



Civil 7

# Communiqué 2023

Design and Implement Sustainable Policies for  
Peace, Prosperity, and Transparency





Civil 7

## Design and Implement Sustainable Policies for Peace, Prosperity, and Transparency

When G7 leaders meet in Hiroshima, the first city attacked by a nuclear weapon 78 years ago, they should be reminded of the unjustifiably costly price of confrontation, conflict and nuclear weapons and why investment in peacebuilding, conflict prevention, condemning nuclear weapon threats and strengthening the rule of law needs to be prioritised. Choosing competition and ‘hard’ politics over collaboration, solidarity and dialogue is a dangerous path which is wasting our limited resources and capacity needed to address the interlinked problems facing the world.

Humanity stands on the precipice of multiple, multi-layered, protracted and intersecting crises with potentially catastrophic consequences exacerbated by social and economic inequalities and disparities, unsustainable economic growth and development, waste of resources, climate change, conflict and recent COVID-19 pandemic. Moreover, ongoing and often forgotten conflicts, proxy wars, disinformation campaigns and the war that followed Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, have set the world on the perilous path of polarisation and geopolitical confrontation. The state of polycrises has exposed the fragile global health system, unequal access to public goods, broken food system, gender inequalities, suffocating debt, and ill-equipped global institutions. All of this jeopardises the realisation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, slows down our collective progress in delivering on the Paris agreement agenda and more importantly – disproportionately affects the world’s poorest and most marginalised.

None of this can be solved unilaterally or by one section of society alone. And, the traditional western-centric approach will not solve any of this either. We are concerned about the emerging regional alliances and new minilateralism which may undermine efforts to address global challenges through an equitable multilateral approach.

Instead, the G7 has the tremendous responsibility to embrace multilateralism and international law, refuse double-standards, be guided by global solidarity and justice, lead and support reforms of global financial institutions repurposing them as inclusive, effective, transparent and well-resourced multilateral instruments fit for 21st century needs and challenges, uphold the principles of democracy and human rights, and condemn racism, and encourage meaningful participation of youth in decision-making.

It’s time for urgent and bold action and to be accountable to the affected people across the world.

This is why the Hiroshima Summit must be ‘AAA’ rated – ‘Ambition, Action, Accountability’

thus demonstrating fulfilment of the responsibilities attached to the privileges of global political and economic powers.

According to the most recent IPCC report, we are literally running out of time to prevent catastrophic consequences due to global warming, therefore G7 countries representing about a third of global GDP and producing 25% of global greenhouse gas emissions have both responsibility and opportunity to show bold leadership spearheading transition to green and sustainable economies and lifestyles achieving net zero goals and respecting planetary boundaries, which includes reduction of consumption especially in the Global North and recognition of limits of growth as per neoliberal capitalist model. Also, in the name of fairness and justice, G7 countries should support low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) in their transition to green and sustainable economies providing generous concessional climate finance both for loss and damage, and adaptation.

G7 countries should demonstrate moral courage and political will to choose solidarity and justice over competition and recognise their historic responsibility to mobilise all possible resources and capacity addressing the root causes of unsustainable global economic system thus reducing the need for humanitarian assistance, establishing 'responsible and sustainable business' as the new normal, minimising reliance on fossil fuels, fixing global food and health systems, reducing conflict and respecting legally binding obligations for nuclear disarmament.

The C7 represents the public conscience, public concern, and public advocacy to develop a world which works for people and the planet. Civil society acting in public interest is one of the key stakeholders without which we will not be able to address global challenges effectively and sustainably, therefore the C7 calls on the G7 to utilise their global influence and voice in protecting human rights, democratic governance and civic space, maintaining open societies, and defending freedom of speech both at home and internationally. In addition, the C7 affirms that in this context prioritisation of the needs of vulnerable populations, women and girls, children, youth, persons with disabilities, and the elderly is critical. As the C7, we are committed to use the Hiroshima Summit and the G7 platform to demonstrate CSO's distinctive role in holding governments to account and offering solutions to speed up progress towards to the realisation of the 2030 Agenda and climate commitments for a fair, sustainable, and equitable development for all.

This C7 Communiqué reflects the joint position of over 700 civil society representatives from 72 countries involved in six Working Groups: Nuclear Disarmament; Climate and Environmental Justice; Economic Justice and Transformation; Global Health; Humanitarian Assistance and Conflict; and Open and Resilient Societies.

C7 - representing global civil society - recognise and appreciate the efforts made by G7 Leaders to support citizen-centric governance and affirm our ongoing commitment to engage with you in a meaningful way to create the world in which we all can thrive. The positive synergies and constructive dialogue between civil societies and governments is the only way to overcome the aforementioned crises and civil society across the globe is willing and eager to work together with governments and all relevant stakeholders to design and implement sustainable policies for peace and prosperity.



# Nuclear Disarmament

## ***"For a nuclear weapons free world"***

### Introduction

In May, G7 leaders will walk across the remains of hundreds of thousands killed in the first wartime atomic flash in 1945. Since 1945 the Hibakusha have worked to share their stories in the hope that no one should ever live through such a catastrophe again. **The G7 leaders must take advantage of their time in Hiroshima to hear directly from Hibakusha and acknowledge the harm to people and the environment caused by the use of nuclear weapons.** They should pay tribute at the Cenotaph and visit the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum.

Nuclear weapons are the most destructive, inhumane, and indiscriminate weapons ever created, both in the scale of the devastation they cause, and in their uniquely persistent, genetically damaging radioactive legacy.

Yet the blast and radiation effects of nuclear weapons are dwarfed by the environmental impacts of even a limited nuclear conflict. Urban explosions of 250 nuclear weapons of 100 kiloTon explosive power would likely kill over 125 million people in a matter of hours; the aftereffects of lofted soot, however, would starve over 2 billion people within a year.<sup>1</sup>

The general illegality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons was affirmed by the International Court of Justice (1996) and reinforced by the Human Rights Committee (2018). This has been codified by the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (2017). The use of nuclear weapons could also be considered a war crime under the Rome Statute.

### **G7 Commitments on Nuclear Weapons**

The global catastrophic risk of nuclear weapons is the reason five of the nine nuclear-armed states affirmed “that a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought”, echoed by G7 leaders in the Elmau Communiqué.

States parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) citing “increasingly strident nuclear rhetoric,” issued a consensus declaration that “...any use or threat of use of nuclear weapons is a violation of international law, including the Charter of the United Nations. We condemn unequivocally any and all nuclear threats, whether they be explicit or implicit and irrespective of the

circumstances.”

Escalating nuclear threats were addressed during the recent nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty Review Conference, when 147 parties noted “no State, group of States, or indeed the international humanitarian system as a whole, could respond to the immediate humanitarian emergency that a nuclear weapon detonation would cause”.

