

Berlin Parliamentary Appeal

The 2015 International G7/G20 Parliamentarians' Conference

Empowering women and girls to lead self-determined, healthy and productive lives

Berlin, 17th of April 2015

1. We, members from 50 parliaments from all regions who gathered in Berlin, Germany on April 16th and 17th, call on the G7 to step-up their commitment to sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender equality, women's and girls' human rights and their empowerment in all settings in order to create the conditions for them to lead self-determined, healthy and productive lives.
2. We congratulate the G8 for the Muskoka Initiative on Maternal and Child Health which comes to an end in 2015, and urge the G7 to fulfill, maintain and increase their political and financial commitment to the health of women, children and adolescents.
3. We reaffirm the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the key actions for their further implementation and the outcomes of their follow-up processes, including the outcome documents from the regional review conferences, and other relevant human rights documents.¹
4. We met at a time when the General Assembly of the United Nations is developing the Post-2015 Development Agenda that will provide a universal framework for sustainable development in the social, economic and environmental sphere for the next 15 years. We welcome the goals and targets suggested by the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, which are far more encompassing on sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender equality, women's and girls' human rights and their empowerment than those included in the MDG framework.
5. We emphasize the role that parliamentarians should rightfully play in the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development through appropriate representation.
6. We congratulate the United Nations Secretary-General and the World Health Organization for the current efforts in the process of development of the renewed Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health within the Every Woman Every Child initiative, to be launched at the UN General Assembly in September 2015, and commit to engage in both the process of development and implementation of the strategy. We recommend the G7 and G20 leaders to

¹ The Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the obligations of States parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

take into account the renewed Global Strategy in the upcoming Summits to keep women's, children's and adolescents' health high in their agendas.

We Parliamentarians are determined to play our role as legislators, as follows:

Self- determined lives

We commit to and call on the G7/G20 to:

7. Adopt and implement laws and policies to promote and protect human rights and eliminate discrimination without distinction of any kind such as sex, age, race, ethnicity, indigeneity, colour, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth status, disability or HIV status, migrant status, marital status, sexual orientation or gender identity or any other factor, and to eliminate laws, policies and programmes that violate human rights;²
8. Address the structural causes of gender-based discrimination and promote transformation in gender relations to make them equal.
9. Ensure full respect for women's bodily autonomy and right to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality as agreed to in ICPD in 1994 and Beijing in 1995;
10. Ensure women's and girls' full, equal and effective voice, participation and leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life including in disaster risk reduction, conflict prevention and mediation;
11. Enact and advocate for the initiation and enforcement of laws and fully funded policies which respect, protect and promote the sexual and reproductive health and rights of all individuals, including the enactment or ratification of global and regional legal frameworks, which prevent, punish and eradicate gender based violence (GBV) in the public and the private sphere, and in humanitarian settings including laws that criminalize marital rape;
12. Promote the adoption and enforcement of legislation as well as work with communities on social norms to eliminate all harmful practices such as female genital mutilation/cutting and child, early and forced marriage;
13. Support policies that keep girls, including married and pregnant girls, in school at all levels of education without discrimination, and ensure admission or re-entry to school after delivery;
14. Fully engage men and boys to take responsibility in ending discrimination and violence against women and girls, achieve gender equality and realize women's and girls' human rights.

Healthy lives

We commit to and call on the G7/G20 to:

² by, for example, repealing or revising discriminatory laws; ensuring access to legal documentation and to SRH services; and implementing public education programmes that challenge inequitable sexuality and gender norms and promote gender equality;

15. Take legislative action to promote the highest attainable standard of health for all women and girls ;
16. Ensure the respect, promotion and protection of sexual and reproductive health and rights for all, including universal access to quality, comprehensive, youth-friendly, integrated and affordable sexual and reproductive health information, education and services, including a wide range of modern methods of family planning, and emergency contraception as defined and recommended by WHO, while removing legal, regulatory, social and gender barriers to these for adolescents and unmarried women;
17. Promote legislation and programmes to prevent and manage unwanted pregnancy and unsafe abortion;
18. Ensure adolescent and youth have access to youth-friendly and nonjudgmental sexual and reproductive health services and information, including by addressing the negative social consequences of gender stereotypes, through comprehensive sexuality education for boys and girls;
19. Continue to mobilize the political will to adopt laws and policies to reduce maternal and neonatal mortality rates and to prevent stillbirths;
20. Build upon the successes in addressing women's health by tackling new and emerging, preventable issues in women and girls' health such as preterm births, sexually transmitted infections and cervical cancer;
21. Review and repeal laws that punish women and girls who have or are accused of having undergone illegal abortions, and end imprisonment for such acts;
22. Ensure that the special reproductive health needs of women and girls in emergency settings are addressed through the provision of a minimum set of critical life saving interventions that include: prevention and management of sexual violence, reduce transmission of HIV/AIDS , prevent excess maternal and neo natal mortality and morbidity, planning for comprehensive reproductive health services.
23. Recognizing that women and girls face particular challenges in relation to HIV/AIDS and that women and girls are at heightened risk of contracting HIV, and therefore by 2030 end HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, and neglected tropical diseases by guaranteeing equitable, universal and affordable access to prevention, treatment, care and support for all people across the life course;
24. Support research and development of medicines, vaccines and diagnostics for communicable and non-communicable diseases that primarily affect low and middle income countries with adequate funding in particular where and when markets do not create incentives for private investors and provide access to affordable essential medicines, vaccines, and diagnostics. This includes the legal possibility to produce, sell, buy and distribute generic drugs for all countries which face drastic health challenges.

Productive lives

We commit to and call on the G7/G20 to:

25. Promote the enactment and implementation of laws to ensure economic and social empowerment of women through equal access to, ownership and control of economic resources, technology and markets, including land, property and inheritance rights, as well as affordable, sustainable and renewable energy;
26. Promote and protect the rights of young people, including their human right to good quality education at all levels, including comprehensive sexuality education, which includes sexual orientation and gender identity, and quality financial literacy training, taking into account those young people who are out of school while ensuring equal enrolment and completion of girls' and boys' quality education at all levels of education;
27. Ensure women's equal access to full and productive employment and decent work and equal pay for work of equal value;
28. Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household;
29. Promote the formalization and regulation of informal sector activities and employment with full access to social protection floors even in the stages of informal conditions of work, and protect the rights of those working in the informal sector;
30. Provide universal access to sufficient, safe, affordable, and acceptable sanitation and hygiene including at home, schools, workplaces, health centers and in humanitarian settings, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls including menstrual hygiene management and access to contraception.

Financing for Development

We commit to and call on the G7/G20 to:

31. Reaffirm that low and middle income countries need external resources for sustainable development, and that, in view of their responsibility, G7 countries and other high-income countries, must re-commit to the 0,7% share of GDP to ODA and ensure debt sustainability, debt restructuring and debt relief where necessary;
32. Cooperate with low and middle income countries in addressing illicit financial flows by multinational corporations to enhance local resource mobilization for development, including for population and health issues;
33. Increase the allocation of ODA and domestic resources and earmark at least 10 per cent to efforts for realizing sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender equality, women's and girls' human rights and their empowerment, in development as well as humanitarian contexts in order to ensure adequate resources, and create an enabling environment for implementing the ICPD Programme of Action and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the key actions for their further implementation and the outcomes of their follow-up processes, including the outcome documents from the regional review conferences.



We, members of parliaments from 50 countries urge the G7 and G20 to take into account the above issues at the G7 summit in Elmau in June, the Financing for Development Conference in Addis Ababa in July, the post-2015 summit in New York in September, the G20 summit in Izmir in November and the Climate Summit in Paris in December.