



*The 2015 International G7/20  
Parliamentarians' Conference*

To  
Chancellor  
Dr Angela Merkel  
Chancellery of the Federal Republic of Germany  
Willy-Brandt-Str. 1  
10557 Berlin  
Germany

**International “G7 Women’s Dialogue” on September 16th and 17th in the context of the G7 presidency: follow up on the outcomes of the “she matters” conference**

Dear Chancellor Merkel,

We write on behalf of more than 90 members of 50 parliaments from all world regions who participated in the International G7/20 Parliamentarians Conference “she matters – Empowering women and girls to lead self-determined, healthy and productive lives” on April 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of this year. We very much welcome your announcement to host an international “G7 Women’s Dialogue” on September 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> in the context of your G7 presidency.

Against this background we would like to draw your attention to the landmark outcome of the “she matters” conference: the “Berlin Parliamentary Appeal”. This ambitious appeal is not only a self-commitment by us – over 90 members of parliament. It specifically calls upon the G7 and G20 to

- ensure the respect, promotion and protection of sexual and reproductive health and rights for all, including universal access to comprehensive and youth-friendly information, education, services, and a wide range of modern methods of family planning.
- step up their commitment to gender equality, women’s and girls’ human rights while empowering them to lead self-determined, healthy and productive lives.
- reaffirm their commitment to the 0.7 per cent ODA goal in recognition of the need for support of low- and middle-income countries in order to ensure sustainable development.

The shared understanding and message emanating from the conference was very clear: There can be no economic empowerment of women and girls without realizing their sexual and reproductive health and rights. Women and girls who are able to plan and space their pregnancies are better able to complete their education and to participate in the labour force, have increased earnings and dispose of higher household savings and assets. Providing them with sexual and reproductive health services and ensuring access to contraceptives for the 225 million women in developing countries with an unmet need, are thus extremely smart investments.

With this in mind we urge you to take the appeal and its messages into account in the context of the discussions during the “G7 Women’s Dialogue”. Moreover, we would be honored and delighted for one of the female parliamentarians from our international conference to be able to present the “Berlin Parliamentary Appeal” to your audience at the event.

Dear Chancellor Merkel, we sincerely thank you for your kind consideration and remain at your disposal for any further information.

Please find attached:

- the “Berlin Parliamentary Appeal” of the “she matters” conference,
- the list of signatories to the Appeal.

Sincerely,



**Hon. Frank Heinrich**, MP, Germany, Chair of German All Party Parliamentarians’ Group on Population and Development



**Hon. Baroness Jenny Tonge**, United Kingdom, former President of the European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development (EPF)



**Hon. Marie-Rose Nguini Effa**, MP, Cameroon Acting Chair, African Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development (FPA), Member of the Pan African Parliament



**Hon. Isabelle Morin**, MP, Canada, Director of the Canadian Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development

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