G20 leaders meeting in Bali in November 2022 said “It is essential to uphold international law and the multilateral system that safeguards peace and stability. This includes

defending all the Purposes and Principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and adhering to international humanitarian law, including the protection of civilians and infrastructure in armed conflicts. The use or threat of use of nuclear weapons is inadmissible.”

## Current Issues and Challenges

### Nuclear Risk

The ongoing Russian invasion of Ukraine and repeated nuclear weapon threats have put the world at risk. Increasing tensions between North Korea, South Korea and the US over Pyongyang’s growing nuclear capabilities, and reprocessing activities, including in Japan and China, have increased concerns. Strains in US, Japanese, South Korean and Philippines relationships with China add escalation risks with potentially global catastrophic consequences.

**The G7 leaders meeting in Hiroshima should seize the opportunity to announce strategies of risk reduction, de-escalation, and disarmament.** These include commitments not to introduce nuclear weapons into a conflict, not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons at any time, ending any activities construed as encouraging, inducing, or supporting the use of nuclear weapons, and adopting security strategies and practices which do not rely on nuclear weapons. Deploying nuclear weapons into the territory of other countries also raises risks and proliferation concerns. Ultimately, these risks can only be prevented by eliminating nuclear arsenals. **The G7 leaders should take immediate steps to reduce nuclear risk.**

### Nuclear Disarmament

Despite a commitment in the first United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution to abolish nuclear arsenals, SIPRI reports 12,705 warheads at the start of 2022, with numbers expected to increase for the first time in decades.

The TPNW provides a legal norm regarding nuclear weap-

Meeting in Hiroshima, and following on the Bali declaration, **the G7 leaders must unequivocally condemn any and all threats to use nuclear weapons.**

ons which none of the nuclear weapon states, de jure or de facto, have yet chosen to embrace. The TPNW, however, provides a normative-legal-diplomatic infrastructure in which to advance rhetorical commitments to achieving a world without nuclear weapons. The humanitarian underpinnings of the TPNW and continued scientific research on the consequences of nuclear weapons use discussed during treaty related meetings are sufficient reasons for G7 states to proactively engage. **The G7 leaders should commit to working cooperatively and supportively with TPNW states parties and attend meetings of states parties to the treaty.**

Nuclear winter represents a clear and present danger, in which the use of barely 3% of global nuclear arsenals could kill hundreds of millions, while total nuclear war is likely to kill over 5 billion people within a year.<sup>2</sup> This should be sufficient reason to commence negotiations for the prompt elimination of the world’s nuclear weapons. Setting a deadline for the elimination of nuclear arsenals provides impetus to get the job done. **The G7 should use the opportunity of this Hiroshima Summit to issue a plan for urgent negotiations to eliminate all nuclear weapons no later than 2045, the 100th anniversary of their first use.**

Any negotiations should build on previous agreements. Support for existing nuclear weapon free zone treaties, and the ratification of additional protocols where those are still pending are stabilising efforts. Additionally, it is urgent that the US and Russia begin negotiations on the New START treaty, and the summit provides an opportunity to commit to end new nuclear weapon development and production and support negotiations on a follow-on to the New START treaty.



# Nuclear Disarmament

## Reallocate Resources Currently Spent on Nuclear Arsenals

In 2022, the G7 underlined “that the highest standards of nuclear safety and security are important to all countries and their respective publics.” G7 leaders must acknowledge that nuclear weapons create victims and harm the environment in the process of uranium mining, development, manufacturing, testing, maintenance, and disposal of nuclear materials.

Spending to increase the role, number, and capabilities of nuclear arsenals is estimated at more than \$157,000 per minute.<sup>3</sup> These funds could be better applied to nuclear disarmament, public health, climate protection, and to offset the long-term costs of environmental remediation and victim assistance. Impacted communities must be meaningfully included in victim assistance, environmental remediation and international cooperation processes. Currently only the TPNW offers a multilateral approach to addressing the needs of victims and remediating affected environments. **The G7 leaders should work cooperatively with states parties to the TPNW to provide for victim assistance and environmental remediation, including by redirecting resources towards these ends.**

## Summary of Recommendations

In choosing to hold the summit in Hiroshima, Japan’s Prime Minister Fumio Kishida urged, “G7 leaders to reaffirm their recognition of the inhumanity of nuclear weapons and their commitment to their abolition.” We expect the leaders’ summit to show ambition and responsibility to reduce threats posed by the continued existence of nuclear weapons. We urge **the G7 leaders to meet with atomic bomb survivors while in Hiroshima** and to incorporate commitments to the following in their final communiqué:

- Hearing directly from Hibakusha (atomic bomb survivors) in Hiroshima, acknowledge the harm to people

## Intersectional Approaches to Nuclear Disarmament

A significant number of Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty states parties recognised “the intersections of race, gender, economic status, geography, nationality, and other factors must be taken into account as risk-multiplying factors” in relation to nuclear weapons and “for women and other underrepresented groups, there must not only be a seat at the table, but also real opportunities to shape conversations, policies, and outcomes.” **The G7 countries can demonstrate leadership in this area by engaging with and promoting intersectional analysis of nuclear weapons and the structures of violence that sustain them.**

Young people face numerous crises: a harrowing climate emergency, a still-ongoing pandemic, legacies of nuclear testing and an increased threat of nuclear warfare, as well as everyday insecurity from violent crime, armed conflict, and militarised policing. The UN Secretary-General’s study on disarmament and non-proliferation education asserted that disarmament education is not just education about disarmament but, most crucially, education for disarmament. **The G7 leaders must recognise the value of disarmament education by redirecting resources, including to the Youth Leader Fund for a world without nuclear weapons, to provide funding for youth and disarmament education.**

- and the environment caused by using nuclear weapons;
- Unequivocally condemn any and all threats to use nuclear weapons and disavow all options to resort to nuclear weapons in conflict;
- Begin urgent negotiations to achieve the complete elimination of nuclear weapons before 2045, the 100th anniversary of their first use;
- Work cooperatively with states parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons including by attending Meetings of States Parties to the treaty and providing for victim assistance and environmental remediation, including by redirecting resources towards these ends;

- End nuclear weapon development and production, and support negotiations on a follow-on to the New START treaty;
- Take immediate steps to reduce nuclear risks, including by ending activities construed as encouraging, inducing, or supporting the possession or use of nuclear weapons, committing not to use or threaten to use nu-

clear weapons at any time and ending all nuclear sharing practices;

- Recognise the value of disarmament education by redirecting resources to provide funding for youth and disarmament education, and;
- Continue addressing nuclear disarmament in future G7 Summits.

