



GREATER SOCIAL JUSTICE IN A GLOBAL WORLD

JUNE 6TH AND 7TH 2019 - PARIS



MEETING OF THE G7 MINISTERS OF LABOUR
G7 SOCIAL
6 & 7 JUNE 2019, PARIS

PRESS KIT

EDITORIAL



Making the fight against inequality its main priority, the French presidency of the G7 offers us a historic opportunity to commit ourselves resolutely to building a globalised world that is fairer for all.

Because it is our responsibility to work together for **greater social justice in a globalised world**, I will have the honour of welcoming my fellow G7 Ministers of Labour and the European Commissioner for Employment on the occasion of the G7 Social on 6 and 7 June 2019 in Paris. I have also invited international bodies to join us: the UN, through the President of its General Assembly, the ILO, the OECD, the IMF, the World Bank and the World Trade Organisation, as well as French, European and international social partners represented by the L7 and the B7.

On the eve of the International Labour Organisation's centenary, I will be inviting the members of the G7 Social to call for stricter compliance **with international labour standards in finance and trade** and to promote new labour regulations for **a sustainable and inclusive future**.

"I am convinced that the G7 Social will be an opportunity to combine our strengths to regulate globalisation in order to ensure greater protection and open up new opportunities for our fellow citizens."

Social protection is the first line of protection against the vicissitudes of life. However, over half the world's population, most of them working in the informal economy, still do not enjoy any form of social protection. That is why we will be giving a strong commitment to universal access to appropriate social protection systems in order to arm individuals against the uncertainties of a labour market undergoing swift and far-reaching change.

The world of work is changing fast, and within 20 years half of all jobs will have been transformed by digitisation or artificial intelligence. One thing is certain: the future of work is in our hands. With my G7 partners, we will put forward a coordinated action plan to promote decent employment in the gig economy.

Faced with massive and increasingly fast-moving digital transformation, we will share our solutions for substantial investment in the skills of young people, women and the less qualified, so that no-one is left behind.

My first priority, the fight against gender inequality, will also be on the G7 Social agenda, with a particular focus on equal employment and combating violence and harassment in the workplace. Representatives of the G7 Gender Equality Advisory Council have been invited to contribute to our discussions on this point.

I am convinced that the G7 Social will be an opportunity to **combine our strengths to regulate globalisation** in order to ensure greater protection and open up new opportunities for our fellow citizens.

Muriel Pénicaud
Minister of Labour



THE G7: SHARED VALUES AND A DESIRE FOR COORDINATED ACTION

The G7, or Group of Seven, is made up of seven countries: **Germany, Canada, the United States, France, Italy, Japan, and the United Kingdom.**

The European Union has also been involved in G7 activities since 1977. Together, the G7 nations account for **40% of global GDP and 10% of the world's population.** A distinctive feature of the group is that it has no legal existence, no permanent secretariat, and no ex officio members.

The presidency is held each year by one of the seven states, which provides the framework for the group's activities and sets the broad agenda.

The G7 was created to provide a coordinated response to the first oil crisis in 1975.

Since then, G7 heads of state and government have met annually to discuss issues such as peace and security, the fight against terrorism, development, education, health, the environment, and climate change, which all involve different stakeholders and require a joint response.

The G7 countries share a set of core values: **democracy, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, the free market, and respect for international law.**

The French G7 presidency's priorities for the Biarritz Summit

France has held the presidency of the G7 since 1 January 2019. It takes over from Canada, which hosted the 2018 Summit, and will hand over the presidency to the United States next year.

The Biarritz Summit takes place on 24 to 26 August and will be the culmination of the French presidency.

Five major priorities have been set for this Summit:

- fighting inequality of opportunity, highlighting gender equality, and promoting access to education and high-quality health services;
- **reducing environmental inequality** by providing increased funding for climate initiatives and pursuing an equitable ecological transition, with a particular focus **on preserving biodiversity and the oceans**;
- promoting fairer and more equitable business, tax and development policies;
- **implementing peace initiatives to combat security threats and terrorism, which undermine the foundations of our societies**;
- harnessing the opportunities offered by digital technology and artificial intelligence in an ethical and human-centred way.

