



G7/G20 ADVOCACY ALLIANCE (U.S.)

March 2019

G7 Policy Paper

2019 G7 Summit Recommendations: Biarritz, France



When G7 leaders meet on August 24-26 in Biarritz, France to discuss pressing global issues, it is imperative that they take action to address the needs of people living in the world's poorest and most vulnerable countries. This paper contains the recommendations of the **G7/G20 Advocacy Alliance (U.S.)**, a group of more than 40 U.S.-based nongovernmental organizations. They call for the United States to play a leading role in encouraging the G7 to take the following actions:

Education

Lead: Mark Engman, Managing Director, Public Policy & Advocacy, UNICEF USA
(MEngman@unicefusa.org)

The United States should play a leading role at the G7 to reinforce education, child protection and empowerment, with a focus on girls.

1. **Reinforce commitments to education in last year's Charlevoix Declaration to improve learning for all children, including those affected by conflict and crisis, particularly for girls, that leads to quality employment opportunities.**
 - a. Reinforce the G7 commitment to help developing countries improve inclusion, equity, and quality in education systems, including refugee hosting countries.
 - b. Ensure that child protection is integral to education systems, to address violence in and around schools, school-related gender-based violence, and child marriage.
 - c. Prioritize tackling gender-related barriers to girls' education, including violence, mobility constraints, adolescent pregnancy and child marriage, menstrual hygiene management, unpaid domestic labor and care-work, and harmful norms that undervalue girls' education.
 - d. Commit to defining and measuring progress towards meaningful education outcomes, including attendance, safety, and learning outcomes.

2. **Support a declaration that recognizes the importance of safe, equitable, quality education inclusive of all children and youth, including those affected by conflicts and crises, with a focus on girls.**
 - a. Building on the G20 ECD Initiative, recognize that child development and school readiness depend on proper care, nutrition, and parenting in the earliest years, including pre-school.
 - b. Recognize inclusive quality education as a lifesaving intervention that must be prioritized in the first phase of any humanitarian response.
 - c. Commit G7 countries to increase ODA funding for education, both for bilateral and global initiatives, including the Global Partnership for Education and Education Cannot Wait.

- d. Recognize and promote technical and vocational skills building to help youth successfully transition to meaningful employment.
- e. Commit to education programs that include and measure social-emotional skills necessary to succeed in school and in life.

Environment

Lead: Linda Krueger, Senior Policy Advisor, The Nature Conservancy (lkrueger@tnc.org)

1. **Climate**
 - a. Disclose the “suitable terms for re-engagement” with the Paris Agreement (as described by the President in June 2017),¹ and the implementation timeline for that re-engagement effort.
2. **Biodiversity & Ecosystem Services**
 - a. Acknowledge the critical role for biodiversity and ecosystem services in global economic growth and human well-being.
 - b. Endorse an ambitious program for the development of a global biodiversity strategy being developed under UN auspices.²
3. **Marine Sustainability**
 - a. Follow up on the Charlevoix Blueprint for Healthy Oceans, Seas and Resilient Coastal Communities to implement commitments.
 - b. Commit to stop single-use plastics by 2020 or 2021.

Food Security and Nutrition

Lead: Daisy Francis, Advocacy Strategy and Technical Advisor, World Vision U.S. (dfrancis@worldvision.org)

Global figures indicate that the number of people living with hunger and malnutrition has risen since 2015. Hidden in this trend is the role that growing inequality within and among nations plays in maintaining food insecurity. Without renewed efforts, the goal of eradicating hunger by 2030 will not be achieved. Given this, the United States should work with G7 governments to:

1. Uphold and fulfill commitments made at the **Elmau Summit**, to lift 500 million people out of hunger and malnutrition. Specifically, the G7 should:
 - a. Describe how the **target population** will be identified.
 - b. Outline the **process** to achieve the Elmau commitment.

- c. Specify the **monitoring mechanism** to track the effectiveness and success of the interventions.
2. Prioritize support for programs that ensure access to sufficient amounts of nutritious and culturally appropriate food, under existing **nutrition-focused initiatives**, as well as at the 2020 Nutrition for Growth Summit, to meet the needs of food insecure communities.
3. Agree to a common, standardized and verifiable reporting framework, as started at Ise-Shima, to improve **G7 accountability** on all investments in food security and nutrition, including a methodology on data management.