<sup>1</sup> Xia, Lili, Alan Robock, Kim Scherrer, Cheryl S. Harrison, Benjamin Leon Bodirsky, Isabelle Weindl, Jonas Jägermeyr, Charles G. Bardeen, Owen B. Toon, and Ryan Heneghan. 'Global Food Insecurity and Famine from Reduced Crop, Marine Fishery and Livestock Production Due to Climate Disruption from Nuclear War Soot Injection'. *Nature Food* 3, no. 8 (August 2022): 586–96. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s43016-022-00573-0>.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Alicia Sanders-Zakre and Susi Snyder. 'Squandered: 2021 Global Nuclear Weapons Spending'. Geneva, Switzerland: ICAN, 14 June 2022. [https://www.icanw.org/squandered\\_2021\\_global\\_nuclear\\_weapons\\_spending\\_report](https://www.icanw.org/squandered_2021_global_nuclear_weapons_spending_report).

*“Meeting in Hiroshima, G7 leaders must show their leadership and commitment to achieve a world without nuclear weapons.”*

**Sumiko Hatakeyama**

Coordinator of the Nuclear Disarmament Working Group /  
Executive Committee, Peace Boat

*“The risk of nuclear war is higher than it’s been in generations, when meeting in Hiroshima, G7 leaders must unequivocally condemn any and all threats to use nuclear weapons.”*

**Susi Snyder**

Coordinator of the Nuclear Disarmament Working Group /  
Programme Coordinator, International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN)



# Climate and Environmental Justice

## Introduction

The G7 economies are overwhelmingly responsible for the climate crisis we are experiencing. At the same time, they generate 45% of the world's GDP. This means that G7 leaders have the power and the responsibility to disentangle economies from fossil fuels, protect and restore biodiversity and ecosystems and contribute to a more equitable, just, resilient and healthy world for everyone ev-

erywhere. In their 2022 communique, G7 Climate, Energy and Environment Ministers agreed to take a wide range of actions to tackle “the triple global crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution”. In addition to these actions, stronger commitments and more specific global policy and implementation measures by G7 countries are needed.

## Policy Recommendation

### We Recommend that the G7 Leaders

#### Energy and GHG Mitigation

- Participate in accountability processes that equip G7 countries to do their equitable fair share and reduce emissions significantly faster. To limit global warming to 1.5°C, emissions must be reduced by at least 43% by 2030 compared to 2019.
- Take the lead in phasing out all fossil fuels – including oil and fossil gas – without resorting to false solutions and dangerous distractions such as geoengineering, ammonia and hydrogen co-firing, and woody biomass.
- Implement a phase-out of coal power in line with an overall OECD phaseout by 2030.
- Commit to a fully decarbonised energy sector by 2035, ensure the end of new public finance to all fossil fuels, commit to divestment and no new investment in ammonia/hydrogen/woody biomass co-firing at coal- or gas-fired power plants, and re-confirm commitment to a just transition without false solutions. Continue to enter, finance and implement Just Energy Transition Partnerships (JETPs) with a rights-based approach.
- Ensure that energy security prioritises energy efficiency and renewable energy sources, instead of diversification of fossil fuel supply.
- Dramatically accelerate investment in renewable energy.
- Incorporate principles of a "Just Energy Transition" that include mandatory human rights and environmental supply chain due diligence, ensuring balance of environmental/social protections, energy transition and critical mineral acquisition.
- End the use of systemic forced labour in key renewable energy supply chains, and invest in and support the development of supplies of materials critical to a just and resilient transition to renewable energy. This includes solar power and electric vehicles not reliant on forced



labour.

- Build synergies between climate ambition of governments and non-state actors and ensure that a coherent accountability framework is in place.
- Promote further policies and actions to reduce by 2030 non-carbon dioxide greenhouse gas emissions, including methane and fluorocarbons.
- Highlight that nuclear power is not a climate solution.
- Highlight the destructive impacts of military emissions and commit to minimising and phasing them out.
- Commit to achieve all sales of cars and vans being 100% decarbonised by 2030.

### Addressing Climate Impacts

- Contribute the G7's fair share of new, additional, and adequate finance to the Loss and Damage Fund established at COP27, scale up accessible grant support, and agree on its timely operationalisation by COP28.
- Support the UNGA resolution led by Vanuatu and endorsed by 118 other countries to take the issue of climate change to the International Court of Justice in order to strengthen international legal obligations to protect the climate for current and future generations.
- Honour their outstanding climate finance commitments to provide the Global South with the finance, technology, and capacity to adapt to climate change and leapfrog to people-centred, sustainable development models.
- Improve risk prevention awareness and abilities under extreme climate conditions.
- Strengthen climate adaptation capacities for vulnerable people and communities—women, youth, children, people with disabilities, Indigenous Peoples, the poor, elderly, rural communities, and others affected by discrimination.
- Support the access of the vulnerable to a safe, livable world with clean air, water, sanitation, hygiene, food, health, and adequate housing.
- Call upon all countries to incorporate vulnerability to forced labour and trafficking as a result of climate-induced migration or immobility into national climate adaptation/loss and damage development plans, and

allocate climate finance to addressing climate-induced vulnerability to forced labour and trafficking.

### Protecting and Restoring Ecosystems

- Prioritise protecting, conserving and restoring land and marine ecosystems, on the basis of ecosystem integrity and a rights-based approach, to sustain a healthy planet and deliver benefits essential for all people. Advocate for the international criminalisation of ecocide and widespread ratification of ecocide law.
- Integrate the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the Paris Agreement across national and international policies and plans.
- Incorporate the end of biodiversity loss into objectives of national plans and foreign policy.
- Recognise the biodiversity finance gap of at least 700 billion dollars per year, and commit to scaling up public finance, repurposing harmful subsidies, and aligning financial flows with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity.
- Commit to scale-up efforts to combat deforestation and biodiversity loss through the delivery of the 2021 Nature Compact and ensuring the Glasgow Forest Declaration is delivered rapidly and in line with robust environmental and social standards.
- Prioritise policies that deliver biodiversity-climate synergies and avoid trade-offs and dangerous distractions, such as poor quality offset schemes.
- Continue efforts to fulfil the G7 Ocean Deal adopted in Germany 2022, including conserving/protecting 30% of the global ocean by 2030, and establishing a network of marine protected areas in the Southern Ocean.
- Adopt One Health governance processes that recognise the interconnected nature of human, animal and plant health in a shared environment.
- Prioritise the universal human right to access a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment adopted by the UNGA in July 2022 and supported in the Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan text at COP27. The resolution calls upon States, international organisations, and business enterprises to scale up efforts to

# Climate and Environmental Justice

ensure a healthy environment for all.

- Recognise that carbon offsets present substantial risks to the climate, biodiversity and all life, and ensure that any investment in nature-based solutions meets the highest social and environmental standards, with human rights and Indigenous Peoples' rights front and centre.
- Request Japan to halt its plans to dump 1.3 million metric tons of radioactive wastewater from the damaged Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant into the Pacific Ocean.

