

C7 2019

RECOMMENDATIONS

FROM THE CIVIL 7 :

FOR SOLUTIONS TO GLOBAL

INEQUALITIES



The Civil¹ (C7) welcomes the priority given to the fight against inequality by the French President during France's Presidency of the G7.

This focus sends a strong signal and creates an excellent opportunity for the G7 to work to achieve the 2030 Agenda and ensure that no-one is left behind. However, real efforts to fight poverty, inequality, human rights violations, and climate change – in the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Climate Agreement – can only be achievable and effective if accompanied by a true change of the international financial system and mode of production, by a better regulation of economic actors, a greater redistribution of wealth, and a fair and inclusive ecological transition. This systemic change is a prerequisite both for achieving the SDGs and for the success of G7 commitments and initiatives taken in the past years and in 2019

This document highlights the C7 recommendations for each of the objectives set by the French G7 Presidency.

¹The Civil C7 is a G7 engagement group created in 2000 during the Okinawa G7 Summit in Japan. It is made up of civil society from G7 countries and beyond and intends to promote the recommendations of non-state actors within G7 negotiation processes. Under the French presidency of the G7 in 2019, the C7 is coordinated by Coordination SUD. The 2019 C7 Summit will take place in Paris July 1st to 3rd.

The fight against basic inequalities strengthening equality between women and men, access to education and to quality health services

To ensure that the outcomes of this year's Summit match the level of ambition to tackle global inequalities, the G7 must focus on leaving no one behind.

It must take into account the needs of all groups, especially those who are marginalized, hardest to reach and/or in a situation of vulnerability, including (but not limited to): the poorest, or those living in rural areas women and girls, people with a disability, transgender people; migrants, sex workers, drug users, ethnic minorities, etc. whose access to education and health services is hampered and restricted, and who require specific consideration, especially in crisis and conflict contexts.

Not only are education and health human rights, but they also are cornerstones of achieving the SDGs, enabling successful economic growth and human development, and the strongest tools to reduce inequality. Despite consistent improvements in people's health and education around the world over the past 15 years, progress is stalling. Today, more than half of the world's population does not have access to essential health services and almost 100 million people are pushed into extreme poverty each year because of out-of-pocket expenses. About 130 million children of primary school age in Sub-Saharan Africa lack basic literacy and numeracy.

Growing inequality hinder the full achievement of health and education for all by creating geographical, social, financial and cultural barriers to accessing these

services. Too many children and youth, especially adolescent girls, still face multiple and intersecting barriers to accessing quality education and remaining in school, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. All these barriers are exacerbated by conflicts and crises.

These inequalities also have a significant financial cost for countries and deeply impact the socio-economic development of populations, particularly the most vulnerable. Equitable access to health and education is pivotal in achieving gender equality, and fosters women and girls' empowerment and adequate nutrition and is, therefore, the surest way out of poverty and to economic growth and prosperity.

Members of the G7 must therefore promote the universal right to access to health, education and social protection through the strengthening of public services and national instruments, and by regulating private actors, notably profit-making organizations, which worsen inequality. They must recommit to development aid with a central focus of the reduction of inequality and poverty.

G7 members must also ensure respect for human rights and adopt a feminist approach to their international development policies. Health objectives must be driven through the promotion of universal access to family planning services, sexual education, sexual rights, and the right to safe abortion. With regards to education, a holistic and transformative approach should be adopted in order to promote gender equality.

G7 States must adopt domestic and foreign policies that are truly feminist, gender transformative and aiming to redress traditional and patriarchal power dynamics.

Gender equality issues made their way into the G7 agenda. Like Canada in 2018, France has made gender equality a core priority of its 2019 G7 Presidency. Great challenges, either diplomatic, ecological or economic, cannot be tackled without women's and girls' empowerment, and without their effective participation to decision-making processes. The Women 7 engagement group has developed key recommendations for the G7 leaders to ask them to adopt political and financial measures, in 2019 and beyond, which will have a tangible and lasting impact on women's and girls' lives across the globe. It is very important that G7 countries set an example in their national contexts, by taking concrete measures and making substantial investments for women's rights, in order to be as legitimate and relevant as possible in their actions abroad.

