



ITALY 2024

COMMUNIQUE

Feminist Demands
for Building an Equal,
Just, Sustainable
and Peaceful Future

W7 ITALY 2024

Building on the principles of inclusion and **intersectionality**¹, Women7 (W7) brings together feminist civil society organisations from all parts of the world.

The W7 Communiqué has been developed through discussions of feminist experts from 42 countries including youth and those from low- and middle -income countries (LMICs), and further refined through youth as well as public consultations with participation from around the globe so that voices and lived realities of those often unheard are reflected. The main Communiqué's areas focus on: **Labour; Economic justice; Financial empowerment; Gender - Based Violence (GBV) including Violence Against Women and girls (VAWG); Climate justice; Women, peace and security (WPS)**.

The W7 demands a feminist and decolonial approach to guarantee the rights of women and girls in all their diversity. This approach is imperative to abolish the persistent and intersecting legacies of colonial, capitalist, and hetero-patriarchal systems. Thus, the W7 demands that policy responses must be focused on dismantling these intersecting systems of oppression - and the power structures and social norms that continue to shape and reinforce them - and deliver a more inclusive and equitable approach to achieve gender equity and ensure the rights of all women and girls.

TOGETHER, we call on G7 leaders to build on their commitments to ensure intergenerational gender equity through the following recommendations for a sustainable and gender-just transformation:

1) Ensure equal representation of women and girls in all their diversities at all levels of **decision-making** in public and private, national, regional and global, political and economic bodies by 2030 and promote women's participation by setting gender- and age-responsive targets through National Action Plans; promoting the rights of Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC), LGBTQIA+ communities, people with disabilities and other groups that face marginalisation and systemic discrimination. Adopt multi-year plans to achieve this goal and monitor progress annually which is inclusive of post-Agenda 2030 plans.

2) Place gender equity at the heart of **budgeting decisions** by creating forward-looking inclusive and innovative economic models that work for women and girls in all their diversities and focus on achieving human well-being; tax reforms must be initiated using an intersectional and intergenerational lens, and sufficient, sustainable and adequate funding must be dedicated to support women and girls in all their diversities and age, rights associations, youth-led organisations, and feminist activists, NGOs and movements, especially those led by women and marginalised groups.

¹ *Intersectional approaches call for deconstruction, targeting, and overcoming of any structural and intersecting forms of discrimination along markers such as race, gender, ethnicity, class, gender identity, sexual orientation, ability, nationality, religion, age, geographical location, displacement status, migrant status, refugee status, political affiliations, – discrimination that is rooted in expressions of colonialism, capitalism and the patriarchy.*



3) Collect, analyse, and report on all areas identified in this Communiqué using transparent **gender- and age-sensitive and disaggregated data**, and investing in gender-data to integrate more factors, such as access to education, labour and healthcare, in the definition of poverty.

4) Develop **gender and intergenerational impact assessments**, leaving no one behind, in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of all legislative, political, strategic and programmatic initiatives including post- pandemic reconstruction plans, peace and security plans and climate response strategies².

5) Promote age- and gender-transformative **education** by investing in social infrastructure to ensure women and girls in all their diversities have access to and participate in pre-school to tertiary education, including early education, financial and digital literacy; STEAM programmes; bolster technical and vocational training, mentoring, digital, financial, and entrepreneurial skills, and lifelong learning.

6) Develop lifelong learning programmes and campaigns to address age and **gender stereotypes** and provide systematic awareness-building measures to combat patriarchy, sexism, age and gender biases by mobilising all key multipliers (educators, researchers, politicians, doctors, among others); encouraging media players and publishers to apply a gender lens, establish frameworks, guidelines and guaranteeing equal and respectful representation in media content creation; and updating and revising school texts including women’s history and intersectional role-modelling; and financially supporting adoption of transparent and non-discriminatory AI algorithms to prevent bias.

7) Adopt and strengthen accountability frameworks to assess and adjust the gendered impacts of public policies and multilateral commitments, in collaboration with feminist organisations and the W7.

Report annually on progress towards gender equity and **accountability** regarding the G7 commitments through effective monitoring mechanisms and criteria of actionability, measurability, and time bound. Implement the G7 dashboard introducing a gender and intersectional mainstream approach, also working closely with feminist organisations and the W7 to update the Dashboard methodology and indicators.