The G7 Summit will also be characterised by a renewed partnership with Africa, with an emphasis on three priorities:

1. creating sustainable employment

2. supporting entrepreneurship, with a particular focus on women

3. enhancing and predicting conditions for effective investment

Working with its G5 Sahel partners, the G7 will launch an initiative focusing on the Sahel, offering additional support for the Sahel Alliance, as well as promoting increased human development activity through education and health. Enhanced economic prospects, greater resilience to crises, and **increased action against trafficking will round off the agenda to support this region.**





LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT MINISTERIAL MEETING: THE G7 SOCIAL

The G7 Social's call to action and commitment to reducing inequality will be rolled out in four directions.

1) Call to Action for Social Justice in a Global World

Multilateral action takes the form of greater cooperation between States with the aim of establishing common rules that benefit the greatest number. Over the last few years, inward-looking national agendas and growing social inequality have caused citizens to become mistrustful of a form of globalisation that fails to protect, leaving more than one worker in two in the informal economy, whereas digital and environmental transformations should be opening up new opportunities.

In a world where economic, social and environmental challenges affect us all, we must put forward common responses to reduce social inequality. Given their economic power and the democratic values that drive them, **France and its G7 partners have a particular responsibility in this respect.**

On the occasion of the G7 Social, they will call for closer cooperation between States and international organisations in order to ensure more effective social regulation in world governance.

For over a hundred years, we have worked within the International Labour Organisation (ILO) to establish **common standards to protect the rights of working people**: access to work that is decently paid, freedom of association and freedom to express their demands, a ban on forced labour and child labour, the right to social security for workers and their dependants, and equal opportunity for all.



One of the most effective ways of preventing inequality and exclusion is to step up **integration of the ILO's international labour standards into the action programmes of other international organisations in the fields of finance and trade in order to ensure a sustainable and inclusive future.**

On this point, the **Minister of Labour proposes that her G7 partners set up a cycle of coordination and multilateral dialogue to promote social justice and reduce inequality.**

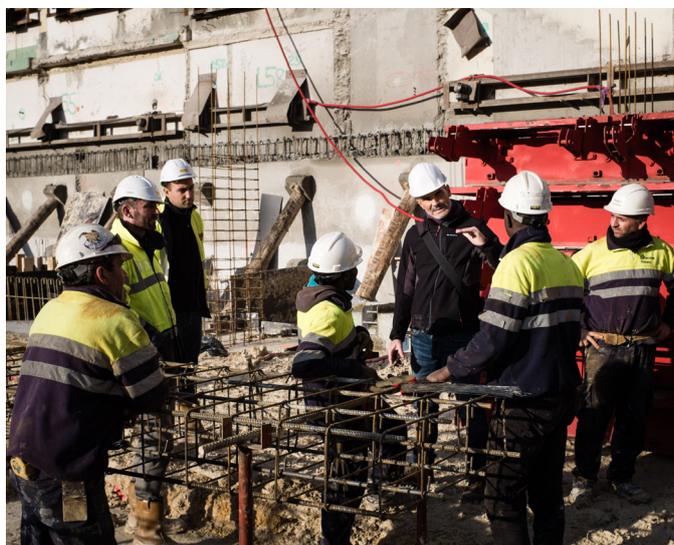
This will involve annual meetings of international organisations to **ensure compliance with international labour standards**, ensure that workers' social cover is not adversely affected by financial aid programmes to countries in difficulty and find joint solutions to the challenges of the changing nature of work. Special attention will be paid to the responsible conduct of multinational enterprises within global supply chains in order to guarantee the health and safety of workers worldwide.

This forum will foster joint action and produce regular progress reports.

2) Promoting Universal Access to Social Protection in a Changing World of Work

Nowadays, over half the world's population has no social protection against sickness, maternity, unemployment, old age or disability. This applies to over 60% of the active population around the world, who are in informal work. The lack of social cover against the uncertainties of daily life accentuates inequality to the detriment of sustainable and inclusive growth.

To put an end to this, **the members of the G7 will commit to guaranteeing social protection measures for their citizens that are both adapted to the new mobilities** required by the changing nature of work and inclusive because they are based on the principles of solidarity and risk-sharing.



Implementing these social protection systems will require **sustainable and equitable financing** based on a combination of contributions and taxes, social protection floors and a gradual increase in the level of benefits. They should be built up in each country with the participation of citizens and social partners.

France and its G7 partners will support global partnerships that bring together international organisations, financial institutions, social partners, development agencies and the private sector **to offer social protection floors to everyone everywhere by 2030.**

The Minister of Labour and her G7 partners will continue to exchange best practice in order to ensure universal social protection with the broadest possible cover and portability of rights in a constantly changing labour market.

