

W7 Japan's Response to the G7 Hiroshima Leaders' Communiqué¹

The G7 Hiroshima Summit was held from May 19 to 21 and they adopted the G7 Hiroshima Leaders' Communiqué. Women7 (W7), one of the official engagement groups in the G7 process, is pleased to issue our response to the Communiqué.

We, as W7, welcome that the G7 Hiroshima Leaders' Communiqué has a specific section dedicated to “Gender”. We also welcome the following commitments and remarks expressed in the Leaders’ Communiqué:

- Committing to “overcome longstanding structural barriers, harmful gender norms, stereotypes, roles and practices” (para. 42).
- Determined to focus on “women and girls and those in vulnerable situations” in responding to humanitarian crises (para. 16).
- Referring repeatedly to social transformation as a pathway to gender equality, such as the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in a “gender-transformative manner” (para. 11) and “substantial transformation of our societies” (para. 44), which are also emphasized by the W7 in its Communiqué.
- Strongly condemning “all violations and abuses of the human rights and fundamental freedoms for women and girls and LGBTQIA+ people” (para. 43).
- Committing to “thwart attempts to undermine and reverse hard-won progress” for gender equality (para. 43).
- Strengthening efforts to eliminate conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence and adopting a survivor-centered approach (para. 43).
- Prioritizing global Official Development Assistance (ODA) for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in and through education, and that gender-transformative education from pre-primary onwards is emphasized (para. 37).
- Expressing determination “to build an inclusive labor market that ensures decent and good quality jobs for all and leaves no one behind, especially, women and under-represented groups” (para. 36).
- Confirming that the unequal distribution of care work as a key cause of gender inequalities, and further noting the need to address unpaid care work and treatment of care workers (para. 36).
- Affirming that comprehensive SRHR (Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights) plays the essential and transformative role in supporting gender equality, women’s and girls’ empowerment, and in supporting diversity including sexual orientations and gender identities (para. 43).
- Reaffirming its “full commitment to achieving comprehensive SRHR for all” (para. 43).

At the same time, we wish to point out that the Communiqué does not clearly mention specific financial measures to realize the commitments. We also express our concerns on the following points, and look forward to further efforts for the G7 to be accountable for its commitments:

- Insufficient financial commitments to advance the agendas for gender equality; we call for G7's financial commitments to be made by the G7 Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Ministers' Meeting at the end of June.
- We regret that, unlike the 2022 G7 Elmau Summit (Germany) Leaders' Communiqué, there is no reference to the W7.
- We expect stronger support for women-led and civil society organizations, recognizing the important role they have played for gender equality and women's empowerment, especially in local communities.
- We regret that the communiqué does not refer to "feminist development, foreign and trade policies" that reflects a gender perspective in foreign policy, even though they were mentioned in last year's G7 Leaders' Communiqué.
- With regard to the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda, we welcome the declaration of enhanced implementation, including the reference to disaster risk reduction and the promotion of intersectional approaches, but the determination and efforts to end impunity is not clear (para. 43).
- We expect the G7 to address SRHR as an indispensable element in achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC) (para. 34).
- We regret that specific policy measures are not included on care work while confirming the need to address gender inequality in the area. We would like the G7 to recognize that care is a public good that deserves adequate public funding to guarantee social protection, which goes beyond childcare (para. 36).
- We call for the G7 to promote the ratification and implementation of the Istanbul Convention, the comprehensive convention based on the survivor-centered approach, to eradicate gender-based violence.
- We look forward to the G7's commitment to promoting gender equality through the full ratification and implementation of International Human Rights Treaties including Optional Protocols, under the G7's principle of "the rule of law and human rights".
- Measures including the introduction of regulations should be considered to address negative and adverse effects of AI and advancement of digital technology that reinforce stereotypes and biases against women and girls (para. 39).
- We are concerned about the lack of adequate funding commitments of ODA. "Increase in the share of our bilateral allocable ODA advancing gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment" should be accompanied by a specific funding commitment with a clearly set timeframe (para. 44).
- The G7 has newly introduced the concept of a nexus approach; however, since its process is unclear at the time being, it is difficult to prove its effectiveness. Further elaboration of the concept is required for an effective approach to understand the relationship of various fields and engage comprehensively. The "G7 Fact Sheet:



Promoting Gender Mainstreaming through the Nexus Approachⁱⁱⁱ, a G7 Hiroshima Summit's Related Document, is not clearly positioned.

Realization of Peace Based on the Principle of Non-violence

The W7 would like to emphasize that the G7 Hiroshima Summit is an unprecedented opportunity for the G7 to commit to realize peace and non-violence. Peace is more than the absence of war; it is a state free from violence. It is important to achieve peace through non-violence, both in conflicts and in everyday life. In this context, we express our concern that this year's Summit has become an opportunity of G7's increased commitment of arms supply to Ukraine.

Based on the G7's commitment at the Hiroshima Summit "to mainstream gender equality consistently in all policies, in all spheres of society, and in all areas of society," we need to address intersectionality and multiplicity of gender-based inequality and discrimination. We emphasize repeatedly that building an equal, just and, peaceful future with gender equality at its core is essential for realization of a peaceful society throughout the world.

For inquiries regarding this response, please contact the W7 Japan Steering Committee:
w7japan2023@gmail.com

ⁱ G7 Hiroshima Leaders' Communiqué:

https://www.g7hiroshima.go.jp/documents/pdf/Leaders_Communique_01_en.pdf

ⁱⁱ G7 Fact Sheet: Promoting Gender Mainstreaming through the Nexus Approach

<https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/100506809.pdf>