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STOP GAMBLING WITH OUR FUTURE!

GCAP ITALY G7 POSITION PAPER

(Rome, January 2017)

The responsibility of G7 leaders in today's World is stronger than ever, as the uncertainties of the longest crisis experienced by the population of our planet are worsened by the insufficient and often ineffective responses adopted so far. GCAP Italy, rejoining the wider GCAP coalition, wants to highlight the critical juncture at which the humanity is: without a strong initiative of those who keep in their hand the power to decide, the future of the next generations is really endangered, and particularly that of the vast majority of the World population living at or below subsistence level. Rightly enough, we look at global inequalities as one the most concerning features of our World. The concentration of the economic power is paralleled by the concentration of the political power: those who most acutely feel the need for a change are those for which it is more difficult to take action to favor this change. It is now a unique opportunity for G7 leaders to take the leadership in this process, interpreting the need for a transition towards a more just and human world. In many cases however an attitude to adopt small incremental improvements has clearly demonstrated to be insufficient. With the failure of such an approach the need for a more robust turn is increasingly acknowledged. We feel that we have to push the reflection beyond the threshold of the political feasibility, which has often been used as a narcotic to quiet down a more demanding call for action. We ask to the G7 leaders a more courageous approach: the humanity and the whole planet cannot wait further. Delaying needed decisions once again would be a sign of dangerous recklessness, just like gambling with the future of the whole planet: a planet where the tensions and the injustice leads to increasing polarization and to hidden as well as open conflict.

In such a complex World, the recently approved Sustainable Development Goals could represent a welcomed starting point on the right pathway; and this in spite of shortcomings, overlappings and contradictions that reflect a tension between a 'business-as-usual' attitude and a thrust towards a real change. Scientists warn us on the need for an urgent reversal of the trends related to climate change: only a few years are still available to act, if we want to avoid going beyond the threshold of 1.5° increase in the average planet's temperature by the end of this century, which would bear tragic consequences for the future of the whole humanity. The tensions arising from the pressure on planets boundaries are strictly linked with poverty, inequality and vulnerability that affect the vast majority of the world population: those who will mostly suffer from the changes ongoing on our planet, but have not participated to its looting.

Yet, the SDGs need to be made concrete. However, the national commitments for that end are still clearly insufficient. It is also still unclear what kind of effort will be devoted by the international community for the establishment of an effective, flexible and detailed monitoring system for the Agenda 2030. While asking for all the measures needed to ensure our common future in terms of safe and just operating space for the humanity, we would like to strongly reaffirm the global and local implication for the SDGs monitoring and implementation: effective action should be taken at global level, but the initiative taken in the context of the HLPF (High Level Political Forum) does not seem to provide, so far, a clearly defined and effective policy



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space. Just as important as the global initiatives, are those that need to be taken at the national level, with the national sustainability plans. Those plans should not look at the sustainability issue in limited sectoral terms, and should translate at national level the deeply interlinked nature of environmental, social and economic sustainability. The institutional set-up under which these plans are to be elaborated and implemented should reflect this perspective.

The contribution of G7 countries is particularly important in tackling the structural injustice that, more than other factors, threaten the future of the planet and the humanity. We want to reaffirm the need for a better governance of the financial markets, in order to take them back to serve the people, and to avoid their dominance on the real side of the economy, even on the most essential food commodities. Stronger support is needed to develop fairer and more equitable production, consumption and trade systems, where the private sector can supply a dynamic contribution within an agreed and regulated framework. We also point out at the need for increased, enhanced and focused financial resources flows in ODA, as well as a commitment to fiscal justice, in order to progressively generate internally mobilized the financial flows needed to reliably support public policies in the long term. This is the only way to establish fairer basic service provision systems, where education, health, water are supplied on a sustainable basis to everyone.

As we point out specific elements on which we urge the G7 leaders to act effectively and without delay, we want to strongly reaffirm that any solution proposed, policy, initiative, should be firmly rooted in the dignity and right of every person. The fundamental reference to the human rights and to the need of consistently adopting a human rights based approach, should be reaffirmed not only in general and sometimes vague terms but rather taken as the backbone of all sectoral approaches and policies. The human rights approach, away from reducing specific rights to the satisfaction of related needs, is based on an idea of rights, responsibility, citizenship, and sees every human being as an active subject of change. The key word to be adopted in policy processes is therefore that of 'empowerment' particularly of those that suffer from marginalization in decision making, and that are impacted more and more severely by injustices and poverty. We need a growing consciousness of the need for attention to the empowerment of women and girls; G7 leaders should firmly commit to women's and girl's rights, not only in words. In absence of that, no sustainable, balanced and equitable development will become possible.

We look with concern at the difficulties of formal political process in building up a common vision for change, among and across the societies. The weakness of the political leadership is reflected in divisive and disgregative processes: phenomena of revived nationalism, walls and barriers building, discrimination, exclusion are more and more common on our planet. These phenomena are often justified with the 'self-defense' argument; but only a continuous attention on our societies and their difficulties can help avoiding short-sighted policy options, and can show us the way for more inclusive societies, where the dignity of every woman and man is protected and promoted. All this can be done only with a deeper and more effective social dialogue and participation of citizenry: civil society involvement in policy dialogue is a cornerstone to this end. Our concern goes to the increasingly rough paths for civil society organizations in participating to the policy process, and we urge the G7 leaders to provide and defend the space for real civic participation.

Vulnerable people, poor, unemployed, working poor, persons with disabilities, migrants, refugees, members of ethnic and religious minorities, smallholder farmers, urban dwellers, young people, look



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forward to a world of peace. They are willing to engage directly to this end.

Systemic issues: the role of Italy and the G7 in addressing the full scale of the sustainable development agenda

The G7 leaders share the responsibility for addressing both the long term and the most immediate challenges. This is no easy task as it implies a variety of policies and instruments at the same time, which is even harder when emerging crises may shift the attention from the long term responsibilities. The G7 countries retain a key global role to the development agenda, which is rooted in their position as the major country block when it comes to financing for development policies, from aid to tax cooperation and international institutions' governance. For this very reason, at the 2017 G7 Summit hosted by Italy, the development agenda should be high on the Leaders' priority list.

There are high expectations for an Italian G7 Summit's impactful resolutions on development, which are nurtured also by international community's commitments to acting effectively in the realization of the sustainable development goals endorsed in 2015. **The 2030 Agenda brings together three fundamental dimensions – social, environmental and economic - and calls for the eradication of poverty as well as for robust initiatives on migration, inclusive societies, inequality and peace: the G7 will have to be up to the task.**

Over the past fifteen years, the G7 has established a solid record that speaks to the progress the seven most industrialized and wealthiest countries play individually and collectively when it comes to realizing development results. Notably, not only the G7 countries have championed *ad-hoc* thematic initiatives that have changed for the better global efforts to improve on education, health and food, but it has also introduced land mark initiatives in areas of global impact such as better development cooperation policies, debt reduction and accountability. Despite criticism and concerns over the legitimacy of the G7 process vis a vis a the role of the multilateral system, G7's initiatives have generated impact, interest and debate that speak for the important that they may have. The global crises that erupted starting in 2007 may have affected the global landscape, but, even in the face of the emergence of new donors and the profile of the G20 discussion, the determinations of the G7 countries play a role that cannot be diminished by the G7 leaders themselves in the first place. Given the complexity of the tasks at hand, we believe that, in its resolutions, the G7 Summit should be guided by certain key principles, starting with the recognition **that long term development should leave no one behind** in line with the messages that resonated with the endorsement of the 2030 Agenda. Also, the G7 should be deliberating **in line with the resolutions adopted by those institutions that represents more effectively the global community, starting with the UN**. In particular, the G7 should be fully cognizant of the impacts that its determinations may have on other countries; in this regard, its initiatives should be based on the principles of **policy coherence for development**.

