When the G7 leaders meet in June to discuss pressing global issues, it is imperative that they take action to address the needs of people living in the world’s poorest and most vulnerable countries. This paper contains the recommendations of the G7/G20 Advocacy Alliance (U.S.), a group of 54 non-governmental organizations. They call for the United States to play a leading role in encouraging the G7 to take the following actions:

### Education in Emergencies

**Lead:** Mark Engman, UNICEF USA ([MEngman@unicefusa.org](mailto:MEngman@unicefusa.org))

1. **Reinforce the commitment at last year’s Taormina G7 to invest in education and training as critical to boosting economic growth and to improving people’s quality of life, as adopted in the G7 People-Centered Action Plan on Innovation, Skills and Labor.**
   - Reinforce G7 commitment to the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), and work to increase pledges from the United States to reach the necessary $337.5 million over three years.

2. **Support a G7 declaration that recognizes the importance of quality education for all children and youth, including those affected by conflicts and crises, with a focus on girls.**
   - Recognize in the declaration that children in crises are most at risk of losing their education and their futures; and that girls are most affected.
   - State in the Declaration that the G7 recognizes education as a lifesaving intervention that must be included in any humanitarian response.
   - As education is both a humanitarian and a development priority, ensure that the G7 countries prioritize education across the continuum of rapid humanitarian response and long-term development programming by committing to multiyear funding, and working to see that education services are provided and sustained as soon as a crisis hits, throughout rehabilitation and long-term, sustainable development.
   - Commit G7 countries to increase overall ODA funding for education in emergencies over the next year; and to support Education Cannot Wait as a critical mechanism to provide access to education in emergencies and protracted crises, including at least $21 million from the United States.
Food Security and Nutrition

Lead: Eric Muñoz, Oxfam America (Eric.Munoz@Oxfam.org)

To make progress against the G7 collective commitment to lift 500 million people out of hunger and malnutrition by 2030, we call on the United States to:

1. **Maintain and strengthen complete, comprehensive, and transparent reporting on food security and nutrition investments through the financial reporting scorecard developed at Ise-Shima.**
   a. Produce a digital, accessible version of the scorecard, using open data rather than the current self-reporting, aligned with the Global Open Data for Agriculture & Nutrition efforts.
   b. Incorporate outcome-based scorecard indicators (e.g. stunting and wasting) to complement the existing set of output-based indicators. The U.S. should work with other donors to develop a set of indicators that will demonstrate and quantify how investment by G7 countries is contributing to lifting 500 million people out of hunger and malnutrition.

2. **Announce an ambitious U.S. roadmap or strategy for the 2020 Nutrition for Growth Summit to be hosted by the Government of Japan and encourage other donors to do the same.**

3. **Maintain and strengthen investment levels for food security and nutrition and use the G7 to leverage additional investments.** Investments should be aligned with country plans, which should be determined in a participatory and inclusive fashion, and should integrate nutrition, promote gender equality, and strengthen the resilience of communities.
   a. The U.S. should dedicate at least 50% of all agricultural programming to include nutrition, gender equality and women’s empowerment.
   b. Demonstrate leadership at the G7, as the U.S. did last year, by announcing new funding for emergency food insecurity and nutrition in the most vulnerable countries.

Gender Equality

Lead: Lyric Thompson, International Center for Research on Women (lthompson@icrw.org)

1. **Implement the G7 Roadmap for a Gender Responsive Economic Environment** setting clear timelines, targets, benchmarks, and reporting on progress, and expand its application to developing country contexts and development strategies. Achieve the target to reduce the gender gap in labor force participation by 25% by 2025 by investing 2% of GDP in the care economy, increasing investment in quality education and training, land tenure security, financial services and market access for female entrepreneurs. Ensure these investments reach women and girls in rural areas, and that all women workers – including migrants – are guaranteed decent work and living wages.

