SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

As the world faces a convergence of crises, shrinking ODA, widening inequalities, unsustainable debt burdens, systemic vulnerabilities, intensifying climate shocks, and deepening social fragmentation, the moment demands bold, decisive, and time-bound action.

We urge the G7 to seize key opportunities this year, including the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4), the UN High-Level Political Forum on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the UN High-Level Meeting on Non-Communicable Diseases and Mental Health, COP30, the UN Social Summit, and, next year, the UN High-Level Meeting on Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness, and Response, to accelerate action on the 2030 Agenda. G7 leaders must reaffirm their commitments to international human rights frameworks, uphold longstanding conventions, and translate pledges into tangible, transformative change.

At the heart of this agenda is equity. Systemic inequalities are not incidental; they are designed and perpetuated by policies that fail to address the needs of those most at risk. Vulnerability is structural, and the global response must be as well. The G7 must embrace human rights and gender-transformative approaches, ensuring women and girls in all their diversity, groups in vulnerable situations, and in general those furthest behind— are recognized as agents of change, not passive recipients of aid. Through the below recommendations, we call on the G7 to take decisive action to advance sustainable development, strengthen resilience, and foster a future rooted in dignity, justice, and shared prosperity.

Advance food justice, health, and child protection

Hunger and malnutrition trap communities in a cycle of suffering, denying them the chance to thrive and build better lives. With 2 billion people without access to adequate food, the heartbreaking reality is that millions of children face stunted growth and wasting, robbing them of their full potential. Ensuring universal access to social protection is key to preventing the most vulnerable, especially women and children, from falling further behind.

- Strengthen universal social protection systems that prevent, diagnose, and treat malnutrition, ensuring targeted support for women and children in vulnerable communities, and with attention to development and emergency settings, including those affected by armed conflicts.

- Scale up investments in integrated health delivery services, including immunization, preventative medicine, and child protection to ensure every child grows up healthy, nourished, and safe.

Strengthen health systems for equity and resilience

Strong health systems are the foundation of social and economic resilience, yet millions, particularly in low-and middle-income countries (LMICs), remain without access to essential care. We urge G7 countries to take urgent action to slow the widening of health inequities and prevent further strain on global health infrastructure.

- Prioritize catalytic investments in LMICs in alignment with their priorities. Investments should strengthen primary healthcare, ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), including the Human Papillomavirus vaccine; menstrual health; contraception; antenatal care; family planning; reproductive, maternal, newborn, and child health; sexually transmitted infection prevention; and safe abortion services. In humanitarian and conflict settings, SRHR services must be fully integrated to uphold dignity and choice, and Women Human Rights Defenders must be protected.

- Ensure healthcare does not push people into poverty. Financial barriers to essential medicines, diagnostics, and treatment must be removed so life-saving care is not dictated by cost. Climate-resilient health systems must be strengthened, including water, sanitation, and hygiene infrastructure, while expanding the role of local communities in delivering quality care.

- Adopt a holistic approach to health, addressing the needs of all age groups. This means investing in equitable access to mental health care, early childhood development, and adolescent health programs while expanding research and innovation in dementia and non-communicable diseases. This also requires strengthening long-term and palliative care systems, ensuring sustainable, age-inclusive care models that support aging populations in G7 countries and beyond.

> " In a world characterised by polycrisis, already unacceptable social and economic inequalities are being exacerbated. The G7 must firmly re-commit to adopting human rights-based and gender-transformative approaches in its policies, placing people and communities as agents of change for a more equitable, just and sustainable future.

— W. ANDY ROXANE OUÉDRAOGO

Coordinator of the Sustainable Development WG / Government Engagement and Civic Space Lead, Cooperation Canada

Bolster global health coordination and pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response

Pandemics are not inevitable. They result from systemic failures in prevention, preparedness, and response. The COVID-19 pandemic exposed deep inequities in global health governance, which left millions without life-saving care. To prevent future crises, the G7 must take decisive action to enhance global health coordination and pandemic preparedness.

- Foster multilateral cooperation to combat health challenges, from infectious diseases like HIV, tuberculosis, malaria, polio, and neglected tropical diseases to non-communicable diseases such as dementia and other mental disorders.

- Fully replenish multilateral organizations such as the World Health Organization, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, Gavi, and the Global Financing Facility to ensure a robust global health infrastructure.

- Accelerate the implementation of an integrated, unifying One Health approach that aims to sustainably balance and optimize the health of people, animals, and ecosystems, to include pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response with commensurate investment.

- Enhance rapid scale-up in equitable access to medical countermeasures by supporting regional research, technology transfer/development, and manufacturing, while backing intellectual property waivers and equitable distribution frameworks.

Strengthen support for agricultural knowledge and agroecological approaches

When small-scale producers and marginalized communities have the knowledge, support, and rights they need, they can build resilient food systems that sustain both people and the planet. Breaking the cycle of poverty and hunger starts with ensuring they have the resources and agency to feed themselves with dignity.

- Collaborate with LMICs to enhance rural advisory services, particularly for small-scale producers, family farmers, and marginalized groups such as Indigenous peoples, pastoralists, and women, and remove all legal barriers that prevent women from accessing production goods, financial assets, and land.

- Guarantee direct access to climate finance for smallholder farmers and rural communities to address loss and damage, adaptation, and mitigation.