The Italian Presidency of the 2017 will have the opportunity to reassert **that international cooperation for sustainable development should not be driven by the short term interests of donor countries** and that rather **fair partnerships, open to all kinds of actors, should be at the core of the global efforts**. In this regard, the 2017 Summit will have to reaffirm that **country responsibility for its own development can only come true when its policy space is fully recognized**. With such expectations in mind, we address the



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following key demands to Italy and the G7 leadership:

- implementing frameworks to realize **policy coherence for development** so as to factor in their deliberations on national policies the impact they may have on partner countries;
- implementing the **effectiveness agenda** across the board to make sure that all kinds of development partnerships are consistent with the principle of country ownership, including those instruments based on the role of the private sector, such as blending;
- full compliance with the international call to realize the **0,7% target of aid** to developing countries and, in particular, with commitments to allocating more resources to the LDCs (the Istanbul plan of action' provisions such as investing at least 0,15% - 0,20% of ODA/GDP);
- official development assistance should stay focused on **poverty reduction and sustainable development**;
- promotion of **global tax reforms** to stem illicit financial flows and fight international tax dodging practices within a UN framework with the participation of the developing countries on equal footing;
- further **democratizing global governance**, including IFIs', to secure greater voice for the partner countries;
- defining an **operational plan**, which includes **financial allocations**, in order to ensure that the G7 commitments will be gradually realized through specific financial provisions;
- Fostering the participation of all social actors and CSOs particularly in the elaboration and adoption of a **National Sustainable Development Strategy**. This strategy should be adopted by all countries in the shortest delay, in order to allow the realistic pursuit of the commitments taken by the international community with the Paris climate agreement, in 2015.

Also, given the special role the Italy will play as the G7 host country, we call on PM Renzi to make sure that:

- the Summit **agenda is open to comments** and suggestions coming from all development actors
- the G7 Leaders **outreach to the representatives of the Partner countries** so as to listen to their perspective and priorities; the Summit should include a dedicated outreach session
- the G7 Summit venue, and in particular the G7 Media centre, is **open also to representatives of CSOs**, which play a pivotal role through policy proposals and campaigns to mobilize the interest of the general public opinion in support for effective strategies to address development challenges.

Climate and Energy

After the historic agreement in Paris, world leaders need to act to keep global warming within + 1.5 ° C. GCAP expects that every opportunity to pursue this objective are strongly and heavily exploited. G7 countries have to lead, fulfil and increase their commitments (including climate finance), decisively and quickly taking the low carbon economy path. It will be very important to ensure a strong commitment to promote investments for boosting renewables and energy efficiency, while investments and subsidies for fossil fuels must be stopped. We ask G7 Leaders to commit to:

- **Speed up the implementation process of Paris Agreement**, providing the basis for **further steps before 2020 towards the revision of the national commitments** to be consistent with the objective to remain within 1.5°C / well below 2 ° C of global warming



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- Promoting an **initiative to phase out the most dangerous fossil fuel, coal, within 2035 (globally)**, starting from G7 countries and involving all G7 countries investments (internally and overseas).
- Promoting an **initiative to reach 100% renewable energy**, technological innovation, energy saving and energy efficiency, providing real investment commitments, including **specific actions to bring renewable energy to the most vulnerable people and countries**, thus ensuring their full sustainable development.

Migration and Refugees Crisis

Migration is not a threat to be stopped, it is a complex phenomenon to be managed so to enhance mobility for development. It is key to address the root causes of migration and ensure dignified, orderly, and safe migration for the benefit of all, knowing that, if managed well, development and prosperity can go hand in hand with the movement of people. An effective response to the migration and refugee crisis is strictly linked to the achievement of the SDGs and full implementation of the Agenda 2030. We ask G7 Leaders to commit to:

- **Increase technical and financial assistance in the countries of origin and transit of migrants**, building real opportunities for them to stay in a medium-term perspective. The funding mechanisms must guarantee that development aid will not be used as a bargaining chip to prevent migration, but will be need based and aimed at eradicating poverty and inequality. Likewise, humanitarian aid must respect humanitarian principles, in particular must be neutral and need-based.
- **Facilitate legal channels for migration**, both for people clearly in need of international protection and people seeking better opportunities of life. To this purpose, it is important to enhance cooperation with origin and transit countries, but any operational agreement with a third country must assess and ensure the capacity of the counterpart to guarantee full respect of human rights and protection of all migrants regardless of their status. A new reflection of the international Community should be launched to discuss possibilities to widen protection and regular channels for vulnerable people as implemented by EU with subsidiary protection and considering the results and recommendations of the Nansen Initiative on cross-border displaced persons and current debate on environmental migrants.
- **Guarantee adequate and appropriate humanitarian assistance** – especially protection assistance – to every migrant arrived, regardless of their nationality or status, and at the same time strengthen asylum systems in destination countries, promoting everywhere the respect of the refugee and international law in receiving migrants and processing their claims.

Food Security, Agriculture and Nutrition

Hunger and malnutrition are still unacceptably high despite the important progress achieved since 1990. Ending hunger and for all by 2030, leaving no one behind, as globally agreed in SDG2, cannot be accomplished without additional efforts and a drastic reform of the business-as-usual approach which has not tackled the structural causes of food insecurity, hunger and malnutrition. Governments need to increase the quality and the quantity of public investment in agriculture, food security and nutrition, while ensuring policy environments that support small-scale producers' efforts and contribution (90% of all



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investment in agriculture). This can be achieved through a targeted investment on small scale and women-centered agriculture, agroecological production practices, access to and control of natural resources by local communities (women in particular), infrastructure and financing for domestic processing and marketing, social protection policies and nutrition sensitive intervention, public procurement privileging local agroecological producers, and coherence between development and other policies (trade, investment, climate, energy ecc.). We ask G7 Leaders to commit to:

- **Building on the Elmau target and Ise Shima-Vision to increase ODA on food security, agriculture and nutrition** programs targeting smallholder farmers, in particular women, marginalized and vulnerable groups, involving affected populations in the formulation of programmes and to create a coherent and effective accountability frameworks
- **Regulate corporate private sector engagement in agriculture investments** stopping the promotion of -mega-PPPs and radically reforming or discontinuing mega-PPPs such as the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition;
- **Respecting and strengthening the role of the UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS)** that offers a promising platform for coordination and governance of the global food system;
- **Increasing funding to close the adaptation finance gap** to help some of the world's poorest countries and communities cope with the impacts of climate change.

Gender Equality and Women's and Girl's Empowerment

Women and girls make up more than half the world's population — and they are on the frontlines — often more deeply impacted than men and boys by poverty, discrimination, violence, gender inequality, food insecurity, lack of healthcare, global economic crises and climate change. Their contributions and leadership are central to finding a solution. The international community including the G7 Summits have recognized the importance of supporting gender equality taking specific commitments as it was in the last G7 Summit (Ise Shima) during which the G7 Guiding Principles for Building the Capacity of Women and Girls was endorsed. We ask G7 Leaders to commit to

- **promoting policies that eliminate gender disparities, gender stereotypes and biases** at all levels and to invest and empower girls for a successful transition to adulthood;
- **strengthening the access to SRHR to every woman and girl**, especially migrants; and to implement the Istanbul Convention on gender based violence addressing it fully in all its forms and taking measures to prevent it, protect victims and prosecute the perpetrators.
- **fulfilling the 2015 G7 (Schloss Elmau) commitment** to reduce the gender gap in workforce participation by 25% by 2025 enhancing access for girls to education, opportunities and resources.

Education

Education is one of strongest tools for reducing poverty and inequality that governments have at their disposal. 171 million people could be lifted out of poverty if everyone had access to a quality education. Child mortality could fall by a sixth if all women had a primary education. Despite this huge potential, many education systems are struggling to meet even basic needs, as education continues to be plagued by a lack



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of investment and political will to follow through on commitments. Today 121 million children are still missing out on primary or lower secondary education and 130 million primary age children are receiving poor education. Considering the previous engagement of Italian presidency of G7 in education, we call our government to lead and revitalize the debate around education as a driver to achieve the whole SDG global agenda and to build peaceful and cohesive societies. We ask G7 Leaders to commit to:

- **Reaffirm and foster political commitment to quality and inclusive education** as the main sustainable, long term and fundamental investment and precondition to reach the whole set of SDGs, overcome poverty, intolerance and radicalism.
- **Teach Global Citizenship** is an educational and ethics proposal at the same time, which leads to coherent lifestyles and to a high sense of responsibility, by arising the consciousness of interdependence and the need to design a sustainable future for all the world inhabitants.
- **Fund the future, by increasing funds to Education** in development and humanitarian contexts, making them transparent and easy to monitor. Existing financial commitments must be fulfilled and new commitments should not be honoured to the detriment of the previous ones.
- **Regulate private sector engagement in education investments and provision** based on a human rights approach. Public resources, including through ODA, must be addressed exclusively to strengthen public education systems and not to fund for profit providers, which are often unregulated and unaccountable to citizens.