The Women 7 and Civil 7 calls on G7 leaders to adopt domestic and foreign policies that are truly feminist, gender transformative and aiming to redress traditional and patriarchal power dynamics. To that end, the G7 countries must prioritise two key actions, without which all political commitments for gender equality would be vain:

- **Increasing financial resources that are dedicated to feminist associations, non-governmental organisations, thinkers and movements** which, at all levels (local, national and international), have the legitimacy and the field expertise to implement initiatives that have a concrete and sustainable impact on women's and girls' rights, and a transformative effect on power relations and gender norms.
- **Ensuring full and effective participation of women and girls in decision-making processes in the G7 and beyond**, through inclusive and consultative dialogue, and by recognising women's diversity, voices and agency.

We call on G7 leaders to :

→ Develop and implement feminist domestic and foreign policies combining in particular feminist diplomacy and Official Development Assistance (ODA).

- **Achieve UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5 “Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls”** by 2030 by adopting an ambitious roadmap with specific, time-bound benchmarks and indicators that allow progress to be tracked and impact documented.

- **Adopt and implement a feminist foreign policy, comprising a feminist ODA and a feminist diplomacy.** The G7 leaders must ensure that at least 85% of the entirety of their ODA, in terms of volume, integrates gender as a significant or main objective by 2025, of which at least 20% dedicated to projects with gender equality as their main objective.

- **Create a global initiative led by G7 countries, based on the example of the Muskoka Initiative,** to implement actions to reinforce women’s and girls’ rights in the countries of the Global South and to support local feminist associations.

- **Significantly increase national budgets for women’s and girls’ rights** within G7 countries

- **Undertake measures to facilitate access to funding for local feminist organisations,** in G7 countries and in the Global South, particularly by making granting regulations and procedures less burdensome.

- **Implement gender budgeting** in all decision making processes.

→ Support adolescent girls’ and women’s empowerment, particularly in terms of health, education and the fight against violence.

- **Adopt a feminist perspective to fight against inequalities** in the area of health, particularly in terms of sexual and reproductive health and rights.

- **Expand girls’ access** and retention to a quality and inclusive education.

- **Fight sexual and gender-based violence in all its forms,** through prevention, protection, support, assistance and justice.

→ Promote women’s economic empowerment, financial inclusion and access to decent work for everyone.

→ Adopt accountability frameworks for all G7 commitments concerning gender equality.

Ensuring quality basic education for all by eradicating inequalities in LDCs, with a focus on Sub-Saharan Africa and the Sahel, must be a priority.

To achieve SDG4 and to fulfil the international promise of education for all without discrimination, the G7 countries must urgently tackle the barriers to achieving quality universal education. This should happen through stronger political, technical and financial support to basic quality education, targeting the poorest, the most vulnerable, and those living in countries affected by fragility and conflict. We ask for this goal to be reflected in the final G7 political declaration and for concrete steps to be taken to increase the provision of quality, equitable, free and inclusive basic education for all.

To that end, we ask the G7 countries to ensure:

→ All children and youth have opportunities to complete quality basic education for at least 12 years, to meet their basic learning needs.

This includes for the G7 countries to prioritise within their development aid policies the provision of at least 1 year of pre-primary, primary and lower secondary education for every child, in accordance with the UNESCO definition of basic education.

→ Children and youth in crisis and conflict-affected situations are in safe and protective learning environments.

This requires all G7 countries to adopt and **support partner countries in endorsing and implementing the Safe Schools Declaration.**

→ All girls and boys complete free basic education by 2030.

This includes supporting partner states to publicly regulate private education providers and to support quality public education system-strengthening.

→ An inclusive and gender transformative education to

improve learning outcomes and ensure socio-economic empowerment of both boys and girls.

→ A multi-sector approach that promotes collaboration and coordination between and across sectors

as well as a multi-stakeholder approach (including donors, governments, CSOs and youth led organisations, at local, national and international levels) within the education sector. Donors should **strengthen and mobilize existing coordination mechanisms, especially Local Education Groups (LEGs) and Education Clusters.**

This is a transformative moment. By leading the way on free, quality, universal basic education, the G7 leaders can guarantee the youngest, most vulnerable and most marginalised girls and boys a better future. But change needs to happen now. By prioritising resources toward basic education needs, G7 leaders can increase the focus on quality, free, basic education, and ensure sustainable investment for years to come.

