



CANADA CALLED FOR A FEMINIST G7: DID THE G7 DELIVER?

Delegates of the W7
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A REPORT CARD ON THE 2018 G7 COMMITMENTS TO GENDER EQUALITY

Presented by the International Center for Research on Women

In December 2017, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau promised unprecedented emphasis on women and girls over the course of this year's Group of Seven (G7) deliberations, signaling his intent to use Canada's presidency to show the world what his feminism would look like on the global stage.

In the lead-up to the Summit, Trudeau did all the right things: he consistently delivered a drumbeat of messages forecasting his intent to lead boldly in this arena. He and his delegates regularly touted the release of his government's Feminist International Assistance Policy. In a Facebook Live event in January, the PM announced a G7 policy agenda that for the first time looks not only at a single "women's issue" — but a focus on gender equality as one of five priority areas, and as an element that must be examined throughout all other themes. At Davos, he used his plenary address to announce the establishment of a Gender Equality Advisory Council of high-level advisors and challenged them to deliver "bold, feminist" ideas for him to champion on the G7 platform. Canada opened the process to public input and scrutiny with a cross-country public engagement strategy, public symposium around the finance ministerial, inclusion of young feminists in the

development ministerial, and a public event with the Council, which ultimately released a **comprehensive set of recommendations** spanning process and substance. They endorsed more than a hundred desired outcomes and recommendations across all of the G7's thematic tracks.

These actions, in addition to Canada's support for the first feminist Women Seven (W7) Summit, whose delegates represented global, feminist, intersectional activists from G7 as well as developing countries and were also invited to participate in the jobs ministerial, have elevated the G7 focus on gender. Yet the PM was hardly operating within a feminist context. The strong undertow of nationalism and populism in several G7 countries, not to mention the chauvinism of at least one of their leaders, presented a real challenge for such an agenda, particularly within the narrow confines of a consensus body.

So, did Trudeau's work achieve the goal of raising the G7 bar on gender equality and delivering feminist outcomes? The following report card measures the G7's progress in 2018 against stated goals¹, and will be used as the baseline to set expectations as we look ahead to France in 2019.

¹ This report card excludes the area of climate, as the ministerial meeting that will address this topic will not take place until the fall. It will be updated at that time.

OUTCOME AREA: GENDER EQUALITY AND A FEMINIST G7 PROCESS	RESULTS
RHETORICAL COMMITMENTS	<p>PM Trudeau:</p> <p>"I call on the Gender Equality Advisory Council to present bold, feminist proposals"</p> <p>"Thanks to the Council, we will make sure a focus on gender equality guides the work done at the G7 Leaders' Summit – and set a precedent for the G7 going forward." <i>Statements by PM, April 26, 2018</i></p> <p>"Gender equality must play a key role in creating lasting solutions to the challenges we face as a world – whether building economies that work for everyone, preparing for jobs of the future, fighting climate change, or advancing peace and security." <i>Statements by PM, April 26, 2018</i></p> <p>"We recognize that gender equality is fundamental for the fulfillment of human rights and is a social and economic imperative. ... We will continue to work to remove barriers to women's participation and decision-making in social, economic and political spheres as well as increase the opportunities for all to participate equally in all aspects of the labour market. Our path forward will promote women's full economic participation through working to reduce the gender wage gap, supporting women business leaders and entrepreneurs and recognizing the value of unpaid care work." <i>G7 Communique, Para. 10</i></p>
POLICY COMMITMENTS	<p>Establishment of Gender Equality Advisory Council</p> <p>Feminist W7 for the first-time with intersectional, southern, grassroots feminist activists.</p>
FUNDING COMMITMENTS	Canada provided significant support for the operation of the Council and support to host the W7, although it did not host a gender ministerial.
ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITMENTS	None