They will share their ongoing reforms and most innovative practices at the "G7 Future of Work Forum" created under the Italian presidency, launched under the Canadian presidency and organised by the OECD.

3) Empowering Individuals for the Future of Work

The world of work is changing fast. Digital technologies, the gig economy, robotisation and artificial intelligence are transforming the labour market, creating job opportunities and improving productivity. However, they can also destroy or change jobs or cause working conditions to deteriorate, calling into question the quality of the jobs they create.

The members of the G7 Social agree on the importance of **guaranteeing decent working conditions for gig workers**, regardless of their status.



The Minister of Labour and her G7 partners will encourage statistical research into the gig economy in order to adapt their public policies and regulations, as part of a wider discussion taking account of their globalised nature, and by promoting voluntary codes of conduct and innovative mechanisms for social dialogue.

In order to support the changes taking place and facilitate the development of skills or retraining for workers, the G7 members are mobilised to address the risks and grasp the opportunities. France is committed to investing massively in skills enhancement, through the skills investment plan and the law on the freedom to choose one's professional future. **The G7 members aim to invest in skills, vocational training, lifelong learning and youth apprenticeships** to meet the new requirements of the labour market.

The Minister of Labour and her G7 partners aim to invest in lifelong learning in order to enhance workers' ability to adapt to new and shifting job requirements, especially in digital technology and artificial intelligence.

Effective policies for investment in training are essential in order to guarantee equal opportunity for all. The G7 members regard the acquisition of digital skills by the most vulnerable, especially young people and the low-skilled, as a priority.

4) Ensuring Gender Equality in the World of Work

Gender equality, which the President of the Republic has proclaimed the great cause of his term of office, must also be a global great cause. **Although progress has been made in recent years, the World Economic Forum reckons that at the current rate it will take at least another century to eliminate gender inequality.**

France and its G7 partners have taken innovative and ambitious measures to promote gender equality in the labour market. France has initiated a proactive policy with the "law on the freedom to choose one's professional future",

based on the principle of "equal pay for equal work" with the aim of finally achieving genuine equality in the workplace. Businesses are now required to correct existing career inequalities and pay gaps by 2022 and may be fined if they fail to do so. If necessary, they will have to devote a specific budget to closing the pay gap and checks will be carried out. **France and its G7 Social partners will share their instruments and policies in favour of gender equality** in the workplace in order to pursue existing efforts and promote new action in G7 countries and beyond.



The Minister of Labour and her G7 partners are committed to advancing gender equality in the workplace by:

- ending the gender pay gap once and for all;
- encouraging businesses to be transparent about and assess their pay gaps;
- introducing financial incentives and, if necessary, fines where the pay gap is not reduced;
- fostering the inclusion of women in the labour market and increasing their representation within decision-making bodies and the sectors where they are still under-represented, such as science & technology and engineering;
- enabling a better work-life balance;
- bringing an end to violence and harassment in the workplace.



THE COMMITMENTS OF THE G7 SOCIAL

The conclusions of the meeting of the G7 Ministers of Labour and the European Commissioner for Employment and Social Affairs will be published at the end of the ministerial meeting on 7 June. They will contribute to the solutions agenda that will be presented at the Heads of State Summit in Biarritz from 24 to 26 August, in particular to strengthen social justice in globalisation.

Those results will also be taken into account during other international events organised in 2019

- the International Labour Conference, held in the context of the ILO's centenary, from 10 to 21 June 2019;
- the meeting of G20 Ministers of Labour on 1 and 2 September in Matsuyama, Japan;
- the meeting of the UN General Assembly in September 2019.