## Improving Food Security and Ensuring Sustainable Food Systems

- Promote sustainable agroecology and fisheries for biodiversity and healthy and nutritious food.
- Ensure a just and inclusive transition to sustainable food systems and the right to healthy and climate-friendly diets by fostering agro-ecological systems with a focus on small-scale farmers and women, stop harmful subsidies, and seek to end hunger and malnutrition, while ensuring human rights of labourers and smallholders are protected.
- Increase funding for and invest in women in rural development, provide support to build skills, and facilitate access to markets, resources, assets, credit, and crop and livestock diversification.

## Ensuring Circular Economy

- Encourage a shift to circular economies at the local and national levels, and regulate consumer goods companies' output with the right to repair to reduce waste.
- Promote the 4Rs, especially reduce and reuse, in all sectors, including construction.
- Promote policies to reduce plastic production. Plastic pollution is spreading not only in the ocean, but also in the air and on land.
- Recycle waste to conserve natural resources.
- Exclude the recycling of plastics containing toxic chemicals from the circular economy.
- Regulate microplastics. There is concern about the ef-

fects of microplastics on human health.

- Change consumption patterns as a way to tackle climate change and conserve biodiversity.

## Integrating Cross-cutting Perspectives into Environmental Policies

- Promote participation of Indigenous Peoples, youth, women, migrants, and local or marginalised communities in decision making of climate and environmental policies, help them build skills, and facilitate their access to markets, resources, assets and credit.
- Invest in jobs and skills for a low-carbon transition to enable women and girls to engage in sustainable, safe, rewarding, dignified work through gender and market-responsive age-appropriate skills development and training.
- Implement policies that target change at the household level, where so many of the societal norms that inhibit gender equality persist.
- Strengthen teenagers' knowledge and skills of climate mitigation and adaptation, and provide global, age-appropriate education on the environment and the climate and ecological crises.
- Increase investment in the expansion of inclusive equality, gender transformative climate education which builds knowledge, skills, attitudes and behaviours.
- Support information sharing that is friendly to vulnerable populations and benefits all citizens who are not necessarily familiar with scientific knowledge. Promote transparency and commons of information as much as possible.
- Prioritise planetary health in health policies and co-beneficial environment and health policies to tackle climate change.

## Financial System Transformation

- Recognise that today's financial institutions and systems continue to accelerate the climate crisis, exacerbate inequalities and injustices, and are unfit to fund the transitions urgently needed.
- Leverage governance influence to reform global interna-

tional financial institutions, especially the World Bank and IMF, to comply with international law.

- Recognise the need to reduce debt to a level that allows the 2030 Agenda for the SDGs to be fulfilled, and to create the fiscal space needed to scale up investment in necessary climate action and social services.
- Highlight and implement taxation of the fossil fuel industry in line with the polluter pays principle as part of a wider reversal of intra-country and inter-country

wealth flows from low-income countries to higher income countries through expanded sources of finance that are new and additional to ODA and climate finance commitments.

- Re-commit to doubling the provision of climate finance for adaptation to developing countries by 2025.

*“G7 leaders should strengthen adaptation measures for those who are disproportionately affected by climate change, and achieve a net-zero emissions world by reducing not only CO2 emissions but also other GHG emissions globally, including methane and fluorocarbons.”*

### **Risa Endo**

Coordinator of the Climate and Environmental Justice Working Group / Deputy Director, Japan Center for a Sustainable Environment and Society (JACSES)

*“G7 must constructively engage to operationalise the Loss and Damage Fund by COP28 and contribute its fair share of new, additional, and adequate grant based finance to help communities recover from devastating climate impacts.”*

### **Harjeet Singh**

Coordinator of the Climate and Environmental Justice Working Group / Head of Global Political Strategy, Climate Action Network International



# Economic Justice and Transformation

## Introduction

In the last three years, the COVID-19, the Russian invasion of Ukraine and food and energy shocks amplified inequalities across societies. In developing countries, where the multiple crises reversed decades of poverty reduction and development gains, recoveries stalled amidst rising interest rates, slowing growth, inadequate debt relief and restructuring, an inequitable global tax system, limited access to finance and private flows lacking alignment

with development needs. Globally, but especially in developing countries, there is a need to change business as usual and secure policy space to pursue transformative alternatives that foster decent work, protect universal social protection, invest in the silver and care economy, avoid austerity measures and operate within planetary boundaries.

## Current Issues and Recommendations to G7 Leaders

As a group of powerful economies with shared values, the G7 has a responsibility to coalesce and steer the actions the world needs to respond to multiple crises, secure an inclusive recovery, and put developing countries on a path to achieving globally-agreed goals.

### Debt Relief and Restructuring

Debt levels in developing countries are at a 50-year high, and many countries face debt crises. Amidst rising interest rates and slowing economic growth, indebted countries have limited fiscal space to protect fragile health and social protection systems, let alone make necessary investments to make their economies and societies more resilient. The international debt architecture is inadequate to provide solutions and ad hoc initiatives, such as the G20 Common Framework, have yet to deliver any debt relief. In the absence of an international debt architecture to facilitate speedy, predictable and rules-based debt workouts, borrowing countries choose to postpone

dealing with debt problems, and crises cost more to all – their people as well as the creditors.

- Implement national binding legislation that prevents private creditors from undermining multilateral debt restructuring agreements.
- Support prompt and comprehensive debt cancellation for vulnerable developing countries that need it.
- Initiate and support multilateral negotiations at the UN to establish a debt restructuring mechanism that triggers an automatic standstill and includes all creditors, accessible to all LMICs. Promote debt transparency and accountability of creditors and debtors in order to facilitate restructuring processes and sufficient debt reductions.
- Eliminate IMF's surcharges.
- Coordinate incentives for debt contracts fair allocation of risks such as climate disasters and other external shocks.

## Access to Finance (Special Drawing Rights, Concessional Finance, including ODA)

All developing countries will need increased access to finance as they undertake crisis response and recovery efforts while resuming a path to achieve development, climate and biodiversity goals.

- Spearhead a new SDR allocation, to the tune of \$2 trillion, and a process to set different criteria for allocation so they help developing countries in a more targeted way. The 2021 Special Drawing Rights allocation showed their potential as more than 100 countries used them on poverty reduction and human development spending but much more is needed.
- Advance rechanneling of more than \$400 billion in SDRs that rich countries can afford to transfer. Progress in rechanneling so far has been through IMF vehicles that, while offering low-cost loans, represent new debt, and comes with onerous austerity conditions. New rechanneling alternatives through development banks and other entities are feasible and deserve G7 support and contributions.
- Expand multilateral development bank (MDB) lending while protecting debt sustainability. A combination of additional capital, and reforms that govern its use, can yield hundreds of billions more for MDB finance to poverty reduction and sustainable development efforts, while boosting their contribution to climate and other global challenges. At the same time, lending increases should have a high concessionality component to avoid compromising debt sustainability in recipient countries.
- Recommit to the 0.7% ODA target and agree on a clear timeline to reach this target with new, additional resources, and innovative sources of funding, such as international solidarity taxes, including a financial transactions tax.
- Support prioritising investment of vital resources in universally-accessible social protection and the care economy, including targeting an additional 2% of GDP investment in social infrastructure and gender-transformative health, silver and care services and establishing a Global Social Protection Fund. The investments

should go directly to the most vulnerable and affected populations.

