



**CARE International:
Policy recommendations for the G7 Summit
7-8 June 2015
Germany**

The Federal Government of Germany is hosting the Heads of State and Government's Summit Conference of the Group of Seven (G7) on the 7th and 8th of June 2015 in Elmau near Munich in Germany.

CARE International welcomes that the G7 Summit agenda addresses key issues which are central to progressing our fight against poverty and the pursuit of sustainable development. With several major international policy decisions taking place in 2015 and 2016 which can deliver hope for a better future – the Financing for Development summit, the UN summit on the post-2015 development agenda, the UN climate summit in Paris, and the World Humanitarian Summit – the G7 can make a difference. The G7 remains a forum reuniting some of the biggest industrialized nations which can contribute to the required changes towards sustainable and equitable development.

This position paper sets out CARE's expectations to the G7 in the areas of a) economic empowerment of women and girls, b) tackling climate change and c) food and nutrition security. These on the G7 agenda are central to CARE's vision to seek a world of hope, tolerance and social justice, where poverty has been overcome and people live in dignity and security.

Summary of key recommendations

In order to **promote the economic empowerment of women and girls**, CARE calls on the G7 countries to

- Mobilise new resources in women's education at all levels.
- Commit to developing and encouraging other states to develop National Action Plans to implement the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, with a strong framework for corporate accountability.
- Ensure G7-based global corporations commit to ensuring payment of living wages and equal pay for equal work, all along supply chains.
- Support domestic workers' rights by pressuring states to adopt, ratify and enforce ILO Convention 189 to guarantee minimum wages and maternity pay.
- Encourage and support the private sector to provide women with access to finance, with a strong focus on micro-enterprises and entrepreneurship.
- Implement national Social Protection systems which empower women and girls.
- Prioritise eradication of gender-based violence.
- Track the gender impact of donor funding.

In order to **effectively tackle and avoid dangerous climate change, and to promote an ambitious long-term climate agreement** at COP21 in Paris, CARE calls on the G7 countries to

- Commit to a global decarbonisation and a long-term goal of reducing fossil fuel emissions to zero before 2050, recognising their historical responsibilities and fair shares in this endeavor.
- Strive to reach a universal rights-based, ambitious and binding climate deal, guided by the goal of limiting the global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees.
- Strengthen actions focused on the needs of the poorest and most marginalized populations in developing countries in climate adaptation, resilience building and in addressing loss and damage.

- Commit to provide before Paris individual climate finance roadmaps, including clear projections for the increase of public finance on top of the 0.7% ODA target, towards the 100 billion USD of climate finance by 2020.
- Commit to develop decarbonisation roadmaps for the electricity sector before 2050, through improving energy efficiency, developing renewable energies and phasing out coal use.
- Phase out fossil fuel subsidies immediately, based on previous G20 commitments.

In order to **effectively address global hunger and malnutrition**, in the context of inequality, climate change, resource scarcity, and a growing global population, CARE calls on the G7 countries, in any new or continuing food and nutrition security initiatives, to

- Scale up finance to support small-scale food producers' livelihoods.
- Prioritize the needs of small-scale food producers and promote sustainable, productive, profitable, equitable and resilient (SuPER) approaches to small-scale agriculture.
- Prioritize women small-scale food producers and efforts to advance gender equality.
- Prioritize nutrition outcomes, particularly for the first 1000 days.
- Promote and protect small-scale food producers' rights, including the rights to land, fisheries and forests.
- Support and Strengthen the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and other related global processes.

1. Economic empowerment of girls and women

Around the world, it is women and girls who are disproportionately affected by poverty and discrimination. But women are an important part of the solutions needed to truly overcome poverty. They play a key role in navigating their family and their community to a better life. Often, women and girls are not allowed to make decisions about their household's income, or tradition and culture forbids them to leave their homes. In other words, half of the population in some countries have their rights denied and are severely hampered in their ability to contribute to their families', their communities', and their own economic development. A great injustice is done and a great resource goes untapped.

Under the "Empowerment of Women" slogan, the G7 Presidency plans an initiative for vocational education and training of girls and women. In order to achieve economic equality among men and women one has to be aware that gender inequalities are often structurally-defined and deeply rooted in society. Therefore improved education and training for girls will not of itself solve the problem. "Empowerment" – increasing power- requires a whole set of initiatives which help women and girls expanding their possibilities, in order for them to become equal social and economic actors and fully enjoy their human rights.