Global Health

Ensuring healthy lives and promoting wellbeing for all at all ages, as declared in the 2030 Agenda, is key to achieve the universal right to health (UHC). Governments must ensure that no one will be left behind, seeking to remove barriers for marginalized, vulnerable populations to access health services. The adoption of a gender approach will contribute to understand inequalities and discriminations and then to identify strategies and policies to remove them. We ask G7 Leaders to commit to:

- **Strengthening health systems as a key mean to reach UHC**, to ensure that all people have access to health information and services, without any financial barriers that could undermine their right to health. Therefore, greater and more effective investments in health systems and – in particular - in primary health care (as well as in research and innovation) are crucial to achieve healthy life for all at all ages.
- Achieving universal access (UHA) to **sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR)** for all and everywhere and make informed, independent choices regarding SRHR as a vital and necessary basis for building sustainable societies. It will also contribute reducing preventable **maternal mortality and morbidity**, as established by the WHO - *Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health (2016-2030)* and **violence against women and girls**.
- **"Ending" HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria by 2030**, guaranteeing equitable, universal and affordable access to prevention, treatment, care and support for all people across their life course, with a focus on women and girls, young people and key populations. Fully support to the Global Fund to reach these goals. Support to middle-income countries, for a well-planned and reasonable transition from external financing to domestic mobilization.



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Tax Justice

Worldwide, national and cross-border tax-evasion and tax-avoidance practices, exploited by well-off individuals and corporations to cut their tax bill, put at risk countries' fiscal policy efforts and undermine a fair redistribution of resources and progressive public spending that could reduce inequality and benefit societies overall. We need a fairer global governance and effective cooperation in tax matters, to counter harmful tax competition and tax-dodging practices that drain public budgets, endanger countries' fiscal sustainability and undermine the ability of governments to curb inequality that is one of the objectives to achieve in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDG10). We ask G7 Leaders to commit to:

- **promoting an effective approach to tackle tax havens and harmful tax regimes**, including non-preferential regimes, and to put an end to the race to the bottom in general corporate taxation.
- **worldwide tax transparency** by requiring all multinational companies to submit comprehensive and publicly available country-by-country reports for each country in which they operate.
- **establishing fully public beneficial owners registers** of companies, foundations and trusts.

Trade

A new vision for trade is not only possible but absolutely necessary. It must be based on a new set of principles, and respect also the EU's international commitments and legal obligations to ensure coherence in its policies, be they on democracy, cooperation, public participation, human rights, social justice, gender equality or sustainability.

Even in the last G7 meeting in Germany in 2015, the Ministries of labour have approved a declaration on "**G7 Action for Fair Production**" which has not been considered during Ise Shima G7 meeting in May 2016. We ask G7 leaders to commit to:

- **push for the starting of a discussion at the World Trade Organisation on sustainable and fair trade.** That is more than negotiating tariff reduction for Environmental Goods but, in relation to the Sustainable Agenda 2030 it relates to look at trade policy in conjunction with other major international issues
- **push for a re-commitment of the G7 on the "G7 Action for Fair Production"**, drafted during the meeting of the Ministries of Labour of the G7 in Germany in October 2015. In the Ise Shima Declaration there was no mention to this document, that is strongly oriented to promote concrete action with the aim to increase transparency, improve the management of risks, including to worker health and safety, and strengthen access to remedy in global supply chains
- **stop any agreements that violate human rights** and to ensure that Human Rights and Sustainability Impact Assessments (HRSIA) must be conducted before the start of any negotiation by an independent institution, and with broad civil society participation
- **revise the approach on the multilateral trading system** as suggested also by the EU in the paper Sustainability now, and to rethink the vision expressed in the Ise Shima declaration on the signing and implementation of the various commercial agreements such as TTIP, CETA and so on.



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In the following pages, the issues mentioned above will be treated in some more detail.^{1*}

^{1*} The first part of the document considers some comments received after consultation with international CSOs; in some cases these are not fully reflected in the following pages, due to lack of time to fully articulate the issues involved. The document as a whole remains under the collective responsibility of GCAP Italy.



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Climate and Energy

General context

Human induced Climate change poses a fundamental threat to people, ecosystems and the planet as we know it. It has an effect on all aspects of development, from economy to health, from the availability of resources to the loss of millions of lives. Climate change exacerbates number and intensity of extreme events – droughts, floods, hurricane, storms. The melting of land ice is causing rising seas, putting at risk some of the world's largest cities and the same water supply for billions people. The melting of Arctic ice is causing serious feedback mechanisms and may affect the circulation of ocean streams and the jet stream. Climate Change is also a threat multiplier, exacerbating problems in already unstable and vulnerable regions of the world and contributing to the worsening of phenomena such as mass migration and the displacement of entire populations, including ones within countries. Although it can affect and affects everybody, climate change is unfair because hits the most vulnerable and the least guilty, countries with very low emission of greenhouse gases and where millions of people have even no access to energy and live in poverty.

In order to limit the damages and the victims, we must make the maximum effort in order to limit global warming. The Paris Agreement have determined that it is necessary to try and limit the average global temperature increase to 1.5 ° C, and in any case well below 2 ° C. Unfortunately, global CO₂ emissions have continued to rise, though there has been a slowdown in recent years, thanks to some progress in the use of renewables, and some changes in the world's fossil-fuel use and in the energy mix of China. But CO₂ concentration has stabilized over 400 ppm, a level not seen for millions of years. Moreover, the countries' commitments in GHG emissions reduction (NDC) are far below the rate needed in order to stay within 2°C, in fact projections indicate that if the countries' commitments will not be greatly strengthened, the trajectory would lead to an increase of 2.5 to 3.7 ° C in global warming.

A vision for change

After the historic agreement in Paris, world leaders need to act, enabling compliance with the objective of staying within the 1.5 ° C. GCAP expects that every opportunity to pursue this objective are strongly and heavily exploited. Developed countries, which are responsible for initiating and fueling the phenomenon with their economies totally based on combustion of fossil fuels and the over-exploitation of the soil and natural resources, have to lead, fulfill and increase their commitments (including climate finance), decisively and quickly taking the low carbon economy path. In this sense, it is necessary to put in place decarbonisation strategies, policies and measures in order to phase out fossil fuels, first of all the coal. It will be very important to ensure a strong commitment to promote investments for boosting renewables and energy efficiency, while investments and subsidies for fossil fuels must be stopped.

Welcoming the fast entering into force of the Paris, we need the immediate upgrading of NDC to the 1.5 ° C goal. Moreover, the SDGs are an excellent basis for achieving sustainable development worldwide, collaborating in the name of a much more important and decisive game of petty competitive advantages in the short term and "inventing" together a new model for a more equitable and environmentally sound



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development. Adaptation to climate change, and building economies and societies resilient to unavoidable climate change, should be integrated in this new model of development, trying to get maximum co-benefits and synergies between mitigation and adaptation to climate change as well as on all other SDGs.

The choice between mitigation and adaptation has always been nonsensical. The higher the global temperature is, the more the risk of not being able to have neither the means nor the resources to adapt increases. We must decarbonize quickly and prepare to that global warming we cannot avoid anymore.

GCAP looks at Italian Presidency as a possible champion in this sense, as Italy and the Mediterranean area could suffer very heavily for the consequences of climate change. The first assessment of countries' climate commitments (NDC) takes place in 2018, and we ask the G7 to produce plans for a transition to 100% renewable energy by then. In order to stay within 1,5°C / well below 2°C global warming, much more ambitious pledges are needed.

