



G7 GERMANY 2015

G7 Forum for Dialogue with Women 16/17 September 2015 Berlin

In the context of the German Presidency of the Group of Seven (G7) Federal Chancellor Dr Angela Merkel met with women from G7 countries as well as other countries to discuss the empowerment of women and girls worldwide. They concluded the following:

1. We welcome the G7 commitment to promote gender equality by economic autonomy, education at all levels, as well as full participation and empowerment for all women and girls. Moreover, we salute the G7 support to overcome discrimination, sexual harassment, and violence against women. We agree that it is important to offer full access to education at all levels, and we welcome the G7 measures to increase the number of women and girls technically and vocationally educated and trained in developing countries by 2030. So is the G7 work to increase career training and education for women and girls within G7 countries. We welcome the G7 agreement on common principles to boost women's entrepreneurship. Female role models can make successful women entrepreneurs more visible in society. We, the participating women, ask the G7 to make women's issues a permanent feature of their agenda in order to improve decision-making in this field. We ask relevant International Organizations to work towards a better data base, analysis and indicators.
2. We look forward to the United Nations Summit in New York for the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which will emphasize the framework conditions for gender equality and women's economic empowerment (SDG 5).
3. We welcome the results of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development in Addis Ababa. International cooperation should address the specific needs of women's economic empowerment.
4. We highlight the importance of the United Nations Women's Empowerment Principles.
5. We take note of the Berlin Parliamentary Appeal "she matters" adopted by the 2015 International G7/20 Parliamentarians' Conference on 17 April 2015 in Berlin.
6. We recognize that countries with increased women's participation and leadership in the economy, civil society and political parties tend to be more inclusive and democratic. Strengthening women's political participation improves involvement of democratic principles in public life and the economic development of a society. We recognize that increased youth participation in political life through investment in a gender smart next generation can be a vehicle for advancing gender equality. Barriers, which prevent women from participating in political life, are for example discriminatory laws, restrictive attitudes and gender stereotypes in societies, low levels of education, lack of access to health care and the disproportionate effect of poverty on women.

7. Women's economic participation and inclusion is essential to strengthen growth and foster the global economy. Fostering women's economic empowerment will require actions by all relevant actors, including politicians, the business sector, academia and the civil society.
8. We need government leadership on gender equality to implement integrated approaches or temporary measures, like quota models, for women's economic participation, including through state-owned corporations, public service as well as procurement.
9. The digital revolution is unprecedented and is constantly evolving. It has the possibility to level the playing field. For girls and women to fully participate and benefit from the digital revolution, it will require changes to the education system, corporate development, and culture/family stereotypes. Inspiring role models and access to mentors, quality skills, technology and funding are essential. Digital qualification is a prerequisite for digital empowerment and will have to be accompanied with building self-confidence and willingness to take risk.
10. The enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being. For women to participate fully and equally in political, economic and social life is dependent on the ability to control their reproductive rights. It will further require investments in primary health systems, and in community empowerment. This includes men and women, boys and girls. Violence against women is a human rights problem of epidemic proportion. It undermines every other aspect of women's empowerment. We restate our determination to help fight this problem. We also recognize that women on the move is a problem that requires action at a global level.