

INVE



THE WHISTLER DECLARATION ON UNLOCKING THE POWER OF ADOLESCENT GIRLS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls is an objective in and of itself. It is also a precondition for sustainable development. We must begin before negative gender and cultural norms and attitudes are learned. We must approach the rights and needs of girls and women in an integrated way, across their life-cycles, from infancy to adulthood to old age. While adolescence represents a critical and promising period that can propel development, it must not be a period of vulnerability, and we must ensure that it is a period of opportunity, not of risk.

Developing countries are experiencing a youth surge with the number of adolescents and young people at an all-time high. If adolescent girls' human rights are upheld, and if given the tools and resources to succeed in life, and make informed choices, they will contribute to sustainable transformation and inclusive economic growth. When countries invest in adolescent girls, they invest in their own future. When countries do not, they limit their decision-making and their participation in their politics, economies and societies.

Unlocking the potential of a generation of adolescent girls will be essential to achieve the ambitious 2030 Agenda, contributing to peace, prosperity and equality. When empowered with the knowledge, skills, social networks, opportunities and services to succeed in life, and make informed choices, adolescent girls tend to marry later, bear children later, and have better health and economic outcomes for themselves leading to stronger, inclusive and more prosperous countries.

The G7 Ministers responsible for humanitarian action and development assistance will:

- Adopt integrated approaches to our support for adolescent girls, including in humanitarian, development and peacekeeping operations, and ensure that they have the opportunity, including:

- to participate

- equally and fully participating in their societies while ensuring that their voices are taken into account

- providing opportunities for girls and women to access and complete at least 12 years of safe, quality, inclusive, equitable education, from their early years through to the end of secondary, leading to improved learning outcomes, including demand-led technical and