In the following recommendations, when we will use the expressions “**women and girls**” we will always refer to **women and girls in all their diversities, including an intersectional and intergenerational approach**.

² In 1995, the Beijing Platform for Action identified 12 key areas where urgent action was required to achieve greater equality and opportunities for women, girls and boys. Keep the promise and accelerate action.



Labour

The world is experiencing multiple transitions that are changing the labour market's foundation, mainly in terms of workforce participation, requested skill sets and diverse range of career paths. While these transitions may present new opportunities, they also bring to light latent risks.

First, the gender employment and salary gap remain a significant concern, as women still face challenges in accessing new job opportunities on an equal footing.

Moreover, it is important to consider the effects of the digital and sustainability transitions on the labour market and on requested employee profiles, given the revolution brought about by AI and recent research that points to women and girls' particular vulnerability to job loss due to their overrepresentation in administrative assistance sectors and lack of ITC training. While AI has the potential to enhance productivity, it also sets the scene for considerable employee reskilling/upskilling needs, exacerbating gender divide, if misused and not properly regulated.

Therefore, we call on G7 Leaders to:

- 1. Implement reforms to ensure increased women's labour participation and equal access to career opportunities** by: a) promoting work-life balance for everyone (e.g., remote work; compressed work weeks), increasing sharable parenthood leave (equalising mandatory earmarked maternity and paternity leave) and dedicated welfare services according to social, silver and economic circumstances such as childcare available to every parent including non-binary parents, single mothers, fathers, women entrepreneurs, and affectionate parents at an affordable cost; envisage similar benefits for those who are involved in elderly people care; b) adopting care policies to bring care services to ensure the right to care, investing in developing infrastructure for child care, elderly and mental ill health, and people with disability creating decent jobs to those providing these services; c) revising social protection systems and deploying dedicated Active Labour Market Policies (ALMPs)³ to incentivize workforce participation of women in all their diversity, marginalised and disadvantaged social groups, thus supporting and accelerating the transition from informal to formal economy; d) developing and supporting women-centred mandatory policy frameworks, both for private and public sectors, taking as reference the ILO convention 190 to eliminate and prevent gender-based violence (GBV) in the workplace, focusing on protecting marginalised groups, through dedicated systems such as gender responsive public procurement mechanisms or temporary special measures including quota, and special mechanisms for hiring or equal and proportional promotions, especially for senior positions; e) spreading girls and women entrepreneurship culture through government backed programmes,

3 Active labour market programmes (ALMPs) include all social expenditure (other than education) which is aimed at the improvement of the beneficiaries.

which provide access to public and private financial incentives with high focus on working mothers, the latest tech skillset training, and dedicated mentorship; f) ensuring fair recruitment and promotion processes, financially supporting the creation and adoption of transparent and non-discriminatory AI algorithms to prevent bias; g) Dedicating funds at working places, public and private, to care and prevent violence against women and the LGBTQIA+ in the workplace and adopting initiatives such as fighting whistleblowing, and ensuring consistently adequate protections among others. Also develop measures aimed at helping women workers who are suffering GBV to be able to denounce and follow the legal process, also promoting less time at workplace and others. h) developing programs to reintegrate women into the productive labour market, as older women constitute the majority of participants in later-life learning programs, can represent an opportunity to balance gender-specific impacts by creating conditions to support the creation of quality employment on multiple fronts within national policies.⁴

2. Build a pipeline of women and girl workers within the new landscape enabled by AI

by: a) allocating funds to guarantee widespread access to basic education and showcasing women role models, thus demystifying careers with low female participation; b) advocating for comprehensive strategies that address systemic barriers to women's participation in STEAM and AI fields, such as gender stereotypes and unconscious bias, actively involving women at a high level of education policy decisions in order to favour the design and implementation of education and training programmes crucial for ensuring their relevance and effectiveness in preparing women and girls for careers in STEAM and AI fields; c) aligning with market demands for current and future workforce, designate resources to sustain a lifelong learning approach in terms of STEAM and AI programmes:

- At pre-university level, enhance girls' quota participation in such fields.
- At corporate level, encourage companies, public and private – through tax incentives – to invest throughout women's entire careers and to mentor them in being an active part of such upskilling/ reskilling processes with initiatives such as in presence or online courses, workshops, and customised mentorship programmes.
- Ensure the increase of women in cybersecurity in the companies to reduce the low percentage of women now available.

