

## Canada and the G20: Gender Equality

Argentina's 2018 G20 agenda committed to:

- continuing to advance women's economic empowerment;
- working towards the elimination of gender disparities in the labour force, specifically those related to science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM);
- increasing digital and financial inclusion;
- working toward the elimination of all forms of gender-based violence.

Canada has worked closely with Argentina to integrate gender equality across the G20 agenda and has led the call for all G20 members to eliminate gender-based violence.

### Addressing the gendergap in the digital economy and preparing the workforce for tomorrow

As new technologies transform the way people work, G20 leaders have had to respond to both the opportunities and challenges that technology presents to workforces. The response includes skills and vocational training that increases access to good, well-paying jobs for the middle class.

As a G20 member, Canada champions greater labour-market access for women, decent work and less informal employment. Canada also champions the G20's 2014 commitment to reduce the labour-force-participation gap between men and women by 25% by 2025.

Canada supports female entrepreneurship as a driver of inclusive growth through the G20 Business Women Leaders Taskforce, which Prime Minister Trudeau helped to launch last year.

Canada's Taskforce nominee, Shahrzad Rafati, CEO and Founder of Broadband TV, has worked alongside other leading female entrepreneurs and businesswomen this year to increase women's participation in the economy and to advise G20 leaders on how best to advance the economic empowerment of women.

The Women20 and Girls20 engagement groups have complemented this work by recommending ways that G20 leaders can take action on labour, digital and financial inclusion, and on developing economic opportunities for women in rural areas.

Canada has also encouraged the G20 to continue to bridge the gender divide through lifelong learning, such as education, skills development and training, so that more women and girls can benefit from opportunities created by digital transformation. This builds on outcomes from Canada's G7 Presidency, including the investment of \$3.8 billion in education for women and girls in crisis and conflict situations.

Through the G20, Canada also seeks to advance equal access for women to digital and physical infrastructure. Equal access promotes sustainable development, boosts growth and productivity, and fosters inclusive societies where all citizens can seize economic opportunities. Digital financial inclusion is also important, because it can empower women economically, and enable them to better protect and control their assets.

### **Increased interconnectivity increases opportunities for all**

At the G20 Summit, Canada will continue to promote building a safer and more prosperous world through actions and solutions that enable all people to participate equally in, and benefit fully from, economic, political and social life.

Trade can lead to a more open and connected world; for many women, it can also create jobs and strengthen connections with markets. At the G20, Canada will continue to highlight the benefits of an inclusive approach to trade that advances women's economic empowerment. Canada will, for instance, seek to incorporate provisions related to gender, labour and the environment into trade agreements.

Canada will also continue to support the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement. G20 implementation of these bold agendas can forge a better future, and safeguard the most vulnerable and disadvantaged.