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G7 POLICY PAPER

2022 G7 Summit Recommendations: Schloss Elmau, Germany

InterAction
A United Voice For Global Change

The 2022 G7 is quickly emerging as a critical moment for G7 countries and the world. The global economy is only beginning to recover from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The world is at a tipping point for addressing climate change, a crisis that has far-reaching impacts that worsen global inequality and poverty and exacerbate humanitarian crises. Now, Russia's invasion of Ukraine is pitting autocracy against democracy, generating the fastest-moving refugee crisis since World War II, and threatening economic recovery.

The G7, a venue for addressing political and security challenges, will understandably focus much of its attention on Russia's invasion of Ukraine. However, the G7 mustn't lose sight of the many other issues that require their attention. Tackling the climate crisis, strengthening the global health architecture, fostering a global economic recovery from COVID-19—these are just a few of the challenges that require a coordinated response from a strong and united G7.

The 2022 G7 Summit provides G7 leaders a unique platform to demonstrate a unity of purpose, rooted in shared values of democracy, human rights, and multilateralism and galvanize like-minded countries to tackle shared global challenges.

This paper contains the recommendations of the G7/G20 Advocacy Alliance (U.S.), a group of more than 40 U.S.-based nongovernmental organizations.

Together, we call for the United States to play a leading role in encouraging the G7 to take the following actions to realize the German G7 Presidency's goal of "progress toward an equitable world."

DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Lead: Katie LaRoque, Senior Manager for Democracy, Rights, and Governance, InterAction (klaroque@interaction.org)

Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine has illuminated the growing threat of authoritarianism worldwide. As emboldened and increasingly allied authoritarians challenge democratic norms and undermine international order, the U.S. government must capitalize on its Year of Action following the Summit for Democracy by demonstrating bold and concrete leadership alongside G7 members to advance democratic solidarity.

1. Eliminate enabling conditions for and isolate authoritarian regimes.
   a. Ensure enforcement of G7 sanctions against the Russian Federation and Belarus.

b. Take steps immediately toward ending member state reliance on authoritarian energy reserves by promoting a just transition to energy independence and security.

c. Institute measures to impede authoritarians' access to funds and safe havens abroad.

d. Expose and counter authoritarian influence within international organizations, allowing them to uphold international order.

e. Cultivate additional allies in the private sector to isolate authoritarian regimes from global markets further.

f. Investigate, expose, and jointly mobilize against human rights violations.

g. Dedicate public resources to media literacy and civic awareness within G7 countries to identify and counter malicious disinformation.

2. **Prioritize democracy and human rights, at home and abroad.**

a. Ensure democracy equitably delivers for all citizens.

b. Follow through on commitments made during the Summit for Democracy.

c. Elevate democracy and human rights within G7 foreign policy and international aid, ensuring adequate funding therein.

d. Safeguard civic space, including the legal framework for civil society, at home and abroad.

e. Defend the facts-based information sphere by supporting free, independent, and pluralistic media, promoting universal internet access, and committing to net neutrality.

f. Continue to ensure transparency around elections, political financing, and political advertising.

g. Address governance challenges associated with climate change, including the increased likelihood of insecurity, conflict, and marginalization spurred by environmental degradation.

CLIMATE

Lead: Ashlee Thomas, Senior Policy Advisor, Global Policy and Advocacy, Mercy Corps (asthomas@mercycorps.org)

The G7 nations have an immense opportunity to empower countries to promote whole-of-government, cross-sectoral approaches to climate change, pursue low-emission development, and boost domestic and global capacity to adapt and be resilient to negative climate change impacts. With this opportunity, the U.S. should work with the other G7 members to:

1. Double G7 countries' climate financing pledges, with a targeted 50% allocation of stable, reliable development and humanitarian climate financing resources toward adaptation programming, anticipatory actions to prevent and mitigate impacts of climate-related events and drive concessional finance to fragile, conflict-affected states and to historically under-resourced and marginalized agents of change.

2. Ensure the G7 countries adopt a resilience approach to drive climate action and identify climate priorities. Solutions that address the negative impacts of climate change through a resilience and justice lens can more holistically address issues like food security, gender equality, biodiversity loss, resource management, and carbon emissions. A resilience lens offers a framework to assess the inherent capacities of individuals, groups, communities, and institutions to withstand, cope, recover, adapt, and transform in the face of shocks.