⁴ Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. *Youth and COVID-19: Response, Recovery and Resilience. Tackling Coronavirus (COVID-19) Contributing to a Global Effort*. 11 June 2020. <https://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/policy-responses/youth-and-covid-19-response-recovery-and-resilience-c40e61c6/>



- 3. Ensure that new and existing AI tools are gender-sensitive and equitable,** and are co-developed by women, mitigating bias and prejudice by establishing a specialised National Office that requests any AI ecosystem actors to: a) enhancing AI accountability and transparency, by providing AI Transparency Reports with comprehensive documentation on the AI training dataset to assess periodic data legitimacy; b) advocating for comprehensive training programmes on diversity and inclusion for AI developers and researchers, being this crucial for embedding inclusivity into the AI development process; c) promoting traceability, allowing the tracing back of decisions made by AI systems to specific input data. Establish regulatory frameworks for auditing Algorithmic Impact Assessments, ex ante and throughout the lifecycle of the AI product and certification processes to verify compliance and ensure adherence to human rights, gender equity and legal standards.

- 4. Ensure explainability and safeguard against bias by setting inclusivity standards and preventing conscious Algorithmic Impact assessments throughout the AI product lifecycle from design to deployment and unconscious prejudice in AI algorithms,** as well as establishing mechanisms for users to report anonymously biased AI systems that may disproportionately impact women, girls and LGBTQIA+ persons in all their diversity, by implementing common global policies, drawing on expertise from diverse backgrounds (STEAM, humanities, and creative fields), encompassing diversity and inclusion AI programmes (e.g., how to craft inclusive and unbiased prompts, to develop unbiased and inclusive AI systems) alongside risk evaluation frameworks to assess their related risks.



Economic Justice

The global economic system, which is primarily led by the G7, is based on the values of neoliberal capitalist patriarchy. While we acknowledge that there are persistent legacies of colonialism, imperialism, and systemic racism that continue to perpetuate structural and systemic inequalities, we believe that it is imperative to work towards a more inclusive and equitable economy that benefits everyone.

The effects of the ongoing global polycrisis continue to have a disproportionate impact on women and girls in all their diversity by further exposing, exacerbating and reinforcing these structural and gendered economic inequalities. It particularly harms women, girls, and those structurally excluded on the basis of gender, race, class, caste, sexuality, ability, religion, etc., especially in low and middle-income countries. This context of polycrisis particularly highlights how women's unpaid and underpaid care work continues to fill the gaps left by governments' inadequate care and public services provision, the privatisation of public services, debt crises and imposed austerity measures. Instead of addressing structural economic justice issues, the neoliberal and development-centric framings of gender equity and women's economic empowerment are often superficial and fall short of being truly transformational.

We therefore call on G7 leaders to:

- 1. Recognise the social and economic value of care in all government policymaking**, the human right to care and commit to restoring the duty and primary responsibility of governments to provide free, universally accessible and quality gender-transformative public care services and social protection to reduce women's unpaid and underpaid care work by: a) increasing public spending on social infrastructure, which includes gender-transformative health and care services as well as social protection schemes, by an additional 2% of GDP; b) rewarding and remunerating care work with equal pay for work of equal value as well as decent pensions; c) implementing intergenerational- and gender-transformative policies that tackle entrenched social norms in order to 'defeminise' caregiving and changing gender norms around caring responsibilities; d) ensuring decent work for paid and unpaid care work including migrant and informal health and care workers and fostering their meaningful participation in decision-making on care policies.
- 2. Increase the fiscal space available to governments**, particularly those in the LMICs, to **fund gender-transformative social protection, care and public services** to create an enabling environment for women's economic justice and rights by: a) acknowledging the continuing impact of colonial legacies and the need to decolonise international economic systems and transform international financial institutions for the benefit of all, for gender equity to be achieved globally; b) valuating all macroeconomic policymaking against its impact on women's rights to ensure that fiscal, trade and monetary policies promote rather than undermine gender equity; c) promoting inclusive and democratic global tax cooperation and supporting calls for a UN Tax Convention that can deliver a more equitable, inclusive, progressive and democratic international tax



architecture; d) implementing progressive national and international tax regimes including combating illicit financial flows and tax avoidance as well as tax havens; introducing windfall taxes for corporations as well as wealth taxes for the super-rich, supporting the wealth tax proposal currently being developed as part of the G20; e) using their power within International Financial Institutions (IFIs) to stop the imposition of fiscal consolidation and austerity measures as conditions of debt restructuring, given evidence such conditions hit women hardest and directly undermine investment in gender-transformative public care services and social protection; f) supporting the cancellation of the sovereign debts of previously colonised countries by bilateral, private and multilateral lenders; g) committing to fair and sustainable global trade and investment policies and practices, subject to international human rights standards; h) ensuring equal access and control of productive assets, implementing progressive laws that guarantee gender equity in control and ownership of land, natural resources, housing and properties. Following international regulations such as the UN Draft Treaty on Business and Human Rights to prevent multinational corporations from land grabs and unsustainable exploitation of natural resources that often have grave impacts on women of Indigenous, minority and marginalised communities.

Financial empowerment

Women's financial empowerment is a right and prerequisite for sustainable development and achieving the SDGs of the Agenda 2030. Women's financial empowerment has to take a holistic and inclusive approach and should be reflected in public policies and long-term commitments from all public and private development actors. Financial empowerment allows women to participate in, contribute to and benefit from growth processes in self-determined ways that recognise the value of their contributions and respect their dignity. Investing and empowering women financially also increases their access to economic resources and opportunities, including access to labour, financial services, property and other productive assets.

We therefore call on G7 leaders to:

- 1. Prioritise women's agency and entitlement to support women's financial empowerment**, fostering dedicated economic inclusion including education, enhancing financial management independence, promoting equal access to financial services and equal pay by: a) assuring financial education to women and girls starting from high and vocational schools, and structuring and launching tax incentives dedicated to women enrolled in financial training/reskilling programmes, reinforcing STEAM education of women workforce through training and/or reskilling/upskilling programmes; b) ensuring women's equal access to bank accounts, credit, guarantees, payment and transactional services and insurance also by addressing gender and cultural bias, and fostering favourable financial conditions (e.g., reduced entry/management fees) to pursue full autonomy in the management of economic and financial



resources (e.g., promoting non-co-owned bank accounts). Also, promoting access to capital and encouraging gender-lens investment in women-led companies/SMEs. This includes promoting special products such as loans with lower interest rates and improved conditions for women's access to financial services with a focus on vulnerable and marginalised women; c) ensuring that financial policies and programmes are gender-transformative, addressing structural and cultural barriers that may exclude women from financial-digital economies and the holistic economic system; d) enhancing the use of non-gender biased algorithms used by financial institutions in credit transfer processes, avoiding discriminatory results in access to finance/tax reliefs, besides country of application; e) ensuring women's access to social safety nets and financial protection systems for preventing women's financial exploitation, discrimination, and economic violence.

- 2. Foster investments, privately financing enterprises that strive for women's empowerment** by: a) providing specific tax incentives for companies/financial institutions that grant more favourable financial conditions to women commencing entrepreneurship, businesses led/owned by women to encourage female entrepreneurship and to enable women to transition from the informal to the formal economy; b) granting tax incentives/reductions to companies that respect gender parity at any level of seniority and to companies that employ women who have been away from the labour market for long.;
- 3. Adopt homogenous fiscal, trade and monetary policies that promote gender equity, overcoming existing systemic, structural and cultural barriers to financial services and economic system** by: a) financing for female entrepreneurship to increase the presence of women in the business sector, for example through specific loans for women-owned small businesses and start-ups; b) implementing specific tax incentives and benefits for companies that hire women absent from the labour market, to increase female employment; c) offering tax incentives for companies that organise STEAM training courses for women, designed to encourage companies to invest in the development of their female workforce and increase the presence of women in industries related to STEAM disciplines.



