IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

TIME TO DELIVER ON A GENDER-JUST FUTURE!

W7 GERMANY 2022
W7 calls on G7 leaders to follow the principles of gender equality, peace and environmental integrity in all policy areas. Grounded in feminist principles of inclusion and intersectionality,** *** W7 urges G7 leaders to promote and protect the human rights of all, to dismantle colonial, racist, and patriarchal power structures, and to allocate significant resources to women's rights and feminist organizations in order to achieve that vision. W7 calls on G7 leaders to focus on the needs and the lived realities of women, girls and marginalized groups, to promote their meaningful participation in decision-making processes, and to address the inequalities of underlying power structures. The W7 Implementation Plan positions gender equality as the central goal of all policy areas and takes a gender transformative and human rights-based approach.

* SEVERABILITY CLAUSE: Responsibility for the observations and demands made in this document is borne by the W7 network according to the individual member’s respective remit and objectives. W7 is committed to producing a united statement from a civil-society perspective. However, this does not mean that all members bear equal responsibility for all the judgements and recommendations expressed herein.

** An intersectional approach calls for the deconstruction, targeting and overcoming of any structural and intersecting forms of discrimination along markers such as gender identity, race, ethnicity, class, ability, nationality, religion, age, geographical location, displacement status, political affiliation and sexual orientation – discrimination that is rooted in expressions of colonialism, capitalism, and the patriarchy.

*** W7 recognizes that the same systems of patriarchy, rigid binaries, and archaic gender norms that oppress women also keep LGBTQ+ people marginalized and excluded.
The COVID-19 pandemic has had a disproportionate impact on women and girls, exacerbating and reinforcing structural inequalities based not just on gender but also on intersecting factors such as race, ethnicity, class, sexual orientation and gender identity, ability and displacement status. The pandemic has vividly exposed the central role of the care economy in the normal functioning of our societies and economies as well as the chronic underfunding of adequate and affordable public care services and gender-responsive universal social protection. It is women’s unpaid and underpaid care work that has been filling the gaps. At the same time, access to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) has been significantly impeded, and there is gross global inequality regarding access to vaccines. Current crisis management strategies are clearly not working. COVID-19 recovery presents a compelling opportunity, and an imperative, to work toward achieving socially just and equitable societies through transformative policies that tackle structural gender inequalities and that center on the importance of care work.

We call on the G7 leaders to:

I. Adopt transformative economic policies that go beyond “crisis management” to address structural economic barriers to gender equality – particularly for Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) and LGBTIQ*:

• Implement feminist macroeconomic recovery packages that promote decent work for women and that address gender and other inequalities in G7 countries through progressive taxation* and the creation of decent work, with living wages and labor rights, especially in those sectors where women predominate, such as the social care, healthcare and service sectors.

• Strengthen women’s representation, participation and influence in the response to the COVID-19 crisis and in economic recovery, including through systematically funding and involving feminist and women’s rights organizations (WRO) in the design, implementation and evaluation of policies.

• Ensure that governments in the Global South have sufficient fiscal space for a just, inclusive, and equitable COVID-19 recovery strategy through the cancellation of all outstanding sovereign debt, including that owed to private creditors, and addressing illicit financial flows by putting in place a higher global corporate minimum effective tax rate that disincentives shifting profits from where they are generated.

*4 Progressive taxation ensures that the rich pay a proportionately higher share of their income and wealth than the poorest. For more information, see Progressive taxation – ActionAid International. Last retrieved April 25, 2022
• Establish a UN tax body that allows for all countries to contribute to global discussions on tax on a level playing field.

• End harmful IFI austerity conditions including cuts in public services; and curb illicit financial flows and tax dodging which disproportionately hit women and undermine equitable recovery.

II. Recognize and invest in the care economy, making it a central part of all COVID-19 recovery measures, ensuring that women’s unpaid and underpaid care work is no longer used to fill gaps in public provision:

• Increase public spending on social infrastructure and gender-transformative health and care services by an additional 2% of GDP.

• Ensure public funding of universally accessible gender-sensitive social protection schemes, with particular attention to the eligibility of women in the informal sector.