Policy Asks to G7 Leaders

- After the Paris Agreement entered into force, G7 in Italy should speed up the process and provide the basis for further steps towards the revision of the national commitments to be consistent with the objective to remain within 1.5°C / well below 2 ° C of global warming
- In the Ise-Shima Declaration, there was also a commitment to develop long-term strategies well ahead of the 2020 deadline. It must be linked to concrete initiatives to accelerate the transition to decarbonized energy and economy. In particular, we propose an initiative to phase out the most dangerous fossil fuel, coal, within 2035, starting from G7 countries and involving all G7 countries investments (internally and overseas). This initiative should focus on the objective of avoiding damages to climate, human health and environment.
- G7 countries should commit to consider climate policies and objectives in every government act, including energy infrastructures.
- On the positive side, G7 should commit on an initiative to promote 100% renewable energy, technological innovation, energy saving and energy efficiency, providing real investment commitments.
- It is very important to scale up rapid actions for reducing CO2 and other GHG to put in place before 2020, building on Lima – Paris Action Agenda and giving a renewed and vigorous impulse
- In the Ise-Shima Declaration, G7 leaders committed to Elimination of the inefficient fossil fuel subsidies encouraged by 2025. While we consider the world “inefficient” absolutely misleading, we demand the elimination of all fossil fuel subsidies (FFS), direct and indirect, as often G7 countries claim they do not have FFS considering direct subsidies only. This is where Governments can find the necessary funds to the acceleration of decarbonisation and to mitigate the related social problems. This is a climate justice issue: public money cannot keep feeding the same fuels that we need to phase out, but may instead be used to accelerate the conversion. The G7 countries must absolutely take the lead in this regard.
- The G7 leaders should take an initiative to bring renewable energy to the most vulnerable people and countries, thus ensuring their full sustainable development. They must also keep watch and act against all attempts to dumping polluting and outdated technologies.



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- G7 countries should consider carbon pricing as a viable tool to accelerate fossil fuels phase out, financing transition and providing resources for Climate Finance.
- G7 leaders committed several times to “jointly mobilizing USD 100 billion annually by 2020 and continue their efforts to provide and mobilize increased climate finance from public and private sources”. G7 needs to verify this commitment; moreover, Commitments for the period after 2020 must finally be quantified.
- The G7 countries must commit themselves to integrate adaptation to climate change in all economic, social and environmental policies.



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Migration and Refugees Crisis

General context

Nowadays 65.3 million people worldwide have been forced to flee violence, conflict and persecution; millions more have left everything behind fleeing disasters. These are ordinary people who have seen their lives destroyed by circumstances beyond their control. They've lost their homes, their jobs and their loved ones. The migration and refugee crisis happening in several regions of the world has achieved huge dimension. In 2015 the UN said that more people have been forcibly displaced by war, violence and persecution than at any time since the Second World War (the majority are internally displaced). Among those displaced by conflict or uprooted by disaster are an estimated 26 million women and adolescent girls in their childbearing years. Human insecurities are spreading in several geographic contexts due to climate change, conflicts and protracted crisis, increasing inequalities and social deprivations. Vulnerable people need new protection regimes and regular channels. G7 Leaders have already recognized in the G7 Ise-Shima Leaders' Declaration the large-scale movements of migrants and refugees as a global challenge which requires a global response. It is welcome the commitment taken at Ise-Shima to increase global assistance to meet immediate and long-term needs of refugees and other displaced persons as well as their host communities. There is now a need for concrete commitments that are time bound and that will hold G7 Government to account and to lead the example to other countries.

A vision for change

Migration is not a threat to be stopped, it is a complex phenomenon to be managed. There are many reasons that make people flee their homelands, including inequality, poverty, conflict, persecution, scarce resources or climate change, and often a mixture of several. There are also many aspirational reasons why people move, for instance, to expand their education, opportunities or assets. It is key to address the root causes of migration and ensure dignified, orderly, and safe migration for the benefit of all, knowing that, if managed well, development and prosperity can go hand in hand with the movement of people. In particular, migration seems to be key in order to face the demographic fall that characterizes indiscriminately the advanced economies. An effective response to the migration and refugee crisis is strictly linked to the achievement of the SDGs and full implementation of the Agenda 2030.

There is now a unique opportunity for the Italian Presidency to push G7 Leaders to make ambitious and concrete steps forwards on managing such a global displacement crisis, which is affecting most regions in the world. Organized civil society is deeply concerned by the recent developments in the EU foreign policy, aiming at outsourcing the borders control even at cost of agreements with non-democratic countries. The Italian Presidency must be the opportunity to turn the tide and to make ambitious plans to ensure an overall commitment from G7 Leaders to implement a long-term strategy truly oriented to addressing the root causes of migration and protecting the rights of the people on the move. A particular emphasis should be placed on the possibility to widen the concept and the regular channels for vulnerable people. Italy and EU could propose the international extension of the subsidiary protection among the G7 countries and in



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the international community. The results and protection agenda of the Nansen initiative is another opportunity to discuss and to support in order to address displaced cross-border persons creating a new mandatory regime. Finally, discussion on new forms of protection and regular channels should be promoted considering environmental migrants.

CSOs Policy Asks to G7 Leaders

- Increase technical and financial assistance in the countries of origin and transit of migrants, building real opportunities for them to stay in a medium-term perspective and to manage internal and regional mobility for local development. The funding mechanisms must guarantee that development aid will not be used as a bargaining chip to prevent migration, but will be need based and aimed at eradicating poverty and inequality enhancing mobility. They must also ensure long-term approaches to the genuine problems of conflict and fragility, avoiding short-term and reactive measures based on bolstering state security without addressing root causes. Donor countries have to avoid diverting aid funds to security and defense or reducing the amount of official development assistance in developing countries in order to cover refugee costs at home. Spending on refugees in donor countries should not be counted as ODA.
- Enhance mobility for development. Safe and well managed migrations have positive effects for the development both of origin and destination countries. Policies should support the mobility, circulation of knowledge, skills and resources through migrant networks. Also diasporas have an important role to play in supporting their countries of origin with social and financial remittances. Furthermore the recognition of the active and positive role migrants have for the co-development, may contribute to change the negative narrative and perceptions of public opinions on migration. Aid could sustain the migrant's cooperation initiatives with CSOs and local governments for local development, but also trade and investment policies should better integrate the mobility factor.
- Facilitate legal channels for migration, both for people clearly in need of international protection and people seeking better opportunities of life. It is first and foremost the way to act in order to save and protect the lives of people exposed to danger in home and transit countries and travelling dangerously to seek sanctuary. It is also a key action to undermine traffickers business. The so-called "durable solutions" must be strengthened and adequately funded in order to increase for people in need the possibility of being granted with international protection and transferred to a safe place. Furthermore, no more people must die, disappear or resort to extremely dangerous measures to travel towards safety. These measures include specific tools for people in need of international protection, as resettlement schemes, humanitarian corridors, visas on humanitarian ground and other forms of humanitarian admission. Family reunification schemes must be empowered, also considering a broader concept of "family" than it is currently in use, and expedited. A new reflection of G7 and of the International Community should be launched to discuss possibilities to widen protection and regular channels for vulnerable people as implemented by EU with subsidiary protection and considering the results and recommendations of the Nansen Initiative on cross-border displaced persons and current debate on environmental migrants.