Gender-based violence (GBV) including violence against women and girls (VAWG)

Gender-based violence including violence against women and girls in all their diversity are products of patriarchal social norms and human rights violations. Gender inequality, sexist stereotypes, traditional gender roles, and rape culture are a global and structural phenomenon from which violence against women and girls stems. Issues of GBV including VAWG, and its effects on Sexual and Reproductive health and rights (SRHR) must be prioritised and tackled by implementing long-term, sustainable, comprehensive, and coordinated strategies, policies, and legal frameworks encompassing all relevant measures to prevent and combat violence in alignment with international standards such as the Istanbul Convention. In the whole process of designing, developing, and implementing each initiative, the co-creation approach, which ensures the active involvement of diverse and multi-sectional feminist stakeholders including GBV survivors, activists, feminist associations, grass-rooted movements, communities and community leaders, should be taken with sufficient allocation of funds to meet cultural sensitivity and responsiveness. Crucially, this includes a focus on the emerging challenges posed by humanitarian crises, climate change and technology-facilitated gender-based violence.

We call on the G7 leaders to:

- 1. Reduce the social and human costs associated with VAWG and GBV** by: a) increasing awareness and understanding of GBV among individuals and society through the development and implementation of co-created awareness and educational campaigns in alignment with the Istanbul Convention and other international agreements on GBV; b) addressing the structural causes of GBV, such as gender stereotypes and harmful gender roles, in every sphere of society and, more specifically, in formal and informal education, for example, by introducing mandatory gender transformative education intervention such as comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) programmes within schools; c) prioritising GBV in policymaking and legal frameworks by incorporating GBV prevention, prosecution, and elimination measures into policy agendas by co-creating advocacy approaches to demand the ratification and implementation of relevant conventions and laws; d) encouraging sensibilisation and training of police, law enforcement authorities and the judiciary to ensure appropriate prosecution and expedite proceedings in cases involving GBV, considering the significant social and financial burden associated with seeking justice; e) conducting studies to better understand the driving forces and impact of GBV upon a society, including survivors, witnesses, perpetrators, authorities, and companies, and acknowledge the total cost and impact of GBV.



2. Protect the physical and mental health of GBV survivors in all their diversity and persons of diverse SOGIESC by: a) disseminating initiatives aimed at transforming societal attitudes, norms and gender roles underpinning GBV, including harmful practices such as female genital mutilation (FGM), forced and early marriages and homo- and transphobic violence; b) reiterating the importance of protecting and ensuring SRHR and ensuring full commitment to SRHR based on international agreements, such as the ICPD Programme of Action, the Beijing Platform for Action, and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). Educating society about the interlinkages between all forms of violence and health disparities; c) integrating violence prevention programmes with health education initiatives to tackle the root cause of the problem, a system of political, social, and economic relations and institutions structured around gender inequality. Implementing training of healthcare professionals to better detect and respond to the cases of GBV; d) enhancing prompt response mechanisms to address critical situations of GBV by developing responsive tools and protocols for detecting and addressing early signals of GBV. This will be achieved by training relevant personnel and implementing technology-enabled solutions for efficient early warning systems; e) taking necessary legislative measures to ensure that custody rights do not jeopardise the rights and safety of the survivor or children; f) enhancing high-quality psychological assistance for easy accessibility as well as nation-wide advice points for survivors of gender-based violence, be it online or physically.

3. Improve economic security and stability for survivors of all forms of violence who experience economic violence by: a) funding programs that foster and support autonomy and self-determination ensuring that survivors have access to health care, social and legal services and advisory facilities; b) ensuring sound, stable and sustainable funding for civil society-led organisations, and allocating appropriate financial and human resources for the implementation of integrated policies, especially for marginalised and vulnerable communities; c) providing childcare and expanding public investments in child- and elder care would boost employment access and economic stability; d) addressing sextortion by adopting specific legislation such as the ILO convention 190 criminalising the abuse of a position of authority to obtain sexual benefits, by establishing gender-sensitive reporting mechanisms to facilitate victims of sexual corruption coming forward.