## International Tax Architecture and Policies

As existing international tax rules and standards continue to enable trillions of dollars in public revenue losses annually, the poorest countries suffer proportionately the greatest impacts. A fundamental reform of the international tax system can put an end to tax abuse and illicit financial flows. But only with full participation of developing countries can such reform reflect their needs and interests.

- Support movement towards a universal UN Framework Convention on Tax and a global tax body, in the context of the process initiated by unanimously-adopted UN resolution 77/244. Civil society should have access and participation in the next steps of such a process.
- Introduce comprehensive beneficial ownership registries to curb illicit financial flows and tax abuse.
- Pursue gender-equal budgeting processes, allocation, and tax policies through all levers in their international development policies.

## Trade and Investment

Trade and investment rules and practices play a role in shaping companies' business model, strategies and behaviour. These companies have impacts on the well-being of workers and communities through their value chains, as well as on the environment and climate. Pandemic and conflict shocks highlighted the need to review supply chains to make them more sustainable and resilient in times of crisis.

- Re-invent the World Trade Organization as a multilateral forum in support of fair, just, sustainable and inclusive trade rules aligned with human rights, the Paris Agreement climate, just transition, leave-no-one-behind and SDG commitments.
- Renegotiate the current agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights



# Economic Justice and Transformation

(TRIPS) waiver and negotiate an effective International Pandemic Treaty to enable lower-income countries to produce and procure vaccines their people continue to need, as well as face future pandemics.

- Commit to terminate international investment agreements that allow investors to sue states in private arbitration tribunals. Investor-state lawsuits threaten human rights, energy transitions and public interests such as health and education.
- Issue market guidance to the nearly 1,000 companies headquartered in G7 countries that continue trade with Russia and pay taxes that help the war effort.

## Business and Human Rights/Labour

More than ten years after unanimous endorsement of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, we have seen some significant progress in certain areas. However, implementation of the principles remains uneven: while some countries have demonstrated leadership by introducing legislative measures and National Action Plans (NAPs), most have not. With this absence of state action, 78% of the most influential companies globally still do not conduct human rights due diligence. Global challenges, including COVID-19, the climate crisis, and a shrinking civic space, continue to adversely impact marginalised and vulnerable people, including women, children, older people, human rights defenders, migrants, and indigenous and minority groups. Forced labour, including state-sponsored, and child labour remains endemic. Discrimination and gaps in labour conditions due to gender, sexual orientation, employment and citizenship status, age, disability, and ethnicity prevail. Remediation for corporate-related harm is not sufficiently available. There is an urgent need for G7 leaders to accelerate implementation of international human rights and environmental standards.

- Support the UN Binding Treaty on business and human rights.
- Adopt and enforce mandatory human rights and environmental due diligence legislation, which is modelled on existing international standards, includes liability

provisions, and requires businesses to identify, prevent and mitigate harm across entire value chains, including by undertaking safe and meaningful stakeholder engagement at all stages and protecting human rights defenders.

- Take action to eliminate child and forced labour, including by introducing and enforcing import controls on products linked with private and/or state-imposed forced labour, and addressing circumvention of such controls.
- Ensure global advancement of such legislation so that effective implementation in countries that have already enacted appropriate measures is not undermined.
- Develop, enact and periodically update NAPs, including through encouraging the introduction of NAPs globally.
- Remove barriers to migrant workers' access to decent work opportunities in destination countries via safer legal pathways for labour mobility, and decouple work and residence visas to ensure meaningful freedom to change employment.
- Address discrimination and differential labour standards due to gender, age, race, disability and formality of the labour market.
- Expand social protection to protect vulnerable workers and their families, including migrant workers.

## Digital Economy

The digital economy has grown massively in the past decade but only 14% of the world's most influential tech companies are committed to digital inclusion. The G7 has an opportunity to influence regulations in the field to make it consistent with equitable and sustainable economic outcomes, a fair distribution of resources and the protection of individual rights towards an inclusive and trustworthy digital economy.

- Commit to a human-rights compliant framework to protect privacy, personal data, right to information, and adopt a moratorium on transfer of surveillance technology both for workers and users.
- Adopt policy measures to protect the rights of workers, children, youth and women in the digital industries and

services.

- Develop policies that incentivise the digital economy, including through commitments for digital inclusion, revenue-raising and spending measures that secure its fair contribution to social protection.

- Recognise the urgent need for participatory, inclusive and transparent global/regional mechanisms for monitoring digital technologies in their development and deployment.

*“Across the board, monopoly capitalism is fuelling inequality, undermining our democracy. The G7 has a responsibility to listen to civil society and transition to a fair and ethical economic ecosystem for the sake of its existence.”*

### **Shoko Uchida**

Coordinator of the Economic Justice and Transformation Working Group /  
Co-Director, Pacific Asia Resource Center (PARC)

*“The G7 faces the urgent challenge of building a global debt and financial architecture where all, especially the most vulnerable, can secure recovery from multiple crises, and meet globally-agreed development and climate goals.”*

### **Aldo Caliari**

Coordinator of the Economic Justice and Transformation Working Group /  
Senior Director of Policy and Strategy, Jubilee USA Network



# Global Health

## Introduction

The G7 Japanese Presidency has identified health and human security as the forefront of its 2023 agenda focusing on i) global health architecture for public health emergencies, ii) Universal Health Coverage (UHC), and iii) the promotion of health technology innovation, including digital health transformation. Across our global community, the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic continue to impact on health and community systems and services, further exacerbating existing inequalities within and between countries and contributing to pressure on national economies. Despite this, international attention appears long gone.

Our G7 recommendations underscore the protection and advancement of health equity and global solidarity to guarantee the rights of everyone to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. We advocate for gender equality, people-centred health and community

systems and responses, localization/decolonization and country ownership, equal access to scientific evidence and innovation, multilateralism, and balancing the One Health concept of people, animals and ecosystems. We firmly commit to ensuring that women and girls in all their diversity, vulnerable groups (children, youth, persons with disabilities, people living with HIV, people living with non-communicable diseases, older persons, Indigenous Peoples, refugees, internally displaced persons, migrants) and key populations (people who use drugs, men who have sex with men, transgender people, sex workers, and people in prisons and other closed settings) are at the centre of global health strategies and responses so as to *Leave No One Behind*. International human rights standards must translate to urgent action with G7 leaders accountable for their commitments to deliver health for all.

