
Recommendations to Sherpas

from the ANU-Chatham House Policy Forum: ‘Investing in Gender Equality at the G20 Leaders Summit From Australia to Turkey’ 24 September 2014

Noting that since the promising language on ‘women’s full economic and social participation’ in the Los Cabos Declaration, progress on women’s economic empowerment in the G20 agenda has been too slow and too peripheral.

Stressing the need to keep the G20 agenda focused on core economic and financial issues, whilst, at the same time, recognising that correcting the stark imbalances in economic opportunities for women is central to meeting the G20’s economic objectives.

Welcoming the recent commitment by G20 Labour and Employment Ministers meeting to recommend that G20 Leaders adopt the goal of a reduction in the gender participation gap by 25 per cent by 2025.

Anticipating the new five-year Financial Inclusion Action Plan that will guide and promote the uptake of policies or services which encourage women’s economic empowerment.

Recognising that the current system of National Accounts systematically undercounts the value of services.

1. We urge the G20 Leaders to adopt strategies to attain strong, sustainable, balanced and *inclusive* growth. G20 countries are committed to implement policies to grow global GDP by more than two per cent above the current trajectory over the next five years. The mounting weight of evidence shows that enhancing economic opportunities for women is central to achieving this objective.
2. We entreat the Leaders to adopt the goal of 25 per cent reduction in the gender participation gap by 2025 and each G20 member to outline their strategies to achieve this target. We also recommend that they consider adopting the OECD Gender Recommendations which include a comprehensive set of policy principles, as put forward in the ILO-IMF-OECD-WBG report ‘Achieving stronger growth by promoting a more gender-balanced economy’ (15 August 2014).
3. We advocate that the G20 member promote more diversity of representation in all G20 processes with a target of at least 30 per cent female representation across all delegations (including working groups and engagement groups). This is particularly important for the finance ministers and central bank governors track.
4. We ask the G20 member states to take active steps towards more comprehensive measurement of economic activity. Unpaid care work and participation in the informal economy should be valued and included in the national accounts.

5. We encourage the G20 leaders to adopt quotas, if they haven't already done so, to improve the representation of women in key economic, business and political institutions in their countries.

6. We suggest that Sherpas meet with Ministers for Women - or equivalent Minister - to develop country specific objectives and a targeted peer-review system with appropriate metrics and benchmarks in order to improve accountability of progress on gender-inclusive growth.

Background

The Policy Forum gathered representatives from government, business, academia, civil society and the diplomatic community from G20 countries to discuss gender inclusive economic policies and to provide advice to the Australian and Turkish Sherpas on possible measures the G20 countries could take to advance gender equality.

The Forum was opened by Senator the Hon. Michaelia Cash, Minister assisting the Prime Minister for Women. It was conducted under the Chatham House rule.

Further information

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