

# G7 Industry Stakeholders Conference:

## Bridging Gaps and Building Futures: Women, Youth, and Talent for Inclusive Growth

Matera | 4<sup>th</sup> October 2024 | h. 14.30  
CineTeatro Comunale Gerardo Guerrieri | Piazza Vittorio Veneto, 23

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## AGENDA

As we navigate a rapidly evolving global economy, business and institutions must foster their partnership for an innovative and inclusive society inspired by shared principles and reflected in actionable policies. Multiple intertwined transitions going beyond the search for higher sustainability and a human-centered use of Artificial Intelligence are profoundly reshaping societies and economies across geographies offering unprecedented growth opportunities.

Tacking place in conjunction with the **G7 Ministerial meeting on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment** and building on the G7 Leaders Declaration of 14<sup>th</sup> June, the **G7 Industry Stakeholder Conference - Bridging Gaps and Building Futures: Women, Youth, and Talent for Inclusive Growth** is the 5<sup>th</sup> official engagement of the G7 business. It aims at addressing the main challenges and development drivers cycles for strengthening active labor market policies, promoting entrepreneurship, encourage the social inclusion of underrepresented groups, particularly women and youth.

14.30 **Registration of Participants**

15.00 **Opening session**

**Francesco SOMMA**

*President, Confindustria Basilicata*

**Emma MARCEGAGLIA**

*Chair B7 Italy*

15.20 **Address by the Italy G7 Presidency**

**Eugenia ROCCELLA**

*Minister for Family, Natality and Equal Opportunities*

15.30 **Address by G7 Member**

**Marci IEN**

*Canadian Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Youth\**

**Lisa PAUS**

*Federal Minister for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth*

15.40 **PANEL 1  
Unleashing Talent Potential for  
Impacting the Future**

OPENING REMARKS

**Barbara CIMMINO**

*Vice President for Export and Investment Attraction, Confindustria*

**Lorenzo BARBO**

*CEO, Amazon Logistics Italy*

**Matthias KRÄMER**

*Head of Department External Economic Policy, BDI*

**Uljan SHARKA**

*CEO, iGenius*

**Alessandro SOMASCHINI**

*Vice President of Young Entrepreneurs, Confindustria*

**Gigliola STAFFILANI**

*Abby Rockefeller Mauze Professor, Massachusetts Institute of Technology – MIT (VTC)*

**Ersilia VAUDO**

*Chief Diversity Officer, European Space Agency – ESA (VTC)*

16.20 **PANEL 2  
Empowering Women Entrepreneurship**

OPENING REMARKS

**Lara PONTI**

*CEO Ponti Group, and Vice President for Environmental Transition and ESG Objectives Confindustria*

**Antonella CENTRA**

*Executive Vice President, General Counsel, Global Sustainability and Corporate Affairs GUCCI*

**Gary Litman**

*Senior Vice President Global Initiatives US Chamber of Commerce*

**Margherita PERRETTI**

*Chairman of the Board Perretti Petroli*

**Rosistella PROVINZANO VENA**

*Board of Directors Lucano Group*

**Eniko TARKANY-SZUCS**

*Partnerships and Business Development Manager & External Comms Co-Lead for Women@, LinkedIn\**

**Emanuela TRENTIN**

*CEO, Siram Veolia Italy*

17.00 **Conclusions**

**Emma MARCEGAGLIA**

*Chair B7 Italy*

17.10 **End of the event**

MODERATOR: **Mariangela PIRA**

*Journalist, Sky TG24*

*\* To be confirmed*

The G7 countries have the ability to reduce the shortcomings affecting the labor market, such as the skills mismatch and the limited deployment of individuals' potential, by nurturing the participation of the underrepresented and most vulnerable. G7 aligned policies can greatly contribute to and benefit from a thriving economy based on full recognition of talent.

As job roles evolve and new industries emerge, continuous learning and skill development are key for remaining relevant in the workforce. The G7 countries are called to encourage new learning frameworks for supporting a greater and deeper inclusion of youth by removing barriers to education and employment. Redesigning educational systems and providing targeted skilling and upskilling trainings is crucial to a shifting labor market and to addressing the challenges of new technologies lifting job opportunities and enhancing overall productivity.

Despite progress in various sectors, significant gender disparities and inequalities remain in G7 countries, hindering economic growth, innovation, and societal wellbeing. As leaders in global development, the G7 countries have committed to champion gender equality and serve as role models, implementing actionable policies and measures addressing systemic barriers, fostering economic opportunities, and enhancing women's participation widely and deeply.

By fostering an inclusive culture and promoting gender equality, business is engaged in developing a better society while gaining a competitive edge through promoting equal opportunities, fair treatment, gender-diverse leadership and by establishing leading values leveraging diverse perspectives and driving innovative decision-making processes.

Investing in initiatives that enhance youth skills and capabilities such as sponsoring educational programs and providing access to resources and networks, are pre-conditions to promoting young entrepreneurship. In parallel, providing higher education opportunities, more centered on STEM academic paths, and equipping workers and employers with the skills and competencies, notably in a trustworthy AI working environment, is paramount for economic growth, productivity and overall competitiveness. Particular attention must be paid to girls.

Research consistently shows that gender-diverse companies perform better, benefit from a broader talent pool, and enjoy enhanced corporate reputation and stakeholder trust. A solid public-private partnership is necessary for providing mentorship and leadership development programs for women and flexible employment policies to accommodate life stages and responsibilities and encourage youth employment.

These objectives can be supported, among others, through funding and mentorships to help bridge both the youth recruitment and the gender gap in business ownership and leadership while building a safe and supportive workplace environment.

