

**Mr. Emmanuel Macron
President of the French Republic**

Paris, June 13, 2019

Subject: Civil society's concerns regarding NGO participation in the G7

Dear Mr. President,

France, when it assumed the Presidency of the G7, expressed its intent to ensure the G7 is more accessible and sets an open process "closely associating citizens". However, the announcement by the French Presidency that civil society organizations would have no access to the G7 Leaders summit and the decision to postpone a one day dialogue with Civil Society Organizations from France and G7 countries in your presence on the very same day as the civil society summit planned for weeks, tell an opposite story.

We would like to express our deepest concerns about these recent developments, as they undermine the participation of civil society in the G7 process.

We therefore ask the French Presidency to commit that it will ensure open and effective participation and access of civil society representatives at the Leaders Summit in August. Moreover, we ask you to make sure the meeting in your presence and a number of Ministers on July 2 will allow for a real discussion on the recommendations prepared by national and international civil society organizations.

For several years, national and international civil society groups and networks, in particular through G7 constituencies, called on G7 countries to take commitments to promote international solidarity, gender equality and the protection of our planet. Civil society's expertise must be acknowledged, recognized and heard at the highest level so that the decisions taken by G7 leaders are not disconnected from the reality and needs of the people who will be directly affected by the G7 outcomes.

While the French Presidency claims to be progressive, it would not be acceptable for France to roll back on its commitment for a more open G7 and to reduce the role of civil society in this G7 when comparing it to previous presidencies. Such a rollback would represent a dangerous precedent for future summits. In 2018, the Canadian Presidency granted access to the media center of its summit in Charlevoix to non-governmental organizations. If France wants to ensure the transparency and accountability of decisions taken at the G7, it can not show less ambition than its predecessor.

Mr. President, the G7 Leaders Summit is an opportunity for France to reaffirm the value of a transparent and inclusive multilateralism, at a time when some try to undermine the very idea of international cooperation among nations. We hope that you will hear our call to ensure effective participation of civil society ahead and during the Leaders Summit in August.

Yours sincerely,

Signatory organizations, many of whom are active members of Civil Society 7, Women 7

Action contre la Faim
Action santé mondiale
Aide et Action
Alliance Internationale des femmes
Amnesty International
Association Chance et Protection Pour Toutes
Association des Femmes de l' Europe Méridionale
Association des Femmes Diplômées des Universités (AFFDU)
Association of German Development and Humanitarian Aid NGOs (VENRO)
Association Olympe
AQOCI (Association québécoise des organismes de coopération internationale)
BPW FRANCE
CARE France
CCFD - Terre Solidaire
Center for Democratic Education
Club Gen Startuppeuse ESSEC
Coalition Education
Conseil National des Femmes Françaises
Coordination Sud
Du Côté des Femmes
En avant toute(s)
Equipop
Fédération Nationale Solidarité Femmes
Femmes pour le Dire, Femmes pour Agir
Femmes solidaires
Greenpeace France
Humanity Diaspo
INPADE / FOCO
International Center for Research on Women
Japan NGO Center for International Cooperation (JANIC)
Japan NGO Network for Education (JNNE)
Le Planning Familial
ONE
Oxfam France
Plan International
Plan International France
Regards de Femmes
Réseau Action Climat France
Réseau Féministe "Ruptures"
Réussir l'égalité Femmes-Hommes

Save the Children
TERRAM PACIS
Theirworld
Uhuru Community Development Project
UNICEF France
WECF France
Women Included
World Vision International