

Civil Society Priority Policy Points

G7 Sherpa Meeting

27 January, Rome

Environment/Climate

The impact of climate change is already affecting citizens, communities and countries all over the world. The year 2016 has been confirmed as the hottest year on record, surpassing the exceptionally high temperatures of 2015. Long-term indicators of human-caused climate change have reached new heights. The globally averaged temperature in 2016 was about 1.1 degrees centigrade higher than the pre-industrial period. People are asking governments to be fast and effective, and to take urgent and concrete action.

We call the G7 countries to:

- Accelerate implementation of the Paris Agreement, to limit global warming to 1.5°C (above pre-industrial levels);
- Commit to deliver decarbonisation strategies and roadmaps by 2018, putting in place policies and initiatives for securing fast and just transition, based on wide dialogue;
- Fast track initiatives to accelerate emission reductions by promoting renewable energy, technological innovation, energy saving and energy efficiency, sustainable and efficient use of natural resources;
- Accelerate the fulfillment of the US\$100 billion Paris Agreement commitment;
- Adopt compulsory climate stress tests in all G7 public and private financial institutions.

Food Security, Nutrition and Agriculture

We welcome the Italian decision to put food and nutrition security as one of the priorities of its G7 presidency building on previous G7 commitments and decisions (Elmau and Ise-Shima). Ending hunger and malnutrition in all its form by 2030 needs G7 countries' support for food and nutrition security initiatives with effective strategy, clear action plan and timeline. We have four asks of the G7 governments:

Resources: To meet the Elmau commitment to lift 500 million out of hunger and malnutrition, the G7 countries should commit to scaling up resources beyond current levels of investment, and support high-burden country governments to increase their budget allocations to food and nutrition security. These resources should be targeted at the poorest and most marginalised groups such as small holder farmers, women and children, and be aligned with national country plans.

Accountability: We call on the G7 to be transparent and accountable for previous commitments and to publish as soon as possible the Food and Nutrition Security accountability framework, and align the Taormina Initiative under this framework. The G7 should measure its impact in a way that is transparent and reflects the cross-sector nature and the multi-faceted aspects of food and nutrition security (including climate, gender, urban and rural issues). We look forward to seeing

what the former Japanese presidency will deliver and we ask for its prompt adoption for Taormina Initiative.

Nutrition: Given that malnutrition threatens the survival and potential of millions of children and women worldwide, we call for putting nutrition and the center of any G7 initiative on food security and agriculture. This slow moving emergency requires immediate attention through short-term evidence based interventions and a long-term food-systems approach to deliver on the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition.

Migration Nexus: Food and nutrition security investments should always prioritize the most vulnerable and marginalized people, therefore, we call for no migration conditionality or instrumentalization of aid in targeting countries and sector of intervention in developing the Taormina initiative

Migration

We support the Italian Presidency plans to shift the narrative towards a comprehensive, holistic vision of “Human Mobility”. It is a much needed change from the current narrative which is mainly focused on border control and short term approaches. To address migration, the G7 needs to focus on long term solutions and use development as a way to address the root causes of forced displacement. This approach must be mainstreamed across the whole G7 agenda. For instance, the Taormina Initiative on food security and nutrition should not be the only one to tackle human mobility issues. This starts with the G7 leaders upholding commitments made in other G7 fora and at the UN and international level. But we want not only to shift the narrative but to change policies.

On the three pillars, these are our recommendations:

Pillar 1 - Investment

- Scale up investment in development in the most fragile and poorest countries
- Ensuring poverty eradication, sustainable development, and reaching Agenda 2030 is the primary focus of ODA and it should not be used as a bargain chip for border management.
- There must be more resources to support conflict-neighboring countries that host refugees. The G7 must not double count domestic refugee costs as ODA, aid should only be focused on poverty eradication and sustainable development to realize Agenda 2030.

Pillar 2: Protection

- Every G7 initiative on human mobility should be done on a human rights based approach, protecting the dignity and ensuring the access to every person – especially the most vulnerable people - to essential services independent of their legal status
- The G7 members must work harder to increase relocation quotas.

- G7 should fully comply with IHL and their commitments taken in key fora, as the UN Human Compact on Migration and Refugees

Pillar 3: Safe and Legal Passages

G7 should facilitate and increase safe and regular pathways:

- For people in need of international protection (such as humanitarian visas, unaccompanied minors, resettlement, family reunification),
- For people seeking better opportunities in life whether they are higher or lower skilled workers including study permits, work permits, and for family reunification.

The G7 needs to connect migration policies to labour markets, welfare systems and recognizing qualifications.