Gender

Lead: Lyric Thompson, Director, Policy & Advocacy, International Center for Research on Women (lthompson@icrw.org)

1. Promote women's economic empowerment and decent work

The U.S. should work with G7 partners to adopt an action plan on women's economic empowerment that:

- a. Creates/maintains decent and well-paying work for women, including equal pay, in formal and informal sectors;
 - b. Supports legal, regulatory, and customary reforms to ensure women can obtain secure land rights to access, own, inherit, lease, and transfer real and personal land and property;
 - c. Promotes measures in the labor market, such as paid parental leave, which even the distribution of unpaid care, and invests in gender-responsive energy and water and sanitation infrastructure, which reduces it;
 - d. Designs financial services for the 1 billion estimated unbanked women;
 - e. Supports the adoption of policies to end violence and harassment against women in the world of work;³ and
 - f. Invests in programs that address underlying obstacles that keep women, especially poor women, from being able to meaningfully participate in the workforce.⁴
2. **Empower Adolescent Girls**

The U.S. should work with G7 partners to fully fund robust implementation of the Charlevoix Declaration through programs and policies that:

 - a. Prevent and respond to all forms of sexual and gender-based violence;⁵

- b. Expand access to safe, quality, inclusive and equitable education and skills-building, including comprehensive sexuality education; life skills; rights education, including on land and inheritance rights; and financial literacy and numeracy;
- c. Increase access to gender-responsive, adolescent-friendly, and comprehensive health information and services;
- d. Work with communities and families to identify and address underlying social norms that perpetuate gender inequality; and
- e. Incorporate full and meaningful participation of adolescent girls in all phases of interventions, from conception through implementation, monitoring, and evaluation.

3. Promote Women's Rights and Inclusion in Peace and Security Processes

Building on the Women, Peace and Security Act of 2018 and relevant G7 commitments, the U.S. should work with G7 countries to:

- a. Announce financial commitments strengthening partnerships between humanitarian operators and local women's organizations to develop models of humanitarian response that place affected populations, especially women and girls, at the heart of decisions.
- b. Commit to accompany national strategies and/or action plans for women, peace and security, building on the forthcoming U.S. Strategy on Women, Peace and Security, with implementation budgets and evaluation mechanisms for public reporting by 2020.

Health

Lead: Danielle Heiberg, Senior Manager, Policy and Advocacy, Global Health Council
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To fulfill G7 commitments including the Ise-Shima Vision for Global Health (2017) and the \$10 billion resource mobilization commitment in the Muskoka Initiative (2010), G7 countries must:

1. Embrace the global commitment to Universal Health Coverage (UHC) by:
 - a. Recognizing Primary Healthcare (PHC) as the means to achieve UHC and supporting partner countries in the implementation of gender-responsive and child-friendly PHC.
 - b. Scaling up equity-focused programming that provides comprehensive and integrated health services across the continuum of care, with a particular focus on quality prenatal and newborn care.
 - c. Committing to attend the High-Level Meeting on UHC in September 2019 and supporting the High-Level Meeting communique or declaration.

2. Commit to finance mobilization to invest in women’s economic empowerment through health employment in underserved settings that aligns with the Global Workforce 2030 Strategy and the ILO-WHO-OECD Working for Health Action Plan 2017-2021.
3. Recognize the critical role of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance in strengthening health systems, tackling drug-resistance, and preventing unnecessary deaths from infectious diseases, and commit to increasing G7 countries’ contributions to both.

Peace and Security

Lead: Ann Vaughan, Senior Advisor, Mercy Corps (avaughan@mercy Corps.org)

Last year’s G7 committed to advancing respect for International Humanitarian Law (IHL), the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda, and greater support for resolution of conflicts. We applaud these objectives and to reach these critical goals we recommend the U.S. urge G7 countries to:

1. **Report on steps taken to advance the Toronto Commitments made last year, including the number and type of commitments made by partners to respect IHL.** We urge the U.S. to lead a G7 commitment to:
 - a. End de facto blockades and sieges which deprive civilian populations of the means of survival;
 - b. Ensure the flow of essential supplies and humanitarian relief to civilian populations in situations of armed conflict; and
 - c. Suspend any sale and/or transfer of military weapons and equipment to parties to the conflict who are likely to use them against civilian populations, including children, as is the case in Yemen.
2. **Invest in peacebuilding, child protection and prevention of gender-based-violence, and conflict prevention efforts by doubling sustained investments in peace.** To galvanize other G7 countries to action, we also urge the G7 to add this commitment to the G7 Progress Reports so countries can be held accountable for taking action for peace.
3. **Climate-Conflict Nexus.** The G7 should increase climate finance and ensure any new initiatives integrate climate change, environment, and conflict risk perspectives and information.
 - a. Support ongoing early warning initiatives that integrate disparate data sets to better understand the relationship between climate change and insecurity and ensure early action to adapt to and mitigate against climate and conflict risks.

