

G7/G20 ADVOCACY ALLIANCE (U.S.)

# G20 Gender Recommendations

## 2019 G20 Summit: Osaka, Japan

When G20 leaders meet on June 28-29 in Osaka, Japan 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 more than 40 U.S.-based nongovernmental organizations. They call for the United States to play a leading role in encouraging the G20 to take the following actions.

On the second anniversary of the We-Fi (Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative), and building on the new Women's Global Development and Prosperity (W-GDP) initiative, the U.S. should work with G20 countries to advance new commitments – and accountability on past commitments – on women's economic empowerment.

1. Reduce unpaid care burdens through a signature initiative investing 2% of GDP in the care economy<sup>1</sup> and increase investment in quality education and training, land tenure security, financial services, and market access for women entrepreneurs. Investments must be tailored to reach rural women and be published in a public accountability report documenting progress on this and all G20 commitments on gender equality and women's economic empowerment.
2. Launch a Leaders' Initiative on Women's Workforce Development that:
  - a. Facilitates workforce development for women and young people for skilled and higher-paying jobs in low- and middle-income countries to help build foundational and transferable life skills, and facilitate women's opportunities to build an asset base;
  - b. Facilitates apprenticeships, internships, and mentorships; and
  - c. Promotes market access and secure land and property rights for women entrepreneurs.

Comments or questions on specific recommendations should be addressed to:

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3. Building on the W-GDP Initiative’s commitment to strengthening the enabling environment for women’s economic empowerment, the U.S. should work with G20 countries to ensure:
  - a. Equal protection of/access to land, and secure property and inheritance rights, including through educating girls and communities on land rights;
  - b. Schools and workplaces are free from sexual harassment and gender-based violence; and
  - c. The repeal or amendment of gender-discriminatory laws and policies.<sup>2</sup>

## Background

The U.S. has taken a leadership role at the G20 in promoting women’s economic empowerment (WEE) through the establishment of the Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative (We-Fi), and bilaterally, through commitments to promote women workers and entrepreneurs, and foster an enabling environment for WEE. As such, there is ample room to address gendered challenges women face as economic actors. Girls’ secondary educational enrollment and completion rates remain lower, women’s labor force participation rates lag, and women struggle to access good-paying jobs and land rights.

Unpaid care work falls disproportionately on women and girls, as does gender-based violence. At home and abroad, 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. Working to eradicate violence, address discriminatory laws and norms, address the burden of unpaid care, and invest in women’s workforce development will remove some of the most persistent barriers to women’s economic empowerment and gender equality worldwide.

## Endorsing Organizations

CARE USA

Center for Democratic Education

Global Communities

International Center for Research on Women

Oxfam America

Save the Children

The Hunger Project

World Vision U.S.

### ABOUT INTERACTION

InterAction is a convener, thought leader, and voice for nearly 200 NGOs working to eliminate extreme poverty, strengthen human rights and citizen participation, safeguard a sustainable planet, promote peace, and ensure dignity for all people.

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<sup>1</sup> For example, agriculture, nutrition, health, child and elder care, social infrastructure, etc.

<sup>2</sup> This includes those limiting women's and girls' legal and civic status, their ability to obtain credit or register businesses, or limiting women's mobility or workforce participation, as well as those that serve as barriers to girls' access to education, including those that allow child marriage, permit discriminatory school admissions criteria, such as excluding pregnant girls or already married girls, and those that restrict girls' freedom of movement.