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- In the implementation of enhanced legal channels, the impact of migration on the composition of the labour force should be acknowledged, in view of the progressive ageing of the workforce in the advanced economies and of the need of keeping sustainable welfare systems. A significant amount of data has clearly shown over the past few years that migration can play a key role in addressing labour shortages, specifically in certain sectors. To this purpose, migration policies and labour policies must be strongly interconnected, inter alia ensuring more efficient international labour matching of migrant workers, fitting legal migration channels to the needs of the European labour market and ensuring the availability of a sufficient pool of potential labour migrants for employers. This requires a deep change in policies, because data clearly show that, although shortages concern low-skill occupation, and that there is only a limited need of high-skill workers, visa policies, instead, are focusing almost exclusively on high-skill mobility (i.e. the Blue Card Directive of the EU).
- It is also important to enhance cooperation on labour migration with origin and transit countries, avoiding brain and skill drain effects. However, any operational agreement with a third country must assess and ensure the capacity of the counterpart to guarantee full respect of human rights and protection of all migrants regardless of their status.
- Guarantee adequate and appropriate humanitarian assistance – especially protection assistance – to every migrant arrived, regardless of their nationality or status, religion, culture of origin. Everyone must be treated with dignity and be safe, having access to basic services protecting him/her from any further vulnerabilities/harm. At the same time, specific support must be provided to host communities affected by a large refugee movement.
- Strengthen asylum systems in destination countries, promoting everywhere the respect of the refugee and international law in receiving migrants without any discrimination due to their nationality, guaranteeing their fundamental rights including the right to claim asylum and then assuring individual, complete and professional evaluation of the asylum requests and integration policies. Start a reflection about the new categories of people displaced for reasons not included in the existing legal tools (i.e. climate change).
- Destination countries have to facilitate migrants' integration ensuring equal access to essential services taking into consideration gender needs and needs arising from cultural diversities, adequate working conditions and equal labour rights, guaranteeing the portability of their social rights, mutual recognition of qualifications, promoting migrants financial inclusion starting from lowering the transfer costs of remittances. Adequate mutual listening and sharing should be promoted with the migrants and their communities, in order to guarantee the building of a shared ground for integration, based on the principles of the human rights, constitutional values, civic rights and responsibilities.
- Lasting solutions strongly rely also on the role of the international community to increase efforts towards conflict prevention, stabilization and post-conflict peacebuilding. This may include work harder to stop arms being supplied to those involved in conflicts. Fundamentally, G7 Governments must help to resolve the terrible conflicts, rights abuses and failures of governance in countries where people are forced to leave in fear and desperation. Investments and actions are needed to build the resilience of communities and nations over the long run.
- A gender approach in the elaboration of policies related to migration, refugees and asylum seekers and investments building on girls' and women's human capital and agency to support the resilience



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of communities and nations over the long run.



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Food Security, Nutrition and Agriculture

General context

The 2007-2008 food crisis made clear the failure of decades of food security and agricultural policies based on the neoliberal paradigm (decline of public and private investment in the agricultural sector in developing countries, implementation of structural policies and trade liberalization, intensive industrial agriculture model, rising of agricultural demand for non-food purposes as biofuel, increasing land grabbing investments and financialization and speculation in agriculture), and made possible the return of food security as a priority in the international development agenda. Promoting food security and sustainable development has historically been a priority issue of the Italian development cooperation due to the presence in Rome of UN Food Agencies, as well as the relevance of food and agriculture small and medium enterprises in the Italian economy. In the last years, Italy took important initiative on food security at international level. Firstly, with the 2009 L'Aquila Food Security Initiative which represented an important milestone of the reverse in the long declining trend in ODA in agriculture. Secondly, with 2015 Expo Milano, "Feeding the Planet – Energy for Life," during which Italian government strongly reaffirmed sustainable agriculture, human rights and the eradication of hunger and malnutrition as important priorities for our country.

A vision for change

So far, initiatives taken at the international and national level have been focusing on a business and usual approach which did not tackle the structural causes of the food crisis, with the exception of the inclusive reform of the Committee on World Food Security in 2009. Whilst we have seen incremental progress in reducing the numbers of hungry people, fallen by over 200 million since 1990, hunger and malnutrition are still unacceptably high and inequality in the food systems has never been higher. Perversely a vast number of 800 million of people who go to bed hungry are themselves food producers or agricultural workers, with women being hit hardest. Although female and women's contributions to the agricultural sector are significant, gender barriers can make it difficult for women to escape from poverty or provide food for their families. Changing the situation requires a real paradigm shift, towards a more accomplished food democracy and sovereignty, where all peoples have the right to determine how to achieve food security and food right in their societies. This paradigm shift is based on the recognition of the fundamental diversity of the world food systems, each deserving to be looked at with in its peculiar features, away from global 'one size fits all' solutions, and enhancing the role of local sustainable production and territorial markets. Hunger is a result of injustice, not of scarcity.

Ending hunger and malnutrition by 2030, as globally agreed in SDG2, will be a challenge and won't be accomplished without additional effort, supporting the millions smallholder farmers that bear the heaviest burden of feeding the world's populations. This is where the G7 commitment comes in. In 2015 leaders of the G7 set the target of "aiming to lift 500 million in developing countries out of hunger and malnutrition by 2030" (Elmau target), and in 2016 identified collective actions (G7 Vision for Action on FS and Nutrition) on



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three focus areas - empowering women, improving nutrition through a people-centered approach, and ensuring sustainability and resilience within agriculture and food systems". However, in order to achieve food security of millions of people, governments need to increase the quality and the quantity of public investment in agriculture and food security, while ensuring enabling policy environments that support small-scale producers' own efforts (90% of all investment in agriculture) by focusing on small-scale agriculture, agroecological production practices, access to and control of natural resources by local communities, (women in particular), infrastructure and financing for domestic processing and marketing, public procurement privileging local agroecological producers, and coherence between development and other policies (trade, investment, climate, energy etc.).

CSOs Policy Asks to G7 Leaders

- Increasing ODA on food security targeting smallholder farmer, in particular women: the G7 Vision for Action (V4A) on food security should include a financial commitment according to their GDP and coherent with the overall aim and commitment to end hunger till 2030; all funded programmes should be formulated with the direct participation of the affected populations;
- Increasing funding to close the adaptation finance gap particularly for what local food systems are concerned: according to last year's OECD-CPI study on progress towards the \$100 billion goal, only 16% of international climate funds are currently being spent on adaptation. Adaptation finance is vital to help some of the world's poorest countries and communities cope with an already changing climate.
- Targeting marginalized and vulnerable groups: The G7 Elmau target needs to follow a human rights based approach and must be focused on to the groups most affected by food and nutrition insecurity such as small scale producers, in particular women and pastoralists; while improving their access to land, water and agricultural support services;
- Supporting sustainable agriculture practices (agroecology) and ecological pest management, avoiding false and risky solution as Climate Smart Agriculture: Agroecological approaches are the most effective means of adaptation and are proven to improve the yields, livelihoods and environment of small-scale farmers in the face of climate change. Agroecological farming practices enable farmers to control pests and weeds without the use of expensive chemical pesticides that can harm soil, water and ecosystems, and the health of farmers and consumers. Ensuring that farmers have access a diversity of locally-adapted seed varieties is also critical to ensuring that they can deal with a range of unpredictable changes in conditions, such as floods, late rains, or rising sea levels.
- Supporting markets linked to local, national and regional food systems, which channel most of the food consumed in the world and provide most benefits for small-scale producers and rural and national economies, as recognized by the CFS (CFS 2016/43/5)
- Regulating corporate private sector engagement in agriculture investments: mega-PPPs such as promoted in the framework of the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition imply huge risks for the most vulnerable whereas the benefits of investments are likely to be skewed towards the privileged and more powerful. New Alliance, in its current form, should be radically reformed or



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discontinued: its vision of food security as market based (rather than firmly connected to human rights and to the 'right to food framework') is reason of deep concerns, as it could potentially undermine progress towards the eradication of hunger.

- Making a clear commitment of zero tolerance for Land Grabs by supporting a full implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on Right to Food, and of the Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure, adopted by the CFS.
- G7 governments must respect and strengthen the role of the UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS) that offers a promise to improve coordination and governance of the global food system due in particular to the priority voice accorded to organizations representing those most affected by food insecurity and its capacity to tackle key contested issues.
- Ensuring transparency and accountability by tracking and measuring the commitments through the financial accountability framework that should be finalized by Japanese Government by 2016.



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Gender equality and women's and girl's empowerment

General context

Women and girls make up more than half the world's population — and they are on the frontlines — often more deeply impacted than men and boys by poverty, discrimination, violence, gender inequality, food insecurity, lack of healthcare, global economic crises and climate change. Their contributions and leadership are central to finding a solution. The international community including the G7 Summits have recognized the importance of supporting gender equality taking specific commitments as it was in the last G7 Summit (Ise shima) during which the G7 Guiding Principles for Building the Capacity of Women and Girls has been endorsed as common guiding principles for actions. Although important and internationally agreed documents as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Beijing Platform for Action, the Millennium Development Goals, the 2030 Agenda (comprising the SDGs and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda) and in multilateral, regional and policy fora, including the Group of Twenty (G20), yet nowhere in the world have women and men achieved equality.

