

Women 20 Dialogue Recommendations

Diverse, Resilient and Viable – Stabilising Economies and Societies Through Women's Empowerment

The main goal of Women 20 (W20) is to promote women's economic empowerment as an integral part of the G20 process. In a broad dialogue using digital tools, expert meetings and roundtables as well as the W20 Summit, W20 joins the global experiences of women's civil society organizations and women's entrepreneur associations to implement strong recommendations within the G20 negotiations.

Diversity and full participation are essential for fostering the resilient, sustainable and viable growth of stable economies and societies, whereas homogeneous systems bear risks and uncertainties. Women's economic empowerment is thus fundamental for a prosperous world and essential for economic growth, stable economies and social development.

First of all, **W20 urges the G20 to set up a working group on gender-inclusive growth** in order to establish women's economic empowerment as a cross-sectional main topic in the G20, in addition to monitoring and measuring relevant progress. **Therefore**, with the contribution of the OECD, the IMF, and independent experts, this will enable relevant government departments and ministers across the G20 countries, to work on women's economic empowerment.

In 2017, W20 will focus on the following three pillars:

- **Labour market inclusion:**
Increasing the labour market participation rate and the value of work traditionally done by women
- **Financial inclusion:**
Promoting female entrepreneurship and access to finance for women
- **Digital inclusion:**
Closing the digital gender divide

1. Labour market inclusion

Increasing the labour market participation rate and the value of work traditionally done by women

Women 20 stresses the importance of reconfirming the Brisbane agreement on reducing the gender gap by 25 per cent by 2025 and calls on the G20 for the effective implementation of '25 by 25'. In regards to the globally-agreed Agenda 2030 with special focus on SDG 5, 'Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls', it is crucial to think ahead and to focus on how women participate in the labour market.

Women 20 urges the G20 to:

- Achieve '25 by 25' by defining milestones and indicators, as well as committing to binding monitoring standards of its implementation in all G20 states
- Narrow and finally close the gender pay gap in order to significantly increase global growth and reduce poverty and inequality
- Appoint nationally-determined gender targets for the corporate advisory boards of joint-stock companies
- Promote work-life-balance for women and men by encouraging equal share of paid work and unpaid care and domestic work
- Ensure sustainable livelihood for employed and self-employed women
- Increase the value of care work and domestic work traditionally done by women by including it in the GDP measurements

2. Financial Inclusion

Promoting female entrepreneurship and access to finance for women

The G20 has not yet fully acknowledged the potential of entrepreneurship as another driver of growth. Female entrepreneurship as well as women's access to finance, including full legal capacity for all women, should therefore be promoted by improving access to credit and investor networks, training, information services and technical support.

Women 20 urges the G20 to:

- Abolish laws and standards that inhibit women's full legal capacity
- Ensure women's access to financial and productive assets as well as to markets
- launch specific programmes to support female entrepreneurs, helping them not only to overcome start-up barriers, but also to grow and sustain their businesses, including via trade
- Increase the share of public procurement sourced to companies that meet specified gender criteria
- Update the Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion (GPI), with a particular focus on access to finance and bank facilities for women

3. Digital inclusion

Closing the digital gender divide

The digital revolution is one of the greatest opportunities and yet also one of the greatest challenges for the global economy. W20 calls on the G20 to pay special attention on narrowing and removing the digital gender divide with regard to the access to, use of, or impact of information and communication technologies (ICT).

Women 20 urges the G20 to:

- Tackle gender segregation, especially in the area of STEM, by addressing it in the education system, in corporate development, and through new role models
- Set up an action plan for women to gain equal access to ICT, providing effective digital skills training, setting targets for women and girls to study STEM, and supporting women-owned enterprises and innovation in the ICT sector
- Strengthen the capacity of women to undertake ICT-based entrepreneurship and employment, for example by establishing funds for female start-ups and tax incentives for businesses run by women
- Invest in the research and development of digital tools helping to achieve a sustainable livelihood in addition to the work life balance needed for increasing the labour force participation of women and the quality of work
- Support women's social entrepreneurship
- Set up gender criteria in science and development
- Strengthen women's economic, social and political networks

Women 20 calls on the G20 to recognise the existing challenges for women, in order for women to achieve their full economic potential. Tackling these challenges will ensure not only social justice but will also significantly increase global growth. To be successful, Women 20 urges the G20 to set up concrete **action plans** to ensure women's full economic empowerment. Formalized **monitoring and measuring** of the process must be mandatory to ensure their implementation. Women 20 urges the G20 to implement the **Agenda 2030** with special focus on the implementation of SDG 5 as well as the **Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action**, taking into account the **CEDAW Principles** and the **Women's Empowerment Principles**. The successful global **implementation of these agreements is crucial for the empowerment of women**, families and new generations and will also **combat causes of migration**.

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