## G7 Commitments and Plans

The G7 has repeatedly reaffirmed commitment to achieving UHC as a SDG. In 2022, it declared renewed focus on people affected by multiple crises, particularly women and girls. The G7 Japanese Presidency commits to progress by strengthening health and community systems to overcome multiple health challenges, emphasising the importance of the life-cycle approach. While gender equality and the needs of marginalised groups are widely recognised as key to improved global health outcomes, neither are effectively linked to primary health care or UHC.

In 2022, the G7 German Presidency incorporated “climate-resilient and sustainable, climate-neutral health systems” targeting the impact of climate change on health, and pressed health systems to become more sustainable and carbon neutral.

Japan's commitment to strengthening the global health architecture comes at a crucial time as world leaders discuss how to improve global and regional capacities to prevent, prepare, and respond to public health threats and emergencies.

The G7 Japanese Presidency seeks further political efforts for the “100 Days Mission Initiative”, which was launched at the G7 in 2021. As a donor-driven initiative, civil society is intensely concerned about the lack of involvement of LMICs and civil society, and insufficient mechanisms to ensure universal access to tools for pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response (PPPR). We urge G7 leaders to strengthen global solidarity, collective action and accountability with global health initiatives and recommit

to the SDG agenda, including highest political presence at the 2023 UN High-Level Meetings (HLMs).

The G7 Italian Presidency (2017) gave attention to the health impacts of environmental factors, aligning with the planetary health agenda. With the COVID-19 pandemic, healthy people on a healthy planet became a significant focus while acknowledging other health threats caused by climate change, pollution and other environmental factors.

## Current Situation, Challenges and Policy Asks

### Universal Health Coverage (UHC)

With nearly two billion people facing catastrophic health spending, living with and dying from preventable and treatable illnesses, UHC is far from reality. Weak health systems, a lack of effective health investments, and insufficient efforts to address social determinants of health remain the culprit. Neither the SDG UHC targets nor the 2019 UHC Political Declaration are on track due to insufficient political leadership and financial commitment, coupled with the impact of COVID-19 and multiple humanitarian crises. Urgent investment is critical to implement equitable, resilient, sustainable health and community-based/led systems with an empowered workforce. Health policies and services must be accountable and target under-served, under-resourced people and communities to reduce inequalities and achieve UHC.

We urge the G7 to:

- Increase resources and investments in LMIC towards UHC, based on primary health care (PHC). Support should be provided to remove out-of-pocket payments.
- Re-commit to ending HIV, TB and malaria as well as non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) as critical pathways to achieving UHC.
- Engage people, in particular vulnerable and marginalised populations and with lived experiences, physical and mental health conditions; ageing, dementia, NCDs, NTDs, to ensure the delivery of people-centred, community-led, gender-transformative UHC. Addressing the

social determinants of health is crucial to ensuring UHC is achieved in underserved communities. National governments and international organisations must develop inclusive governance to ensure the engagement of civil society organisations and communities. Guarantee sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) under the umbrella of essential PHC services as an integral part of UHC.

- Ensure gender responsive health systems that prioritise investments in Sexual, Reproductive, Maternal, New-born, Child and Adolescent Health (SRMNCAH).
- Invest in and strengthen equitable, rights-based, life-cycle and person-centred approaches by integrating healthy ageing and dementia, preventive measures, medicines, and psychosocial services into PHC.
- Ensure equitable access to medical countermeasures, and essential medical devices, and promote and support country utilisation of TRIPS flexibilities. Invest in water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) to ensure safe, dignified health care delivery as well as essential nutrition services within and beyond emergencies.
- G7 efforts must be coordinated with other multilateral policy processes e.g., UN HLMs, and recognize UHC and PPPR as two intertwined goals that must be planned and implemented together through health and community system strengthening and PHC.

### Gender and Health

Integrating a gender perspective in health policies at a global level remains a significant challenge.

# Global Health

Currently, girls, women, and LGBTQIA+ populations encounter numerous obstacles that limit their ability to achieve optimal physical, mental, and social well-being, and equitable access to health services. Current challenges are rooted in the continued feminization of pandemics; the lack of capacity building in women's education, empowerment, economic inclusion, agriculture, and leadership; the lack of leadership and political will in commitments to include of SRHR in PHC services; and the lack of gender inclusive medicine and research, despite recent advances in science and medicine.

We urge the G7 to:

- Enact past international agreements on women's health and rights and the CEDAW by ensuring the participation of women in all decision-making processes, including policymaking, monitoring and evaluation.
- Continue championing of SDG 5 and other gender specific targets and indicators across the SDGs related to gender and health, such as target 3.7 and 5.6, being mindful that SDG 5 is one of the most off tracks.
- Ensure adequate resources for gender mainstreaming and addressing the needs of women as vulnerable and marginalised groups.
- Accelerate women's overall multisectoral empowerment, especially for health practitioners and community health workers.
- Enact health policies through a gender transformative approach.
- Create safe, enabling environments to increase access to health services for women and girls and reduce unpaid care work.
- Address Gender Based Violence (GBV) and guarantee access to justice.

## Planetary Health

Planetary boundaries are thresholds of environmental stability beyond which abrupt and irreversible changes may occur. Crossing them risks catastrophic consequences for humanity's ability to thrive on Earth. Therefore, we highlight current challenges such as climate crisis, food security, and environmental pollution.

We urge the G7 to:

- Strengthen inclusive and accountable climate finance, prioritising planetary health in health policies, and prioritising co-beneficial policies of the environment and health to tackle climate change.
- Pursue food security and nutrition and shift to sustainable food systems through intersectoral collaboration across health and agricultural sectors while respectfully incorporating Indigenous perspectives.
- Reduce environmental pollution, reduce reliance on fossil fuels, promote clean and environmentally friendly transportation systems, and regulate pollutants in urban areas.
- Accelerate contributions through global partners and invest in climate and disaster-resilient sustainable quality infrastructure as necessary to achieving climate commitments and the SDGs.

## Global Health Architecture

A new approach is vital to avoid further global health fragmentation and to increase focus on the most vulnerable, marginalised and underserved.

We urge the G7 to:

- Recognise the World Health Organization as the coordinating entity for global health. Strengthen it through sustainable financing; foster integration and convergence across different efforts and processes, building on synergies among health initiatives at global and regional levels with ample resourcing to organisations that continue to play crucial roles in responding to COVID-19 and PPPR, such as GAVI, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, UNAIDS, UNITAID, FINDx, CEPI, the Global Financing Facility, among others. G7 commitments should align with the WHO conventions, agreements or other international instruments on PPPR and not develop separate structures or parallel pathways.
- Accelerate agreements and mechanisms that ensure inclusive and equal representation of LMICs and CSOs in reforming the global health architecture. Ensure meaningful and inclusive participation of communities,



civil society and women at all levels of decision-making, implementation and monitoring, and prioritise actions that strengthen health and community systems to achieve UHC.

- Expand ODA and identify new revenue generators e.g., financial transaction tax and other tax policies. Leverage significant new resources through regional and multilateral development banks to unlock financing that enhances country capabilities to respond to public health emergencies.