The G7 should demonstrate a change of approach to women's and girls' rights: the 2016 Accountability report shows in fact instrumental approach and language in relation to women, defining them as agents that can “tackle the development challenges our world is facing”, “reduce poverty and inequality” and “promotes growth”. Women and girls should be considered as rights holders that are impacted more and more severely by injustices and poverty. Investment in gender equality and women's empowerment is vital for improving economic, social and political conditions in the world within the framework of sustainable development. A focus on gender equality and women's empowerment in development co-operation is a means for enhancing the total effectiveness of aid.

A vision for change

In the last decades, gender equality has been internationally recognized as one of the main pillar to reduce poverty and inequality in the world and considered strategic by the donor community. The achievements obtained so far are relevant: the number of female MPs globally has doubled over the past 20 years, according to the Inter-Parliamentary Union. By 2012, significantly more girls were enrolled in, or had attended, primary school, globally. Southern Asia has made strong gains in getting more girls into primary school. In 1990, 74 girls for every 100 boys were enrolled in school. By 2012, equal numbers of girls and boys were enrolled. Nepal has increased the percentage of seats held by women in national parliament from 6% in 1990 to almost 30% in 2014. Benin, Burkina Faso, Senegal and Sierra Leone are among the countries in sub-Saharan Africa that have made the greatest improvements in enrolling more girls into school. Over this period, between 30 and 40 additional girls were enrolled in school for every 100 boys. Rwanda has the most female lawmakers in the world. Women now make up 64% of MPs in the lower house. More girls than boys are enrolled in secondary school across Latin America and the Carib-bean.

The number of women employed in paid work in non-agricultural jobs increased, with the global share



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rising from 35% to 40% between 1990 and 2012. Since 1990, Grenada and Zimbabwe have both registered a 20% increase in the number of female MPs in their lower and upper houses, respectively. In 2012, Nicaragua recorded the most women holding ministerial positions in the world – 57% – ahead of Sweden, Finland, France and Norway. Cameroon’s elections in 2013 resulted in 56 female deputies out of 180, up from 25 under the previous parliament. In February, Malawi passed a bill that increased the age of marriage from 15 to 18. Early marriage is a prime reason why girls do not attend secondary school. Bolivia has revoked laws that did not allow women to work at night. According to the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the number of UN member states that have ratified the equal remuneration convention has risen from 126 in 1995 to 171 today. The number of countries that have ratified the discrimination (employment and occupation) convention has risen from 122 to 172, according to the ILO.

The G7 summit of 2015 was focused on women’s entrepreneurship as a key driver of innovation, growth and jobs and, at the same time engaged the G7 leaders to support the partners in developing countries and within their countries to overcome discrimination, sexual harassment, violence against women and girls and other cultural, social, economic and legal barriers to women’s economic participation. During the WAW in Tokyo in 2016 a symposium to reach “A Society where Women Shine” several ideas were defined from the economic sector where working style reforms were requested to an education without stereotypes; from women’s participation in peace-bulding to youth involvement.

Policy Asks to G7 Leaders

Gender equality and women’s and girls rights

- To promote policies that eliminate gender disparities and reduce gender stereotypes and biases in education at all levels;
- To strengthen access to SRHR as essential key for women’s and girl’s empowerment and for the realization of all other goals;
- To support refugee and internally displaced women and girls as well as for those affected by conflicts and disasters, by providing assistance to empower them and develop their resilience and to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence;

Women’s Economic Empowerment

- To promote the adoption of a G7 initiative focusing on reducing the burden of care on women and redistributing unpaid care more equally between men and women and between families and institutions, providing dedicated and adequate funding;
- To bridge the gender pay gap by promoting a free from stereotypes education, a gender aware recruitment, pay transparency, fostering women’s carriers at all levels and in all fields and enforcing equal pay legal frameworks
- To promote measures for a better work life balance by providing: quality and affordable care services, flexible work arrangements, family leave arrangements for both women and men, and by encouraging the active participation of men in family life and duties
- To invest in social infrastructure in order to: enhance social wellbeing by improving the quality of care and social services, reduce unpaid and informal domestic care work, allow women to enter



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and remain in the labour market.

- To design direct and indirect gender aware tax policies to address and overcome gender inequalities
- To make unpaid domestic and care work visible and recognize its crucial economic value in calculations of GDP so to address the gender inequality of the unpaid care burden.
- To promote G7 common targets to face the unfair care work distribution between men and women and between institutions and families, to reach a 25% gender gap reduction in the use of time for unpaid care work by 2025. Target should be defined regarding early childhood, elderly, sick and disable care services coverage and undertaking actions in order to redistribute care between men and women in a fairer way, for example with incentives to parental and family leave for men.
- To promote financial and economic tools for budget programming and assessment such as gender budgeting, gender ex ante and ex post evaluation of policies impact.

Accountability and data

- To support evidence-based, girl-centered investments that empower girls with the information, skills and services they need to be healthy, educated and safe, helping them make a successful transition to adulthood
- To support the SDGs and associated “Data revolution” to have disaggregate data by gender and age at the top of the development agenda and to better understand the current “girl gap” and how they are marginalized and excluded in both rural and urban societies. It is of fundamental importance to measure and address women’s poverty as well as the gender impact of the economic crisis allowing the design effective non-neutral policies.
- To acknowledge the gender dimension of poverty by collecting disaggregated data and measuring the economic impact of the crisis on women

Violence against women

- To prevent and combat all forms of violence against women and girls including early marriages and early pregnancies and to promote gender economic justice - issues neglected in the previous development agenda. Italy should therefore promote the contents of the Istanbul Convention among G7 countries and concrete actions for fighting gender-based violence;



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Education

General context

Since the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, governments around the world have recognised education as a fundamental right, and since then they have made repeated commitments to ensure education for all, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG4) agreed in 2015. Despite progress in recent years groups of children – particularly refugees and girls continue to suffer severe disadvantage and exclusion from quality education. Education is one of strongest tools for reducing poverty and inequality that governments have at their disposal. 171 million people could be lifted out of poverty if everyone had access to a quality education. Child mortality could fall by a sixth if all women had a primary education. In particular, providing girls with an education helps break the cycle of poverty: educated women are less likely to marry early and against their will; less likely to die in childbirth; more likely to have healthy babies; and are more likely to send their children to school. Girls' education is both an intrinsic right and a critical lever to reaching other SDGs. Despite this huge potential, many education systems are struggling to meet even basic needs, as education continues to be plagued by a lack of investment and political will to follow through on commitments. Today 121 million children are still missing out on primary or lower secondary education and 130 million primary age children are receiving poor education. Among these, there are 3.6 million school aged refugees. A generation of the world's poorest families are at risk of being left behind forever. In 35 countries affected by emergencies and protracted crisis, 75 million children and adolescent are in urgent need of educational support.

It is not enough to ensure education for all, nor to establish innovative pedagogical guidelines for learning and teaching methodologies also linked to ICT in order to progress. What we need is a serious consideration of the anthropological problem, "a critical view of the historical moment", to choose appropriately the lines of an efficient and valuable education for all with the aim of achieving your personal well-being and preserving the common good of the context where you live and work. The contemporary civilization, within scientific and technological achievements, seems to have lost their values of humanity and to have accelerated the pace and direction of social transformation. This has caused a widespread sense of psychological insecurity, therefore it has called a social task of lifelong education, which consists above all in what everyone seeks to promote by opening with one's own freedom, the freedom of other human spaces. The action of a democratic culture is the best contribution to the discovery of the rights foundations that are the values of freedom, justice and solidarity. It urges to educate to the sense of global changing and active citizenship. By these assumptions, we recover the humanizing dimension of education and stimulate a broader understanding of oneself and the world as a whole. It must be able to offer people the possibility of an awareness path in the understanding of being part of the world-system, of causes and effects of global issues, to achieve a personal commitment and action, and encourage a full participation as citizen.



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A vision for change

Many G8/G7 summits paid considerable attention to education. We remember in particular the G8 summit in Japan where members committed to the Dakar framework of EFA and the Genoa Summit where G8 members played a pivotal role in the process of launching the Global Partnership for Education, formerly known as EFA-FTI. Education was central in the St.Petersburg summit in 2006 and again the Italian summit in 2009 had a strong education focus and significant discussion around EFA-FTI reforms and replenishment. On the contrary, in the last 4 years quality education has not received the expected attention. Considering the previous engagement of Italian presidency of G7 in education, 2017 could represent the opportunity for Italy to live up to this important political legacy. We therefore call our government to lead and revitalize the debate around education as a driver to achieve the whole SDG global agenda and to build peaceful and cohesive societies; a powerful tool to face the current challenges posed by conflicts, migration and natural disasters as well as an opportunity to reach the more marginalised and vulnerable people.