We ask the G7...

 **to publicly commit in the G7 communique to meet the internationally recognised targets of 15% of total official development assistance (ODA) and at least 4% of humanitarian aid to the education sector,**

prioritising gender transformative quality basic education, from early childhood with a focus on Sub-Saharan Africa and the Sahel, and **target the most vulnerable and marginalised children and youth**. G7 countries should also encourage greater domestic resource mobilisation through supporting **partners countries investing 20% of domestic budgets in education**. Donors should also commit to the provision of **free access to basic**

education and ensure no ODA is directed to profit-making or fee-charging schools. At least **30% of the education aid must be allocated to multilateral** funds (including GPE and ECW) to ensure complementarity between bilateral and multilateral aid mechanisms.

The G7 must develop and adopt a G7 SDG 3 Acceleration Initiative and take ambitious political and financial commitments to ensure that we are on the right track to achieve health-related SDG targets.

G7 countries must accelerate progress towards SDG 3 targets by providing resources to fill the funding gap and orienting these resources towards where there is the most need, with a priority on primary health and community-level systems. Such an approach is the most effective way to reach UHC and fight against health inequalities, and will deliver on the commitment to leave no one behind.

To support the common effort towards reaching SDG 3 in line with the Global Action Plan for Healthy Lives and Well-Being for All, the C7 calls on the G7 to develop and adopt a G7 SDG 3 Acceleration Initiative.

We call on G7 governments to make the following political and financial commitments:

→ Commit for the next 3 years to provide ambitious financial resources towards development assistance for health to ensure that we get back on track by 2022, halfway to 2030, to reach SDG 3.

More specifically, commit together to fully support the success of the upcoming multiple replenishments of multilateral global health initiatives² and to mobilise their fellow G20 donors to do so, with ensuring a successful Global Fund replenishment as a first step.

→ Commit to target these resources towards the most vulnerable and hard-to-reach populations and areas, with a focus on strengthening primary health care and community health to achieve UHC.

Commit to these priorities within the Boards of the main global health initiatives in which G7 members sit.

Reaffirm the priority to provide accessible quality sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) services,

including by building on the pivotal Muskoka commitments to ensure the investments in reproductive, maternal, new-born, child and adolescent health and nutrition (RMNCAH-N) is continued and expanded on by supporting a comprehensive, integrated and innovative package of health interventions across the continuum of care.

Commit to supporting low-income countries in their domestic resource mobilisation strategies

to ensure increased national budgets for health and reduced out-of-pocket payments from citizens.

→ Commit to being accountable on all of the above

by taking stock in 2022 whether we are back on track to reach SDG 3 by 2030 and to course correct if not.

² Including for Gavi, GPEI, Unitaid, the WHO, supporting the London Declaration 2.0 for the fight against neglected tropical diseases, and supporting SRHR by increasing resources allocated to UN funds such as UNFPA, UNICEF and UN Women.

Reducing environmental inequality by protecting our planet through climate finance, a fair ecological transition, and protection of biodiversity and oceans

Four years after the signing of the Paris Agreement and a few months after the publication of the IPCC special report on global warming of 1.5°C, G7 Summit must demonstrate how G7 countries will respond to the latest available science and the escalating impacts of climate change by scaling up their climate action and ambition. In 2019, G7 countries must lead the vanguard of nations pledging to increase their climate ambition by 2020. Leaders of the world's 7 richest, most polluting economies can not ignore the clear and profound call from young people, workers and vulnerable communities demanding urgent, transformational solutions to deliver on the commitments made in Paris.

G7 leaders must recognize climate change as a global threat that requires international cooperation and collective efforts to hold global warming to 1.5°C. Just and inclusive climate action has the potential to benefit our health, create quality jobs and contribute to more sustainable and resilient societies around the World. In 2019, the outcomes of the G7 will be crucial to encourage all other countries, the private sector, financial actors, local authorities and civil society to step up their climate ambition in time for the 2019 UNSG climate summit.

