

April 2018

The 2018 G7 in Canada

Factsheet for GADN members

G7 2018

This year, the G7 summit will take place on June 8-9 in Charlevoix, Quebec. The Canadian government, as current president of the G7, has named the following as priority areas:

- Investing in inclusive growth
- Advancing gender equality
- Addressing climate change
- Strengthening peace and security

The Gender and Development Network (GADN) welcomes the fact that advancing gender equality is one of the priority themes, as well as the Canadian commitment to mainstream gender across the other three priority areas. Peter Boehm, Deputy Minister for the G7 summit, has made clear the Canadian presidency wants to mainstream gender across the other three areas using a “[gender-based analysis plus](#)” approach. Traditionally the area of gender equality on which the G7 has focused has been women’s economic empowerment. However, this year the Canadian government has said they want to go beyond women’s economic empowerment to areas such as women’s health, educational opportunities and gender-based violence, although this view is not shared by all G7 countries.

The Canadian government has appointed a [Gender Equality Advisory Council](#) to provide advice and recommendations to the G7 Presidency, whose members include Winnie Byanyima, Executive Director at Oxfam International and Professor Diane Elson. [A meeting](#) of the [W7](#) is also taking place in advance of the Summit. Meanwhile, CSOs have set up a gender equality working group of the G7 Global Taskforce, which Oxfam Canada is helping to co-ordinate.

Context

- In March 2018, the UK hosted the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, in which Canada also participated. Here you can read the leaders’ [Communiqué](#), which had some positive statements on gender equality and the [Commonwealth Women’s Forum Outcome Statement](#), which had many more.
- In September 2017, the UK and Canada launched a [strategic partnership](#) to champion gender equality, agreeing to *‘deepen collaboration at home and abroad to make concrete gains toward women’s economic empowerment and increased leadership in corporate governance and business, as well as their access to quality education and skills training. Canada and the UK will also*

collaborate to promote sexual and reproductive health and rights, prevent gender-based violence, and advance the women, peace and security agenda.'

- The G20, hosted by Argentina, will take place 30 November – 1 December 2018. The [priority areas](#) are:
 - The future of work: Unleashing peoples' potential
 - Infrastructure for development: Mobilising private resources to reduce the infrastructure deficit
 - A sustainable food future: Improving soils and increasing productivity

Argentina also [declared](#) it is 'mandatory to foster a gender mainstreaming strategy across the whole G20 agenda.'

Policy recommendations

Building on past agreements

1. At the 2017 G7, leaders adopted the [G7 Roadmap for a gender-responsive economic environment](#), which provides an excellent starting point for this year's summit. However, there were no concrete commitments in the roadmap, so now we **call on leaders to implement the roadmap, setting clear timelines, targets, benchmarks and reporting on progress.**

Women's economic empowerment

2. In order to achieve the target, included in the G7 Roadmap, of reducing the gender gap in labour force participation by 25% by 2025, leaders should agree to **invest 2% of GDP in the care economy** (health, education, elder care and childcare). This [proposal](#) could increase the supply of decent work for women in the public sector, reduce women's unpaid care work, ensure better provision of care for the whole of society and, in turn, improve the productivity of the workforce in the long run. By creating jobs and improving productivity, this investment is self-sustaining, generating future government revenue streams.
3. **Promote and protect labour regulations**, including collective bargaining and freedom of association, **support the proposed ILO Convention on violence and harassment** against women and men in the world of work, and **ratify Convention 189** on domestic workers (if not already done).
4. Extend employment regulations as well as **social and legal protection to cover workers in the informal economy**. Universal social protection schemes that are not linked to employment contributions are particularly important for women in the informal economy.
5. Support the [UN Human Rights Council intergovernmental working group](#) on the development and implementation of a **binding treaty on transnational corporations and human rights**.
6. Commit to carrying out **ex-ante gender impact assessments of trade agreements** with mitigating measures to remove any dis-benefits, using resources such as the [UNCTAD trade and gender toolbox](#). Commit to **negotiating trade agreements transparently** including through meaningful consultation with women's rights organisations, and include binding commitments to protect and promote women's rights and gender equality.

Ending violence against women and girls

7. Building on the strong language in the G7 Roadmap around prevention, protection and prosecution relating to VAWG, we call on leaders to **recognise intimate partner violence as the most prevalent form** and to **fund, promote and enforce measures to end VAWG**, through legal reforms and tackling social attitudes.

8. Building on the 2010 G7 Muskoka Initiative, and as part of a commitment to increasing overall Official Development Assistance, **commit 15% of ODA to sexual and reproductive health and rights**, to ensure all individuals have access to a comprehensive package of sexual and reproductive health information and services, particularly in the neglected areas of sexual and reproductive health and rights, such as the sexual and reproductive health needs of adolescents and youth, SRHR in humanitarian settings, comprehensive sexuality education, legal and policy advocacy for SRHR, and safe abortion care.

Women, peace and security

9. **Recommit to UN Security Council Resolution 1325** and accompanying resolutions and political agreements, including **funding of National Action Plans (NAPs)**. All G7 countries' NAPs should have accompanying resource or budgeting plans to ensure the full implementation of the NAPs no later than 2020. This commitment should be included in future G7 Progress reports.

Women's leadership

10. **Fund safe and sustained spaces for women's networking and peer exchange** such as regional women's caucuses, women's national parliamentary caucuses and civil society platforms at all levels, all of which have proven to be critical to the scope, safety and effectiveness of women's influence on public and political agendas.

Girls' education

11. **Facilitate the building of evidence and best practice on keeping the most marginalised girls in school**, especially girls with disabilities, orphans, married girls, young mothers, girls who migrate, child labourers and girls affected by conflict/crisis and forced displacement.
12. **Fund research to understand barriers to transition to secondary education**, including consideration of distance to school and the extent to which national examinations can act as a gender-biased gatekeeper.
13. **Implement education reform**, including work on curriculum, textbooks, assessment and pedagogies to ensure harmful **gender stereotypes** for both girls and boys do not continue to be promoted in the classroom, in line with SDG target 4.7.

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