

2017 G20 Women's Economic Empowerment Recommendations

For more information,
please contact:

John Ruthrauff

Director, International Advocacy
Coordinator, G7/G20 Alliance (US)
InterAction
jruthrauff@interaction.org
1-202-552-6523

Comments or questions on specific
recommendations should be ad-
dressed to:

Lytic Thompson

Policy Team Lead
Director, Policy and Advocacy
International Center for Research on
Women
lthompson@icrw.org
+1-202-742-1266

The German G20 Presidency has identified women's economic empowerment as a priority for the G20 in 2017. The Presidency will build on past commitments to improve women's economic empowerment and will focus on improving the quality of women's employment. The **U.S. G7/G20 Advocacy Alliance** calls on the U.S. government to play a leading role in encouraging the G20 to take the following actions.

Recommendations:

Building on the transformative agenda of the UN High Level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment, we propose the following investments be prioritized by G20 countries to uphold their SDG commitments, in their development assistance and at home:

1. Build the Talent Pipeline

- a. Offer financial incentives to keep girls in school¹ and learning skills. This will delay age at marriage² and contribute to more equal opportunities for girls in higher education and the labor market.

2. Dismantle barriers to Employment

- a. Invest in care services to increase women's labor market participation, generate employment, reduce poverty and inequality, stimulate tax revenue generation, and increase fiscal space. Invest in infrastructure to reduce drudgery and time poverty for women.³

3. Recognize and support the role of migrant care workers

- a. Apply existing labor rights norms and conventions to address care deficits in home and host countries, protect the rights of care workers in labor importing countries and ensure that migrant workers are able to claim these rights.

BACKGROUND

For the 2017 G20, the German government has prioritized commitments to reducing the male and female employment gap by 25 percent by 2025, and increasing the quality of women's employment. Investing in women can provide the greatest return for development, supporting greater individual and collective well-being, delaying the age at marriage, increasing incomes, and reducing poverty.

And yet despite significant investments in closing gender gaps in education and increasing primary enrollment and completion rates for both boys and girls, secondary enrollment and completion rates for girls remain markedly less than boys in some regions of the world.⁴

Furthermore, the responsibility for unpaid care work falls disproportionately on women and girls. This limits engagement in market activities, reduces productivity, and leads to concentration in low-paid or part-time, more insecure, informal, and home-based work.

And finally, G20 countries constitute 12 of the top 20 countries that import immigrant women into developed economies for care work, often in informal settings and without full access to social protection and labor rights.⁵ The consistent application of SDGs 5 and 8 linked to existing labor protections could address care deficits and protect the rights of care workers, while guaranteeing the effective implementation of [ILO Convention 189](#).

While the statement is not designed to be a consensus position of the contributors, it has been endorsed by InterAction's leadership. Each set of recommendations was developed and/or endorsed by a Policy Team of the G7/G20 Advocacy Alliance, listed below.

International Center for Research on Women,
Lyric Thompson (Lead) and Spogmay
Ahmed
Bread for the World, Faustine Wabwire
The Hunger Project, Mary Kate Costello

Save the Children, Jessica Brady
Women Thrive Worldwide, Emily Bove
Endorsers:
Mercy Corps

End Notes

¹ Such as conditional cash transfers and scholarships.

² Nanda, P., Datta, N., Pradhan, E., Das, P., and Lamba, S. (2016). "Making Change with Cash? Impact of a Conditional Cash Transfer Program on Age of Marriage in India," ICRW. https://www.icrw.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/IMPACT_Marriage_Webready.pdf and "Girls Not Brides. (2013). 'Ending Child Marriage: What Will it Take?' <http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Women/WRGS/ForcedMarriage/NGO/GirlsNotBrides.pdf>

³ United Nations General Assembly (2013). Report of the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights. A/68/293. <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N13/422/71/PDF/N1342271.pdf?OpenElement>.

Blackden, C. and Wodon, Q., eds. (2006). Gender, Time Use, and Poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa. Washington, DC: World Bank., Koolwal, G. and Van de Walle, D. (2009). Access to Water, Women's Work, and Child Outcomes. Washington, DC: World Bank., and Asian Development Bank.(2015). Balancing the Burden? Desk Review of Women's Time Poverty and Infrastructure in Asia and the Pacific. <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/177465/sdcc-balancing-burden.pdf>.

⁴ Particularly sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.

⁵ UN report Trends in International Migrant Stock: the 2015 Revision <http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/data/estimates2/estimates15.shtml>.