It is therefore essential that members of the G7 urgently implement structural policies in their own countries and increase their targets for GHG emissions reductions.

We call on G7 members to:

Responding to science, G7 members must commit to substantially increasing their 2030 GHG reduction target by 2020

and commit to achieving net zero GHG emissions well before mid century ;

→ Building on the achievements of the Canadian Presidency,

the G7 should recognize and promote just and inclusive transition principles that apply to all climate policies;

→ Building on their previous commitments, G7 leaders must contribute to the global effort to increase financial flows towards climate action

by significantly scaling up public climate finance, including by presenting new pledges to the Green Climate Fund during its 2019 replenishment period. G7 members must promote policies to shift public and private finance away from fossil fuels and align investments with the long term goals of the Paris Agreement;

→ The G7 must report on the progress made towards the implementation of commitments on access to insurance coverage against climate change

related hazards. The G7 should promote new and additional sources of finance for losses and damages under the UNFCCC Warsaw International Mechanism on Loss and Damage to scale-up support for vulnerable communities;

→ Building on the promise made by the G7 to phase out fossil fuel subsidies by 2025,

G7 countries must commit to develop a clear roadmap to indicate how they intend to meet the deadline and get rid of fossil fuel subsidies;

→ The G7 must accelerate fossil fuel phase out by agreeing on coal phase out dates nationally

and by supporting the deployment of renewable energy and energy efficiency policies and initiatives;

→ The G7 must commit to make the implementation of bilateral trade agreements conditional to the respect of the Paris Agreement obligations;

→ The G7 must engage in multilateral fora and enhance national policies to protect and restore

natural carbon sinks such as forests and oceans.

Strengthening of the social dimension of globalisation through fairer and more equal trade, fiscal and development policies

Our economy is broken. While hundreds of millions of people still live in extreme poverty, huge rewards go to those at the very top. Extreme inequality is a global crisis and has grave impacts on human rights. It fractures societies and hurts us all in the long run. It prevents people from lifting themselves out of poverty and the achievement of gender equality. Unless urgent action is taken hundreds of millions of people will still be living in extreme poverty in 2030, the majority of which are women and girls.

The G7, uniting richest countries of the world and principal aid donors, has to commit to concrete steps to fight inequality including through fairer tax policies, development policies that focus on poverty and inequality reduction and stronger regulation of large companies.

Given this year presidency on fighting inequality, we call the G7 to:

➔ Acknowledge the power of fair taxation in reducing inequality through redistribution of income and wealth, and takes action to end the under taxation of rich individuals and large corporations.

The fortunes of the world's super-rich have grown to record levels. The number of billionaires has doubled since the financial crisis in 2008 and their fortunes have grown by \$2.5bn a day. Yet many super-rich and corporations pay lower rates of tax than they have in decades. Special tax treatments, tax avoidance and tax evasion undermine the financing of public budgets worldwide. Public revenue losses directly jeopardise the capability to provide basic social services, such as health and education.

In the lead up to the discussions of BEPS2.0, support a new set of global rules to **fundamentally redesign the tax system** to make it fair, with developing countries having an equal seat at the table by:

- **Supporting an overhaul and transformative international reform of corporate income tax leading to an equitable rebalancing of taxing rights between developed and developing countries for all economic sectors.** Re-allocation of taxing rights should allocate profits based on corporations' global activity and a combination of factors that recognizes their level of development and contribution.

- **Setting of a minimum effective tax rate to a fair and sufficient level.** The minimum effective tax rate should be set globally, applied on a country-by-country basis without carve-outs.

Meet commitment on aid, and ensure development cooperation target the reduction of poverty and inequality.

The scale of the poverty and inequality challenge for the poorest countries is significant. Based on the current trend, low income countries are off-track to reach the 2030 agenda. According to analysis by the United Nations, low and lower-middle countries would need more than \$2.5 trillion additional financing per year to meet the SDGs. The number of people affected by hunger has increased for the third year in a row, with nearly 821 million people suffering from hunger. Half of the world population do not have access to essential

health services. Yet, donors are failing to meet their basic quantity and quality commitments.

