

G7 Guiding Principles for Capacity Building of Women and Girls:

Towards Sustainable, Inclusive and Equitable Growth and Peace

With a view to contributing to the implementation of Agenda 2030 and of all its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), we are committed to taking concrete actions, internationally and in our own countries, as appropriate in line with these Guiding Principles, and thereby determined to achieve gender equality and human rights for women and girls, and to enable women and girls to realize their full potential to (i) actively engage in society and to take control of their own destiny, (ii) contribute to and benefit from sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth and quality of life at home, in the community, and in all spheres of society and (iii) fully and effectively participate in all phases of the peacebuilding continuum, from conflict prevention to resolution and ultimately reconciliation. We also remain committed to preventing and responding to all forms of gender-based violence and discrimination against women and girls as they are pervasive barriers in realizing their full potentials.

1. Building the capacity of women and girls towards sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth

1) Eliminate gender disparities and stereotypes in education and careers

- (i) We are committed to promoting policies that eliminate gender disparities and reduce gender stereotypes and biases in education at all levels.
- (ii) We support building the capacity of educational administrators and teachers to deepen their understanding of gender equality, to provide education that addresses gender stereotypes, and to implement gender-sensitive policies and teaching techniques.
- (iii) In order to encourage the active role of women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) careers, we strive to remove gender bias in careers, through promoting institutional change and creating legal and policy environments which effectively advance gender equality, and thereby increase the number of female students in STEM fields, and broaden the participation of women in research, engineering and entrepreneurial careers. Such efforts will be promoted through our collective and individual efforts including the G7's "Women's Initiative in Developing STEM Career (WINDS)."
- (iv) We support the expansion of scholarships for students, including for women and girls to pursue STEM and other careers where women are under-represented.

2) Enrich job-related education and vocational training for women's labor force participation, entrepreneurship and leadership

- (i) We commit to addressing barriers to equal access for all women and men to quality technical, vocational and tertiary education. We commit to take into account women's diverse needs and to encourage a more equal division of unpaid care and domestic work between women and men, in order to facilitate women's access to

education and training, and thereby, to increase female labor force participation rates.

- (ii) We especially highlight that entrepreneurial learning, including through the engagement of role models and mentors, at all levels of education from an early age may help girls to consider entrepreneurship as a viable career option at a later stage.
- (iii) We are committed to enhance education, training and programs to support women to assume leadership positions in the public and private sector, and to increase the number of female leaders at all levels of decision-making in political, economic, academic and public life.

3) Improve education and advocacy programs for women's and girls' health

- (i) We plan to improve education, research and advocacy programs in order to raise awareness on women's and girls' health issues, as a part of our efforts to achieve SDGs related to gender equality.
- (ii) These programs include sexual and reproductive health and rights, HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections, non-communicable diseases (NCDs), and nutrition for women and girls.
- (iii) We commit to continue to prioritize the provision of health services for women and girls, including family planning services and to support efforts to enhance women's rights to make informed decisions about their health care and fertility, with a view to promoting their ability to take part in education, training and economic opportunities.

4) Improve school environments and address barriers to quality education for girls

- (i) We pledge to build on progress made in increasing access to primary education for girls, and seek to address the challenges and obstacles that prevent adolescent girls from obtaining a quality secondary, tertiary or vocational education.
- (ii) In particular, we will work to improve school environments by seeking to ensure that schools are free from violence, have adequate and separate sanitation facilities, and are staffed by teachers trained in gender-sensitive teaching techniques or female teachers as appropriate in the country context.
- (iii) We will also work to address other persistent barriers to quality education for girls, such as discriminatory social norms that devalue girls and girls' education, early pregnancy and HIV/AIDS, as well as gender-based violence and harmful practices such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation/cutting.

2. Building the capacities of women and advancing their involvement in international peace and security efforts

1) Strengthen trainings for UN-PKO personnel and local security agencies

We are committed to working with the UN to strengthen trainings for UN-PKO personnel and local security agencies to address gender-related issues, including sexual and gender-based violence against women and girls, and actively develop the capability of gender advisors within their military and civil operations in order to ensure that the

effectiveness and efficiency of these efforts is enhanced in meeting the needs of women, men, boys and girls equally, while encouraging other states to do the same.

2) Foster women's leadership and accelerate their representation in the justice and security sectors

- (i) With a view to promoting peace and stability, we are committed to fostering female leadership, representation and agency in mediation, peacebuilding, preventing conflicts and creating a safe and peaceful society, through recruiting, mentoring, training and progressive career management including identification and training of women who could be listed on a global roster of mediators, negotiators and technical experts.
- (ii) We are also committed to accelerating women's representation in the justice and security sectors, including judges and prosecutors, law enforcement, first responders, and the military, with a special interest on professional career development and women's leadership and promotion in senior positions.

3) Strengthen women's engagement in emergency response situations

- (i) We are committed to support refugee and internally displaced women and girls as well as for those affected by conflicts and disasters, by providing assistance to empower them and develop their resilience, and to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence.
- (ii) Our support is to include increasing access to protection and to justice for those affected by sexual and gender-based violence, enhancing the full range of medical, legal and psychosocial and livelihood services, and strengthening their abilities and economic self-reliance through education and training.

4) Foster female representation in disaster risk reduction (DRR)

Based on the "Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030," we recognize the contribution that women make in DRR and encourage women's participation in decision making and leadership in all aspects of disaster prevention, relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction.