

CIVIL SOCIETY PRIORITY POLICY POINTS

Civil 7 meeting Under Secretary Della Vedova

21 April, Rome

Systemic Issues

There are signs showing that the economic system is not working well. Its impacts on people: inequalities in and among countries are growing and evident. Its effects on the planet is also fully apparent. Both of these point to the insufficiency of the existing policies. Addressing these inequalities, as a mean of contributing to poverty reduction and to build a peaceful global community, while also preserving our planet, for the whole of humanity and for future generations, calls for bold and urgent action.

For the G7 Summits **legacy** to be truly continued, civil society organisations recommend that:

- **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS)** offer a roadmap for achieving a more equal world. We strongly affirm the global and local implementation and monitoring of the SDGs. Effective action at the global level is imperative
- **ODA** has a crucial role in accomplishing the SDGs. To achieve Agenda 2030, ODA needs to meet the 0.7% target, be unconditional for development, should not be used to address costs associated with refugees, as exposed in the April 2017 DAC, allow for participatory and democratic ownership.
- The world faced a financial crisis in 2008 and prevention of the next crisis requires G7 leadership and agreement on solutions. Additionally, it's important to recognize the impact of **TAX EVASION AND CORRUPTION**, on the developing world, as well as their dependence on loans.

G7 Leaders should work together, with Italy, to meet their shared responsibility for addressing both the long term and the most immediate challenges.

Climate & Energy

The impact of climate change is already affecting citizens, communities and countries all over the world and alarming signs of human-caused climate change have reached new heights all over the globe. World's nations have committed to Paris Climate Agreement goals, that will be reached only if emission reduction strategies are being defined and implemented immediately, and commitments on climate finance are fulfilled. Civil society recommends that

- To gain citizens' confidence and trust, the G7 Governments must be fast and effective, and take urgent and concrete actions to respond to the threat of climate change and ensure that the most vulnerable are resilient against the effects of climate change:
 1. *commit to accelerate implementation of the **PARIS AGREEMENT**, to limit global warming to 1.5°C (above pre-industrial levels)*
 2. *commit to deliver **DECARBONIZATION STRATEGIES** and roadmaps by 2018, putting in place policies and initiatives for securing fast and just transition, based on wide dialogue*
 3. *ensure fast-track initiatives to accelerate **EMISSION REDUCTIONS** by promoting renewable energy, technological innovation, energy saving and energy efficiency, sustainable and efficient use of natural resources and initiatives on the nexus between health and climate change*
 4. *accelerate the fulfillment of the US\$100 billion **PARIS AGREEMENT COMMITMENT**.*

Education

Education is a critical stepping stone for development and prosperity for individuals - especially for most vulnerable populations including women, girls, refugees and migrants - and for societies. Yet, the world has not given to education the priority it needs, and currently 263 million children and youths are out of school worldwide. World leaders made the promise to “ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all” by 2030 and to Leave No One Behind. However, without a transformative step change in education financing we will be 50 years late in achieving the SDG4. Civil society recommends that

- G7 Leaders state their **COMMITMENT TO GLOBAL EDUCATION** by providing sufficient and equitable allocation of resources - both in development and humanitarian contexts
 1. *G7 should increase ODA to education as well as the proportion of ODA spent through multilateral mechanisms, including the Global Partnership for Education and Education Cannot Wait fund*
- G7 commit **GREATER FUNDING** and provide support to secure that all refugees and migrants children have access to inclusive and quality education, thus delivering on the commitment taken in the New York Declaration last September
- G7 accountability report recognizes the pivotal role of **GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION** in empowering learners to face global challenges and to become proactive contributors for a more peaceful, tolerant and inclusive world

Health

Health is an outcome of, and prerequisite for, sustainable development. Civil society recommends that

- G7 build on past successes, including the fight against HIV/AIDS and the strengthening of the Global Fund; increased investments for maternal, newborn and child health through the Muskoka Initiative and Gavi; and the substantial role played in the eradication of polio must be applied to preparing for pandemic threats, antimicrobial resistance, and to articulate the proposed concept of **PLANETARY HEALTH**
- as already committed in the Leaders' statements of Elmau and Ise-Shima G7 Summits, global health must be viewed from **A UNIVERSAL SDGs PERSPECTIVE**:
 1. *continue providing measurable and concrete statements regarding health systems strengthening, emergency preparedness, and universal health coverage in line with the principles of leaving no one behind and finishing the unfinished business of the MDGs.*
- **INNOVATIVE R&D MODELS** must be supported and implemented to tackle antimicrobial and other resistances that go beyond incentives based on market forces, and ensure that health technologies are made available to all in need.
 1. *tuberculosis alone represents one-third of the world's deaths due to AMR, and will claim another 75 million lives by 2050 without continued leadership and additional investments in new and affordable drugs.*
- access to **SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS** must be granted as a crucial step toward realizing SDGs 3 and 5:
 1. *health is a right and is realized in part through ambitious investments in measures that allow everyone, including the most key and vulnerable populations, to be healthy and empowered to live to their fullest potential.*