LIST OF GUESTS

G7 members

Canada

M. Graham Flack, Deputy Minister, Employment and Social Development

European Union

Ms Marianne Thyssen, Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Labour Mobility

France

Ms Muriel Pénicaud, Minister of Labour

Germany

Mr Hubertus Heil, Federal Minister of Labour and Social Affairs

Italy

Mr Claudio Cominardi, Undersecretary of State for Labour and Social Affairs

Japan

Mr Akira Miyakawa, Vice-Minister for Policy Coordination, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare

United Kingdom

Baroness Buscombe, Minister for Work and Pensions in the House of Lords

United States

Mr Alexander Acosta, Secretary of Labour

International organisations

International Labour Organization

Mr Guy Ryder, Director-General

International Monetary Fund

Mr David Coady, Division Chief of the Expenditure Policy Division, Fiscal Affairs Department

Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development

Ms Gabriela Ramos, Chief of Staff and Sherpa to the G20

World Bank Group

Ms Annette Dixon, Vice President, Human Development

World Trade Organization

Mr Yonov Frederick Agah, Deputy Director-General



Social partners

Mr Bernard Spitz, President, Fédération Française de l'Assurance, Representative of B7

Mr Pierre Habbard, General Secretary, Trade Union Advisory Committee to the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, Representative of L7

Mr Erol Kiresepi, President, International Organisation of Employers

Ms Sharan Burrow, General Secretary, International Trade Union Confederation

Mr Maxime Cerutti, Director for Social Affairs, Business Europe

Mr Luca Visentini, General Secretary, European Trade Union Confederation

Mr Russel Mills, Secretary General, Business at OECD, BIAC

Ms Elisabeth Tomé-Gertheinrichs, Deputy Director General for social policies, Mouvement des Entreprises de France

Mr Laurent Berger, General Secretary, Confédération française démocratique du travail

Mr Eric Chevee, Vice-President for Social Affairs, Confédération des Petites et Moyennes Entreprises

Ms Marjorie Alexandre, Confederal Secretary, Force Ouvrière

Members of the G7 Gender Equality Advisory Council

Ms Irene Natividad, President of the GlobeWomen Research and Education Institute, President of the Global Summit of Women and Chair of Corporate Women Directors International

Ms Mercedes Erra, Executive President of Havas Worldwide and founder of BETC

PROGRAM

Day 1 – Thursday, June 6th Pavillon Élysée

18:15 Welcoming of Delegations and Ministers

19:00 **Interventions of speakers:**
Ms Muriel Pénicaud, Minister of Labour, France
Mr Jean-Marc Borello, Group SOS
Mr Thierry Marx, chef
Ms Irene Natividad, President, Global Summit of Women, Member of the G7 Gender Equality Advisory Council
Ms Mercedes Erra, CEO, Havas Worldwide, Member of the G7 Gender Equality Advisory Council
Ms Nicole Abar, former member of the French women's national football team, three-time champion of France

Participants: all Delegations

19:30 – 19:35 Group photo with Ministers and delegates

19:35 **Dinner**
Intervention of Mr Stefan Löfven, Prime Minister, Sweden

Day 2 – Friday, June 7th Hôtel du Châtelet

8:00 – 9:00 Welcoming / Bilateral meetings

9:00 – 9:30 **Opening speech, Ms Muriel Pénicaud, Minister of Labour, France**
Participants: G7 Members, OECD, ILO

9:30 – 10:30 **Working Session: Empowering Individuals for the Future of Work**

Opening remarks, Ms Muriel Pénicaud, Minister of Labour, France
Participants: G7 Members, OECD, ILO

10:30 – 11:15 Bilateral meetings

11:15 – 12:00 **Working Session: Promoting Universal Access to Social Protection in a Changing World of Work**

Opening remarks, Ms Muriel Pénicaud, Minister of Labour, France
Participants: G7 Members, OECD, ILO

- 12:00 – 12:45** **Working Session: Ensuring Gender Equality in the World of Work**
Opening remarks, Ms Muriel Pénicaud, Minister of Labour, France
Participants: G7 Members, OECD, ILO and the G7 Gender Equality Advisory Council
- 12:45 – 13:00** **Family photo**
- 14:30 – 15:45** **Working Session: Call to Action for Social Justice in a Global World**
Opening remarks, Ms Muriel Pénicaud, Minister of Labour, France
Participants: G7 Members, OECD, ILO, IMF, World Bank, WTO, United Nations General Assembly (by vidéo)
- 15:45 – 16:00** **Concluding remarks and endorsement of the Final Joint Communiqué**
Participants: G7 Members, OECD, ILO, IMF, World Bank, WTO
- 16:00 – 16:30** **Press point**
Participants: G7 Members
- 16:30 – 17:30** **Meeting of the G7 Ministers with the Social Partners**
Participants: G7 Members, OECD, ILO, Social Partners
- 17:30 – 18:00** **Press point**
Participants: G7 Members and Social Partners



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PRESS CONTACT

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