

CANADIAN W20 ROUND TABLE
MEETING OF JULY 6, 2016

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Steering Group Member
Invitee to the Canadian W20 Round Table

REFLECTION

The Canadian W20 Round Table discussions that took place in Ottawa on July 6, 2016 revolved around:

- accountability re W20 / G20 outcomes,
- “cross cutting” W20 measures with the G20,
- linking required W20 resources with G20 Finance Ministers
- representing special interest groups concerns, and
- the natural growing pains involved in any newly constituted body. The W20 was initiated during the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting in Ankara, Turkey on September 4-5, 2015.

Of special interest to the International Anglican Women's Network (IAWN) is the W20 commitment to:

“Strengthen trans-national and cross-regional exchanges between women's organisations and women's professional associations as well as their cooperation with government institutions, workers' and employers' organisations and relevant intergovernmental organisations.”

IAWN-Canada having a presence at the Canadian W20 Round Table discussions will be helpful in “cross cutting” or bridge building between the W20 engagement group and our Anglican international body that represents within the G20/W20:

- approximately **31 million** Anglican women in 7 countries and the European Union.

It goes without saying, what benefits women anywhere in the world, no matter organizational, political or ecclesiastical affiliation, benefits all women.

I was able to point out during the meeting that the Beijing Platform for Action has endorsed three areas of concern that parallel those of the W20:

- Women and the Economy,
- Women in Power and Decision Making, and
- Institutional Mechanisms for the Advancement of Women

By taking a multi-prong approach, the United Nations' organizations, international governmental organizations e.g. G20/W20, and professional and ecclesiastical women's organizations, can make progress in addressing economic / fiscal inequalities by:

- sharing information,
- offering insights and,
- building on successes.

In this regard and importantly, the IAWN can be a conduit to disseminate W20 outcomes to those women not represented by the W20. Hopefully, these outcomes can positively and vicariously impact all women.

GENERAL

The G20 economies account for:

- 85% of the global economy,
- 80% of the world trade, and
- two-thirds of the global population.

The G20 comprises the following countries:

Argentina	Australia	Brazil	Canada
China	France	Germany	India
Indonesia	Italy	Japan	Republic of Korea
Mexico	Russia	Saudi Arabia	South Africa
Turkey	United Kingdom	United States	European Union

Engagement Groups under the Auspices of the G20

B20	Business
C20	Civil Society
L20	Labor
T20	Think (Tanks)
Y20	Youth
W20	Women

THE W20 MEETING IN XI'AN, CHINA

The purpose of the W20 meeting held in Xi'an, China on May 26, 2016 was to discuss:

- gender equality perspectives in global economic governance
- women's employment
- entrepreneurship and social protection

- women's role in the digital economy, and
- interconnected and innovative women's network.

W20 OUTCOMES: MEASURES

The following itemizes the measures identified by the W20 at the Xi'an meeting of May 26, 2016.

A Gender Equality Perspective in Global Economic Governance

- eliminate all forms of discrimination against women, promote women's economic empowerment and participation, and work to integrate gender perspective into all activities of G20;
- integrate gender mainstreaming into macroeconomic policies and gender perspectives into global economic governance, and implement and advocate for gender-responsive budgeting;
- study the negative impacts and cost of violence against women on national economy, and adopt and ensure the implementation of laws and measures to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls and to ensure safety in public and private spaces to facilitate their economic participation,
- take effective measures to increase opportunities for equal representation of women in decision-making and leadership positions in both public and private sectors and in the composition of G20 delegations;
- significantly increase financing for gender equality and women's empowerment to reduce the gender gap in development policies as called for in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda;
- take special measures to encourage inclusive sourcing policies by governments and by corporation to include more women as suppliers in local and global value chains by establishing baseline data, setting targets and reporting on progress.

Women's Employment and Entrepreneurship and Social Protection

- enable women's engagement in cross-border trade and participation in global economic development;
- provide economic trade incentives for businesses that are at least 51% owned, managed and controlled by one or more women;

- provide incentives to investors and in particular to women investors, who support women-owned or led companies.

Women's Role in the Digital Economy

- encourage and support women and girls in their efforts to seize the opportunity brought by the New Industrial Revolution and to actively participate in and benefit from the digital economy;
- invest in the digital empowerment of women and girls and courage public and private investment in women-led digital ventures;
- conduct gender analysis of the impact of the digital economy on the labor market and on labour rights, and implement policies favorable to women for their entrepreneurship and employment in the digital economy era.

Interconnected and Innovative Women's Network

- Request G20 Labour and Employment Ministers to work with the W20 on the implementation of the agreed target of reducing female labour force participation gap by 25% by 2025, and urge member states to publish their strategies towards the target and adopt a transparent and rigorous monitoring process with, if necessary, the technical support of international organizations;
- Strengthen the legal framework and its enforcement in order to eliminate the gender wage gap, improve women's employment opportunities, working conditions and benefits, promote reconciliation of work and family life and strengthen the social security systems in order to increase female labour force participation, recognise and regulate all forms of new and flexible work and ensure adequate social protection;
- Continue to increase social infrastructure investments for care of children, the elderly, the disabled and the sick. Take active measures to encourage equal sharing of family responsibilities between women and men;
- Make a commitment to systematically recognizing and measuring all forms of work and embark on national income accounting that includes unpaid care work;
- Encourage the B20 to foster gender equality and good governance in the private sector including inter alia calling on companies to implement United Nations Women's Empowerment Principles and report on progress;
- Support entrepreneurship and launch specific programs to help women overcome business start-up barriers, grow and sustain their businesses, including through trade. Improve women's access to credit and other means of

production, and the provision of relevant training, information services and technical support;

- Ensure women's equal access to and ownership of land and assets, and their access to water and energy, food security and nutrition, quality infrastructure. Encourage rural women's role in the improvement of global food security by promoting investment in agriculture and food systems;
- Encourage women and girls in the study of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM)
- Support and strengthen capacity building of women's networks nationally, regionally and internationally;
- Strengthen trans-national and cross-regional exchanges between women's organizations and women's professional associations, as well as, their cooperation with governmental institutions, workers' and employers' organisations and relevant intergovernmental organizations.

REFERENCES

Beijing Platform for Action

The United Nations General Assembly at its 50th Session on January 17, 1996 adopted the Beijing Platform for Action and called upon all States and all bodies of the United Nations system and other international organizations, as well, as non-governmental organizations, to take action for the effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action.

Addis Ababa Action Agenda

The Third International Conference on Financing For Development met in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on July 13-16, 2015. The adopted document was endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly in its resolution 69/313 of July 27, 2015. In essence a strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity was affirmed.

UN Women Empowerment Principles

Empowering women to participate fully in economic life across all sectors to enable stronger economies, achieve internationally agreed goals for development and sustainability, and improve the quality of life for women, men, families and communities.

Briefly, the Principles are:

1. establish high-level corporate leadership for gender equality
2. Treat all women and men fairly in work – respect and support human rights and non-discrimination
3. Ensure the health, safety and well-being of all women and men workers
4. Promote education, training and professional development for women
5. Implement enterprise development, supply chain and marketing practices that empower women
6. Promote equality through community initiatives and advocacy
7. Measure and publicly report on progress to achieve gender equality.

Accountability was emphasized during the Round Table talks and the importance of linking with the various G20 Finance Ministers. Resources are required e.g. property, credit, access to capital markets, networking etc. to realize the objectives set forth by the W20 engagement group.