3. Center water security, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) within climate change mitigation and adaptation commitments. This prioritization includes specific investments in water resource management, multi-use water systems, and climate-resilient WASH infrastructure and services like wastewater treatment facilities and solar powered water systems to buffer against extreme weather events and exacerbated water scarcity. Address health consequences of climate change for vulnerable populations, including those most affected by water-borne illnesses or famines due to drought, through increased investment in WASH in communities, healthcare facilities, and public spaces and direct consultation of vulnerable populations within global, regional, and national planning and budgeting.

HEALTH

Co-Leads: Philip Kenol, Policy & Advocacy Officer, Global Health Technologies Coalition (pkenol@ghtcoalition.org); Ansley Kahn, Manager, Advocacy & Engagement, Global Health Council (akahn@globalhealth.org)

To end the acute phase of the COVID-19 pandemic, address ongoing health challenges, and strengthen the global health architecture for pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response, the U.S. and G7 members should:

1. Correct global COVID-19 tool inequities and support their delivery and uptake in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs):
   a. Contribute their fair share to the total estimated $48 billion needed for the global COVID-19 response, including $23 billion to support all pillars of the Access to COVID-19 Tools-

[Accelerator](#) (ACT-A), to ensure the vaccination of 70% of the global population by mid-year; rapidly scale up community-based engagement and self-testing; and expand supplies of treatments, oxygen, personal protective equipment, and other lifesaving tools.

2. **Strengthen the global health architecture through comprehensive policies and sustainable financing:**
   a. Increase assessed contributions to WHO to at least 50% of the base budget by 2029 and increase flexibility of voluntary contributions.
   b. Create a new Financial Intermediary Fund and mobilize an additional $10 billion annually to close critical gaps in global and national pandemic preparedness, including research and development (R&D) and workforce development.
   c. Fulfill the replenishments of $18 billion for the Global Fund and $3.5 billion for the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations.
   d. Engage in ongoing reform discussions to strengthen WHO and the International Health Regulations and inform pandemic treaty negotiations while ensuring the meaningful engagement of civil society and LMICs.

3. **Strengthen health systems, especially for vulnerable populations, and address overlooked health challenges:**
   a. Support a multi-sectoral One Health approach to tackle antimicrobial resistance (AMR) through increased investment in R&D for new tools and ensure effective infection prevention and control measures, like access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene in healthcare facilities, to avoid the overuse of antibiotics.
   b. Prioritize primary health care to ensure that vulnerable populations, especially women and children, maintain access to routine immunizations, nutrition, and sexual and reproductive health as components of comprehensive quality healthcare and address related innovation inequities for children and pregnant women.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Lead: Daisy Francis, Senior Manager, Children and Youth Initiative, InterAction (dfrancis@interaction.org)

At the upcoming G7 Leaders' Summit, the needs of children and youth must be addressed across the Summit's themes. The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly set back global progress, and it will take

decades to undo the negative impacts on young people. Given this, we call on the U.S. government and other G7 members to deliver for children and youth by:

1. **Combatting inequality:** Address the growing inequality children and youth face, particularly those who have lost parents/caregivers, by dedicating resources to the intersecting impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic—food insecurity, education loss, and lost livelihoods—with existing crises such as climate change and conflict.

2. Strengthening primary health care and pandemic preparedness:
   a. **Primary Health Care**: In addition to related recommendations in the Health brief, members need to support the holistic development and well-being of children and youth through integrated services, including mental health care, nutrition, and WASH.
   b. **Pandemic Preparedness**: Building resilient communities requires investments targeted to serving people where they live; youth participation is critical to community readiness. When developing strategies, consult young people and integrate them into workforce development schemes and future health responses, including as community health workers. Integrating youth into the 'readiness' pipeline will ensure the sustainability of health systems.

3. Investing in the future of children and youth:
   a. Achieving sustainable development outcomes means making young people the focus of the development process through their meaningful participation in discussions and integration into decision-making structures that impact their future.
   b. Engaging youth in agriculture is essential to address global hunger, strengthen local food systems, feed communities, and provide gainful employment opportunities for the growing rural youth population. Skills development, along the agriculture-food value chain, should address ecological sustainability, food safety, and emerging changes to food systems.

