



**G(IRLS)20 SUMMIT 2014 COMMUNIQUE
TO G20 LEADERS
AUGUST 27TH, 2014
SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA**

Preamble:

We, the delegates of the 2014 G(irls)20 Summit call on G20 Leaders to recognize the importance of the full participation of women in the economy. We came together in Australia, in advance of the G20 Leader's Meeting to offer practical and affordable recommendations for their consideration.

During our deliberations we placed an emphasis on the importance of cultivating entrepreneurship, decreasing youth unemployment and encouraging the advancement of women in what have been considered more male dominated fields.

If they are to meet their 2% growth target rate, G20 Leaders must move beyond words and take the steps to reduce the barriers which prevent the full economic engagement of girls and women.

Simply put, the inclusion of women in the workforce is key to driving economic growth, job creation and innovation.

On Jobs and Growth:

PREAMBLE: The global economy is being impacted by business innovation and invention happening at the grassroots level. A surge in entrepreneurship and an emerging but still fragile support system that promotes important economic tools like knowledge sharing, flexible education, micro-financing and local capital markets have made the need for a global response to promoting healthy, sustainable labor markets obvious. The role of the private sector in growing and investing in global intellectual capital, from education to entrepreneurship, has become increasingly important. From a structural and policy standpoint, this necessitates new and innovative approaches to financing, regulation and policymaking that allow for global business collaboration and an unhindered flow of intellectual and financial capital that helps expand minds and markets, and grow economies at all levels.

We call upon G20 Leaders to:

1. Increase the number of female entrepreneurs and promote an entrepreneurial ecosystem through government subsidies that will share the responsibility between government, business and individuals;
2. Incentivize private-sector companies specifically within fields such as science, technology, manufacturing, and agriculture, to work towards targets of gender diversity, through, but not limited to, tax exemptions and grant programs;
3. Implement laws that promote gender quotas in the public-sector to increase the number of women in senior government positions;
4. Legislate and enforce equal-pay on a national level;
5. Encourage international companies of all sizes to invest in rural communities in order to connect them to the global marketplace which will result in greater equity and sustainability;
6. Encourage flexible working hours, equal and paid parental leave, a safe working environment (including, but not limited to, where culturally appropriate, women-only workplaces);
7. Tax incentives for corporations to promote female participation in the workplace and ensure adequate child care facilities for working parents;
8. Ensure zero tolerance policies on sexual harassment, abuse and exploitation, and combat the stigma around it through education and active counseling in the workplace;
9. To reflect our changing world, adapt school curriculum to:
 - a. Include information technology;
 - b. Increase language skills to increase mobility and access to jobs; and,

- c. Introduce soft skill training (communication skills, work ethic, respect for diversity, etc.).
- 10. Invest in technology to increase access to education to facilitate learning for those unable to attend school (particularly in developing nations and rural communities);
- 11. Eliminate obstacles which hinder access to education, such as those faced by pregnant girls, young mothers and girls who are forced into marriage;
- 12. Incentivize businesses and employers to provide training, paid contract positions, internships and mentoring to girls and women in school or recent graduates; and,
- 13. Make high school level education compulsory.

On Infrastructure and Sustainability:

PREAMBLE: The rapid growth of urban populations around the globe has led to enormous gaps in core infrastructure service delivery in many parts of the globe. The numbers are staggering: 884 million people without access to safe water, 1.6 billion without electricity, and 2.5 billion without sanitation. This, combined with a growing food crisis, increased private infrastructure investment in emerging markets and rising energy prices highlights a pressing need for a universal approach to sustainable development – one that looks beyond traditional economic considerations and takes into account both environmental sustainability and social equity as critical measures of success.

We call upon G20 Leaders to:

1. Emphasize the importance of eradicating public and private sector corruption which detracts funding for programs that directly benefit women, through but not limited to ending tax avoidance, embezzlement of government subsidies, and gender-based discrimination;
2. Establish a base line of government funds earmarked for public-private partnerships in order to facilitate job growth and infrastructure projects;
3. Increase transparency by urging public and private organizations to publish their annual reports, leading to greater accountability and economic efficiency;
4. Foster public-private partnerships to ensure affordable and sustainable Internet infrastructure and ensure equal and open access to information and skills development that allow women to acquire knowledge needed to thrive in the workplace;
5. Utilize innovative green economy research for sustainable development and poverty eradication;
6. Construct female specific quality sanitation facilities in schools and the workplace to improve attendance and productivity;
7. Ensure equal access to financial resources and banking facilities to foster economic independence for women;
8. Provide efficient and safe public transportation to increase mobility for women, facilitating female participation in education and the workforce;
9. Ensure land ownership for women and better land use by training and informing them about sustainable farming methods which are adaptable to climate change and increase productivity, while investing in grassroots farmers;
10. Include food literacy and food security in primary and secondary education;
11. Introduce tools and opportunities for women to enter the field of agriculture; for example, existing gender friendly agricultural equipment; and,

12. Acknowledge that a gender-bias exists in the management of (profit) crops in the favor of men. By collecting data and examining current research, take steps toward a gender-neutral perception of all crops.

On Mental Health

PREAMBLE: A 2011 report from the World Economic Forum (WEF) estimates the global cost of mental illness will exceed \$6 trillion by 2030. Unlike other non-communicable diseases, much of the economic burden of mental illness is not the cost of care, but the loss of income due to unemployment, expenses for social supports, and a reduction in economic productivity.

We call upon G20 Leaders to:

1. Use all available resources to address and remove stigma and ensure early intervention. Government sponsored programs might include:
 - a. Education programs in school curriculums, and,
 - b. Training for human resource professionals in the workplace.

Signed by:

Afghanistan (Fatima Hashimi), **African Union** (Belkiss Anane), **Argentina** (Julia Kornberg), **Australia** (Anna Wiseman), **Brazil** (Fernanda Lagoeiro), **Canada** (Estelle Ah-Kiow), **China** (Liang Qian), **EU** (Anna-Lali Tsilidou), **France** (Amelia De Gama), **Germany** (Nabila El Arbi), **India** (Vandinika Shukla), **Indonesia** (Ayendha Pangesti), **Italy** (Caterina Milo), **Japan** (Misato Oi), **MENA** (Sarah Mesbah), **Mexico** (Veronica Velasco), **Pakistan** (Seerat Zahra), **Russia** (Yaroslava Eryomina), **Saudi Araba** (Zainab Alabdrabalnabi), **South Africa** (Annabel Fenton), **South Korea** (Sun Young Whang), **Turkey** (Deniz), **United Kingdom** (Lili Malcolm –Watts) and **USA** (Cynthia Sularz).



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