Gender Equality

Women and girls make up more than half the world's population and they are often more deeply impacted than men and boys by poverty, multiple discrimination, violence, gender inequality, food insecurity, disabilities, lack of healthcare, lack of education, global economic crises and climate change. Gender equality has been recognized as one of the main pillars to reduce poverty and inequality. Notwithstanding the progress achieved so far, nowhere in the world have women and men achieved equality. Civil society recommends that

- The **ROADMAP** includes for its realization:
 1. *mechanisms of reporting and timing to monitor and ensure an accountable implementation of its actions*
 2. *the commitment to include the roadmap in future accountability report*

initiatives

3. *a clear link to indicators and targets of SDGs with particular reference to SDG5*
4. *specific reference to the need to address the structural causes of violence rooted in culture and the importance of breaking down gender stereotypes*
5. *inclusion of unpaid care work in macro-economic policy with systems of national accounting and social protection measures that can reduce the burden of unpaid care work*

- the **TAORMINA INITIATIVE**:

1. *addresses specific gender inequalities in access and control of natural resources and consequent need to support women as smallholder farmers with a stronger local perspective on rural development*
2. *excludes non-food security related to agribusiness investments from the category of food security initiatives using criteria that not only look at productivity but also right to food and gender impact*

- all actions mainstreaming **GENDER** dimension in the final declaration and in any other document produced under the Italian G7 presidency

1. *allocates specific resources for its realization and require earmarked adequate funding for gender equality and women's' economic empowerment*
2. *supports SRHR especially in vulnerable contexts and humanitarian emergencies*
3. *improves sex and age disaggregated data and gender analysis in all issues of the Presidency with the aim of filling the gap of data related to the age of girls and adolescents.*

Migration

Civil society welcomes the role that the Italian Presidency has played so far in recognising the reality of mixed mobility flows and promoting a comprehensive approach to human mobility as opposed to one focused on border control and security concerns only. Thus, civil society recommends that

- a **RIGHTS-BASED** approach is adopted, as the necessary condition under which human mobility can become an opportunity for human and economic growth
- a **SWITCH IN NARRATIVE** is made, which includes a non-equivocal recognition of the positive aspects of human mobility and the rights of all people on the move, whilst rejecting discrimination and xenophobia
- a focus area concerning the **PROTECTION OF THE MOST VULNERABLE**, including women and children (particularly unaccompanied children) is maintained, irrespective of their migration status and ensuring their best interest is at the core, also by facilitating safe and regular migration pathways
- G7 leaders commit to the principle of **RESPONSIBILITY-SHARING** and to building strategic partnerships between countries of origin, transit, and destination, that are in line with international human rights standards and foster opportunities for economic growth, social cohesion, protection and stability for all people on the move.

1. *In this context, aid and investment need to be used to advance inclusive growth, address basic social needs and tackle the root causes of forced displacement. Conditionality on development assistance should be rejected and ODA should not be used to cover in-donor country refugee costs*

- G7 Leaders use the vision of **HUMAN MOBILITY** in the implementation of the Agenda 2030 and the commitments of the New York Declaration and in the lead up to the adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and the Global Compact on Refugees

Food Security and Nutrition

We welcome the decision of Italy to bring Food and Nutrition Security as a key priority of its Agenda in order to take forward the promises made in Elmau and Ise Shima by the G7 countries to lift 500million people out of hunger and malnutrition (from Vision to Action). However, we are deeply concerned about the lack of political willingness that the majority of G7 countries is showing in committing fresh resources through the Taormina Initiative.

This year's G7 comes at a critical moment: almost 800 million people remain food insecure, especially women and girls in rural areas; 2 billion people suffer from malnutrition in all its form; and 20 million people face starvation in parts of Nigeria, Yemen, South Sudan and Somalia. This is an unprecedented crisis and demands action aimed at addressing the short term crisis alongside the long term solutions. This crisis painfully shows how a lack of strategic long term investment in food security and nutrition can result in ongoing crisis. It is not a time for choosing one over the other but a time for an integrated response. Investment in long term solutions, that tackle the root causes of food crises, through the Taormina initiative is essential to prevent crises escalating into disasters and therefore reducing the need for costly humanitarian responses. Investing new resources on food security and nutrition along with wider resilience-building efforts, which help strengthen the livelihoods of people in areas vulnerable to food crisis, is necessary to help millions of children to survive and reach their full potential.

Ahead of the forthcoming Sherpa meeting, 26th-27th of April, we would like to make the following recommendations:

- We strongly call all G7 countries to keep their promises by increasing the current level of **ODA** for food assistance, smallholder agriculture, rural development and food security and nutrition through the Taormina Initiative as a contribution to achievement of SDG 2.
- Commitments in the **TAORMINA INITIATIVE** must be invested in an integrated approach in order to address the short-term crisis alongside the long-term solution.
- We encourage Italy and the other G7 countries to step forward and act as a leader in Food Security and Nutrition and make the first **COMMITMENT** to the Taormina Initiative to inspire the other G7 countries to follow.

Now it is the time to deliver. For the people going to bed each night hungry still in our world are depending on you to act now not later. You need to demonstrate that the G7 will keep its promise by scaling up ODA to enable action on food and nutrition security.