- There are worrying trends towards donors using more of their aid for self-serving purposes, rather than prioritizing tackling poverty and inequality.

There are worrying trends towards donors using more of their aid for self-serving purposes, rather than prioritizing tackling poverty and inequality.

We call on to the G7, as principal aid donors to:

- **Commit to higher levels of aid** by reaffirming their commitment to meet the existing aid target of 0.7% GNI, and the success of upcoming replenishment such as IDA 2019, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and the Green Climate Fund.

- **Commit to direct this aid to the poorest countries,** through grants, and to sectors that contribute the most to the reduction of inequalities, such as public health and education, water and sanitation systems, universal social protection schemes, small scale agriculture and gender equality.

- **Commit to deliver aid that meets the needs of the population** and allow people, especially women, to achieve their rights.

- **Stop diverting aid to serve their own security,** migration control, or economic objectives.

- **Commit to increase aid spending on progressive domestic resource mobilization**, and spearhead an initiative to boost the achievement of the Addis Tax Initiative, especially through progressive tax systems.

Stronger labour rights and regulation of companies to reduce inequality.

Inequalities are further exacerbated by the lack of accountability for corporations which violate the rights of individuals, communities and the environment, and by the lack of redress for victims.

We call on the G7 to support regulations conducive of a fairer share of wealth and resources and respect of human rights within companies and across supply chains:

- **Taking into consideration the French law on duty of vigilance**, UK Modern Slavery Act and the California Transparency in Supply Chains Act, as well as the OECD Guidelines for due diligence, call for stronger global norms on business and human rights.

- **Building on, and enhancing, existing relevant legislation in the US and UK**, make transparency on wage gaps (CEO / worker) mandatory, by quartile, country and gender.

- **Acknowledging in the communiqué, the importance of stronger protection of human rights for workers**, especially for women, and of labour rights, in particular the right to a decent work, protecting the right of trade union, and establishing living wages as a key component of strengthening the social dimension of globalization.

- **Recognizing that in the context of an increasingly unfair and transforming global economy**, guaranteeing respect of fundamental human rights standards is essential to making globalization work for all.

Change the approach of agriculture and improve food security

In a context where global hunger is rising for the third year running, with an estimated 821 million people going hungry every day - of which primarily women and the most vulnerable populations - it is imperative that the G7 member states improve their accountability on previous food security commitments and recognize and address the root causes of hunger.

G7 countries have already made promises to end hunger for the poorest and have endorsed commitments at several previous summits.

Unfortunately, there is little way today of measuring the overall impact of such promises.

➔ **G7 members states should launch a process to improve accountability, transparency and alignment of data uses.** The forthcoming G7 accountability report, prepared by France, represents an excellent opportunity.

To truly address hunger, G7 countries should primarily support agro-ecology and peasant farming that are a comprehensive response to the challenges of food security, nutrition and climate change. G7 countries should undertake a critical assessment of the ineffectiveness of the traditional approach to food security consisting in fighting food insecurity and public-private partnerships.

➔ **Following France's withdrawal from NAFSAN in February 2018 and the publication of French, German and American impact studies on the Alliance,** G7 member states should collectively recognise the ineffectiveness of the NAFSAN, and initiate their withdrawal from the Alliance.

To meet their objectives on food security; G7 members states should acknowledge the vicious circle between conflict and hunger. The alarming current resurgence of hunger in the world, notably the risk of famine, is linked to increased conflict. 60% of people who suffer from hunger currently live in countries affected by conflict.

➔ **G7 countries should adopt an approach that considers conflict in all actions or investments in crisis or fragile states.**

Action for peace and human security

This year marks the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the first UN Security Council Resolution (1265) on the protection of civilians in armed conflict. The G7 should take this opportunity to undertake concerted efforts to restore and demand respect for the protection of civilians and to respect international standards, including international humanitarian law and refugee law.

