



## **“Digitalisation: for a digital Future”**

### **High-Level Round Table of the Women in Parliaments Global Forum and Women 20 Germany 2017**

Düsseldorf, Germany

On 5. and 6. April 2017, the Women in Parliaments Global Forum (WIP), the international network of female politicians, and Women 20 Germany 2017, the official engagement group of the G20 Germany 2017 Presidency, convened women politicians from G20 countries, as well as representatives of international institutions in Düsseldorf. The high-level round table took place in connection with the G20 Minister of Digital Affairs Meeting, and German Minister of Economic Affairs Brigitte Zypries brought the outcomes of the WIP – W20 Roundtable to the attention of the G20 Ministers.

The main recommendations are:

Empowering women will improve sustainability of G20 economies in shaping an interconnected world. The G20’s “25 by 25” target of reducing the female labour force participation gap by 25% up to 2025 is a good step. However, progress so far has been very slow: the gender gap in labour force has narrowed only by 0.7 percentage points between 2012 and 2015 across the G20 countries. **As an absolute fundamental need, member state policies towards the “25 by 25” target need to be published.** These policies must essentially address the following areas:

- Full legal capacity of women;
- Unhindered access for women to productive and financial resources, at equal terms;
- Equal access for women business enterprises and female cooperatives to markets and into global value chains;
- Measurement and redistribution of unpaid domestic and care work;
- Equal pay and pension rights for equal and equivalent work;
- Equally decent working conditions for men and women;
- Equitable representation of women in decision-making positions.

While gender equality encourages growth, growth on its own is not sufficient to advance gender equality. **G20 policies should systematically integrate gender analysis into all of its agenda and policy frameworks.** This must include improving data collection on gender differences, making gender part of its monitoring of international financial organizations, and

using gender equality indicators to assess progress within the G20 and internationally. Equally, this will require the inclusion of gender experts in all G20 processes.

Information and communication technologies (ICT) are another key driver for achieving the sustainable development goals established in the 2030 Agenda. **G20 should recognise digital inclusion as a human right.** However, next to enormous opportunities, digitisation brings along serious threats for workplaces and businesses currently held by women, as described by the WEF The Future of Jobs report 2016. **G20 has to swiftly close the diverging digital gender divide by adopting the G7's Women's Initiative in Developing STEM Career (WINDS) and setting up a scheme for gender-equal digital transformation.** The scheme must be underpinned with a financing plan for a comprehensive five-year STEM and ICT education and encouragement campaign to be implemented by each G20 member state.

The above policy recommendations are an extract of the official W20 Germany 2017 Communiqué. The participants of the joint Women in Parliaments Global Forum – W20 Roundtable on “Digitalisation: Policies for a digital Future” support and endorse the recommendations, and request of G20 leaders to fully recognize and incorporate them.