EDUCATION

Co-Leads: Jennifer Rigg, Executive Director, Global Campaign for Education-US (jrigg@gce-us.org); Rachel Wisthuff, Assistant Director, Public Policy & Advocacy, UNICEF USA (RWisthuff@unicefusa.org)

COVID-19, climate change, and conflict have fueled unprecedented learning loss and strained human and capital resources, disproportionately affecting children facing inequality and discrimination. The United

States and G7 members must urgently accelerate learning recovery by building on investments and lessons from the pandemic and other crises, to deliver efficient, equitable, and resilient systems that realize all children's right to an education.

1. **Prioritize investments in safe, quality, and inclusive education, particularly for the most vulnerable, including girls and children with disabilities.**
   a. Promote policies for continued education of children and accelerate safe school reopenings to ensure integrated service delivery of nutrition; mental health and psychosocial support; water, sanitation, and hygiene; and social protection.
   b. Prioritize gender and disability inclusive education systems, including teachers and curricula, that foster holistic learning and climate action.
   c. Implement learning recovery plans that disaggregate data by age, gender, disability, and grade level, with a focus on pre-primary.
   d. Invest in high-, low-, and no-tech solutions to support education systems in addressing crises and bridge the digital divide with more accessible and inclusive information and communications technology.

2. **Fulfill past and pledge *new* commitments to global partnerships and fully fund complementary bilateral and multilateral education needs.**
   a. Acknowledge the right to education for all children under the Sustainable Development Goals.
   b. Increase funding for the Global Partnership of Education (GPE) and bilateral education, and make a robust, multi-year commitment to Education Cannot Wait (ECW) during its 2023 replenishment.
   c. Act toward previous commitments (G7 2018 Charlevoix Declaration and G7 2021 Declaration on Girls' Education) and support the development of the G7 Gender Equality Monitoring and Accountability mechanism.
   d. Support the Safe Schools Declaration to commit to upholding international standards for the protection of education in conflict.

GENDER EQUALITY

Lead: Spogmay Ahmed, Global Policy Advocate, International Center for Research on Women (sahmed@icrw.org)

At the 2022 G7, we urge the U.S. government to take up the following recommendations to advance global gender equality:

1. **Advance women's economic security and invest in the care economy.**
   a. Invest an additional 2% of Official Development Assistance (ODA) in principal gender equality funding that supports the reduction of women's and girls' unpaid care.
   b. Integrate gender and care considerations into COVID-19 response and long-term recovery plans, and ensure the efforts and their impacts last beyond the pandemic. This should include investing in care infrastructure and ensuring care jobs are well-paid, dignified jobs.
   c. Join the Global Alliance for Care launched by U.N. Women and the National Institute of Women in Mexico to support global evidence collection, informed policy, and concrete commitments around unpaid and paid care.

2. **Safeguard access to essential healthcare for all women, girls, and marginalized communities.**
   a. Commit to promoting and investing in sexual and reproductive health services and information, and ensure all COVID-19 response and long-term recovery plans address related impacts.
   b. Ensure paid, safe, and decent work and facilities, and opportunities for advancement and leadership for all frontline health workers—70% of whom are women.
   c. Strengthen social protection and quality public services in the face of growing crises that threaten access to and quality of care, including COVID-19 and future pandemics and the health impacts of the climate crisis and climate-related disasters.

3. **Embrace a transformative and rights-based approach to U.S. foreign policy and multilateral engagement.**
   a. Announce intentions to draft the world's next feminist foreign policy, in line with commitments from other G7 members, including Canada, France, and Germany.
   b. Ensure that 100% of all foreign policy funding considers gender equality and that 20% of these funds promote gender equality as a primary objective. Invest in women's rights organizations, particularly in low- and middle-income countries.
   c. Integrate gender as a key consideration in all U.S. foreign policy, including aid, climate change, diplomacy, immigration, trade, and peace and security.

BACKGROUND

DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022, represents a dramatic escalation in aggression against a democratic and sovereign nation. The outcome of President Vladimir Putin's war will undoubtedly reverberate throughout the 21st century and dramatically shape the global struggle for democracy versus autocracy.

The ensuing G7 sanctions against the Russian Federation were severe and swift, and political discourse around the war suggests an awakening to the rising threat of resurgent authoritarianism worldwide. While Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping publicly claim to be democratic leaders, their respective attempts to undermine the rules-based international order have become more brazen and alarmingly coordinated.