We know that a woman is only economically empowered when social and economic systems and structures support her ability to succeed and she has the **power to make and act on economic decisions on a level playing field with men.**

We expect the Governments of the G7 to engage on the following issues:

1. Mobilise new resources in women's education at all levels

Vocational education and training can improve the chances of women on the labour market. However, the importance of a sound primary and secondary education for women and girls as a basis for vocational education and training should not be overlooked. Also, new resources should be

mobilized in order to tackle the problem of women's illiteracy, since almost two-thirds of the world illiterate citizens consist of women and girls¹. Furthermore, women and girls access to scientific and technical careers needs to be strongly enhanced in order to remedy the substantial feminine underrepresentation within the field.

2. Enable good work and social security

The creation of secure employment, adequate remuneration and good working conditions for women in both the formal and informal sector should be a primary concern of the G7 initiative on Retail and Supply Chain Standards. Human rights and labour standards have to be met, by a commitment to the implementation of **the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights**:

- Improved formal framework of corporate accountability and responsible behaviour, in G7 countries' National Action Plans.
- Support of National Action Plans by the governments of developing countries.
- Recognition of women and girls as vulnerable groups should be emphasised.

Living wages are essential to deliver the 'just and favourable remuneration' every worker has a right to under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Art 23). Under the same article workers also have a right to equal pay for equal work. This right to equal pay is obviously of particular importance to women. Today, women's pay on average ranges from 20 per cent less than men's in some countries such as Mozambique and Pakistan, to over 80 per cent less in Côte d'Ivoire.

Social protection plays a critical role in enabling women and girls to overcome the additional burdens and obstacles they face. It is important that these systems empower women:

- National conditional cash transfer systems should avoid reinforcing inequitable traditional gender roles.
- There should be greater male participation in fulfilling the conditions e.g. by involving men in caring duties.
- Gender ministries should be involved in the design, and there should be greater male participation in fulfilling the conditions.
- Graduation strategies should secure women's equal rights to economic opportunities and access to independent financial services.

3. Support the informal sector, with a strong focus on micro-enterprises and entrepreneurship

Most jobs in developing countries are in the informal sector, so a strong focus on micro-enterprises and entrepreneurship is essential. Support to the private sector in developing countries should therefore be:

- Focused on those market systems that **are important to large numbers of people in poverty**
- **Within the current and future natural resource constraints** of those systems.
- Supported by **appropriate regulation and investment** in a strong pro-poor enabling environment.
- Engaging market system players: public and private, small and large, marginalised and powerful, in genuine dialogue and planning.

4. Fight gender-based violence

Violence perpetrated against girls and women is a human rights violation, which affects 35 per cent of girls and women worldwide. Gender-based violence is a constant threat to the health and life of

¹ <http://www.uis.unesco.org/literacy/Pages/data-release-map-2013.aspx>

these women, and as a result often leads to deaths, lifelong injuries or trauma among the survivors. In addition, gender-based violence also implies huge costs for the economy and businesses which are regularly affected by the absence of the survivors of gender-based violence.

Reducing gender inequality in the economic field therefore involves combating violence against women. G7 countries should consider gender-based violence as a priority on the development agenda. Prioritizing the issue implies allocating funds to support women's organizations and public campaigns which advocate women's rights and protection. In addition, pressure should be exercised in favour of a consistent enforcement of already existing legislation and measures related to gender based violence, including the enforcement of an appropriate criminal prosecution. This also implies in many cases the activation of the relevant law enforcement authorities and mechanisms, including the protection of victims.

2. Tackling climate disruption and promoting adaptation to climate change

One of the greatest inequalities of our time is reflected in the causes and consequences of climate change, which increasingly threatens the livelihoods of billions of people. However, the world's poorest and most vulnerable, who are least responsible for causing climate change and have the fewest resources to cope with extreme and erratic weather will unfairly continue to bear the brunt of its impacts. This is an extreme global injustice and one of the major human rights' threat of our time. If the global community fails to take action, the consequences for humanity, both with regard to food and nutrition security, and more broadly, will be devastating. It will further spur humanitarian crises – including conflict, disasters and situations of chronic insecurity and vulnerability – undermine people's enjoyment of human rights and further exacerbate gender inequality.

The G7 has a special responsibility in shifting to climate-compatible development pathways, Representing 44% of world GDP, the G7 is responsible for around 25% of global greenhouse gas emissions, despite accounting for "only" 10, 5% of the world's total population. The group's carbon footprint lies well above the global footprint, while at the same time differing significantly within the G7. In addition, the G7 accounts for 70% of public spending on development cooperation and is also a major contributor to climate finance for developing countries.