• Recognize the value of unpaid care work throughout government economic policymaking and through its inclusion in macroeconomic indicators such as GDP.

• Promote decent work, labor protection, collective bargaining and living wages for all health and care workers in the formal and informal sectors as well as improved and relevant education, training and upskilling, and ensure representation and meaningful participation of all healthcare workers – including mostly female migrant and informal healthcare workers – in policymaking.

III. Address the urgent healthcare crisis revealed by the pandemic, including the need for global vaccine equity, gender-equal sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), maternal health and universally accessible healthcare for marginalized groups, including refugees and migrants.

• Support the ACT Accelerator and the proposal for a TRIPS waiver, as well as funding of last-mile delivery to achieve the WHO goal of vaccinating 70 percent of all income groups and genders and sharing excess COVID-19 vaccines with low- income countries by mid-2022.5 Also: promote the sharing of other medical supplies with low-income countries.

• Ensure access and funding for SRHR under WHO guidance, e.g., building on the 2010 Muskoka Initiative and further increasing its funding, and repeal discriminatory laws criminalizing essential SRHR, such as the Mexico City policy – or “global gag rule” – and other anti-abortion legislation.
• **Draw** long overdue lessons from past challenges such as the West African Ebola virus pandemic and recognize the correlations between different health threats, for example HIV/AIDS and COVID-19, in order to comprehensively strengthen global healthcare systems and ensure adequate investments in pandemic prevention, preparedness and response.

• **Strengthen** gender-responsive public healthcare systems through universal health coverage (UHC) in order to reduce financial barriers and discrimination in access to healthcare services that disproportionately affect women, girls and marginalized groups and ensure their right to decent healthcare services.

• **Require** all research into new drugs, drug efficacy and medical treatments of (long) COVID to include women of various ages, including pregnant people, observing principles of intersectionality to ensure that women in all their diversity are treated equally.
Progress in gender equality is impossible without women’s economic empowerment. According to the World Economic Forum* it will take another 267 years to close the gender gap in economic participation. A recent World Bank report** states that women around the world continue to face laws and regulations that restrict their economic potential, with the COVID-19 pandemic creating new challenges to their health, safety, and economic security. In the face of global crises, G7 must ensure that women and girls progress in the world of work, with full economic rights and opportunities. Specific focus should be placed on prioritizing the needs of women confronted with and affected by conflict and disaster, crisis and displacement, such as refugees and those fleeing from war.

We call on the G7 leaders to:

I. Promote access to decent work for all women and tackle the persistent gender pay and pension gap:

- **Promote** decent work for women domestically and globally, including for migrant workers and those in the informal sector, throughout global supply chains, with living wages and social protection rights. These measures should be in line with the ILO Conventions on freedom of association and collective bargaining and countries must ratify C189 (on domestic workers) and C190 (on violence in the workplace).

- **Obligate** companies and governmental institutions to regularly conduct transparent pay-equity audits guaranteeing the right to full and transparent information for all employees, and introduce mandatory minimum living wages as the most effective way to reduce the gender pay gap.

- **Ensure** that legal regulations, policies and practices in the areas of supply chains, entrepreneurship and economic participation are gender-transformative and respond to the commitments under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), ILO Conventions C177 and C190*** and their General Recommendations.

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• **Apply** civil liability rules throughout the whole value and supply chain and support the establishment of a binding United Nations Treaty on Business and Human Rights, with a focus on women’s rights.

II. Promote women’s leadership and entrepreneurship:

• **Ensure** full gender parity on the boards of public and listed companies within G7 countries by 2030 through the effective implementation of targets, quotas, gender-responsive public procurement, and the application of effective sanctions for failure to meet quotas.

• **Formulate** an updated policy framework with incentives for the development and promotion of women’s entrepreneurship and economic empowerment, including an increase in current spending, with additional funding for addressing barriers to women’s economic empowerment such as discriminatory social norms and women’s disproportionate unpaid care work. G7 should take effective action to ensure equal access to finance, markets and procurement opportunities for women in all their diversity.