2. **Launch a Leaders’ Initiative on Women’s Workforce Development:** The U.S. should champion a leaders’ initiative to facilitate workforce development for women and young people for skilled and higher-paying jobs in low- and middle-income countries to help build foundational, transferable, and life skills; facilitate apprenticeships, internships, and mentorships; promote market access for female entrepreneurs; ensure that commitments to investment in care services and social infrastructure are fulfilled, and that time use surveys and national accounts are regularly updated.

3. **Ensure schools and workplaces are free of sexual harassment and gender-based violence (GBV)** by supporting a comprehensive and integrated ILO Convention and Recommendation on ‘Ending violence and harassment against women and men in the world of work,’ investing in efforts to reduce GBV directed at girls, and promoting girls’ access to safe, quality education in all settings, including rural areas, and in conflict and crisis.
Global Health

Lead: Danielle Heiberg, Global Health Council (dheiberg@globalhealth.org)

To fulfill G7 commitments, including the *Ise-Shima Vision for Global Health* and the $10 billion resource mobilization commitment in the *Muskoka Initiative*, G7 countries must:

1. **Commit to mobilize financing from multiple sources to achieve the “Working for Health” Five-Year Action Plan for Health Employment and Inclusive Economic Growth.**
   a. Foster investment aligned with the Workforce 2030 Strategy to accelerate progress on gender equality and inclusive growth, as women constitute 70% of the global health workforce (compared with 40% across all sectors), and health investments provide a 9:1 return.

2. **Strengthen public health preparedness by aligning the priorities of G7 countries to continue supporting the Global Health Security Agenda.**
   a. Enable countries to prevent and contain outbreaks through early detection and rapid response to infectious diseases and bioterrorism, utilizing a health systems strengthening approach, especially in highly-vulnerable countries, to ensure that people have access to proper or sufficient routine care and decrease the risk of infectious disease epidemics, as well as through cross-sectoral engagement to minimize risk and progression of infectious disease epidemics.
   b. Increase research and development funding for vaccines, drugs, diagnostics and other medical tools for new and emerging infectious disease threats.

3. **Fight the rise of antimicrobial resistance (AMR), including drug resistant TB (DR-TB).**
   a. Finance and support implementation of AMR National Action Plans and surveillance in G7 and developing countries.
   b. Ensure a One Health approach to antibiotic use.
   c. Invest in R&D of new antibiotics and support innovative financing models like the global AMR R&D Hub.
   d. Prioritize DR-TB within G7 efforts, as it is the leading cause of AMR-related deaths, including demonstrating strong political commitment for the UN High-Level Meeting on TB.

Peace and Security

Lead: Ann Vaughan (avaughan@mercycorps.org)

1. **Increase and Track funding for Civilian Peacebuilding, Prevention of Violence Against Women and Children, Recruitment of Child Soldiers and Organizations dedicated to Women’s Equality.** The G7 should increase funding for proven interventions that stop, prevent and mitigate against violence.
   a. Only ~1.5% of ODA goes towards these interventions. The G7 should commit to increasing funding and hold themselves accountable by tracking these OECD DAC categories within the G7 Progress Report.
   b. The G7 should commit to bridging short-term relief efforts with long-term development, including investing in social protection programs.

2. **Protect and Restore Respect for Civilians in Armed Conflict by:**
   a. Committing to minimize civilian harm in their own military conduct and security partnerships, while calling on all parties to respond in kind.
   b. Committing to transparency in reporting on civilian harm resulting from military operations and ensuring security sector assistance to partners is prioritizing IHL and civilian harm mitigation.
   c. Build capacity of security forces on civilian harm mitigation, adopt practical measures to exercise proportion and precaution in the conduct of hostilities, and conditioning security cooperation on IHL compliance.

3. **Launch a Five-Country Peace and Inclusive Security Initiative.** In countries in conflict/at high risk of conflict, coordinate efforts to resolve conflict, elevate peacebuilding and implement the Women Peace and Security Agenda.
Responsible Business Conduct
Lead: Daisy Francis, World Vision (dfrancis@worldvision.org)
In keeping with previous commitments, in their National Action Plans for Responsible Business Conduct, and in alignment with the Canadian priority on women and girl’s empowerment, as key to achieving sustainable growth, we call on G7 leaders to:

1. **Ensure that when looking at inclusive and equitable growth, that:**
   a. The needs and rights of the bottom third of the global population are integrated into all growth strategies.
   b. Economic development plans prioritize women- and youth-led small and medium sized enterprises and include adequate resources for capacity-strengthening to meet and operationalize global responsible business conduct standards, especially to prevent, detect, monitor, and eliminate exploitative labor, particularly child labor, in their supply chains.