BACKGROUND

EDUCATION

Access to safe, inclusive, equitable, quality learning from early years through adolescence is the foundation for building stable nations and growing economies.

More than 260 million children and youth are out of school. At least 75 million children and youth in crisis-affected countries face challenges to their education; more than half of all school-aged refugee children are out of school. Most refugee teenagers will never get a secondary education. In Africa's Sahel region, threats to teachers and schools have disrupted education for more than 400,000 children.

Girls are almost two and a half times more likely to be out of primary school if they live in conflict-affected countries, and 90% more likely to be out of secondary school than their counterparts in countries not affected by conflict.

Gender norms, combined with inadequate systems of child protection and lack of access to health services, compound gender inequality in education. For example, 12 million girls are married before 18 each year, almost always hurting their participation in education. Education provides a protection against child marriage: in Sub-Saharan Africa, 66% of girls with no education become child brides, versus 13% of those with secondary or higher education.

Quality of education is too often inadequate: an estimated 60% of children worldwide do not have minimum proficiency levels in reading and mathematics. One billion young people will enter the workforce in the next decade, who will need foundational and transferable skills that meet the needs of the global labor market.

The depth of the learning crisis provides the greatest global challenge to preparing children, especially girls, for life, work, and citizenship in the 21st century, and creates an insurmountable barrier to women's economic empowerment globally.

ENVIRONMENT

Climate

On June 1, 2017, the president announced that the U.S. would pursue withdrawal from the Paris Agreement unless a "[far better deal](#)" could be negotiated for the U.S. As recently as late 2018, it is still the

stated position of the U.S. government to pursue “suitable terms for re-engagement” under the Paris Agreement. However, the terms for re-engagement and a timeline for implementation has not been announced.

Biodiversity

Nature is the infrastructure that supports our life and our economies. The continued decline of species diversity and abundance, and the degradation of ecosystems and their functions, risk undermining our food systems, clean water, health, heritage, and the quality of life. Failure to arrest this decline in the next decade will not only make achievement of the other SDGs impossible, but also quite likely contribute to numerous humanitarian crises—and be an irreversible catastrophe for the natural world.

The UN system’s ambition is to make the 2020 COP a “Paris Moment for Biodiversity” by convening a summit of world leaders to adopt the new 10-year framework for global biodiversity conservation and announce a series of national biodiversity conservation commitments, similar to the UNFCCC NDCs. The adoption of the new Strategic Plan is largely expected to amend (not overhaul) the current structure of 20 targets that make up the framework. These targets will be discussed by the Parties with the view of updating and streamlining, also to better align and integrate with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Targets could be significantly updated to reflect our current understanding of the role of ecosystem services in supporting development outcomes and climate resilience and mitigation.

The post-2020 global biodiversity framework currently in development must therefore take a bold approach to drive transformational change in societies and economies. Raising the profile of biodiversity to the highest political levels and driving action across society will be critical to achieving a sustainable future.

A key subset of biodiversity-related outcomes is related to the health of the oceans and marine ecosystems. Marine litter, especially plastic and micro-plastic pollution, is increasingly recognized as one of the most serious threats to the oceans. The G7 countries include the largest contributors to the plastic waste stream, much of which ends up in the ocean. G7 leaders should endorse specific commitments and concrete actions to reduce plastic pollution at the summit.

FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

Global figures indicate that the number of people living with hunger and malnutrition has risen since 2015. The FAO notes that the absolute number of hungry people (those facing chronic food deprivation) increased to nearly 821 million in 2017, levels not seen in a decade. Moreover, one in three people are affected by some form of malnutrition, with Africa remaining the continent most affected (more than 256

million people).⁶ Additionally, nearly 151 million children under five have stunted growth. Unsurprisingly, women are more likely to be affected by severe food insecurity than men in Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

According to the 2017 *State of the Food Security and Nutrition in the World* report, evidence confirms that lower levels of per capita food consumption in some countries, and increased inequality in the ability to access food in the populations of other countries, have contributed to “a further increase in the percentage of people in the world having insufficient dietary energy consumption in 2017” (i.e. experiencing under nutrition). The higher costs for nutritious food, the stress of living with food insecurity, and the physiological adaptation necessitated by food restrictions lead to additional adverse impacts on the lives of those who are food insecure.