• **Design** and promote public procurement opportunities for women-owned small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and foster incentives to subcontract with women-owned SMEs, in recognition of the fact that women-owned businesses have been disproportionately affected* by the pandemic and are in urgent need of tailored fiscal support packages.

III. Ensure that human rights for women and gender equality are integrated into the environmental, social and governance (ESG) standards. Social and governance standards should receive the same weight as environmental standards in the ongoing ESG decision-making process and in the subsequent implementation process.

IV. Provide education, mentoring and training systems at all levels for women and girls in all their diversity:

• **Commit** to the achievement by 2026 of the global SDG4 girls’ education targets to start educating 40 million more girls in low- and lower-middle income countries and to teach 20 million more girls to read by the age of ten, with bold pledges across the G7 to ensure a fully funded global partnership for education.

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- **Ensure** especial funding for women’s and girls’ education focusing on non-traditional subjects such as science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), and additionally for reskilling and upskilling female workforce members who have been hardest hit by job losses and change during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- **Commit** to protecting global education financing from aid cuts and reaching the international standards of 10–15% of ODA funding going towards education by 2030.

- **Promote** comprehensive sex education (CSE) for girls and boys in all kinds of schools. Ensure that educational materials are free from stereotypes and that young people are exposed to a diversity of roles for all genders.

*On September 25, 2020, the Call to Action on Protection from Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies 2021–2025 Road Map was launched. Find the roadmap online here: https://www.calltoactiongbv.com/what-we-do*
/// CLIMATE JUSTICE

The climate emergency is one of the biggest crises the world faces and is exacerbating many existing inequities: between low-, middle- and high-income economies, between current and future generations, among all genders. Climate change impacts the most marginalized and underrepresented groups, including girls and women, those living in rural areas, ethnic, religious and sexual minorities, indigenous people, and people living with disabilities. Climate change mitigation and adaptation require evidence-based action rooted in a human-rights based approach and a social and gender-justice framework. Women and girls should be at the heart of climate justice, enforcing effective policies that enable and empower women in all their diversity to play a leading role in all decision-making processes.

We call on G7 leaders to keep the 1.5-degree goal alive, as well as to:

I. Invest in gender-responsive climate action and biodiversity conservation measures that are ecosystem-based and community-driven and that reject false solutions such as geoengineering, nuclear energy and corporate “greenwashing”. Also: recognize that leadership by women, girls and vulnerable groups is critical in the development of sustainable responses that leave no one behind.

II. Introduce a carbon pricing system that is social and gender-just by implementing meaningful compensation systems that take into account gender differential impacts of carbon pricing. Remove subsidies that harm the environment and invest in gender transformative, zero-emission mobility, the protection and promotion of biodiversity, and divestment from fossil fuels.

III. Support policies and funding approaches in all climate finance that:

- Provide direct funding to women and women’s rights and gender-justice organizations and to marginalized communities. Also: consider intersectionality in this process at the community level, especially in the countries hardest hit by the climate crisis (enhanced direct access).

- Prioritize gender-responsive climate funding to address strategies for disaster reduction and resilience that focus on the care, protection and support of women and girls, including policies directed at adaptation and resilience for all women and girls who are dependent on natural resources for their wellbeing and livelihoods.
• **Redress** loss and damage with a strong gender focus on specific positions and the needs of women, girls and marginalized groups, and devise a clear governance structure including through the Santiago Network.*

• **Commit to ending** the sovereign debt crisis to ensure fiscal space for climate action and gender equality.

• **Meet and surpass** the annual $100 billion climate finance goal with additional grants for low- and middle-income countries, with at least 50% channeled into adaptation. Also: ensure that funding is gender-transformative and accessible to local feminist and women’s rights organizations.

• **Promote** universal access to healthcare services for women and girls in all their intersecting identities. This should include sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) being incorporated into the UNFCCC framework for national climate change, disaster risk management, response strategies, NDCs, adaptation plans and funding.

IV. **Address climate migration within international human rights law** by enhancing and promoting land rights and finding feminist and human-centered solutions. Prioritize support and increased agency for women and girls displaced by climate change and disasters in order to counter increased risks such as loss of education, livelihood and land; lack of access to healthcare, including sexual and reproductive health services; increased sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV); exploitation and trafficking.

V. **Ensure a gender transformative and just transition:**

• **Recognize** that care work is a “green job”. Also: recognize low and unpaid care work as systemically relevant for climate change resilience and adaptation.

• **Facilitate** economic and financial systems and infrastructures that promote a gender-responsive energy democracy, move away from the top-down market-based approach for energy production, distribution, and control and address energy poverty as a gendered issue.

• **Remove** barriers to women and marginalized groups taking up jobs in the low-carbon / net zero economy through e.g. stronger anti-discrimination laws and family-friendly workplace policies. Special measures are needed to specifically facilitate access to jobs in the green and blue economies, including in emerging and relevant technologies, for informal and migrant women workers and others confronted with intersectional inequalities.

*The Santiago Network for Loss and Damage aims to catalyze the technical assistance of relevant organizations, bodies, networks and experts. This, we believe, is crucial in addressing the gender-differentiated impacts of climate change. See: https://unfccc.int/santiago-network/about.*
Feminist foreign policy prioritizes peace, gender equality, intersectionality and environmental integrity. It enshrines, promotes, and protects the human rights of all; it seeks to dismantle patriarchal, colonial, and racist power structures; and it allocates significant resources, including research and support for local women’s rights groups, to achieve that vision. A feminist foreign policy approach focuses on the needs and the lived realities of human beings, with a special focus on marginalized people. It promotes meaningful participation of women in all their diversity, addresses inequalities and underlying power structures, makes gender equality the central goal of foreign policy, and takes a gender transformative and human rights-based approach. Confronted with the war in Ukraine and the devastating impact of other ongoing international, regional and local conflicts, we are voicing our concerns about increasing militarization and an international arms race. We are deeply troubled by increasing evidence that sexual violence and rape are being used systematically as a weapon of war. We call for a radical shift in foreign policy towards a feminist foreign policy where decisions are based on participation, inclusion and a human- rights based approach with the goal of achieving justice and lasting peace.

We call on the G7 to:

I. **Commit to adopting a feminist foreign policy across all G7 countries** in all foreign policy areas, including diplomacy, security and defense, global health, trade, climate, immigration and development, and to ensure that its implementation remains accountable to feminist civil society.

- **Champion** feminist foreign policies in all multilateral spaces, including but not limited to fora such as the United Nations, G20, WHO, WTO, IFIs, ITU, WIPO, OECD, and the Global Partnership for Education.

- **Address and dismantle** colonial continuities in domestic and international foreign and development policy.

- **Counteract** harmful anti-gender, anti-democratic and anti-rights movements, as well as gender backlash and to deliver on concrete political and financial commitments, matched with action and accountability.

- **Reduce** military spending and implement effective evaluation and accountability mechanisms to trace the influence of military exports on heightened levels of gender-based violence.
II. Implement the UNSCR 1325 Agenda on Women Peace and Security, affirming commitments to the four pillars of the Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action Compact* as part of the Generation Equality Forum. Also: increase funding across all elements of the Agenda:

- **Prevent** militarized and societal conflict by listening to women experts and the affected communities and giving them conflict prevention, analysis, and solution powers in all policy fields. These are the people who possess firsthand knowledge about gendered, racialized, caste-based and classist inequalities and the respective global power hierarchies. Also: acknowledge and address the structural causes of conflict and favor civil crisis prevention and dialogue over militarization and armed response.

- **Prioritize and ensure women’s meaningful participation** in peace processes at all levels, with at least 50% representation. It is crucial that women from diverse communities who face intersecting barriers to gender equality can participate actively and at a higher level in such contexts.

- **Adopt** and implement legislation to protect the life and rights of women human rights defenders (WHRD) by eliminating violence by state and non-state actors.

- **Address** the continuum of violence against women and girls, sexual violence and gender-based violence before, during and after conflicts by further promoting, implementing and reporting on the Call to Action on Protection from Gender-based Violence in Emergencies.

- **Ensure** that all humanitarian action, relief, and recovery is gender-responsive, based on analyses of gendered needs, and promotes the participation of women affected by crises in decision-making processes.