- Support policies facilitating the cooperative organization of small-scale producers as tools for the eradication of poverty and hunger, as recognized by the UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/78/289.

- Harness digital innovations to improve agricultural productivity, market access, and financial inclusion for rural producers, particularly women producers.

- Strengthen the implementation of the Global Alliance against Poverty and Hunger launched by the G20 in 2024, ensuring coordinated support for country-level impact.

- Protect farmers' rights to their own seeds, supporting countries to implement measures laid out in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas, the International Treaty on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, and SDG 2.5.

Promote policies and technologies to reduce food loss and waste across the entire food supply chain

The world produces enough food to feed everyone, yet inefficiencies and waste leave millions hungry while straining ecosystems. Transforming food systems to reduce loss and waste is critical for sustainability, resilience, and food security.

- Partner with LMICs to implement policies that curb food loss and waste across the supply chain, promoting agroecological principles of recycling and sustainable agriculture.

- Invest in low-carbon infrastructure and affordable technologies that enhance decentralized food storage and transportation, making food systems more resilient.

- Strengthen local and territorial markets to create shorter food supply chains and build local food economies.

> " Investing in sustainable development isn't just about shaping economies or systems; it is about investing in human lives, their dignity, their potential, their future. To retreat now, when the need is greatest, would carry consequences felt not in numbers, but in the prolonged suffering of those whose futures we have denied. The G7 has the power to make decisions that will echo through generations.

— STEFANIA BURBO

Coordinator of the Sustainable Development WG / Focal Point, Global Health Italian Network

Prioritize investments in education

Education is more than a pathway to opportunity. It is the heart of thriving communities, resilient economies, and a more just world. Every human deserves the chance to learn, grow, and shape their future. Strengthening education systems and ensuring access to quality learning will pave the way for lasting prosperity and peace.

- Increase direct funding for high-quality, accessible early childhood education and care programs, as outlined in the 2024 Solfagnano Charter. Public sector investments must expand to close gender gaps in education and ensure universal access to quality pre-primary and primary education. It also includes promoting the enrollment of women and girls in all their diversity in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics programs.

- Develop policies and programs that promote education for sustainable development and global citizenship education to foster peace, justice, gender equality, and cultural diversity, in line with SDG target 4.7. Ensure these programs are mainstreamed at all levels in education.

- Invest in strengthening education systems, including through curriculum reform and teacher training, to promote foundational learning, social-emotional development, critical thinking, and leadership skills. Tackle gender stereotypes and unconscious biases in education by integrating gender-responsive training for teachers and removing bias from school curricula, digital content, and AI-driven education tools.

- Promote education on the importance of guaranteeing sexual and reproductive rights and justice and on the prevention of gender-based violence.

Promote equitable access to information, knowledge, and digital resources

Knowledge empowers, but only when it is within reach. In a world increasingly shaped by digital technology, unequal access to information deepens the divide between those who can fully participate in society and those left behind. Bridging this gap is essential for human dignity, opportunity, and justice.

- Recognize technology as a vital space for education and culture, ensuring inclusive, accessible, and equitable learning opportunities. This includes addressing digital and gender divides, enhancing accessibility for persons with disabilities, and supporting transformative, intersectional, and community-driven education that respects Indigenous and traditional knowledge systems.

- Scale investments in digital equity by promoting women's leadership in digital innovation and integrating a gender-transformative approach in technology development and regulation. Digital transformation strategies must include gender-disaggregated data collection, gender-responsive standards, and procurement policies.

- Strengthen G7 action on technology-facilitated gender-based violence (TFGBV) by integrating gender perspectives into cybersecurity discussions, investing in survivor support and cyber literacy programs, and ensuring survivor participation in policy development. Adopt an intersectional approach that acknowledges how factors such as race, socioeconomic status, and disability compound vulnerabilities. Update legal frameworks to effectively prevent, address, and respond to TFGBV.

- Strengthen AI development standards to mitigate bias, ensure responsible data usage, and safeguard against harmful deployment through both technical and ethical guidelines.

Strengthen civic space for sustainable development

When people have the freedom to raise their voices, challenge injustice, and shape their communities, societies flourish. Yet, across the world, civil society is under threat, putting democracy and human rights at risk. Protecting civic space is not just about governance, it is about defending the dignity and agency of people everywhere.

- Guarantee long-term, predictable support for protecting and promoting civic space as a cornerstone of social cohesion and trust, aligning with SDG 16 and SDG 17.

- Advance inclusive citizen participation in decision-making through mechanisms such as the Open Government Partnership and cooperative enterprises.

- Counter the global crackdown on civil society by adopting diplomatic, financial, and legal measures to safeguard activists, independent media, and human rights defenders.

" While we will let optimism continue to be our guiding light, progress on the sustainable development goals requires more than ever before urgent action from all critical stakeholders particularly governments. The failure of political leaders in both resource rich and poor countries to secure peace, address climate change and increase international financing for the goals has deepened the poverty crisis world over. We see a glimpse of hope with the G7 summit where we expect bold decisions and actions that can accelerate the speed and scale of support and direction our world needs.

— OYEBISI, B. OLUSEYI

Coordinator of the Sustainable Development WG / Executive Director, Nigeria Network of NGOs