Furthermore, education must take into account the cultural, political and economic organizational system at the glo-cal level in order to meet the current real needs in a consistent and effective way.

CSOs Policy Asks to G7 Leaders

- **Reaffirm with force the narrative of quality and inclusive education** as the main sustainable, long term and fundamental investment and precondition to reach the whole set of SDGs, escape from poverty and fight against radicalism.
- **Teach Global Citizenship** is an educational and ethics proposal at the same time, which leads to coherent lifestyles and to a high sense of responsibility, by arising the consciousness of interdependence and the need to design a sustainable future for all the world inhabitants.
- **Fund the future**, by increasing quality and quantity of ODA to be equitably invested in Education in development and humanitarian contexts. Political commitments made at the global level mean little without financial commitments at the national level: no government will meet the education goal or targets without adequate, reliable and good quality financing. Existing financial commitments – including domestic and donor commitments to GPE, bilateral commitments, and global commitments contained in the SDGs, Education 2030 Framework for Action, and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda - must be fulfilled and new commitments should not be honoured to the detriment of the previous ones.
- **Increase transparency and accountability** by making ODA data available in transparent, disaggregated and timely manner in a form that can be used by citizens and civil society and by the donors themselves to track commitments and measure progress.
- **Regulate private sector engagement** in education investments and provision, based on a human rights approach. As a human right, education should be treated as a public good that is provided equitably on a non-commercial and fee-free basis. Public resources, including through ODA, must be addressed exclusively to strengthen public education systems and not to fund for profit providers, which are often unregulated and unaccountable to citizens.
- **Support the recently launched Education Cannot Wait fund**, to ensure access to quality education for some of the world's most vulnerable children and young people (especially for refugees). In



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order not to detract from their support for already existing mechanism, as the Global Partnership for Education, governments should ensure that money pledged are new and additional to any previous commitment made in other fora.



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Global Health

General context

The G7-G8 made significant progress on its contributions to global health through bilateral and multilateral channels, with an increase of financial commitments. The fight against AIDS, tuberculosis (TB), malaria and vaccine-preventable diseases has advanced considerably thanks to the G7-G8 support. It includes Italy's investment in the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, whose 5th replenishment Conference in Montréal in September 2016 confirmed this trend and in Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance whose replenishment in 2015 secured USD 7.5 billion of financial resources for 2016-2020. The G7 is now on the final track to support for the eradication of polio worldwide through the Global Polio Eradication Initiative and efforts must be re-doubled in Afghanistan and Pakistan to achieve this historic goal. According to the Ise-Shima Progress Report, all the G7 members fully achieved bilateral financial commitments on maternal, newborn and under-five child health set at the Muskoka Summit in 2010. Newborn mortality reduced by 53% at global level. Despite all these significant progress on health, further actions from the G7 are still strongly required, to fulfill all previous commitments and to face with new global challenges. In the last two Summits, more focus was given to prevent future outbreaks from becoming epidemics, to fight against neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) and to support the WHO Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance. In the Ise Shima Final Communiqué we welcome the encouraging statement on the need to promote Universal Health Coverage (UHC) as key mean to implement the health-related SDGs and to promote women's, children's and adolescents' health, ensuring their sexual and reproductive health and rights. However, in absence of financial pledges to make these commitments true in a certain timeframe, they might fail.

A vision for change

Ensuring healthy lives and promoting wellbeing for all at all ages, as declared in the 2030 Agenda, is key to achieve the universal right to health. Governments must ensure that no one will be left behind and specifically seek to remove measures that pose barriers for marginalized, vulnerable populations to access health services and that stigmatize and criminalize people on the basis of their HIV status, sexual orientation, gender identity, engagement in sex work and drug use. Systematic but avoidable inequalities between the health of disadvantaged and of well off groups within and among countries must be addressed. The adoption of a gender approach will contribute to understand inequalities, inequities and discriminations and then to identify strategies and policies to remove them.

Every year, 3.1 million children die because of undernutrition. 159 million children are so malnourished by the age of 2 that their minds and bodies will never fully develop and 50 million remain at risk of death from the most acute form of malnutrition. At the same time, more than 2 billion people are overweight; 600 million of whom are obese. The prevalence of overweight or obesity people is increasing in nearly all countries. Political ambitions must be higher and be translated into country specific nutrition targets. National, multi-sectoral policies must be made stronger to ensure the appropriate actions are implemented



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and reach the most vulnerable. Resilient health systems, free at the point of use, are evidently a global public good. They are essential for the provision of universal health coverage and for a prompt response to outbreaks of disease. Resilient health systems require long-term investment in the six following key elements: available medicines; robust health information systems, including surveillance; appropriate infrastructure; sufficient public financing and a strong public sector to deliver equitable, quality services; an adequate number of trained health workers. The recruitment, development, training, retention and equitable distribution of the health workforce must be on a gender basis and the community health workforce has to be considered as part of the overall health workforce. The latest projections on Human Resources for Health, required to accelerate progress towards universal health coverage, indicate a potential deficit of 18 million health workers in low-and middle-income countries. A worrying data, showing how crucial it might be to promote policies which do not fuel brain drain of skilled health personnel from countries facing shortages of health workers. Global investment in research and development for medical products is also critical.

CSOs Policy Asks to G7 Leaders

- **Strengthening health systems** as a key mean to reach **Universal Health Coverage (UHC)**, to ensure that all people have access to health information and services. Therefore, **greater and more effective investments in health systems**, through external and domestic resources (including via general taxation), are crucial to achieve healthy life for all at all ages. An efficient and equitable allocation of public resources has to be made available to a health system, bearing in mind the responsibility public systems have in ensuring the coverage of basic health needs for the most vulnerable. At the same time, the role of the private sector should be regulated and oriented to promote universal access to quality health services.
- Supporting the health sector, paying particular attention to the **most marginalized and people in vulnerable situations**, guaranteeing prevention, treatment, care and support for communicable and non-communicable diseases (NCDs), mental health and wellbeing, as well as addressing the social determinants of health. It is key to **include financial risk protection by removing any financial barriers**, including user fees, to accessing healthcare. **Keeping medicines affordable and accessible** for the population while rewarding added therapeutic value innovation of intellectual property (IP) holders and enhancing full transparency of pharmaceutical Research and Development (R&D) and price setting from regulatory agencies.
- Developing new antimicrobial products, vaccines, diagnostics, and alternative therapeutic. **Increasing investments in R&D**, also for poverty-related and neglected conditions and infectious diseases and supporting manufacturing of treatments, vaccines and diagnostics in low and middle-income countries. Promoting R&D to combat antimicrobial resistance (AMR), including basic and applied research and development.
- Committing to the elimination of preventable **maternal mortality and morbidity by continuing the support to the WHO - Global Strategy (2016 - 2030)**, based on the results of the Muskoka Initiative and aiming at achieving the highest attainable standard of health for all women, children and adolescents. .



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- Achieving universal access (UHA) to **sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR)** for all and everywhere and make informed, independent choices regarding SRHR as a vital and necessary basis for building sustainable societies and resilient communities in facing humanitarian emergencies.
- Preventing and combating all forms of **violence against women and girls**, recognized by WHO as a major public health problem and violation of women and girls' human rights.
- Committing to "end" **HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria** by 2030, guaranteeing equitable, universal and affordable access to prevention, treatment, care and support for all people across their life course, with a focus on women and girls, young people and vulnerable communities. Full support to the Global Fund to reach these goals. Support to the middle-income countries, for a well-planned and reasonable transition from external financing to domestic mobilization.
- Committing to a concrete **action plan for nutrition**, including mobilisation of resources and creating an accountability mechanism for nutrition, to fulfil the promise made at the Elmau Summit in 2015 to lift 500 million people out of hunger and malnutrition.
- Within the frame of the migration and reception policies, promoting any means **to protect physical and mental integrity and the health status of migrants** during travel, and to foster their integration in countries of destination through **full access to health services, irrespective of their legal status**.