### **Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response (PPPR)**

The lessons of COVID-19 have not been acted upon. ACT-A and COVAX failed to answer vaccine nationalism, supply restrictions or to include LMICs and communities in governance structures from the beginning. PPPR is a global task.

We urge the G7 to:

- Ensure the G7’s “100 Days Mission Initiative” and agreements for publicly funded PPPR tools are clear and firmly embedded as preconditions for equitable access, accountability and transparency, and facilitate technology transfers, surmounting IP barriers, and encourage geographically diversified manufacturing capacity.
- Recognise the fundamentality of manufacturing capacity in the Global South, additional and sustainable ODA, innovative non-ODA global financing as well as domestic resources in LMICs as quintessential to ensuring equitable access to lifesaving medical systems and products as global public goods, so that they are accessible for all.
- Accelerate the meaningful inclusion of planetary/One Health, AMR, and secondary pandemic effects such as hunger and supply chain at each stage and level of PPPR.

*“No one is safe until everyone is; global solidarity is most needed in the era of pandemics. As we face the world of polycrisis, we call the G7 leaders to join the civil society fight to shift the paradigm of the world from ‘monopoly and competition’ to ‘sharing and solidarity.’”*

**Masaki Inaba**

Coordinator of the Global Health Working Group /  
Co-chair, Africa Japan Forum

*“It’s time to translate the G7 commitment to achieving Universal Health Coverage into action putting gender equality and the needs of marginalised groups at the centre of global health strategies and responses.”*

**Stefania Burbo**

Coordinator of the Global Health Working Group /  
Focal Point, Global Health Italian Network



# Humanitarian Assistance and Conflict

***One in every 23 people in the world now needs humanitarian assistance.***

## Introduction

The humanitarian system is under immense strain. The largest and ever-widening gap between humanitarian need and available funding, the largest number of forcibly displaced people since World War II, an increase in the scale and severity of protracted conflicts, and the increasing frequency, severity, and intensity of climate-related disasters and hunger crises all together mean that today a staggering 350 million people urgently need humanitarian assistance and protection.

At the start of 2023, NGOs joined the UN to appeal for USD 54 billion to reach 70% (240 million) of these children, older people, women, and men. We fully expect that, as in 2022, only around half of this funding request will be met. Humanitarian action should be impartial and driven by needs, yet political and economic interests and biases increasingly underpin the decisions behind where the drive for solutions or funding for assistance is directed. Millions of people in forgotten and neglected crises are destined to receive far less assistance than others

Conflict is the main driver of humanitarian need. 70% of the world's people living with acute hunger are in areas

affected by war, conflict and violence. Systemic failures of peace, climate action, and development have led to an alarming five-fold increase in the number of people living in famine-like conditions since early 2021.

Famine is not just a lack of food; it represents a systemic failure to sustain political action and financing to protect the most basic rights and entitlements of the world's most vulnerable, especially its children and older people. It lays bare the failure to address the structural causes of extreme poverty, hunger, and deprivation in the most fragile contexts. To prevent disaster and save lives, G7 members must urgently deliver on past commitments, including meeting the commitments of the 2021 G7 Famine Prevention and Humanitarian Crises Compact, honouring pledges made at the 2021 Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit, and fully delivering on the 2015 Elmau Broader Food Security and Nutrition Development Approach to build resilience to acute shocks and chronic stresses through joined-up efforts across the domains of humanitarian, peace, climate, and development. G7 members must step forward to address the humanitarian challenges of today, and tomorrow.

## **The C7 Humanitarian Assistance and Conflict Working Group Recommends the Following Priority Areas of Action.**

### **Encompassing Age, Gender, Diversity and Disability in Humanitarian Action**

The impacts of crises are felt most by women, children,

youth, older people, and marginalised groups. Persons with disabilities, indigenous and minority peoples, and persons with diverse gender identity and sexual orientation are at heightened risk in emergencies. As population

ageing takes place at differential rates across the world, humanitarian crises will increasingly have an impact on older people.

These many and diverse groups of people are frequently left behind in humanitarian preparedness and response. In times of crisis, pre-existing inequalities are often exacerbated. A specific focus on diverse needs can ensure access to humanitarian assistance and protect people's human rights.

G7 members can ensure that humanitarian assistance prioritises understanding and meeting the needs of the most at-risk and impacted populations by adopting gender, age and disability inclusive policies and emphasising the importance of people-centred and accountability-driven practice.

To do this, G7 members must:

- Require the safe collection, analysis, and use of sex, age and disability disaggregated data in all projects and programmes they fund and ensure that funded partners monitor and report how their actions prioritise assistance to at-risk and vulnerable groups.
- Ensure that funding provided to humanitarian crises includes at-risk groups as a priority, and that there is specific attention to sub-groups, such as children and older people with disabilities, older caregivers, and older women, who face specific risks.
- Highlight the specific impact of crises on at-risk groups in public statements to ensure visibility for these populations and ensure appropriate prioritisation of their needs.

### **Empowering Local Action and Leadership**

The centralization of power and decision-making in the international humanitarian system continues to impact the quality of assistance, increasing costs and inefficiencies. This means the local NGOs and civil society that do the majority of the work usually also carry the majority of the risks with minimal support. The solution has been well known for decades: provide faster, flexible funding

for humanitarian assistance to local civil society and genuinely invest in the leadership and capacities of local actors. G7 members have committed to resolve this through a range of initiatives, most notably the 2016 Grand Bargain. However, progress on these commitments remains far from sufficient.

Recent announcements made by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) on their localisation policy aspirations and guidelines are welcome. We hope these commitments will accelerate actions to create an integrated and comprehensive system in which local actors and their communities are at the centre of deciding how resources are invested and how crises are prepared for and responded to.

G7 members can ensure this by embedding power-sharing and locally relevant approaches in their policies and funding decisions.

To do this, G7 members must:

- Uphold their commitments to build a more power-balanced system by shifting resources and decision-making to communities, in particular organisations of persons with disabilities, older people's associations, women-led, youth-led, and refugee-led organisations.
- Support leaders in local communities as they build genuine partnerships for preparedness and response that enhance quality, accountability and transparency.
- Promote flexible, multi-year funding and simpler, more inclusive compliance systems that are context-relevant and truly enable local organisations to access direct funding.

### **Preserve and Expand Humanitarian Space**

Violent conflict remains the major driver of humanitarian need worldwide, and continues to take a heavy toll on civilians, especially when explosives are used in populated areas. Since November 2022, 83 countries have adopted a political declaration that seeks to better protect civilians from humanitarian consequences of the use of explosive weapons in populated areas, yet 90%



# Humanitarian Assistance and Conflict

of casualties resulting from the use of these weapons are civilians. Children remain especially vulnerable, and the number of attacks on schools and hospitals has increased.