OUTCOME AREA: ECONOMY	RESULTS
RHETORICAL COMMITMENTS	<p>The G7 committed to "promote women's full economic participation through working to reduce the gender wage gap, supporting women business leaders and entrepreneurs and recognize the value of unpaid care work." <i>G7 Communique, Para. 10</i></p> <p>Removing the barriers that keep people from participating fully in the global economy and addressing the root causes of gender inequality is essential to reduce poverty, foster growth and create quality jobs and decent work for all. The creativity and productivity of people who have been economically marginalized, especially women, are important to sustainable and resilient economies. <i>Charlevoix Commitment on Equality and Economic Growth statement, 4th paragraph</i></p>
POLICY COMMITMENTS	<p>"We commit to: ..."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Further support families by promoting high quality childcare that is accessible and affordable, and improve access to child benefits and parental leave. ◆ Encourage private, state-owned companies and public employers to take measures to facilitate the reconciliation of work and care responsibilities for both women and men, and to increase efforts to reduce the gender pay gap. ◆ Support gender equality in labour market opportunities and in the distribution of unpaid care work, with measures such as paid maternity leave and parental leave, as well as initiatives to ensure women's equal access to decent employment opportunities, leadership opportunities, resources and finance. <p><i>Charlevoix Commitment on Equality and Economic Growth statement, last three bullet points</i></p>
FUNDING COMMITMENTS	The Development Finance Institutions (DFIs) in G7 countries have committed to mobilize \$3 billion by 2020 for investment in business activities that will benefit women.
ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITMENTS	Announced an accountability report on Women's Economic Empowerment



OUTCOME AREA: PEACE AND SECURITY	RESULTS
RHETORICAL COMMITMENTS	<p>“The women, peace and security agenda stems from the international community’s recognition that gender equality, the empowerment of women and girls and respect for their human rights are vital to achieving and sustaining peace. ... Through a Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Partnerships Initiative, the G7 members will work together to accelerate positive change on the ground. G7 members will coordinate efforts as appropriate and provide targeted support to conflict-affected partner countries working to build peace and security through the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and subsequent WPS resolutions, including through national action plans to implement the women, peace and security agenda.” <i>G7 Women, Peace and Security Partnership Initiative statement by G7 Foreign Ministers</i></p>
POLICY COMMITMENTS	<p>“G7 members commit to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ establish partnerships with and provide targeted assistance to partner countries to further implementation of the women, peace and security agenda; ◆ enhance G7 coordination, support and engagement in partner countries on women, peace and security issues, engaging with governments; regional and multilateral organizations; parliamentarians; civil society, in particular women’s organizations; and other stakeholders; ◆ ensure that all efforts to support the women, peace and security agenda are based on mutual learning and approaches; ◆ share results and lessons learned from this G7 initiative in other multilateral contexts to encourage similar initiatives and achieve broader progress; and ◆ report on progress on this commitment at the next G7 FMM, in 2019.” <p><i>G7 Women, Peace and Security Partnership Initiative statement by G7 Foreign Ministers</i></p> <p>The G7 Whistler Declaration on Gender Equality agreed the G7 would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ “Urge humanitarian partners to integrate gender equality and women’s empowerment in their programming ... ◆ Work with heads of humanitarian agencies and their executive boards to make gender equality an organizational priority in humanitarian action ... ◆ Strengthen prevention and response to gender-based violence in crises ... ◆ Strengthen women and girls’ access to health care ... ◆ Enhance the utilization of research and evidence to improve the impact of humanitarian assistance on gender equality ...” <p>In the Charlevoix Commitment to End Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, Abuse and Harassment in Digital Contexts the G7 committed to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. “Promote legal regimes, national anti-violence strategies, educational approaches and existing mechanisms, as appropriate, that keep pace with technological development. 2. Work to strengthen sex and age-disaggregated data collection and publication, consistent with the OECD Guidelines on the Protection of Privacy and Transborder Flows of Personal Data, so as not to further marginalize those at risk. 3. Strengthen the effectiveness of existing and new violence, abuse and harassment prevention and response strategies at international, national and local levels, ensuring that they are informed by gender-based analysis.”
FUNDING COMMITMENTS	None
ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITMENTS	<p>“Canada will host a high-level meeting in 2019, ahead of the Women Deliver 2019 Conference in Vancouver, to review progress in addressing gender equality in humanitarian action.” <i>G7 Whistler Declaration on Gender Equality, final para.</i></p> <p>“G7 members commit to: ... report on progress on this commitment at the next G7 FMM (Foreign Ministers’ Meeting) in 2019” <i>G7 Women, Peace and Security Partnership Initiative statement by G7 Foreign Ministers</i></p>