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Tax Justice

General context

Worldwide, national and cross-border tax-evasion and tax-avoidance practices, exploited by well-off individuals and corporations to cut their tax bill, put at risk countries' fiscal policy efforts and undermine a fair redistribution of resources and progressive public spending that could reduce inequality and benefit societies overall. Tax abuses affect all the countries but the poorest ones are hit harder. An estimated revenue loss for developing countries is, moreover, three times greater than the amount they receive in foreign aid each year. The existence of tax havens allows wealth to flow and profits to be artificially shifted *offshore* and to be kept out of tax authorities and citizens' reach. Tax havens are an injustice that undermines the progressive principles upon which most tax systems are based. Until the rules are changed, and there is a fairer global governance and effective cooperation in tax matters, harmful tax competition will prosper and tax-dodging will continue to drain public budgets, endanger countries' fiscal sustainability and undercut the ability of governments to curb inequality.

A vision for change

The full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the achievement of each SDG will require a significant deployment of additional financial resources - a challenge for all, but a major challenge for the poorest developing countries. Along with appropriate international assistance – with the G7 economies keeping up their strong commitment on official development assistance (ODA) and exploring, in the FFD context, innovative initiatives for financing country-owned development processes - it is key for the developing countries to step up domestic resources mobilization (DRM) aimed at reducing their dependence on external aid and achieving full responsibility for their own economic and social development.

Tax and expenditure systems are the most important tools governments have at their disposal to address inequality (SDG 10). Governmental institutions and agencies, in each country, need tax revenues to fund essential public services, create secure jobs and, more broadly, implement effective public measures combating poverty and leading to greater equality and, in turn, to long-term sustainable socio-economic growth. Contrasting effectively individual and corporate tax-dodging strategies provides a fundamental way forward to reducing countries' tax-gaps that weaken governmental anti-inequality and pro-poor economic agendas. In light of the increasing public attention to the global policy agenda for an international tax reform, the public outrage for the recent tax-scandals and the worrisome level of economic migration flows from the poorest areas of the world we urge tax justice issues to be included in the agenda of the next G7 Summit.

CSOs Policy Asks to G7 Leaders

- Commitment to an effective approach to tackle tax havens and harmful tax regimes, including



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non-preferential regimes, and to put an end to the *race to the bottom* in general corporate taxation. Such an approach requires all countries – including developing countries – to be involved on an equal footing. The recent attempt of the G20/OECD Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) project, endorsed by G20 leaders in November 2015, is a first step forward but needs further improvement, in its implementation phase, by establishing a more binding framework for curbing harmful tax practices, ensuring full transparency of tax incentives and tax rulings and developing sound provisions for counter-measures.

- Promotion of worldwide tax transparency by requiring all multinational companies to submit comprehensive and *publicly available* country-by-country reports for each country in which they operate, so that there can be an accurate assessment and *public* scrutiny of whether they are paying their fair share of taxes and whether profits are taxed where economic activity and value creation occur.
- The establishment of *public* registers of the beneficial owners of companies, foundations and trusts to ensure taxable profits are not hidden or transferred elsewhere in anonymous form. On this issue progress has been made by all G7 countries although further efforts should be made to ensure the registers lay within public domain.
- Commitment to effectively take part in the implementation of a multilateral system for exchanging information *on tax matters* on an automatic basis among countries, which would include developing countries with non-reciprocal commitments (i.e. no obligation to send information until they have established the capacity to do so).



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Trade

General context

The global failures created by the current world's corporate trade model are well known at all level. Environment, communities, people and human rights have been severely damaged by the huge power of corporations and trading system, that are trying to take control over nature and sovereignty. Several attempts of liberalization and privatization of resources and services have been put in place particularly in developing countries but recently also in Europe. Additionally there has been a concentration of power in the hands of few big actors, and the consequences are visible at productive and commercial level. We remind some figures:

- 147 big companies (considering also banks and financial institutions) hold the 40% of the world wealth (Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich, 2011)
- 10 corporations control the 70% of the world food products- through 500 brands (Oxfam, 2013)
- the first 5 European food supply chains control the 50% of the retail food market (Fair Trade Advocacy Office, December 2014).

In recent decades, trade has become less about exchange of goods and more about eliminating social and environmental safeguards in pursuit of corporate profit. The proposed EU-US free trade agreement – the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership and the CETA– are a good example: while the elimination of trade barriers between Europe and the US is touted as a way out of the economic doldrums for these two blocs, in reality it is set to seriously erode social, environmental and labour rights. This ever-quickenning race to the bottom has destroyed lives, livelihoods and communities. Today, trade is used as a system of control by the powerful, and to promote the specific interests of the few. The existence of the free trade and market, is actually denied by the concentration of power in the hands of few and the effects are well known by the G7 and European leaders that have based the economic policies on that idea. Increase of poverty and exclusion of small producers from the market, forced migrations, climate changes and increase of violence and social instability, are the main consequences of this system as reported by Olivier De Schutter, former special rapporteur of the United Nations on the Right to Food, in the publication “Who's got the power” of the Fair Trade Advocacy office in 2014. The subsequent imposition of privatisation, the gutting of labour protection laws and swingeing social cuts (while the banks that fuelled the crisis are protected by trade laws) mirror the damaging impact of trade rules on millions of people elsewhere around the globe. Our trading system also consistently breaches the limits to our planet's biosphere.

A vision for change

The need for change in the trading schemes and models both at European and international level, is nowadays recognised by many actors, particularly Institutions. Governments at national level, the Ministries of labour in the recent G7 in Germany in 2015 talking about labour conditions and fair



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production[4], and the EU through the words of the president Junckers which said that *“trade is also a matter of values, of fundamental rights ... and we have to promote the human rights, the rights of workers and the environment, as well as the good governance and additionally great importance has to be given to the issue of global supply chains. This also on relation to promoting the growth in developing countries”*.

The New vision expressed in the recent EU strategic paper – **Sustainability now! A European Vision to Sustainability**. - is also putting the emphasis on the fact that *“Trade policy must contribute to reducing global inequalities, creating qualitatively different growth bringing more inclusive social benefits while staying within the ecological limits of our planet. This may take the form of more sustainability certification schemes, fair trade labels.”*

A new vision for trade is not only possible but absolutely necessary. It must be based on a new set of principles, and respect the EU’s international commitments and legal obligations to ensure coherence in its policies, be they on democracy, cooperation, public participation, human rights, social justice, gender equality or sustainability. Transparency should be at the heart of such policies: in addition to a genuine and continuous participation process, the EU and its member states must assess the impacts of their actions and make the results public, so that citizens can make informed choices.

CSOs Policy Asks to G7 Leaders

- In general, the first request to the G7 leaders, is to look at the enormous gap among rich and the poor and the inequalities created by the globalized economy in the last 20 years.
- Commitment of the EU leaders in the G7 to push for the starting of a discussion at the World Trade Organisation on sustainable and fair trade. That is more than negotiating tariff reduction for Environmental Goods but, in relation to the Sustainable Agenda 2030 it relates to look at trade policy in conjunction with other major international issues and members of the WTO must be consistent in the different international fora and the EU should fully engage.
- The Italian presidency should push for a re-commitment of the G7 on the “G7 Action for Fair Production”, drafted during the meeting of the Ministries of Labour of the G7 in Germany in October 2015. In the Ise Shima Declaration there was no mention to this document, that is strongly oriented to promote concrete action with the aim to increase transparency, improve the management of risks, including to worker health and safety, and strengthen access to remedy in global supply chains.
- Commitment of the European leaders in the G7 to make trade negotiation open and transparent and to end corporate capture.
- Commitment of the European leaders in the G7 to stop any agreements that violate human rights and to ensure that Human Rights and Sustainability Impact Assessments (HRSIA) must be conducted before the start of any negotiation by an independent institution, and with broad civil society participation.
- Commitment of the G7 leaders to revise the approach on the multilateral trading system as suggested also by the EU in the paper *Sustainability now*, and to rethink the vision expressed in the Ise Shima declaration on the signing and implementation of the various commercial agreements such as TTIP, CETA and so on.



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