III. Champion equitable and meaningful participation of women in all their diversity across all foreign policy institutions and mechanisms to ensure transformative change:

- **Promote** and ensure safe and open environments for women’s diverse participation and leadership in politics, diplomacy, disarmament, and other international and multilateral issues.

Facilitate the participation and leadership of women’s rights organizations and feminist activists in policy formulation, implementation, and evaluation. Accountability to feminist movements is a key element in feminist foreign policy. Strong feminist movements have been proven to strengthen democracy and accountability.

Promote and improve the rights of LGBTIQ*, indigenous communities, BIPOC, disabled, youth and senior citizens at all decision-making levels.

IV. Ensure long-term, flexible, and sustainable funding for feminist action and organizations, focusing on local activists, WHRDSs and WROs, as a crucial foreign policy tool:

Spend 100% of bilateral allocable ODA funding on programs with gender equality as a main or significant objective and at least 20% of bilateral allocable ODA funding on programs with gender equality as the principal main objective, prioritizing core and flexible funding to feminist and women’s rights organizations, including locally led organizations.

Recognize the lack of funding for gender equality in conflict-affected regions. Of all funding going to conflict-affected regions, 20% should address gender as a priority and should directly reach women’s rights organizations.

Increase flexible and sustainable funding to feminist groups and NGOs and impose new special taxation to benefit gender equality.

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/// ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN & GIRLS (VAWG) AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)

Violence against women and girls (VAWG) and gender-based violence (GBV) are human rights violations. They are both cause and consequence of gender inequality and they undermine all other efforts aimed at women’s participation and empowerment. More than one in three women worldwide experience GBV at some point in their lives. The COVID-19 pandemic has triggered a rise in GBV and led to an increased need for services for survivors. The pandemic has also highlighted the challenges arising from chronic underfunding, the absence of relevant, gender-transformative education, and a lack of sufficient political will to prevent and respond to VAWG and GBV. Greater political will, increased resources, and more accountability within domestic and foreign policy are urgently required in this regard.

We call on the G7 leaders to:

I. Promote the implementation of GBV-related laws, policies, normative frameworks, and plans:
   
   • Commit to sign, ratify and enforce the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention) and endorse the Generation Equality Forum Action Coalition blueprint on gender-based violence.

   • Implement comprehensive coordinated policies and strategies to end violence against women and girls in all their diversity in line with the Istanbul Convention and the Call to Action Roadmap* as part of domestic policy, including pandemic plans and other crisis response measures, in humanitarian settings and as an integral part of development cooperation.

II. Enable quality GBV prevention that is accessible to women and girls in all their diversity:

   • Support quality GBV primary, secondary and tertiary prevention programs that are holistic, evidence-based and informed by, as well as accessible to, women and girls in all their diversity, such as gender transformative civic education, feminist empowerment self-defense programs, and comprehensive sex education (CSE) in and out of schools.

*On September 25, 2020, the Call to Action on Protection from Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies 2021- 2025 Road Map was launched. Find the roadmap online here: https://www.calltoactiongbv.com/what-we-do
• **Invest** in pilot projects and research to advance understanding of how to transform societal attitudes and norms underpinning GBV, including traditional harmful practices such as female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) and forced and child marriage (EFM).

• **Commit** to eradicating FGM/C within a generation, prioritizing support for the Africa-led movement.

III. **Ensure survivor-centered response services:**

• **Fund** the delivery of comprehensive, integrated and survivor-centered GBV and sexual and reproductive health services within and beyond the formal healthcare system, nationally and as part of development and humanitarian assistance. Ensure that this approach focuses on specialist women’s rights organizations.

• **Include** access to shelters, psychosocial and mental healthcare, safe abortion, emergency contraception, integrated screening for intimate partner, familial and other sexual violence in maternal and sexual and reproductive health services and other comprehensive and inclusive support services for women and girls in all their diversity, including persons with diverse gender identities and other marginalized groups facing violence, abuse, and exploitation.