As autocrats increasingly stand together—not in pursuit of a common ideology but a vested interest in maintaining power and corrupting international organizations—a staggering 8 out of 10 people now live in countries deemed "partly free" or "not free." More coups occurred in 2021 than any other year in the last decade. Uncontested elections also increased.

Though well-timed to curb the 16th consecutive year of democratic decline, the Biden Administration's Summit for Democracy and the ensuing Year of Action alone will not be enough—the G7 must lead by example to aggressively counter authoritarianism by isolating autocrats and eliminating the enabling environments they exploit while strengthening democracy at home and abroad. Democracies must equitably deliver for all citizens, thereby demonstrating that democracy is the superior form of governance.

Collective measures must be taken to defend the facts-based information sphere, guarantee transparency around political campaigns and elections, and safeguard civic space while collectively challenging resurgent authoritarianism. Democracy cannot be taken for granted. The G7 must take bold action now.

CLIMATE

The window to tackle the climate crisis is limited. Decisive action is required to keep open the possibility of holding the rise of global temperatures below 2.7°F (1.5°C). Tackling climate change is fundamentally necessary to create a world where people and nature survive and thrive. Left unchecked, climate change will undo many of the development gains achieved in low- and middle-income countries.

Climate change is a destabilizer and threat multiplier, taking existing vulnerabilities—poverty, hunger, poor health—and amplifying them, costing both dollars and lives. As the temperature continues to rise, so too will the frequency and destructiveness of disasters, with deadly consequences. Left unaddressed, nearly 200 million people could require international humanitarian assistance for climate-related disasters by 2050—roughly double the number of those in need due to climate shocks today. Climate-related disasters caused over 30 million new displacements in 2020—a number expected to increase in the coming decades. It is crucial that climate action, climate policies, and implementation plans mainstream and emphasize adaptation and climate-resilient systems that can withstand climate shocks and keep communities healthy, safe, and productive.

The global approach must be integrated, intersectional, and informed. The G7 must commit to supporting and implementing the Principles for Locally-Led Adaptation to empower local communities with more decision-making power and resources to build resilience to climate change. A just transition toward a low-carbon, resilient, regenerative global economy is crucial. The members of the G7 have a tremendous opportunity to demonstrate leadership by prioritizing the understanding of the systems that communities rely on to cope with risks and shocks, and adapt to change are crucial to supporting vulnerable, frontline communities and local agents and systems of change.

HEALTH

As we enter the COVID-19 pandemic's third year, we are reminded that while decades of R&D advancement and new partnership models enabled the development of COVID-19 tools at record speed, the global community has not realized the promise of equitable access. Instead of global solidarity, there has been slow and fragmented action, tepid leadership, geopolitical infighting, and woeful community engagement. These realities hindered our collective ability to prevent the evolution of variants, get shots in arms, and protect the world's most vulnerable. Science without equity cannot end the COVID-19 pandemic. 2022 must be the year we close the yawning gaps in the global pandemic response and meet the 70% global vaccination target by mid-year.

This pandemic has cast the importance of a strong, unified, and fully financed global health architecture into sharp relief—one that must adequately address not just COVID-19, but other overlooked health challenges, including prioritizing primary health care and addressing "silent" pandemics like AMR. Addressing these challenges will require investments in the long-neglected foundational elements of good health and well-being, such as building strong and resilient health systems underpinned by a robust health

workforce at all levels. This must be coupled with additional long-term investments in pandemic preparedness and capacity building, recognizing the importance of One Health approach.

The time is now to fortify the global health architecture required to adequately prevent and prepare for future crises. We urge G7 leaders to act immediately and provide the sustained, high-level political leadership required to end the COVID-19 pandemic and secure the health of all people.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

The disproportionate impacts of COVID-19 on children and youth are not widely discussed because they are largely invisible to policy makers and in funding discussions.

A recent report, Children: The Hidden Pandemic, states that "The pandemic has highlighted the cascading effects that health problems can have...the second order effects it has on children will linger for years and merit urgent and comprehensive responses." Moreover, the report notes that adolescent children are the largest group impacted by the loss of a parent/caregiver, resulting in increased exposure to risks like sexual violence. Any proposed solutions must consider these risk factors to assist adolescents in coping with family loss and building resilience and a sense of independence.