Hunger is also significantly worse in countries with agricultural systems that are highly sensitive to severe droughts and where the livelihood of a high proportion of the population depends on agriculture. Thus, the risk of food insecurity and malnutrition is greater because the livelihoods of the poor and their assets are more exposed and vulnerable to climate extremes and other shocks. Consequently, the G7 need to accelerate and scale up actions to strengthen the resilience and adaptive capacity of food systems. Additionally, given the linkages between global hunger and increases in conflict and violence, efforts to fight hunger must go hand in hand with efforts to achieve peace. However, the prospects are not optimistic, with evidence indicating that the global community is not on track to achieve the goal of eradicating hunger by 2030.

GENDER

France has established gender equality as a priority for its G7 presidency, building on the foundation Canada laid last year through the Charlevoix Declaration and other commitments. Given this and existing U.S. efforts across all of the above areas, the U.S. should work with France and its G7 partners to advance new financial commitments⁷ and public accountability reporting to increase impact in all of these areas.

HEALTH

In September 2019, the United Nations will hold its first ever High-Level Meeting (HLM) on UHC. The G7 has an important role to play to ensure the success of the HLM on UHC by supporting Primary Health Care (PHC) as the pathway to UHC and supporting implementation of PHC that focuses on health promotion and prevention, reflects a life-course approach, and ensures essential health services for underserved populations.

Every year, an estimated 5.6 million children die before the age of five, including 2.6 million newborns.⁸ Another 2.6 million are stillborn.⁹ Millions more are denied their right to thrive, limiting their prospects in adulthood. Most of these children are victims of illnesses or diseases that can be easily prevented or effectively treated by ensuring that every mother and child has access to affordable, quality care.

Investment in the health workforce would empower women by providing tangible resources and capacity for advancement and growth. With a projected shortage of 18 million health workers globally by 2030, particularly in LMICs, investment in the health workforce to meet these needs would directly employ millions of women.¹⁰ Globally, women’s labor contributes \$3 trillion into the health system, roughly half of which goes unpaid. With an estimated \$28 trillion increase in global GDP if women were able to participate in the economy equally, adequate investment in the health workforce would bring huge returns by addressing the unpaid labor many women provide.¹¹ Investment would also create avenues to support underutilized cadres and positions, diversifying the levels of employment possible and opening up access to underserved and vulnerable populations.

The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria has saved 27 million lives since its inception in 2002.¹² In countries where the Global Fund invests, deaths caused by AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria have been reduced by one-third each year since 2002. Since its inception in 2000, Gavi has supported routine immunization programs and vaccination campaigns that have reached more than 700 million children and prevented more than 10 million deaths.¹³ Contributions to these multilateral mechanisms not only advance their work to address some of the leading causes of death, but also help to strengthen health systems, providing a platform to achieving UHC.

PEACE AND SECURITY

According to the UN and World Bank, violent conflict is “increasingly recognized as one of the biggest obstacles” to achieving the SDGs by 2030. Violence and violent conflict are on the rise, affecting millions of innocent men, women, and children around the globe – and that number continues to climb. These trends threaten to erode global development, undercut gender equality, worsen humanitarian crises, and pull finite resources away from tackling development challenges. For example:

- Violence costs the global economy \$14.76 trillion a year, or 12.4% of world GDP.¹⁴
- Violence has caused the worst displacement crisis seen since WWII, with over 68.5 million people uprooted from their homes.¹⁵ Humanitarian appeals are the highest they have ever been: twenty years ago, 80% of humanitarian aid went to victims of natural disaster; today 80% of aid goes to people fleeing violence, violent conflict, and oppression.¹⁶

- Armed conflicts are becoming increasingly deadly for civilians. In 2017, there was a 38% increase in civilian deaths from explosive weapons compared to 2016.¹⁷
- In 2017, the number of hungry people increased for the first time in years, in large part because of conflict. Sixty percent of the world’s hungry are living in countries affected by conflict; of those 122 million are children.¹⁸
- 420 million, or nearly 1 in 5 children, live in conflict-affected settings globally, up 30 million from the previous year. Violations against children, including killing, abduction, attacks on schools and denial of humanitarian aid, have tripled since 2010 and numbered more than 25,000 in 2017 – the highest figure ever recorded.¹⁹

Previous G7 communiqués have called for addressing root causes (Para 28, 2017 Communique) and “genuine commitment” to solving conflicts (Para 6, 2017 Communique). Yet few advancements have been made. Considering the damage violence is having on global stability and development goals, now is the time for the G7 to take specific steps to stop and prevent further conflict; and improve the conditions of civilians already trapped in and affected by conflict.

Endorsing Organizations

While this statement is not designed to be a consensus position of the contributors, it has been endorsed by InterAction's leadership. Each set of recommendations was developed by a policy team of the G7/G20 Advocacy Alliance. Endorsing organizations are listed below by issue.