2. **Recognize that a focus on jobs of the future should not come at the expense of “jobs of the past”** where traditionally women/girls/children are overwhelmingly represented, in sectors such as agriculture and manufacturing (especially clothing, textiles, and shoes). G7 members agreed, via Agenda 2030, to leave no one behind, meaning that:
   a. Investments in traditional areas of work are still needed for those who will remain far removed from the benefits of shifts to either a knowledge-based or technology-led jobs economy.
   b. Safeguards are required to promote full and productive adult employment and decent working conditions, per the ILO standards.

Sustainability: Climate, Energy, and Infrastructure
Lead: Jesse Young, Oxfam America (Jesse.Young@Oxfam.org)

1. **Reaffirm support for the Paris Agreement and its implementation by:**
   a. Revising and strengthening their “nationally determined contributions” in the 2020 period to reduce carbon emissions and advance adaptation;
   b. Scaling up financing for low-carbon development in poor and vulnerable countries, in light of the commitment by the nations of the Climate Vulnerable Forum to transition to 100% renewable energy by 2050;
   c. Welcoming the findings of the final Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report on 1.5° C (to be released in late 2018).

2. **Urge international financial institutions to adopt climate-friendly policies by:**
   a. Welcoming the World Bank’s decision to stop financing upstream oil and gas projects beyond 2019, and urge all other multilateral development banks (MDBs) to do the same;
   b. Welcoming and urging the swift implementation of the 2017 MDB commitment to embed climate change considerations and promote the mainstreaming of climate action throughout the development finance community;
   c. Use of transparent screening tools by MDBs and project preparation facilities to determine whether infrastructure projects meet standards for social, environmental and economic integrity – as well as full disclosure of project information, contracts, and fees.

3. **Carry forward the work of the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) through:**
   a. Endorsement of full implementation by 2020 of the TCFD disclosure recommendations by national central banking institutions;
   b. Setting a target of 60% of market capitalization by G7 financial institutions having adopted the recommendations;
   c. Streamlined regulatory compliance rules to ease the adoption of Task Force recommendations by major G7-domiciled financial institutions.
BACKGROUND

Education in Emergencies

The U.S. strongly supports providing access to education as an international development priority, as evidenced by continued funding for education in foreign assistance, the passage of the READ Act last year that reinforces the centrality of education to U.S. international development efforts, and past support for GPE.

Despite efforts by the United States and G7 partners, more than 260 million children and youth are out of school worldwide, with girls still more likely to be out of school than boys in most of the developing world. Nearly 40 percent of the world’s children of primary school age cannot read, write, or count. We know that we cannot end extreme poverty without education. If all students in low-income countries left school with basic reading skills, 171 million people could be lifted out of poverty.4

Children facing crisis and conflict are especially at risk. At least 75 million children and youth in crisis-affected countries face challenges to their education.5 Although families and children affected by crises call education a top priority, humanitarian responses for education are short-term, ad hoc, and grossly underfunded. In 2016, education received only 2.7% of total humanitarian aid.6

In these vulnerable contexts, girls are 2.5 times more likely to be out of school than boys,7 putting girls at heightened risk of trafficking, early, and forced marriage, early pregnancy, and gender-based violence. There is strong evidence that girls’ education is one of the most powerful investments to protect girls and help break cycles of poverty and violence. Investing in education can be a turning point for women’s empowerment and the long-term health, peace and prosperity of entire communities and countries.

Education Cannot Wait is the world’s first global fund dedicated to education in emergencies. It was established during the World Humanitarian Summit to reposition education as a priority on the humanitarian agenda, usher in a more collaborative approach among actors on the ground, and foster additional funding to ensure access to education for 75 million children and youth living in crisis-hit countries.

