monitor progress.