Education

Basic Education Coalition
Food for the Hungry
Global Campaign for Education – U.S.
Global Communities
International Rescue Committee
Save the Children
The Hunger Project
UNICEF USA
World Vision U.S.

Environment

Oxfam America
The Hunger Project
The Nature Conservancy

Food Security and Nutrition

1,000 Days
CARE USA
Food for the Hungry
Global Communities
International Rescue Committee
Oxfam America
Save the Children
The Hunger Project
World Vision U.S.

Gender

CARE USA
Center for Democratic Education

Global Communities
International Center for Research on Women
Oxfam America
Save the Children
The Hunger Project
World Vision U.S.

Health

ACTION
Food for the Hungry
Global Communities
Global Health Council
IntraHealth International
PATH
Save the Children
The Hunger Project
UNICEF USA
World Vision U.S.

Peace and Security

Alliance for Peacebuilding
Center for Democratic Education
Food for the Hungry
Global Communities
Mercy Corps
Oxfam America
Save the Children
The Hunger Project
World Vision U.S.

ABOUT INTERACTION

InterAction is a convener, thought leader, and voice for nearly 200 NGOs working to eliminate extreme poverty, strengthen human rights and citizen participation, safeguard a sustainable planet, promote peace, and ensure dignity for all people.

¹ As recently as late 2018, it is still the [stated position](#) of the U.S. government to pursue “suitable terms for re-engagement” under the Paris Agreement.

² Note the United States is not party to the Convention on Biological Diversity, which will be the main platform for negotiating the post-2020 biodiversity strategy. The U.S. has, however, signed the treaty and participates as an observer. Its strong support for action to conserve and restore nature will be important to the success of the strategy.

³ Including the ILO international convention.

⁴ For example, education, access to technology, and telecommunications.

⁵ Including but not limited to school-related gender-based violence, child marriage, intimate partner and other forms of domestic violence, and female genital mutilation.

⁶ Food and Agriculture Organization. (2018). “The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World.” <http://www.fao.org/3/I9553EN/I9553en.pdf>.

⁷ We recommend that G7 countries embrace a target of 85% of ODA spending on gender as a primary or significant objective, as per the OECD DAC gender marker.

⁸ UNICEF. (2017). “Levels & Trends in Child Mortality: Report 2017.” http://www.wpro.who.int/southpacific/mediacentre/releases/2017/child_mortality_report_2017who.pdf.

⁹ World Health Organization. “The neglected tragedy of stillbirths.” https://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/topics/maternal_perinatal/stillbirth/en/.

¹⁰ World Health Organization. (2016). “Working for Health and Growth: Investing in the health workforce.” High-Level Commission on Health Employment and Economic Growth. <https://www.who.int/hrh/com-heeg/reports/report-expert-group/en/>.

¹¹ McKinsey Global Institute. (2016). “Delivering the power of parity: toward a more gender-equal society.” <https://www.mckinsey.com/~media/mckinsey/featured%20insights/employment%20and%20growth/realizing%20gender%20equality%2012%20trillion%20economic%20opportunity/delivering-the-power-of-parity.ashx>.

¹² The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. “Global Fund Partnership has Saved 27 Million Lives.” September 12, 2018. <https://www.theglobalfund.org/en/news/2018-09-12-global-fund-partnership-has-saved-27-million-lives/>.

¹³ Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance. “Facts and figures.” <https://www.gavi.org/about/mission/facts-and-figures/>.

¹⁴ Institute for Economics and Peace. (2018). “Global Terrorism Index 2018”. <http://visionofhumanity.org/app/uploads/2018/12/Global-Terrorism-Index-2018-1.pdf>.

¹⁵ UNHCR. “Figures at a Glance.” <https://www.unhcr.org/figures-at-a-glance.html>.

¹⁶ Keny-Guyer, Neal. “Conflict is reshaping the world. Here’s how we tackle it.” World Economic Forum. January 16, 2018. <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2018/01/conflict-is-reshaping-the-world-mercy-corps/>.

¹⁷ Action on Armed Violence. (2018). “The Burden of Harm: Monitoring Explosive Violence in 2017.” <https://aoav.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Explosive-Violence-Monitor-2017-v6.pdf>.

¹⁸ World Food Program. (2017). “State of the World Food Security.” <https://www.wfp.org/content/2017-state-food-security-and-nutrition-world-sofi-report>.

¹⁹ Save the Children. (2019). “Stop the War on Children: Protecting Children in 21st Century Conflict.” <https://www.savethechildren.org/content/dam/usa/reports/ed-cp/stop-the-war-on-children-2019.pdf>.