

## Global G7 Taskforce & GCAP Italy present:

# NGO Reactions to the G7 Taormina Summit Leader's Communique

This press release is a compendium of reactions from the NGOs gathered at the G7 Summit. The quotes have been taken from the individual NGO press releases and are presented by issue.

## Overview

- “A G7 summit with not many concrete commitments, that is able to express a form of diplomatic convergence, that recognizes disagreements, but does not break the group. This is perhaps the only durable outcome. How relevant will it be in the future World, we'll have to see...” **Massimo Pallottino, Spokesperson, GCAP Italy**
- “In a year of greatly-diminished expectations, the G7 have managed to set a new low. The early promise of this summit was crushed by the Trump Administration's hostile negotiating posture and the evident lack of ambition of other leaders. The G7 would be wise not to sell their final statement as a success just because of the last-minute agreement checking the box with words such as ‘famine’, ‘gender’ or ‘sustainable development’. Only real investments can save lives and safeguard our common future, not words.” **Friederike Röder, Director & G7 Spokesperson, ONE**
- “While we understand that this was the first summit for 4 of the leaders, this does not excuse a lack of decisive action to address some truly devastating crises afflicting the world's most vulnerable children. The world needs to act before it's too late, millions of lives are at serious risk.” **Chris Derksen-Hiebert, Director of Policy, World Vision International.**

## Climate

- “Europe, Canada and Japan stood up today and made a stand, revealing again how far Trump is out of step with the rest of the world on climate change. The G7 outcome reconfirms that the clean energy transformation is unstoppable and supported by not only governments, but by society more broadly.

Leaders must now keep resolve and ensure that the G20 signals even greater climate ambition. President Trump should now return to Washington and make the right decision, take climate change seriously and take action with the rest of the world.” **Jennifer Morgan, Executive Director, Greenpeace International**

- “Despite the continued uncertainty about US participation in the Paris Agreement, the world is forging ahead. Today, six of the world's largest industrialized economies have reaffirmed their commitment to global climate action, and reaffirmed their vow to fulfill their commitments under the Paris Agreement.

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We appreciate the efforts made by the Italian Presidency and other 5 countries to pursue a G7 position on climate change and the Paris agreement in the face of resistance from one member. Meanwhile the transformation is gathering speed in the real economy. Businesses, cities regions, civil society and faith groups are building the clean economy of the future from the ground up, showing that it is possible to address climate change while simultaneously increasing jobs, improving the health of citizens, and providing a clean and safe environment.

Today, 6 political leaders have reaffirmed their commitment to this trajectory. And they have the support from the society they need to accelerate their progress. It is now the turn of other world leaders -at the upcoming G20 summit and beyond- to ensure that this signal is amplified so that the transition continues and gathers further momentum.” **Mariagrazia Midulla, Head of Climate and Energy, WWF Italy**

## Famine

- “The G7 Leaders ignored the need to endorse concrete initiatives to address the right to food and nutrition in the long term. ActionAid notes that, without any step-change, 650 million people will still live in hunger and malnutrition by 2030. Even in the case of the four crises the UN is calling support for, the G7 leaders failed to step up their support; there are no new commitments to assist South-Sudan, Somalia, Nigeria and Yemen, where about 30 million people will suffer from hunger if 6 billion dollars are not mobilized timely as per the UN appeal. In addition, without addressing the long term challenges, new and more severe crises are likely in the future”. **Luca de Fraia, Deputy Secretary General, ActionAid Italy**
- “The leaders have not done nearly enough for the 30 million people facing the prospect of famine across four countries and it is a calamity that the Taormina initiative on food security proposed by the Italian government did not gain sufficient support from the other leaders. That none of the G7 countries has provided its fair share of aid to all these crises is a sad indictment of their collective failure to provide leadership. Despite much talk of security, the summit saw no mention of measures to end the brutal conflicts that are driving this global hunger crisis.” **Eric Munoz & Giorgia Ceccarelli, Oxfam**

## Food Security

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- “Para 30 of the communiqué states: ‘We will encourage blended finance and public-private partnerships (PPPs)...’ Still this new rhetoric of the contribution of the private sector to food security and development. But with what kind of features? Is the convergence of objectives of public bodies, civil society organisations, and private for profit actors to be given for granted? **Massimo Pallottino, Caritas Italiana**
- Over 66,000 Global Citizens took action to call on the G7 to commit new funding to meet the 2015 target to lift 500 million people out of hunger and malnutrition. G7

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leaders reaffirmed their commitment to achieve this target but did not pledge the required lifesaving funds. Global Citizen welcomes this focus but without additional funds to back up this narrative, the world's hungry will stay hungry. **Marie Rumsby, Senior Manager, Food Security, Hunger and Nutrition, Global Citizen**

- “The G7 promised in Elmau to lift 500 million out of hunger and malnutrition by 2030, but this Summit in Taormina did not take us any closer to reaching this goal. The way forward is to strengthen the rights of small-holders, create income opportunities in rural areas, promote sustainable farming systems and focus on supporting the poorest countries in the world. Today in Taormina the G7 failed but this does not excuse them from taking further responsibilities. Each single country has the obligation to act now for a world free from hunger and poverty.” **Simone Welte, Senior Policy Advisor, Welthungerhilfe**
- “Hundreds of thousands of vulnerable children risk not being around next year if there is no food reaching them soon. They do not have the luxury of hoping for a better summit in 2018. World Vision therefore calls on the G20 meeting in Hamburg on July 7 and 8 to show a more coherent and compassionate leadership than the powers who met today: G20 – please act now!” **Marwin Meier, Manager, Health & Advocacy, World Vision Germany**