Health

- **Planetary Health:** The Planetary Health concept of a holistic approach to health, migration and climate change is intriguing. How do G7 countries expect to measure success on this approach and how will it be linked to the SDGs and relevant accountability frameworks? We encourage the G7 to use clear and simple metrics when measuring success.
- **R&D:** The current R&D system is failing to address the global threats of antimicrobial resistance, infectious diseases and non-communicable diseases. As the only airborne drug-resistant infection, Tuberculosis is amongst the highest threats to global public health, and is the leading infectious killer worldwide with 1.8 million deaths annually. MDR-TB will be a strong marker of success/failure in addressing R&D. New antibiotic regimens are needed. We therefore call on the G7 to increase investments in R&D to unlock research and development into new and existing antimicrobial products, vaccines and diagnostics but also to adopt an approach that is driven by patient needs and not by markets.
- **Health System Strengthening & UHC:** Strengthening of health systems will be a key requirement of Universal Health Care (UHC) to ensure everyone has equal access to quality health. This will require both external investments such as full funding of proven global mechanisms including the Global Fund, Gavi and Global Polio Eradication Initiative but also increased domestic investments. In order to achieve UHC, the needs of countries in a transition phase must be addressed. As flows of ODA stagnate and countries pass thresholds (typically based on GNI) or other criteria for support from donors and multilaterals their health systems go through incredible strain, often negatively affecting the most disadvantaged populations. Donors and recipient countries should work together to connect all these transition processes and ensure that if a country is ready to transition from funding then they have all the resources they need to successfully navigate the process.
- **SRHR:** G7 leaders should work to achieve universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) for all and everywhere and make informed, independent

choices regarding SRHR as a vital and necessary basis for building sustainable societies and resilient communities facing humanitarian emergencies.

Gender/Rights of Women and Girls

1. It is critically important at this time that we have continuity and a focus on implementation of previous G7 commitments on gender. As a cross-cutting issue, accountability has been more difficult and we need to focus on dedicated resources to drive the transition from commitment to implementation particularly on G7 commitments to:

- 2015 Elmao Initiative to reduce the gender gap in workforce participation 25% by 2025 including the commitment to create 100 million new jobs for women
- 2013 UK Initiative on Sexual Violence and Conflict
- 2010 the Muskoka Initiative on Maternal, Newborn and Child Health, including the broader G7 commitment on SRHR and the new Canadian government's platform commitment to add a focus on SRHR to its global MNCH work.

2. Accountability for G7 Gender commitments should align with, and accelerate SDG implementation of Gender Equality targets and indicators across all Goals.

3. We encourage a plan of action, with a clear timeframe, for the G7 to accelerate the implementation of the recommendations in the UN Secretary General's High Level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment. This should include for example:

- Tackling social norms to break down gender stereotypes
- Recognizing, reducing, and redistributing unpaid care work
- Ensuring a fair share of economic assets
- Improving sex and age disaggregated data and gender analysis
- Supporting proactive gender-responsive budgeting.

4. We encourage the G7 to start thinking of a new approach to development that moves away from initiatives that prioritize one particular issue to a focus on the most excluded populations – who are women and girls

- Canadian civil society already mobilizing to propose prioritizing an integrated, approach to programming focused on meeting the needs and realizing the rights of most excluded adolescent girls and women in crises.
- G7 programs to focus on improving not just condition of women and girls, but their social, economic, political position as well.

5. We strongly recommend that the G7 include formal meetings of Gender/Equality/Women's Ministers as part of the G7 process.

Systemic Issues

We see signs showing us that the economic system is not working well. We see the effects on people: inequalities in and among countries are growing. We also see the effects on the planet. Both of these point to the insufficiency of the existing policies.

Addressing these inequalities, as a mean of contributing to poverty reduction and to build a peaceful global community, while also preserving our planet, for the whole of humanity and for future generations, calls for bold and urgent action.

Recommendations

1. **SDGs:** In view of the risk of fragmenting Agenda 2030, we reaffirm that the SDGs are universal, integrated and interconnected.
2. **ODA:** It still has a crucial role, particularly in fragile contexts; it also has a key role in accomplishing the SDGs. It should not be instrumentalized for other purposes.

To meet the present needs, ODA: (a) needs to be adequate, which means retaining the 0.7% target; (b) should be offered unconditionally for 'overseas' development assistance (c) should not be used to address costs associated with supporting refugees; and (d) allow for participatory and democratic ownership.

3. **Financial instability/challenges:** The globe faced a financial crisis in 2008; prevention of the next one requires G7 leadership and agreement on solutions. Additionally, it's important to recognize the impact of tax evasion and corruption, on the developing world, as well as their dependence on loans.

There is broad agreement on the causes of financial crisis but not on solutions to prevent the next one; neither IMF nor UN recommendations are being followed, for improved debt restructuring. We also acknowledge that the developing world depends on loans because they cannot raise needed revenues. After the release of the Panama papers, the G7 made strong statements promoting transparency and supporting revenue collection. Concrete steps, to promote transparency and curb tax evasion and corruption are still not in place.