OUTCOME AREA: HEALTH	RESULTS
RHETORICAL COMMITMENTS	<p>"To support growth and equal participation that benefits everyone, and ensure our citizens lead healthy and productive lives, we commit to supporting strong, sustainable health systems that promote access to quality and affordable healthcare and to bringing greater attention to mental health.</p> <p>We support efforts to promote and protect women's and adolescents' health and well-being through evidence-based healthcare and health information.</p> <p>We recognize the World Health Organization's vital role in health emergencies, including through the Contingency Fund for Emergencies and the World Bank's Pandemic Emergency Financing Facility, and emphasize their need for further development and continued and sustainable financing.</p> <p>We recommit to support our 76 partners to strengthen their implementation of the International Health Regulations, including through their development of costed national action plans and the use of diverse sources of financing and multi-stakeholder resources.</p> <p>We will prioritize and coordinate our global efforts to fight against antimicrobial resistance, in a "one health" approach. We will accelerate our efforts to end tuberculosis, and its resistant forms. We reconfirm our resolve to work with partners to eradicate polio and effectively manage the post-polio transition.</p> <p>We affirm our support for a successful replenishment of the Global Fund in 2019.</p> <p>We support efforts to promote and protect women's and adolescents' health and well-being through evidence-based healthcare and health information."</p> <p><i>G7 Communique, Para. 6.</i></p>
POLICY COMMITMENTS	<p>No concrete policy commitments were made beyond identifying improvement in sexual and reproductive health services and information.</p> <p>No health ministerial meeting was held.</p>
FUNDING COMMITMENTS	<p>Development and Finance ministers agreed to funding and monitoring the implementation of the full range of internationally-agreed standards of humanitarian health response in crises.</p>
ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITMENTS	<p>None</p>

OUTCOME AREA: ADOLESCENT GIRLS	RESULTS
RHETORICAL COMMITMENTS	<p>We, the Leaders of the G7, recognize that gender equality is fundamental for the fulfillment of human rights. We placed women and girls at the heart of our G7 agenda because we know social development and sustainable economic growth depend on the full participation of everyone – girls, adolescent girls and women included. We know that inclusive, equitable quality education is fundamental to achieving the empowerment and economic equality of girls and women, especially in developing contexts and countries struggling with conflict." <i>Charlevoix Declaration on Quality Education or Girls and Women in Developing Countries, Para. 1.</i></p> <p>"We, the Leaders of the G7, view girls' and women's education as a priority and will continue investing in girls', adolescent girls' and women's quality education in developing countries, including in emergencies and in conflict-affected and fragile states." <i>Charlevoix Declaration on Quality Education or Girls and Women in Developing Countries, Para. 3.</i></p>



OUTCOME AREA: ADOLESCENT GIRLS (CONTINUED)	RESULTS
POLICY COMMITMENTS	<p>“We, the Leaders of the G7, will continue to strengthen efforts to dismantle the barriers to girls’ and women’s education in developing countries. Our investments will support global actions to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Prepare women for jobs in the future... 5. encourage the integration of specific measures for girls’ education throughout the education sector plans of our development partners, ... 7. We will support developing country partners in their efforts to provide equal opportunities for girls and women to complete at least 12 years of quality education from their early years through to secondary school. We will ensure that girls learn basic literacy and numeracy skills in order to progress through education. We will support efforts to promote gender equality in education systems, in part through capacity building throughout the education sector, particularly through teacher training and the recruitment and retention of both female and male qualified teachers with decent pay. We will support gender-sensitive curricula and learning materials that meet quality education standards and promote learning. We support healthcare education which empowers adolescents to avoid sexual risks and prevents early pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, thereby improving the opportunity to thrive into adulthood. We will work to increase access to schools and learning pathways for girls and women, including those who are especially vulnerable and often excluded from school, such as girls with disabilities. We will encourage work with teachers and communities to eliminate violence in schools and support gender equality and healthy relationship development.” <p><i>Charlevoix Declaration on Quality Education of Girls and Women in Developing Countries, commitments number: 3, 5, and 7.</i></p>
FUNDING COMMITMENTS	<p>Canada, Britain, Germany, the European Union and Japan will partner with the World Bank to provide 3.8 billion CAD (approximately US\$2.9 billion), for education for women and girls in conflict and crisis situations.</p>
ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITMENTS	<p>None</p>

The Report Card on the 2018 G7 Commitments to Gender Equality was researched and produced by the International Center for Research on Women and the Center for Democratic Education.



Questions or comments?

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