With U.S. leadership, the G7 can do much more to ensure quality education for all children, especially so that children affected by crisis do not lose their futures.

Food Security and Nutrition

In 2016 the number of chronically undernourished people in the world increased to 815 million, up from 777 million in 2015. This is the first increase in more than ten years, and a striking departure from the steady progress made against hunger and malnutrition globally over the last several decades.8

Conflict – along with crop failures caused by extreme weather conditions – are major drivers of this trend. Current high levels of hunger are concentrated in several countries where conflict and political instability are present, including South Sudan, Somalia, and Yemen. Addressing the underlying factors that allow hunger and malnutrition to persist is not just a humanitarian responsibility, it is crucial for US national interests and global prosperity.

Since the 2015 commitment at Schloss Elmau, subsequent G7 leaders’ declarations have reaffirmed the commitment to reduce hunger and malnutrition by 500 million people. They have also affirmed the need to mobilize new financial resources to achieve this goal. Yet, in the absence of financial pledges since 2015 and with current levels of investment, it is unlikely that this goal will be reached. G7 donors should act on their commitment to scale-up needed investments that are responsive to locally identified needs.
Tackling hunger and malnutrition requires focusing greater support and attention to the women and men who produce a majority of the world’s food in developing countries. Smallholder producers in Africa – half of whom are women - manage up to 80% of farmland and are responsible for the majority of food produced there. Yet, they struggle to grow, catch, raise, buy or consume enough nutritious food due to a lack of equitable access to financial and natural resources, information, markets, water, or secure land tenure. When given the proper support, farmers play a central role in local food systems and economies, producing nutritious food, earning an income to meet the needs of their families and contributing to broader rural development. G7 members, in partnership with developing country governments and other actors, have committed to address these challenges and can have a significant impact on economic development by reducing hunger and malnutrition.

Gender Equality

It’s time to shift the way G7 countries approach economic development by focusing on women and girls as key economic actors and making the investments that will be required to level the playing field for them. Investing in women and girls can provide the greatest return for development, supporting greater individual and collective well-being, delaying age at marriage and first birth, increasing incomes, reducing hunger, malnutrition, poverty, and improving stability and security.

However, secondary educational enrollment and completion rates for girls remain markedly less than boys in some regions of the world, female labor force participation rates often lag behind, and women worldwide struggle to access good-paying jobs. Furthermore, the responsibility of unpaid care work falls disproportionately on women and girls – particularly those in rural areas. 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.

Moreover, 6 of the G7 countries are among the top 20 migrant destinations where women make up a significant proportion of migrants, many of whom end up working in the care and health sectors, often in informal employment and without access to social protection and labor rights. 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 effective implementation of ILO Convention 189 on decent work for domestic workers.

Finally, gender-based violence continues to be a pervasive expression of gender inequality worldwide. Working to eradicate violence, address the social norms that condone and protect aggressors, and uncovering habituation to the status quo can provide the basis for lasting transformation. Addressing violence in schools, universities, and the workplace will prove fundamental to removing one of the most persistent and pernicious barriers to women’s economic empowerment and gender equality worldwide. Support for the ILO standard on “Ending violence and harassment against women and men in the world of work,” as well as SDGs 5 and 16, will be critical to achieving this.

Global Health

By investing in global health, the United States, in partnership with G7 leaders and member states, has been successful in slowing the spread of HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases, reducing maternal and child deaths, preventing malnutrition, and improving responses to health emergencies and disasters. Moreover, these investments increase access to quality health services provided by health workers with the right skills, and the right supplies in the right places, leading not to just healthier communities, but greater economic and social stability.

A strong health system and infrastructure are core components in building capacity to prevent, detect, and respond to emerging infectious disease outbreaks and bioterrorism, as well as the growing threat that
antimicrobial resistance (AMR) poses. In October 2017, partner countries to the Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA) reaffirmed their commitment to this initiative. Continual support of the GHSA furthers countries’ capacity for research, surveillance, and response efforts that prevent a global pandemic.