- 4. Address the challenges of technology-facilitated gender-based violence by combating cyber and digital harassment,** cyberstalking and other forms of online GBV that are facilitated due to technological advances and AI, including the creation of fake images, impersonation, etc. by: a) introducing a groundbreaking criminal offence to combat technology-enabled GBV, safeguarding personal rights regardless of the platform through which it transpires; b) enacting legislation to combat deepfake-based sexual abuse, while concurrently instituting protocols to address technology-facilitated GBV on a national and international scale. This entails modifying existing frameworks for multilateral cooperation, guaranteeing access to criminal justice and welfare support irrespective of geographic boundaries; c) mandating technology companies to integrate safety-by-design principles in their operations such as ensuring that algorithms on digital platforms do not replicate gender stereotypes and intersectional discrimination. Companies should be accountable for cooperating with law enforcement agencies within and across borders to ensure they are proactively identifying harms and perpetrators and taking swift actions to respond to incidents.
- 5. Ensure access to Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH) care for all,** as an essential part of Universal Health Coverage, which plays a crucial role before, during, and after GBV. Promote access to safe, youth-friendly, inclusive, rights-based, sex-positive, affordable, and non-stigmatizing contraception, abortion, maternal and new-born care, and other SRH services regardless of age, gender and sexuality including in humanitarian crises and emergencies. Repeal discriminatory and restrictive laws and policies against SRHR such as criminalisation of abortion and forced sterilisation. Reaffirm collective efforts and full commitment to SRHR based on international agreements, such as the ICPD Programme of Action, the Beijing Platform for Action, and CEDAW.



Climate justice

Climate crisis is a “threat multiplier”, exacerbating social, political and economic tensions already present globally as well as issues related to “one health” (the hyperconnection among physical and mental health of humans; animals and planet), but specifically in fragile and conflict-affected settings. We are living through a triple planetary crisis; climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss.

Those most disproportionately affected are women and girls, and in particular those belonging to indigenous communities, Afro-descendent, South Asian and other women and girls of colour. This is an intersectional and intergenerational issue affecting women, LGBTQIA+ people, those with disabilities, migrants, and those living in rural, remote, conflict and disaster-prone areas. Gender justice is an integral part of climate justice. Women and their local communities are the custodians of 80% of the planet’s biodiversity and have ancestral knowledge of the land and seas near them, so it is essential to involve all women and girls in decision-making processes. Ultimately, they are the group most affected by climate change. When it comes to climate action, the inequity in women representation has led to a glaring gap in climate-solutions geared towards those most affected by the climate crisis.

The G7 has the ability to influence global climate policies and ensure human rights and equity sit at the heart of climate action. It is important that climate negotiations take place in locations that are democratic and free and host countries do not infringe on the rights of civil society. We advocate for key levers to help close the inequality gap in education, social justice, legal protection and infrastructure for good. For clarification, the recommendations below refer to all women and girls identified above.

W7 is calling on G7 leaders to:

- 1. Include the gender nexus in all environmentally focused initiatives and their related targets**, goals and guidelines including Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and Disaster Risk Reduction and Preparedness (DRRP) plans by: a) ensuring all climate-related policies and solutions are compliant with existing international treaties and frameworks such as the Sustainable Development Goals, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Generation Equality Forum Feminist Action for Climate Justice, the Women, Security, and Peace agenda, the Convention on Biological Diversity, CEDAW, the Global Compact on Migration and the existing human rights law frameworks; b) investing, financing, implementing, and monitoring of the Gender Action Plan (GAP), including establishing, the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) which has a standalone target for gender equity and supporting National Gender Climate Change Focal Points and support a more ambitious plan to be set in place in 2024 for GAP; c) ensuring there is a guaranteed proportion of women in delegations and guaranteeing ad hoc funding for gender and local communities representation.



- 2. Invest in innovative and purpose driven climate solutions that are easily accessible, affordable and tailor-made for all women and girls needs and co-designed with them and the beneficiaries.** This must be supported by climate funds such as the UN Loss and Damage Fund, and the Adaptation Fund, the IMF Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) and more, by: a) ensuring a more stringent reporting on the allocation of all funds and guaranteeing that specific amounts are addressed to organisations supporting women and girls, with a special focus on low and middle-income countries; b) reforming multilateral development banks, financial institutions and funding structures to meet these needs with a shift towards and prioritisation of flexible, gender-transformative, localised mechanisms that directly benefit impacted communities as opposed to through multilateral organisations or the private sector; c) prioritising gender-parity and gender-transformative approaches to finance; e) cancelling debts for LMICs that are struggling to balance their debt obligations and climate adaptation efforts, recognising the ecological debt owed by developed countries.

