



COMMUNIQUE OF THE 2011 G(IRLS)20 SUMMIT
PARIS, FRANCE – ACADEMIE DIPLOMATIQUE INTERNATIONALE
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We, the delegates of the 2011 G(irls)20 Summit, celebrate the importance of girls and women as champions of development and progress including Nobel Peace Prize winners President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Leymah Gbowee and Tawakkul Karman; the new Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund Christine Lagarde; and all of the women who fought courageously for their nations' and their own rights in the recent "Arab Spring".

Yet, in an era of globalization and technological advancement, we are more aware than ever before of the existence of gender inequality in our society and the devastating impact it has on our families, our communities and our countries.

Further, as the economic downturn continues and the eurozone debt crisis takes prominence, we call attention to the alarming truth that girls and women are at greatest risk.

Mindful of the fact that women have the potential to play a pivotal role in global economic progress and peace building, we came together in France, in advance of the G-20 meeting, to debate, discuss and develop recommendations for the leaders of the world's most powerful nations.

Today we ask those leaders and change-makers to work with purpose and urgency for the elimination of the obstacles that continue to hinder the participation of girls and women in being part of the solution to the global challenges we face.

We declare that investing in, believing in and empowering women is not only the right policy, but the policy that makes the most economic sense.

On the subject of gender-based violence and inequality

We assert that gender-based violence transcends all boundaries and has been specifically linked to a decrease in productivity and economic growth. In a time when up to sixty per cent of women experience physical or sexual violence, we call upon leaders and change-makers to end gender-based violence and inequality by:

1. Creating mechanisms that enable accurate data collection on issues like domestic violence, sex trafficking and coerced marriage.
2. Collaborating on the development of international legal standards, based on the UN Declaration of Human Rights and other precedents that mandate zero tolerance towards gender-based violence.
3. Developing training programs for law enforcement focused on eliminating gender-based violence including human trafficking.
4. Providing safe and accessible medical, legal, skill-building, and psycho-social supports to the victims of gender-based violence.
5. Developing strategies that eliminate coerced marriage, sex trafficking, and harmful traditions.
6. Strengthening safety and security for women to enable freedom of mobility in their communities.
7. Supporting violence prevention programming in both education curriculums and media directed at women and men.
8. Encouraging the sharing of best practices in the cultivation of respect amongst adolescent girls and boys.

On the subject of education, training and employment

We assert that there are opportunities within education systems today to improve the ability of girls to learn and contribute. We call upon leaders and change-makers to equalize access to education for girls and women by:

1. Mandating safe transport to schools for girls.
2. Promoting internships and scholarships.
3. Funding increased use of technology in the delivery of education.
4. Supporting the introduction of resources that build the self-esteem of both girls and boys.
5. Mandating preparation and protocols for safe, basic primary education delivery in conflict and disaster areas.
6. Providing access to primary education for mature women.
7. Supporting better salaries and incentives for teachers in developing nations.
8. Providing access to personal financial training for women.

We assert that female entrepreneurship is necessary to fuel the economy. We call upon leaders and change-makers to build the capacity of women to contribute to the economic betterment of their communities by:

1. Supporting microfinance initiatives for women.
2. Encouraging venture capital and angel investing in women's initiatives.
3. Providing incentives for companies that have better gender equality programs and/or expand to remote or poor areas.
4. Incentivizing women to return to their home country after foreign education.

On the subject of political, economic and social representation

We acknowledge the statistics that productivity gains and increased GDP are directly linked to the increased number of women in the labour force. We assert that suppression of basic rights and the exclusion of fifty per cent of the world's population from employment and leadership results in missed opportunity. We call upon leaders and change-makers to give women a political voice, actively pursue a higher percentage of female representation in decision making and invest in women as important economic drivers by:

1. Recognizing all women on the basis of inherent human dignity as legally equal to men.
2. Giving all women the right to vote, advocate and mobilize.
3. Implementing special temporary measures if necessary to ensure fair and adequate female representation in senior public sector and economic positions by 2020.
4. Raising awareness through all available mediums on women's right to equal representation in politics and economics and undertaking national awareness campaigns to break gender stereotypes associated with science, technology, engineering and math.
5. Strongly encouraging educational institutions in their own nations to increase the participation of women involved in the STEM sectors – science, technology, engineering and math.
6. Incentivizing employers to implement flexible working policies in relation to family life.
7. Enforcing employment and layoff protection for women worldwide.
8. Acknowledging the economic contribution of migrant workers, protecting their human rights, providing legal advocacy channels and regulating their working conditions.

On the subject of health

We assert that a healthy nation means a stronger work force and higher productivity, which leads to a more competitive economy. We call on leaders and change-makers to build partnerships between developed and developing nations by:

1. Investing in safe clean accessible facilities and mobile health centres, while clinical infrastructure is set up, along with sexual health education and access to family planning.
2. Collaborating to end to the practice of female genital mutilation, virginity testing and other actions that violate female bodily integrity.
3. Supporting community-led initiatives that demonstrate female children are as valuable as male children and denounce the practice of gender-based feticide and infanticide.
4. Training women to be community-based health workers and medical professionals tackling maternal health.

For more information please contact girls20summit@tbsf.ca or visit www.girlsandwomen.com