WHO and World Bank estimate at least half the world’s population cannot obtain essential health services – a central reason being lack of access to trained and supported health workers, particularly in LMICs. Investment in health has proven to have a 9:1 return on investment, holding potential to catalyze inclusive economic growth with a particularly striking impact for women, who constitute 70% of the health workforce (compared with 40% across all employment sectors). The highest burden of every disease/issue addressed in SDG3 are where health workforces and systems are weakest. Ten billion (USD) matches the mobilization commitment made in the Muskoka Initiative (2010 Canada).

Peace and Security

According to the UN and World Bank, “Violent conflict is increasingly recognized as one of the biggest obstacles to reaching the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.”15 Violence and violent conflict are on the rise, affecting millions of innocent men, women, and children around the globe – and that number continues to climb. These trends threaten to erode global development, undercut gender equity, worsen humanitarian crises, and pull finite resources away from tackling development challenges. For example:

- Violence costs the global economy $14.3 trillion a year, or 13.4% of world GDP.16
- Violence has caused the worst displacement crisis the world has seen since WWII, with over 66 million people uprooted from their homes. Humanitarian appeals are the highest they have ever been: just 10 years ago, 80% of humanitarian aid went to help victims of natural disaster, while today 80% of humanitarian aid goes to people fleeing violence, violent conflict and oppression.
- Armed conflicts are becoming more deadly for civilians.17 In just the first 11 months of 2017, there was a 42% increase in civilian deaths from explosive weapons compared to 2016.18
- In 2017, the number of hungry people increased for the first time in years, in large part because of conflict. Sixty percent of the world’s hungry are living in countries affected by conflict; of those 122 million are children.19
- Research increasingly finds exposure to violence as a predictor of future participation in violence or terrorism.20 Individuals who experience violence from state security forces, witness a drone strike on their community, or grow up in violent households are more likely to support intergroup violence at some point in their lives.21

Previous G7 communiques have called for addressing root causes (Para 28, 2017 Communique) and ‘genuine commitment’ to solving conflicts (Para 6, 2017 Communique). Yet few advancements have been made. Considering the damage violence is having on global stability and development goals, now is the time for the G7 to take specific steps to stop and prevent further conflict; and improve the conditions of civilians already trapped in and affected by conflict.

Responsible Business Conduct

The Canadian government’s framing of the 2018 G7 agenda, under the umbrella of gender equality and women’s empowerment, offers a broad lens for examining and strengthening current and past commitments on Responsible Business Conduct. Additionally, the thematic architecture of the Canadian G7 offers additional lenses to examine gaps and offer remedies to more fully serve those often left out of the G7’s deliberations. Two of these critical themes are:
Investing in Inclusive and Equitable Growth

There is growing recognition that the current disparity, between those who make up the upper third of economies and those who occupy the bottom third, is neither sustainable nor conducive to any global economic growth agenda. Strategic investments are needed to rebalance this system and promote stable environments that enable participation from every strata and segment of society. Additionally, an intentional process is required, to ensure the inclusion of those traditionally not factored into global growth plans, as well as an infusion of resources that look to build and/or strengthen the capacity of new participants in national and global growth schemes.

Preparing for Jobs of the Future

While focusing on identifying what constitutes the ‘jobs of the future,’ it is important that the G7 member states not lose sight of what constitutes the ‘jobs of the past,’ where most of the labor is done by women and children (agricultural work; factory and other low-paying industries, especially in supply chain and service industries; etc.), and where the danger of exploitative labor is high. The future economy will likely need both types of work and so it is imperative that safeguards are in place to ensure just and humane working conditions; fair remuneration for work done; and, equitable investments from governments in both forms of labor. The technological revolution – or increasing investment preferences for technology jobs – may create even greater gender inequity and the potential for hidden work that exploits unskilled/lesser skilled labor.

This also means the G7 should commit to promoting full and productive adult employment and decent work, as advanced by the ILO, as well as working to realize Target 8.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals, where governments committed to eradicate child labor in all its forms by 2025.