Thus, the G7 has a particular duty to act on climate change and to signal to developing countries that they are serious about jointly driving the world to a more sustainable development within the planetary boundaries which are increasingly exceeded. They should support a strong and ambitious climate agreement to be adopted in Paris in December 2015, and back a cross-cutting and visible recognition of climate change in the post-2015 development framework.

CARE expects the G7 to make progress on the following key areas:

1. Accelerate emission cuts and promote the shift to sustainable renewable energies

More efforts for cutting harmful greenhouse gas emissions from the G7 are necessary. The G7-States should

- Pledge to "decarbonize" their electricity supply before 2050 and take immediate additional steps, through shifting to sustainable renewable energies, enhancing greatly on energy efficiency and implementing scenarios for a progressive coal phase-out.
- Phase-out subsidies towards the fossil energy sector immediately and
- In parallel try to reach similar agreements with developing and emerging countries, for example in the G20 context, in the run-up to Paris. G7 countries should also ensure

technology transfer, capacity building and financial support to make this a reality in particular for the promotion of sustainable renewable energy solutions.

2. Striving to reach a universal rights-based, ambitious and binding climate deal

The G7 should confirm that the agreement reached in Paris should commit to limiting the global temperature rise to below 2 degrees, as close as possible to 1.5 degrees, to avoid large-scale climate risks, including

- By setting the goal to reducing fossil fuel emissions to almost zero before 2050, recognizing the G7 specific responsibility through their fair and equitable share in emission reduction efforts within this ambitious agreement.
- A clear commitment to respect, protect, promote and fulfill human rights and gender equality standards and principles as well as ensuring food and nutrition security across all climate action.

3. Strengthening climate adaptation and building a more integrated longer-term humanitarian, development and climate-resilient approach

The G7 should send a clear signal to the most vulnerable developing countries by increasing their support in addressing climate change impacts:

- Climate adaptation initiatives developed by the G7 should prioritize the needs of the poorest and marginalized populations, in particular vulnerable children and women of poorest countries, for example in sectors of food and nutrition security and social system coverage.
- G7 should support making disaster and climate risk assessment a mandatory component of programming, and promote addressing resilience, disaster risk reduction (DRR) and emergency preparedness more consistently across poverty reduction, natural resource management, urban development and climate change adaptation programmes.
- In chronic and cyclical crises, the G7 should encourage the provision of more integrated and longer-term humanitarian, development and climate funding towards saving lives and livelihoods.

4. Clarifying and scaling-up climate finance for developing countries

Scaling-up climate finance, with public finance support being particularly important to address the adaptation needs of the poorest and most vulnerable people, will be essential for tackling climate change and for building an effective Paris agreement. Therefore, the G7 should

- Commit to contributing their fair share to the 100 billion/year target (by 2020).
- Provide clear roadmaps for scaling up their shares before the Paris summit, including the increase of public climate finance as urged by UNFCCC COP20 decision.
- Agree to provide public climate finance on top of development aid counted towards the 0.7% ODA target.
- Promote the establishment of innovative finance mechanisms which can generate truly additional resources for action on climate (and sustainable development) in developing countries (such as Financial Transaction Tax, revenues from international transport).
- Social and environmental safeguards should be applied to all climate finance.

3. **Global Food and Nutrition Security – putting small-scale food producers at the center of food and nutrition policy**

Feeding and nourishing today's global population and a projected 9.6 billion people in 2050 without destroying the planet is perhaps today's most significant challenge. Over 800 million people suffer from chronic hunger and over 160 million children under five are stunted. Malnutrition—particularly

in the first 1000 days until a child's second birthday—can permanently impair physical and cognitive development, creating a vicious cycle of poverty and hunger.

To meet increasing food and feed demands from a growing population with changing consumption patterns, food production will have to increase by 60 percent. Yet, two-thirds of ecosystems are already used unsustainably. And as the world and vulnerable communities, in particular, struggle to grapple with these dynamics, climate change creates further stress on natural systems and threatens to decrease agricultural productivity. The food systems of today and of the future must promote justice and sustainability in order to enhance the food and nutrition security and resilience of poor populations and to protect the ecosystems on which they rely.