- 3. Develop gender-transformative climate action and biodiversity conservation measures by transitioning away from fossil fuels** and support female entrepreneurship across all key industries that will help us transition to a more sustainable healthy planet, by: a) stopping subsidising fossil fuels and reinvest fossil fuels subsidies into clean and just technologies that will support net zero goals, the energy transition, and restoring our planet's biodiversity; b) incorporating all climate policies with gender-responsive guidelines; c) investing in upskilling of women in sustainability so they contribute to nature-based solutions to help solve the triple planetary crisis; d) supporting environmental and ocean literacy for the public; e) pursuing legal action and redress for the failure of governments and businesses to ensure the sustainable management of the environment.

- 4. Build and strengthen disaster risk reduction and preparedness (DRRP) capacity to increase community resilience, mitigate effects of increased extreme weather events, prevent the loss of life, and reduce the impact on human wellbeing,** by: a) protecting the rights of, and be responsive to the needs of all people affected; b) ensuring safe internal and cross-border migration pathways and support services for those displaced by climate-related events as part of DRRP and adaptation plans in compliance with the UN Global Compact on Migration and a human rights-based approach, by also granting legal protection (legal status) and relevant rights (right to adequate standard of living, health, work, education etc).



- 5. Adopt a gender-transformative approach addressing the intersection between conflict and climate change, including the impact on refugees, migrants, and internally displaced persons** by: a) integrating climate justice to women, peace, and security, and to youth, peace, and security frameworks in the overall peacebuilding and climate-related agendas; b) enhancing climate action to prevent conflict by promoting transboundary agreements over shared resources and incorporating climate priorities in current political settlements and peace agreements such as water management and resolution of land disputes; c) ensuring transparency in reporting military-induced greenhouse gas emissions - recognising the world's military compound accounts for 5.5% of total emissions - and commit to demilitarisation, decrease in military spending, and reinvestment of resources directly towards peace efforts and climate finance for adaptation, resilience, and mitigation through the reformed integrated agenda.



Women, Peace and Security (WPS)

This last year has seen ongoing and new armed conflicts and increased global calls from gender justice and feminist activists for peace, demilitarisation, respect for international law, and human rights. Emerging threats - including the climate/security/gender equity nexus, pandemics, and cybersecurity - require both analysis from a gender perspective and approaches that build on the many lessons learned from over 20 years of the WPS agenda. Despite increasing research linking gender equity with decreased military aggression and the participation of women in peace processes with meaningful peace agreements and reconstruction, there are widespread doubts regarding global commitments to the WPS agenda. We are deeply concerned about all those affected by armed conflict and draw particular attention to the plight of women and girls in all their diversity, especially those who are displaced and/or from minority backgrounds. The 2024 G7 has an opportunity to reinvigorate meaningful implementation of existing WPS commitments (with a specific focus on the meaningful participation of and leadership by women in all their diversity). This requires specific attention to WPS issues and the intersectional gender dimensions of all conflict and security challenges, including the humanitarian/development/peace nexus.

We are calling on all G7 countries to:

1. Build on the 2022 G7 Leaders Communiqué's reference to feminist development, foreign, and trade policies through the **adoption and resourcing of feminist trade, defence, diplomacy, migration, security, peace, development assistance, and humanitarian policies.**
2. **Commit to (and report on the implementation of) specific WPS development assistance investment targets**, including: a) increasing the percentage of ODA to conflict-affected countries/regions with gender equity as its primary objective to 20% (following the OECD-DAC gender equity policy marker definition); b) quadrupling of funding for women-led/women's rights organisations in conflict-affected countries (per the UNSG's recommendation) with a focus on locally-led organisations.
3. **Update national WPS Action Plans** by: a) addressing the full range of WPS issues (participation, protection, prevention of armed conflict, conflict resolution, and relief and recovery), as well as incorporate measures to respond to emerging threats from an intersectional gender perspective; b) including robust reporting and accountability measures (including targets - particularly in relation to meaningful participation), as well as research and documentation of good practices/lessons learned; c) addressing internal issues (not just foreign policy issues); d) including significantly increased financial resources to ensure implementation, including financing for specific initiatives; e) addressing women and girls in all their diversity, especially youth.



4. **Support the codification of gender apartheid**, including in the potential draft crimes against humanity treaty under consideration by the UNGA 6th Committee.