Sustainability: Climate, Energy, and Infrastructure

The Paris Agreement includes a process by which countries can affirm or update their national climate pledges by 2020. This moment could provide an opportunity to raise the overall strength of both developed and developing countries’ efforts to transition to low-carbon economies.

Later this year, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) will release a scientific special report detailing efforts needed to stay below the Paris Agreement’s goal of limiting global emissions to 1.5° C. This report is expected to detail the severe impacts already being felt around the world due to climate change and illustrate the profound need to limit them.

Multilateral development banks are a major funder of infrastructure in developing countries. When their financing policies change, it sends a powerful signal to private capital markets. The G7 has previously affirmed its support for the elimination of “inefficient fossil fuel subsidies” by 2025. According to the IEA, global subsidies for fossil fuels outpace subsidies for renewables by nearly $100 billion annually.

Finally, the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) released their final recommendations in 2017, which provide a detailed roadmap by which financial institutions can better prepare for and reflect climate-related risks in their investment portfolios. Many major banks and businesses have pledged to voluntarily adopt these standards. That progress needs to continue to ensure that global capital markets effectively quantify and price climate risk.
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 by a policy team of the G7/G20 Advocacy Alliance. Those policy teams, along with endorsing organizations, are listed below by issue. This Policy Paper will be available on the InterAction website: www.InterAction.org.

**Education in Emergencies**
UNICEF USA, Mark Engman (Lead)
Global Campaign for Education – U.S., Jennifer Rigg and Jessie Diamond
International Rescue Committee, Jamie Weiss-Yagoda
Jesuit Refugee Service, Giulia McPherson
*Endorsers:*
World Vision

**Food Security and Nutrition**
Oxfam America, Eric Muñoz (Lead)
1,000 Days, Danielle Porfido and Kim Cernak
Bread for the World, Jordan Teague
*Endorsers:*
Center for Democratic Education

**Gender Equality**
International Center for Research on Women, Lyric Thompson (Lead), Spogmay Ahmed, and Teresa Casale
Bread for the World, Faustine Wabwire
The Hunger Project, Mary Kate Costello
IntraHealth International, Sam Rick
Mercy Corps, Emily Schaefer
ONE Campaign, Megan O’Donnell
Save the Children, Grace Choi
Women Thrive, Emily Bove and Mónica Hancke
*Endorsers:*
Center for Democratic Education

**Global Health**
Global Health Council, Danielle Heiberg (Lead)
Global Health Technology Coalition, Jamie Bay Nishi

**IntraHealth International, Vince Blaser and Arush Lal**
TB Alliance, Erin Morton
UN Foundation, Samantha Chivers
*Endorsers:*
Center for Democratic Education
World Vision

**Peace and Security**
Mercy Corps, Ann Vaughan (Lead)
Alliance for Peacebuilding, Laura Strawmyer
Bread for the World, Faustine Wabwire
*Endorsers:*
World Vision

**Responsible Business Conduct**
World Vision, Daisy Francis (Lead)
Solidarity Center, Molly McCoy
Trade Union Sustainable Development Unit, Robert Lovelace
UNICEF USA, Mark Engman
*Endorsers:*
Center for Democratic Education

**Sustainability: Climate, Energy, and Infrastructure**
Oxfam America, Jesse Young (Lead) and Sasanka Thilakasiri
Bank Information Center, Jolie Schwarz
Heinrich Boell Foundation, Nancy Alexander
The Nature Conservancy, Linda Krueger and John Verdieck
Union of Concerned Scientists, Alden Meyer
*Endorsers:*
Center for Democratic Education
End Notes


2 The five-year action plan was adopted at the 70th World Health Assembly and supports Member States to effectively implement the recommendations of the *High Level Commission on Health Employment and Economic Growth*.

3 The Global Health Security Agenda was launched in 2014 and is a partnership of nations, international organizations, and non-government actors to promote global health security.


8 The reversal is most notable in parts of sub-Saharan Africa, Southeastern Asia, and Western Asia.


10 Particularly sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.