## Health

- “The fight against the main health emergencies has made significant progress thanks, in part, to the commitments of G7-G8 countries over the years. Today health is the big missing piece of this G7! Since its establishment in 2001 by G7 countries in Genoa, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (Global Fund) has saved more than 20 million lives through its support for AIDS, tuberculosis (TB), and malaria programs in countries and communities most in need. In the Leaders communiqué of the Taormina summit there is no mention of the fight against the pandemics - this is the first time in a long time!” **Francesca Belli, Project Director in Italy, ACTION**
- “There is really no excuse for our leaders ignoring the fact that millions of people around the world suffer or die every year from diseases or conditions we know how to prevent and treat, like TB or under-nutrition. There are a lot of complicated issues facing the G7 leaders, but investing in health should not be controversial—it should be fundamental.” **Hannah Bowen, Secretariat Director, ACTION**
- “I had drug resistant TB and it nearly killed me. By prioritizing health as a human right, lives will be saved, and families and communities can envision a better future with the medical care, social support such as transport, nutrition and psychological support they need when they face serious illness. More importantly, more importantly, commitment to increased funding for research in health, could translate into the development of better treatment for diseases such as TB, which will change people's lives”. **Ingrid Oxley, ACTION**
- “G7 must continue recognizing health as a fundamental human right for women and men. G7 must continue guaranteeing global health and supporting the fight against AIDS, TB and malaria fully funding the Global Fund.” **Stefania Burbo, Osservatorio AIDS**

## Inequality

- “Oxfam welcomes the G7's recognition that inequality represents a huge problem in the world - but concrete measures to address inequality have G7 failed to materialize at this summit, either on the domestic or the international level. How

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can the G7 hope to help the poorest people without a sound and inclusive action plan and without recognizing their own role in promoting the many races to the bottom that both fuel inequality worldwide and shatter the foundation of public trust in their leaders.” **Mikhail Maslennikov, Oxfam**

## Migration

- In what way the national interests and security will affect the management of migrants and refugees? Will this not result in closing our eyes face to the constant violation of the fundamental human rights when we externalize borders control? (para 24)” **Massimo Pallottino, Caritas Italiana**
- “Even though this summit took place in Sicily, a stone’s throw from where so many migrants have died, it produced no concrete steps to protect vulnerable migrants or to address the root causes of displacement and migration. The hoped for G7 vision on Human Mobility could have gone some way to meet this objectives, but President Trump and other leaders worked to block any agreement - for which millions of displaced families will pay the price. As the leaders fly home from Taormina they will look down on the waters that have claimed thousands of lives on the G7's watch.” **Francesco Petrelli & Ed Cairns, Oxfam**

## Nutrition

- “The decisions we make today are critical if we are to end all forms of malnutrition by 2030. This is not just about human dignity and well-being; it is about investing in human capital to propel and sustain economic growth and lay the foundation for equity, justice and peace.” **Christine Muyama, Nutrition Programme Officer, Graca Machel Trust & ACTION**

## Sustainable Development Goals/Agenda 2030

- World Sustainability and Agenda 20130 is not a ‘for example’! (para 3) It should be a major commitment for all peoples and states, not only for Africa. (para 26 and 27). This is a major misunderstanding on what the agenda of Sustainable Development is”. **Massimo Pallottino, Caritas Italiana**

## Trade

- “The G7 were not able to find an agreement on trade, fighting between liberalism and protectionism. But what the world actually needs is global justice and less hunger, and this must be achieved through coherent and fair agricultural, trade and tax policies in all G7 countries.” **Simone Welte, Welthungerhilfe**

## Women & Girls

- “Women's and girls empowerment cannot be considered only at an economic level, It is a pillar to reach sustainable development. Sexual and reproductive health and rights, including comprehensive sexual education, must be guaranteed to all and everywhere, also in migrant and refugee context.

We ask that the G7 women ministerial meeting that will be held in November to take into consideration the final appeal adopted by 89 parliamentarians from 57 countries that met in Rome on May 4 and 5, 2017 for the International conference ‘She Moves’” **Maria Grazia Panunzi, President, Aidos (Italian Association for Women in Development)**

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## Canada G7 2018

- Prime Minister Trudeau keeps saying the right things. As the world looks to Canada's G7 Presidency in 2018, it's time for Trudeau to create a game-changing legacy on the global stage.  
Canada has an opportunity to rally global leaders to champion the rights of children, particularly gender equality, inclusion and non-discrimination. It's time Canada's feminist prime minister rallies his peers to realize the rights and drive lasting change for the most excluded women and girls, especially in the world's toughest places." **Martin Fischer, Director of Policy, World Vision Canada**
- "Summitry has gotten a lot more trickier as agreement between G7 leaders appears elusive. The pressure is now on Prime Minister Trudeau, to use his leverage and diplomacy, to ensure the Canadian G7 Summit in 2018 delivers where Taormina stumbled." **Kel Currah, Chair, G7 Global Taskforce**