5. **Address rising military spending and arms sales, and institute meaningful and effective disarmament plans** (including all forms of weapons). This includes but is not limited to: a) implementing the recommendation in the UNSG’s 2023 report on WPS (S/2023/725): “Reduce military expenditures and ensure compliance with international norms and frameworks such as the Arms Trade Treaty and the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons”; b) taking concrete steps to establish a legally binding international instrument with both prohibitions and restrictions on autonomous weapons.

6. **Take meaningful and effective measures to protect and resource women and LGBTQIA+ rights defenders, mediators, and peacebuilders** from the global to the local. This includes, but is not limited to: a) supporting networks of women mediators; b) providing long-term, flexible, core funding to these organisations; c) advocating for and introducing protection measures to ensure the security of women and LGBTQIA+ rights defenders (including local), including online; d) Implementing specific refugee programmes to support women and LGBTQIA+ rights defenders.



Sources:

- **W7 Japan Communiqué 2023:** <https://women7.rg/news/w7-japan-2023-communicue-is-now-available/>
- **W7 German Communiqué 2022:** <https://www.frauenrat.de/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/W7-Communique.pdf>
- **W20 Italy Communiqué 2021:** https://w20italia.it/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/W20_Italy_Communique.pdf
- **ILO, 2023.** https://www.ilo.org/wcmstp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---inst/documents/publication/wcms_890761.pdf
- **United Nations Security Council 2023: Women, Peace and Security, Report of the Secretary-General S/2023/725** <https://reliefweb.int/attachments/ab6a541e-f989-494b-998f-f7d5a28404c9/N2327908.pdf>

Glossary:

In the present Communiqué

Women and girls refer to women and girls in all of their diversities, including an intersectional and intergenerational approach. “Women and girls in all of their diversities” refers to the vast array of experiences, identities, characteristics, and backgrounds among women and girls worldwide by highlighting that it is not a static group but composed by diverse individuals which includes, but not limited to age, nationality, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, socio-economic status, and abilities. This approach of referring to a group of people promotes the rights of Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC), LGBTQIA+ communities, people with disabilities and other groups that face marginalisation and systemic discrimination.

Intersectional approaches call for deconstruction, targeting, and overcoming of any structural and intersecting forms of discrimination along markers such as race, gender, ethnicity, class, gender identity, sexual orientation, ability, nationality, religion, age, geographical location, displacement status, migrant status, refugee status, political affiliations, – discrimination that is rooted in expressions of colonialism, capitalism and the patriarchy.

Post colonialist approach seeks to challenge and dismantle colonial legacies and systems of power that continue to influence societies around the world. This approach includes (a) to deconstruct colonial narrative by examining dominant narratives and uplifting marginalised voices; (b) to centre indigenous voices and knowledge; (c) disrupt existing power structures by advocating for equitable and just systems of governance; (d) to provide intersectionality by addressing the systems of power and oppression to achieve justice and freedom.



Acronyms used in the Communiqué

AI stands for Artificial Intelligence and refers to a simulation of human intelligence provided by machines programmed to imitate human and cognitive processes.

GBV stands for Gender-based violence and refers to harmful acts against individuals or groups based on their genders. It encompasses a wide range of behaviours, including physical, sexual, psychological, or economic harm, in various settings, including home, workplace, school, community, and online.

PRGT stands for Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust and refers to a financial instrument of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) that provides concessional financing assistance to low-income countries to support in achieving sustainable economic growth, poverty reduction, and living standards improvement.

RST stands for Resilience and Sustainability Trust and refers to a program of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) that helps low-income and vulnerable middle-income countries build resilience to external shocks and ensure sustainable growth. In particular, two definitions are critical:

1. **Resilience** refers to the ability of individuals, communities or systems to withstand and recover from external shocks or disruptions by enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening social cohesion, improving infrastructures, and promoting sustainable development practices
2. **Sustainability** refers to the capacity to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations in meeting their own needs.

STEAM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics with the aim to promote a holistic understanding of concepts and encourage critical thinking through the combination of these disciplines.

VAWG stands for Violence against Women and Girls and refers to any action of Gender-based violence against women and girls, including physical, sexual, psychological, and economic harm. It is rooted in unequal power dynamics between genders that occur across all societies, cultures, and socioeconomic backgrounds.

WPS stands for Women in Peace and Security and refers to the involvement, protection, and empowerment of women and girls to promote peace, prevent conflicts, and ensure security, both at local and national or international levels.





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