France and G7 member states should be exemplary in the respect for the law of armed conflict and in their military actions, and, in accordance with their international commitments, undertake not to transfer arms to states who have committed war crimes, or are at risk of committing war crimes, notably those who have targeted attacks against centres for healthcare or humanitarian personnel, in line with the Arms Trade Treaty ratified on 2 April 2014. France and G7 member states must take measures to ensure accountability for international humanitarian law violations and guarantee free and unfettered humanitarian access to civilians.

Furthermore, G7 leaders must continue the efforts undertaken in Taormina in 2017 by operationalizing United Nations Security Council Resolution 2417 to break the cycle of hunger and conflict, prohibit the use of hunger and water as weapons of war and work to end humanitarian blockages;

They should also develop concrete solutions to strengthen the protection of humanitarian workers and enable the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 2175 (2014), by supporting the establishment of an independent Special Adviser to the

UN Secretary General on the monitoring and follow-up of incidents against humanitarian workers, in particular national staff.

G7 countries should prioritize the protection of civilians, in particular children and youth, and civilian infrastructure in conflict areas- especially schools and health facilities- against attack and reduce the impact of military operations, including by endorsing the Safe Schools Declaration and ensuring all G7 countries implement the *Guidelines on Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use during Armed Conflict*.

Building on last year's Women, Peace and Security (WPS) commitments, G7 states should streamline women's and girls' participation and protection into their, and multilateral agencies', reform efforts. G7 states should announce additional financial commitments to fund partnerships between humanitarian operators, human rights actors and local women's and child/girl's led organizations to develop models of crisis response and post-conflict recovery which more effectively address the rights and priorities of affected populations, especially women and girls. G7 states should develop and implement models for more systematically monitoring and reporting on how they fund and address WPS across their own strategies and programmes including National Action Plans, humanitarian, recovery, resilience and governance programming. G7 states should commit to taking specific steps to open up space for women's and girls' rights activists within current political negotiations, as well as develop indicators within their country- specific diplomatic, aid and technical assistance strategies to

ensure these steps can be measured. To build upon last year's Whistler Declaration, G7 states should report on how they are factoring in GBV prevention and response indicators across their strategies and programmes bridging the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus and building on previous commitments, including the UNSCR 1820 and the Call to Action on protection from gender-based violence.

Furthermore, they should prevent violations against children affected by conflict, including recruitment (in line with the Paris and Vancouver Principles), and the 6 grave violations against children during armed conflicts as defined by the Security Council¹. To that end, G7 countries should support the revisions and implementation of three complementary sets of guidance: the Paris Principles Steering Group's Field Handbook on Prevention of Child Recruitment, Release and Reintegration; the Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Emergencies; and Integrated Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration Standards. Additionally, promote engagement by non-state actors to sign Action Plans for the release and reintegration of children.

It is important that G7 member states promote humanitarian and development coordination based on a complementary approach of the different actors which allows both an urgent response to specific needs of a particular group, as well as a reflection about sustainable social solutions to the issue.

Crises which lead to substantial migratory movements must be managed according to the principle of "shared responsibility" for states, in order to provide support and protection to refugees and those migrants throughout their displacement, while at the same time planning ahead for sustainable solutions which will facilitate their social and economic inclusion.

Putting the fight against inequality at the heart of the partnership with the Sahel:

As the Sahel is one of the priorities of this year's G7 presidency, G7 donors must put at the heart of their partnership with the G5 Sahel the fight against inequality, with strong political and financial commitments.

We also call G7 to improve the governance and the respect of aid effectiveness principles within the Sahel Alliance, to ensure it serves the needs of those left behind in the region and not the political and security interests of G7 leaders.

Commit to additional funding to Sahel at the Biarritz G7 summit

People in the Sahel suffer some of the largest human-development losses of all regions in Africa due to uneven access to essential services such as healthcare and quality education, which are closely intertwined with income and wealth inequality. Severe acute malnutrition rates are increasing across all the G5 countries.

Yet, ODA financing is still insufficient:

- Humanitarian response plans across the five countries hardly reach 50% of financing

- Funding is also lacking for longer terms responses aimed at sustainably improving the resilience of populations (development of agro-ecology, strengthening health systems, access to essential services, etc.).

Therefore, G7 leaders should take the opportunity of the summit to commit to additional funding to the Sahel region.

