

RECOMMENDATIONS: MOVING THE G20 WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT AGENDA FORWARD

Background & Context

In 2017, the G20 pledged to support women's empowerment efforts as they are a prerequisite for sustainable and inclusive growth worldwide. This public commitment by the G20 recognized the vital role and needs of women around the world, and was a result of effective advocacy by Women20 (W20) and others. W20 will continue to play an important role in helping the G20 realize and be accountable to these recent commitments. W20 will also help move the G20 to identify and strengthen the underlying factors that enable women's full empowerment and equality, including having comprehensive sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Following the G20 Summit, Emerging Markets Sustainability Dialogues (EMSD, Germany), Observer Research Foundation (ORF, India) and Global Health Strategies (GHS, India/US) jointly hosted a one-day 'stock-taking' roundtable on women's economic empowerment and reproductive rights in Berlin, Germany. The roundtable convened global experts and key actors from both developed and emerging markets.

Gender inequalities and gender-based violence are reduced when women have increased reproductive freedoms and economic power. Giving women and girls control over their sexual and reproductive lives through access to safe and effective contraception and abortion – helps them determine their life plans and participate in the economy. Participating in economic activity fairly and safely helps women improve their own health as well as that of their families. Drawing on the mutually reinforcing links between women's reproductive health, economic activity and empowerment, the roundtable developed a set of recommendations for G20 policy makers and beyond.

Recommendations to the G20

General Recommendations

- Increase women's participation in decision-making bodies in order to ensure the needs of women and girls and the impact of proposed policies and programs on their lives are adequately considered;
- Integrate gender analysis and budgeting into multilateral and country agendas, economic growth strategies and policy frameworks;
- Work with civil society, donors, multilaterals, academia and the private sector to ensure effective and inclusive policy design and implementation;
- Fight persisting religious and cultural prejudices and stigma that prevent the due implementation of government policies addressing women's empowerment, sexual and reproductive health, and economic participation;
- Strengthen and institutionalize the Women20 within the G20 engagement groups;

Reproductive Health-Specific Recommendations

- Ensure evidence-based policy making by collecting robust data on reproductive health, including the prevalence and consequences of unsafe abortion and comprehensive sexual education;
- Ensure that policies are enacted and implemented in ways that support full access to sexual and reproductive health information and services, such as contraceptives and safe abortion care;
- Increase investments in women's sexual and reproductive health services including adequate health infrastructure and referral network, health provider training and information sharing.

Economic Empowerment-Specific Recommendations

- Develop better evidence base on the benefits of women's workforce inclusion, including quantifying the unpaid labor done by women and taking steps to ensure redress;
- Ensure that policies are designed and implemented to reduce gender labor participation gap, including efforts to enhance equal access to the labor market and promote financial inclusion;
- Promote opportunities and equal participation for women and girls in the digital economy, and support access to ICT related information, education, and training;
- Remove the gendered barriers, including through laws and policies, which prevent women from accessing productive resources like land, capital and technology.

These recommendations are supported by the participating [organisations and experts](#).