WHO and UNICEF have raised concerns that the pandemic threatens to undo decades of hard-won progress in routine immunization. Since 2020, over 23 million children have missed out on essential vaccines as resources were re-directed to address the pandemic. The legacy of COVID-19 should not be the global reemergence of childhood diseases, especially lethal ones that can be easily prevented. Similarly, rates of mental health issues among children and youth are rapidly increasing due to the impacts of the pandemic, with child mental health issues estimated to cost economies $390 billion a year.

As noted at the 2021 U.N. Food Systems Summit, "youth are an untapped asset for food system transformation. The inclusion of youth as equals in key decision-making processes, as opposed to including them as beneficiaries or affected populations, is essential; youth will carry the burden of today's actions." Additionally, "in most countries the population working in agriculture is aging ...If youth are not engaged, a generation of producers could be lost."

The G7 must commit to addressing these issues. Failure to do so carries opportunity costs that will impact generations and widen existing inequities in the Global South.

EDUCATION

At the height of COVID-19, school closures affected more than 1.6 billion learners. Nearly two years since the pandemic began, millions of children remain out of school. Due to the learning crisis spurred by COVID-19, estimates show that in LMICS, up to 70% of 10-year-olds cannot read or comprehend basic text.

In addition to learning loss, school closures increased risks to children's health and safety. More than 370 million children missed out on school meals during school closures, a critical source of daily nutrition. Ten million additional child marriages may occur before the end of the decade.

Despite these increased needs, two-thirds of LMICS have cut their public education budgets since the pandemic's onset. GPE still requires an additional $1 billion over the next five years to support low-income countries to deliver learning for the most vulnerable children and build more resilient education systems for the future. Fully funding GPE would enable 46 million girls to enroll in school. Similarly, ECW has reached an additional 10 million children and youth in response to COVID-19, but estimates that 128 million have had their education disrupted by humanitarian crises, up from 75 million before the pandemic.

Evidence-based strategies must inform learning recovery programs to reach children, especially girls and children with disabilities, who are disproportionately at risk of not returning to school or never gaining access. Gaps in education outcomes between children with and without disabilities have increased over time; the pandemic has exacerbated challenges in achieving inclusive education. Prioritizing disaggregated data collection is necessary to ensure investments in COVID-19 education recovery reach all children across grade levels.

Education is a vital investment in a better future, with outcomes that reverberate across sectors.

GENDER EQUALITY

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated gender, racial, social, and economic inequalities in the United States and worldwide. It heightened the need for care while significantly increasing the amount of unpaid care work taken up by women and girls. The uneven gender distribution of unpaid care work is one of the main drivers of women's economic marginalization, particularly for women of color. Globally, in 2020, women in formal employment lost at least $800 billion in income due to care responsibilities and occupational segregation in sectors hit hardest by the COVID-19 pandemic. This does not include income

lost by the millions of women in the informal economy. Research also shows that 10 million additional girls are at risk of child marriage due to COVID-19, further demonstrating the disproportionate impact of economic constraints on girls and their futures.

The COVID-19 pandemic has also restricted women's and girls' access to essential healthcare, including sexual and reproductive health services. In 2020, about 12 million women in 115 LMICs may have been unable to access family planning services, leading to nearly 1.4 million unintended pregnancies. In the same period, there were over 113,000 maternal deaths. Women have been at the frontlines of COVID-19 response and recovery efforts, comprising nearly 70% of the global health workforce, yet remain largely unpaid and excluded from key leadership roles and decision-making processes.

To prioritize gender equality and women's rights in all foreign policy efforts and initiatives, nine countries have announced feminist foreign policies to date, including three G7 members. A feminist foreign policy highlights peace, gender equality, and environmental integrity; promotes and protects human rights for all; and allocates significant resources, including research, to achieve that vision. It engages feminist civil society in all aspects of policymaking, implementation, and evaluation and aligns priorities across foreign and domestic policies. By adopting a feminist foreign policy, the U.S. government can help ensure that women's rights are at the center of all diplomatic and multilateral efforts, effectively embracing the vision of the National Strategy on Gender Equity and Equality.

ABOUT INTERACTION

InterAction is a convener, thought leader, and voice for NGOs working to eliminate extreme poverty, strengthen human rights and citizen participation, safeguard a sustainable planet, promote peace, and ensure dignity for all people. Learn more at InterAction.org.