In the past six years, the G7 has put forth several food and nutrition security initiatives, from the L'Aquila Food Security Initiative to the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition to Nutrition for Growth. The commitment to tackling food insecurity and malnutrition is welcome, but the actions of the G7 – the commitments and financial support – must deliver results for small-scale food producers and their families. This means challenging unequal distribution of power to promote gender equality and to ensure an equal playing field for small-scale producers. Too often, agriculture and food policy promotes large scale industrialized food production that emphasises mechanized and chemically intensive mono-cropping. This model largely leaves out the roles of small-scale food producers (many of whom are among the 800+ million chronically hungry), reduces the resilience and biodiversity of food systems, and takes little account of environmental sustainability or of the changing realities of farming in a world of a changing climate. The demands and needs of the hundreds of millions of small-scale food producers must be placed at the center of socially equitable and ecologically sustainable agricultural and food policies.

CARE expects the G7 to commit to the following:

1. Scale up finance to support small-scale food producers' livelihoods

Small-scale food producers simultaneously struggle to feed their families, earn an income, protect natural resources, and adapt to a changing climate. Yet they do so with few resources – and the challenges are only growing. In order to effectively fight hunger and undernourishment, public spending following L'Aquila should be significantly increased and the interests of small-scale food producers must be paramount.

2. Prioritize the needs of small-scale food producers and promote sustainable, productive, profitable, equitable and resilient (SuPER) approaches to small-scale agriculture

Small-scale food producers are not only the largest and most important investors in the agricultural sector; they are also the biggest producers of food - even though they often have limited access to resources, are reliant on degraded land, have low capacity to adapt to a changing climate, live on the edge of crisis, and compete with more powerful players for market share and resources. G7 food security initiatives must promote sustainable, productive, profitable, equitable, and resilient (SuPER) small-scale agriculture by:

- Prioritizing the needs and rights of smallscale food producers, particularly women;
- Promoting participatory research and extension services.
- Promote environmentally sustainable approaches to agriculture like agroecology and conservation agriculture.
- Building the adaptive capacity of smallscale food producers and enhancing the climate-resilience of smallscale food production.
- Addressing small-scale food producers' access to productive inputs, skills, market and weather information, and markets.
- Promoting smallscale food producers' participation in policy-making and planning processes at all levels.

3. Prioritize women small-scale food producers and efforts to advance gender equality

When food is scarce, women are often the last to eat, yet, they are critical actors in their families' and communities' food and nutrition security. In one food security program in Bangladesh, women's empowerment was shown to be the most effective intervention for reducing child stunting. Of economically active women in developing countries, 79 percent spend their working hours producing food through agriculture. Yet, while many small-scale producers are women, they frequently lack equal access with men to resources, like land, credit, and training. Research shows, however, that if women had equal access, global hunger could be reduced by 100 to 150 million people. G7 initiatives must support and promote gender equality and women's empowerment by:

- Promoting inclusion of gender analysis in programs.
- Prioritizing interventions to support women small-scale food producers.
- Engaging men and boys to raise awareness and support of women's contributions.
- Building women's capacity to access resources.
- Addressing gender inequality at all levels, from household to national policy.

4. Prioritize nutrition outcomes, particularly for the first 1000 days

Malnutrition in the first 1000 days, until a child's second birthday, can lead to irreversible, negative impacts on a child's cognitive and physical development. This limits a child's potential not only to learn but to earn, creating an intergenerational cycle of poverty. One study revealed childhood stunting can reduce income as an adult by as much as 25 percent. The G7 must ensure that all initiative prioritize nutrition outcomes and integrate nutrition interventions. Increasing food production is critical but will never be sufficient to eradicate global hunger.

5. Promote and protect small-scale food producers' rights, including the rights to land, fisheries and forests

Small-scale food producers often lack secure access and tenure to the natural resources on which their livelihoods depend. This lack of secure access makes their already fragile livelihoods even more tenuous. At the same time, these producers act as stewards of the resources on which they rely. Any G7 initiative must recognize the rights of small-scale producers to the resources on which they lie and must promote secure tenure to those resources. The G7 should reiterate its commitment to promoting and adhering to the "Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security."

6. Support and strengthen the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and ensure initiatives are supportive of other related global, regional or national processes

The CFS is a globally recognized and legitimized framework which aims to develop participatory processes and strategies to combat hunger and foster a socially equitable and ecologically sustainable agriculture. The objective of G7 governments should be to actively support the CFS as the primary global body that addresses food and nutrition security. At the same time, any G7 initiative should take into account – and support – other ongoing global processes, including the Sustainable Development Goals and the negotiations in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, as well as nationally- or regionally-driven initiatives, like the Alliance for Climate Smart Agriculture in Africa. These processes must all be mutually supportive, and progress in all is critical for progress on food and nutrition security worldwide.

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