



26 December 2023

W7 Japan 2023

Statement of W7 Japan 2023 Calling for Peace based on Gender Equality and on Principle of Non-Violence

As an official engagement group of the G7, W7 (Women 7) Japan 2023 has been calling for an “Equal, Just, and Peaceful Future.” As we emphasised in [the W7 Communiqué](#), we firmly believe that peace is more than the absence of war. It requires the dismantling of structural violence and injustice that marginalize certain groups of people, especially women and girls in all their diversity, and persons of diverse SOGIESC.

At the time of the completion of Japan's G7 presidency, we are facing a world where regional and domestic conflicts are rampant, the civilian death toll is skyrocketing, and violence is ferociously escalating. Women are desperately seeking safe shelters, food and basic everyday necessities, and health/medical care for herself and family members. Children are being deprived of an environment that secures their well-being and sound development including opportunities for education. Keeping in mind the fact that women are disproportionately affected and bear the brunt of calamity in conflict situations, we once again have to address that experiences and voices of women should be heard and be reflected in every stage of processes to restore peace, which we believe forms a crucial component of Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) agenda.

W7 Japan 2023 calls on the G7 Leaders’ immediate and effective implementation of commitments in the G7 Hiroshima Leaders’ Communiqué as well as the Ministerial Communiqués and Statements to build an equal, just, and peaceful future.

Let us remind the G7 Leaders what they promised to work together upon.

In [the G7 Hiroshima Leaders’ Communiqué](#), the G7 Leaders committed to champion international principles and shared values by:

- Strongly opposing any unilateral attempts to change the peacefully established status of territories by force or coercion anywhere in the world and reaffirming that the acquisition of territory by force is prohibited. (para.2)
- Promoting universal human rights, gender equality and human dignity. (para.2)
- Reiterating the importance of multilateralism including the role of UN and international cooperation in promoting peace, stability and prosperity. (para.2)

The Leaders also committed to:

- Further promoting comprehensive SRHR for all individuals, including maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health, especially in vulnerable situations. (para.34)

- Advancing, implementing and strengthening the WPS Agenda including its application to Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), through partnership with the WPS-Focal Points Network and support for National Action Plan development, and to promote intersectional approaches. (para.43)
- Strengthening our efforts to eliminate conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence, and the importance of providing comprehensive support and meaningful participation for victims and survivors, using a survivor-centered approach. (para.43)

The G7 Gender Equality Ministers reiterated the steadfast commitment to the WPS agenda and its contributions to achieving peace, security, and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). ([Joint Statement of the G7 Gender Equality Ministers](#))

While W7 welcomes initiatives of the Government of Japan including the WPS event recently held in Tokyo, we regret to mention that the concrete measures, funding and implementation are yet to be seen. Moreover, we would like to expect G7's stronger, time-sensitive, and more concrete implementations of their commitments beyond the WPS agenda, which would encompass our demand for the adoption of the Feminist Foreign Policy (FFP).

We once again call on the G7 countries to:

- Work toward adopting and implementing the FFP that are coherent across all external actions, including diplomacy, security and defense, trade, humanitarian assistance and development, and to ensure that their implementation remains accountable to feminist civil society.
- Ensure the full and effective implementation of UN human rights treaties inter alia CEDAW and its Optional Protocol, the Women Peace and Security Agenda, Youth Peace and Security Agenda, and the Global Compact for Migration.
- Affirm commitments to the four pillars (participation in peace processes, economic security, leadership and agency, and protection of women's human rights) of the [Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action Compact](#) and increase funding across all elements of the Agenda.
- Reduce military expenditure and comply with [the joint statement](#) to control the illicit flow of small and light arms which facilitate the disproportionate impact on women and girls such as trafficking, sexual and gender based violence.
- Spend 100% of bilateral allocable Official Development Assistance (ODA) funding on programmes targeting or integrating gender equality.
- Ensure at least 20% of ODA funding is channeled into programmes with gender equality as the principal objective and at least 10% directed at feminist and women-led NGOs, including locally-led organizations, which, we believe, leads to the participation of women in peace-building.

We would like to call on the Government of Japan, as the president of the G7 2023, to consider them seriously and take the leadership to restore peace based on its commitment to the WPS agenda.

Lastly, we strongly demand once again “ an Equal, Just, and Peaceful Future” as expressed in the title of W7 Communiqué. To this end, we reiterate it is essential to respect and ceaselessly pursue the principle of non-violence.