Prioritize the achievement of sustainable development goals and fighting inequality in the Sahel Alliance

We call G7 donors and G5 countries to acknowledge the importance of fighting inequality in the region, with a strong emphasis on supporting access to universal public essential services such as education, health, and nutrition fair and equitable agricultural and livestock policies, adaptation to climate change, progressive domestic revenue mobilization and gender equality.

Moreover, G7 should redesign most of the Alliance indicators to ensure 1) their impacts on the food and nutritional security of the most vulnerable; 2) a focus on rural youth employment; 3) the promotion of an agro-ecological transition in the Sahel; 4) respect for the progressive implementation of the right to food in the sub-region.

Ensure the Sahel Alliance projects prioritize people's needs and rights, and not donors' security objectives

The key objective of the Sahel Alliance must be to meet the needs of the populations in the region and to enable

the fulfilment of their rights. Areas of intervention should be chosen in line with this priority, and not according to a security analysis. Creating imbalance by favoring already unstable areas or migrants transit areas could, ultimately, create new conflicts and tension in the region. Besides, linking humanitarian and development interventions with security actions constitutes a security risk for NGOs on the ground, if they are associated with armed forces that are not well perceived by communities. This could eventually result in decreasing humanitarian access to and from communities.

Therefore, if they strengthen the Sahel Alliance, G7 leaders should ensure that:

- People's needs and rights are at the heart of the Sahel Alliance's mandate, and not donors' security or migration control objectives
- Priority areas for investment are selected according to the needs, vulnerabilities, and not on security considerations; the «Neglected Areas» approach initially promoted by France may prove interesting in this respect, if the selection criteria are transparent and homogeneous.

Promote a gender-responsive approach within the Sahel Alliance

While the French Presidency of the G7 aims to unite all G7 countries within the Sahel Alliance to improve cooperation around development issues in this specific region, this opportunity must be seized to foster gender mainstreaming in the strategies and projects promoted by the Alliance. G7 countries should strongly encourage the Sahel Alliance to:

- Endorse a roadmap with dedicated funding to mainstream gender equality in the Alliance funded programmes, across all 6 areas of intervention. Currently, the Alliance's projects are gender-blind and do not have a specific focus on women and girls' access to rights and on how to tackle the challenges they encounter.

- Establish a seventh thematic area of intervention with the main objective of gender equality and women and girls' empowerment, in order to earmark funding for this purpose. Beyond the necessity to mainstream gender equality in all projects, some of them must be based solely on the promotion and access of women and girls to their rights, education, employment, protection, and issues concerning women, peace and security. Promoting peace, the empowerment of African youth and more specifically the empowerment of women and girls would contribute to the emergence of strong, stable and prosperous Sahel countries.

- Clarify the modalities for the participation of civil society from the North and South in the exchanges that take place between the Alliance's donors and the Sahel States, in the identification and setting up of Alliance Sahel projects. These modalities must be homogeneous between donors, public and accessible online.

- Ensure the involvement of local organizations and field actors in the selection of projects and objectives and adapt them to the realities and needs identified by these actors, and recognize that active citizenship is key to fight inequality and poverty.

- Establish a monitoring committee within the Alliance Secretariat that includes the government and civil society representatives.

- Clarify the modalities for private sector participation and involvement in Sahel Alliance projects. These modalities must be homogeneous between donors, public and accessible online.

Improve transparency and civil society participation to the Sahel Alliance

To date, information is lacking about the list of Sahel Alliance projects and the modalities of civil society involvement in their definition and implementation. Therefore, G7 leaders of the Sahel Alliance should commit to:

- Make public, on an online database, the list of projects supported by the Sahel Alliance by area of intervention, as well as the associated donors, the amounts allocated in the form of loans or grants, and the objectives set.



C7
2019

The image features a stylized logo consisting of a large, bold letter 'C' in a gradient of orange and yellow, followed by a red '7'. To the right of the '7', the year '2019' is written vertically in a dark grey, sans-serif font. The background is a soft, abstract composition of overlapping circles in shades of yellow, orange, and pink, creating a warm, glowing effect.