IV. **Commit sufficient financing and funding for GBV prevention, protection, and response:**

• **Commit** a fixed percentage of GDP to scale up GBV prevention, protection, and response programs domestically and internationally. Also: mandate the prioritization of gender analysis and gender transformative approaches as part of the requirements for development and humanitarian funding.

• **Invest** an additional 100 million USD of yearly contributions to UN Women, including the UN Women-managed UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women.

• **Increase** funding to ensure GBV minimum standards and services are in place in all conflict-affected regions at the beginning of emergency responses, in protracted situations of conflict, and during transitional phases (e.g. reporting and coordination mechanisms, referral pathways and access to services).

• **Recognize** and support the role of women’s rights organizations and feminist movements in GBV prevention and response by dedicating a minimum of 25% of GBV/VAWG funding to support these organizations and movements, including core and unrestricted funding.
V. Enable the meaningful participation of women and girls:

- **Support** and ensure the meaningful participation of women and adolescent girls in all their diversity, including differently abled and LGBTQ* people, in decision-making processes across the entire spectrum of GBV prevention and response, including in situations of conflict, in line with the Women, Peace and Security Agenda.

- **Advocate** for national and sub-national women’s rights and women-led organizations to be included throughout the humanitarian and development program cycle and support their long-term survival by providing core, flexible, and long-term funding.
ACCOUNTABILITY FRAMEWORK & INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS FOR GENDER EQUALITY

Gender equality is a fundamental driver of sustainable development and economic growth and therefore a top priority for the G7. It is difficult to make true progress towards gender equality without clear accountability mechanisms that include robust gender disaggregated data and a way to track that over time. Although there is an Accountability Working Group that focuses on monitoring the implementation of G7 development and development-related commitments, there are gaps in the monitoring and accountability framework for domestic gender equality policy. Institutional mechanisms are needed to track gender policy and monitor G7 commitments toward advancing the status of gender equality within the G7 and determining the best way forward.

We call on the G7 leaders to:

I. Adopt accountability frameworks regarding G7 commitments on gender equality at home and abroad, including algorithmic accountability for all algorithmic decision-making systems as they disproportionately affect women, girls and the most marginalized. Strong political will is a prerequisite for effective accountability. The accountability mechanisms should be part of the standing agenda in each G7 presidency in order to measure, adjust and assess public policies and their impact on women and girls.

II. Implement the GEAC’s monitoring proposal to report progress towards gender equality on an annual basis at the G7 Leaders’ Summit. These reports will track implementation of all GEAC and W7 recommendations since 2018 and should complement the work of the G7 Accountability Working Group on gender-related development commitments:

- Apply gender equality as a crosscutting principle in government by using recognized instruments such as gender impact assessment, gender analysis of legislation, gender equality marker systems, etc.

- Produce an annually updated dashboard to monitor gender equality in G7 countries and the progress made, using an agreed set of key indicators* across a range of policy areas that are relevant to the progression of gender equality.

- Publish a report (“implementation report”) triennially on the implementation of gender equality commitments endorsed by G7 leaders.

*Example of the OECD dashboard on gender equality https://www.oecd.org/gender/data/
III. Ensure transparency and the regular evaluation of gender equality policies and commitments in the G7, to be conducted at least triennially by public and independent evaluation bodies specializing in gender equality.

IV. Ensure that national and international accountability mechanisms, transitional and restorative justice mechanisms, including truth commissions and reparations processes, investigate crimes that may amount to gender persecution in conflicts and atrocities.

V. Develop and integrate approaches to hold corporations based in G7 states responsible for environmental degradation and attacks on women’s human rights and on environmental defenders.

VII. Develop robust ways to measure economic empowerment outcomes and impacts and to increase knowledge of and commitments to holistic approaches to empowerment.
Women7 (W7) is a group of civil society organizations that come together to promote proposals on gender equality and women’s rights within the G7 process. The Deutscher Frauenrat (National Council of German Women’s Organizations) is hosting the 2022 Women7 Dialogue during Germany’s G7 presidency. As an umbrella organization of around 60 nationwide women’s associations and organizations, the Deutscher Frauenrat is the biggest women’s lobby in Germany.

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