



B20 C20 L20 W20 Joint Statement:

call on the institutionalization of a G20 Gender Equality Ministerial Meeting and Working Group

Over the years, the G20 has paid increasing attention to gender equality and has promoted several initiatives aimed at women's economic empowerment. However, the expanding size and scope of G20 public deliberations on gender equality have not yet translated into a significant number of action-oriented commitments to improve gender equality nor has the G20 produced high levels of compliance with its gender equality commitments.

One of the most relevant initiatives for women's economic empowerment is the Brisbane Goal, established in 2014 and aimed at reducing the gap in labour force participation rates between men and women by 25 percent by 2025. During the G20 Italian presidency, the "*G20 Roadmap Towards and Beyond the Brisbane Target: more, better and equally paid jobs for women*" was approved and included in the G20 Labour and Employment Ministerial Declaration held on June 23rd, 2021 in Catania (Italy), with the aim of implementing a multidimensional approach to achieve equal opportunities in society and specifically in the labour market. Moreover, this year the G20 organized a Conference on Women's Empowerment on August 26th in Santa Margherita Ligure, the first of its kind in G20 history. Evidence suggests that holding G20 ministerial meetings on a specific subject both before and after the summit helps to improve compliance.

Regrettably, the pandemic has rolled back part of the progress achieved for gender equality and highlighted the need to adopt a gender transformative approach in every field, while keeping the focus on the promotion of the rights of women and girls in all their diversity. Faced with widening inequalities and a disproportioned gendered impact of the current crisis, addressing these challenges is now more important than ever and requires structural commitments sustained over time at the international level to meet SDG number 5.

Building on the above, B20, C20, L20 and W20* call for an institutionalization of a G20 Gender Equality Ministerial Meeting - resulting from the creation of a G20 Gender Working Group - and of official mechanisms to ensure gender mainstreaming in each G20 Working Group. We believe that the institutionalization of a G20 Gender Equality Ministerial Meeting and Working Group would allow and lead the needed elaboration on a theme that is crucial for human development, healthier societies, protecting people's and planet's life, as well as fundamental rights and freedoms. To realize the motto of leaving no one behind, women and girls in all their diversity must be put in a position where they can meaningfully participate on an equal footing, by removing all the structural barriers, stereotypes and discrimination that have caused an unequal distribution of power among sexes and genders. The institutionalization of a G20 Gender Equality Ministerial Meeting and subsequent creation of a G20 Working Group on Gender would be a much needed and strategic step in that direction.

This ask is in line with the objective of the G20 complementing multilateralism and in particular fostering UN frameworks and goals, such as the Agenda 2030 and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 5 aimed at achieving Gender Equality and empowering all women and girls.

* The majority of W20 members supports; some members yet to confirm.



This ask is also in line with the future perspectives established by this year's ministerial conference on Women's Empowerment to achieve a global transformative agenda with systemic and cross-cutting policies based on a high degree of multilateral coordination, and to establish a structured approach to women's empowerment supported by monitoring and evaluation tools based on indicators and by the involvement of G20 engagement groups and social partners.

We therefore reiterate our call to institutionalize proper G20 structures focused on Gender Equality, in order to build on previous efforts in this field and realize the goal of leaving no one behind.

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