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## W7 Responses to the Joint Statement of the G7 Gender Equality Ministers

The G7 Gender Equality Ministerial Meeting was held in Nikko, Japan on June 24-25, 2023. The W7 appreciated the opportunity to be meaningfully included in the ministerial and join the discussions with the ministers. We sincerely hope that this practice will continue in future G7 Summits, including not only the Gender Equality Ministerial Meeting, but all other Ministerial Meetings. All discussions at the G7 impact the lives of women, girls and gender-diverse people.

The W7 welcomes the adoption of the Nikko Statement by the G7 Gender Equality Ministers, and their commitment to achieving gender equality. The statement provided an analysis of the structural barriers to gender equality and incorporated an intersectional lens, also recognizing the challenges of LGBTQI+ people. It also highlighted the contributions of the W7 to the process and committed to the publication of the first Implementation Report this year.

While the statement laid out the issues well, it fell short of concrete commitments, actions and resources that the G7 Gender Ministers will take. Considering that women's rights and gender equality have seen a setback of 30 years as a result of the pandemic, the W7 had hoped to see concrete plans, targets and indicators in ensuring the G7 meet their intentions of advancing women's economic empowerment, eliminating gender-based violence, addressing paid and unpaid care and ensuring sexual and reproductive health and rights.

As a result, the W7 would like the G7 Gender Ministers to take the following into consideration.

We encourage the G7 to:

- Include consultations with civil society in drafting the implementation report and include an assessment of the impact of the actions taken. Most importantly, in addition to reporting on actions taken, it should also include a plan of actions they will take moving forward.
- Announce policy commitments with clear financial pledges at the SDG Summit in September to advance SDG5 and the gender issues that were affirmed in the G7 Leaders' Communique.
- Improve the G7 Dashboard on Gender Gaps by adding effective indicators to serve as a robust accountability mechanism and support evidence-based policy making, and invest in up-to date gender disaggregated data collection.
- Announce to support Pride7 (P7) to be an official engagement group to the G7 Summit.

We believe that continued efforts will be the key to narrowing the World Economic Forum's gender gap, which ranked Japan as 125<sup>th</sup> among 146 countries this year. We would like Japan to take strong leadership to not only catch up with the world, but to move the needle on advancing gender equality and taking an intersectional approach in protecting and fulfilling the rights of women and girls in all their diversity, and LGBTQIA+ persons, not only as the host of G7 Summit this year but also as a member of the international community.