

1.2 The G7 Agenda for Women's Economic Empowerment

Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls have been long-standing priorities for the G7 (see Textbox 2: Brief History of G7/G8 commitments to gender equality and women's economic empowerment). Building on these commitments, women's economic empowerment was identified as a top G7 development priority in 2015. More recently, as part of the 2017 Roadmap for a Gender-Responsive Economic Environment, G7 countries affirmed the importance of eliminating violence against women and girls in public and private spheres, and to address structural barriers to women's economic empowerment linked to discriminatory practices, gender stereotypes, negative social norms, and to harmful attitudes and behaviours.

G7 Leaders at the 2017 Taormina Summit further focused on the structural policies that are likely to have the greatest impact on promoting gender equality through enabling women's labour-force participation, entrepreneurship and economic empowerment. The Taormina Roadmap outlines three core priorities, as well as corresponding actions and recommendations to foster the economic empowerment of women and girls. The core priorities are:

1. Increasing women's participation, and promoting equal opportunities and fair leadership-selection processes at all levels of decision-making;
2. Strengthening the foundation of women's access to decent-quality jobs; and,
3. Eliminating violence against women and girls throughout their lives.¹²

(See Annex A for the G7 Roadmap for a Gender Responsive Economic Environment).

During Canada's 2018 G7 Presidency, gender equality – which is fundamental for the fulfillment of human rights and is a social and economic imperative – is a top priority. Two of the five themes of the Charlevoix Summit are: Investing in Growth that Works for Everyone; and Advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment. Furthermore, Gender Equality Advisory Council for Canada's G7 Presidency helped promote a transformative G7 agenda, and supported Leaders and ministers in ensuring that gender equality and gender analysis are integrated across all themes, activities and outcomes of Canada's G7 Presidency.