Violence against humanitarian workers is also increasing, and local and national staff make up 98 per cent of those killed. Despite being provided for under International Humanitarian Law (IHL), access to humanitarian assistance and protection is frequently impeded or denied, requiring active negotiation for this critical space with relevant actors, including states, armed groups, and de facto authorities.

States, including G7 members, have a critical role to play in supporting diplomacy and reducing barriers to ensure safe and unimpeded access to assistance for those most in need. This includes taking action when people are prevented from receiving the assistance to which they are entitled.

To do this, G7 members must:

- Ensure compliance with IHL by improving and strengthening reporting, prevention, and mitigation of the denial of humanitarian access, and by holding violators to account.
- Protect civilian, medical, and education facilities in any conflict situation, including by implementing and actively promoting the 2022 Political Declaration on the use of explosive weapons in populated areas, and the 2015 Safe Schools Declaration.
- Implement fully UN Security Council Resolution 2664, ensuring a humanitarian exemption across all existing and future sanctions regimes and counter-terrorism legislation encompassing financial transactions for the provision of humanitarian assistance and basic human needs.

## Emphasising Disaster Risk Reduction and Anticipatory Action

The Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction was adopted in 2015 under Japan's global leadership. This

year's mid-term review provides a platform for reflection of the achievements in the eight years since. It is crucial the targets and priorities for action are met, particularly related to greater investment in disaster prevention and preparedness. Although catastrophic earthquakes cannot be prevented, effective disaster risk reduction policies and standards can save lives and reduce losses.

The past two G7 presidencies have prioritised anticipatory action. It is crucial for all G7 members to continue to commit to the importance of scaling up anticipatory approaches that will reduce humanitarian need and ensure more timely, cost effective, and dignified assistance. Research shows that over half of crises can be predicted, yet less than 2% of humanitarian funding is released ea

Given the increasing availability of risk and forecasting information, it is no longer acceptable to wait for hazards to impact communities instead of acting ahead of time.

To do this, G7 members must:

- Shift humanitarian funding from reactive to proactive approaches, including to scale up pre-arranged humanitarian financing, such as pooled funds, that can be used in a flexible manner to proactively prevent and respond to crises.
- Support accountable planning and coordination, maximising the use of scientific data to have a better understanding of risks, coordinate triggers, and develop forecast information to act in advance and prevent crises.
- Ensure that risk information is nationally owned and accessible to local actors and that anticipatory approaches are connected to wider risk management efforts by supporting integration of early warning and anticipatory action in national and local disaster management policies and regulations.

## Prioritising Education in Emergencies

The world is facing a global learning crisis, and children and youth affected by crises, including refugee and forcibly displaced children and youth, are particularly vulner-

able. In humanitarian crises, children and young people suffer the loss not just of homes, families, and loved ones, but also of loss of access to education and a safe learning environment. This directly impacts each individual's future and that of their wider society. Despite this, education remains one of the least funded humanitarian priorities.

Schools are more than just educational institutions. Schools and learning environments are both protective and life-saving in times of crisis. They provide secure areas for children to learn and play while also protecting them from further violence, such as child labour, sexual abuse and exploitation, and armed group recruitment. They enable life-saving programs including psychological and physical protection, access to food and relief items, landmine risk education, and crisis and emergency survival skills.

Girls are particularly affected by crisis, as they are much more likely than boys to be out of school in emergency contexts. G7 members will not be able to deliver on their

own targets to have 40 million more girls in school and 20 million reading by age 10 without prioritising education, especially for girls, in emergencies.

G7 members can do this by:

- Ensure that education is prioritised within humanitarian action, with sufficient and consistent financing, particularly by fully funding Education Cannot Wait and investing in initiatives to secure refugee inclusion in national education systems.
- Invest in preparedness and disaster risk reduction to properly equip schools and education partners to tackle hazards, reduce their impacts, and improve resilience, especially through the redesigned Comprehensive School Safety Framework.
- Reaffirm prior commitments to girls' education, notably the 2021 G7 Girls Education Declaration and the 2018 Charlevoix Declaration, which contained pledges to ensure access to education for children in crisis and protracted emergencies, prioritising girls and women affected by humanitarian crisis.

*“The G7 is a powerful driver to redefine the humanitarian system which is under immense pressure. To save those most at risk, we cannot afford another failure of responsible parties.”*

**Yuko Shibata**

Coordinator of the Humanitarian Assistance and Conflict Working Group /  
General Manager, Emergency Response Division, Japan Platform

*“To meet the challenges of today and tomorrow, we need to re-imagine a humanitarian system that truly anticipates needs, prioritises those most at risk, and preserves a space independent from political agendas.”*

**Jeremy Wellard**

Coordinator of the Humanitarian Assistance and Conflict Working Group /  
Head of Coordination, International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA)





# Open and Resilient Societies

## Introduction

Open and Resilient Societies Working Group (ORSWG) was established as a response to the G7's Open Society Statement in 2021 and Resilient Democracies Statement in 2022 as a follow up on the previous C7 Open Society Working Group. The C7 demands G7 to develop the G7 Open and Resilient Societies statement and to include the following key issues outlined below. ORSWG focuses on responses of G7 countries to human rights violations, discrimina-

tion, corruption and restrictions to civil society's space for action. Activists and civil society organisations around the world, ready and willing to collaborate with government to guide their action, to advocate for more democratic, just, and open societies, protections for civil society action and civic space, and sustainable development. These were developed by the ORSWG in consultation with various coalitions and organisations working on the topics below.

## Civic Space

### Protecting and Fostering Open Societies and Resilient Democracies

- Create a Task Force to facilitate global dialogue between G7 governments with CSOs, businesses, philanthropies and banks to identify priorities for civic space support and uninterrupted funding for civil society under threat.
- Protect civil society space in all multilateral forums and commit to facilitating the participation of CSOs to ensure full, equal, meaningful and effective participation of civil society and community organisations, including provision of funding, by allowing non-state civil society observers access to meetings and to textual negotiations.
- Consult with CSOs throughout the G7 process to incorporate civil society, including timely dissemination of outcome materials, more substantial participation in Working Group meetings, participation of C7 members in all conversations, transparent communication, and access to relevant G7 officials.
- Create an environment to promote multilayered dialogue among governments and sectors, including civil

society, in the East and South China Seas to mutually restrain actions by military and paramilitary organisations of the G7 and related countries, including China, and to foster mutual trust.

- State disapproval of the Myanmar military regime and refrain from any involvement or support that would lead to its political or military consolidation.
- Strengthen programs and funding for accessible and inclusive public education on civic participation and human rights.

### Strengthen Open Civic Space

- Limit the use of violence and harassment against peaceful protests and assemblies and fully respect the right to peaceful protest online and offline.
- End the criminalisation and stigmatisation of human rights and environmental defenders. Adopt a G7 Action Plan that promotes the right to defend human rights and the environment and creates a safe and enabling environment for protection and participation of human rights and environmental defenders.

## International Pandemic Treaty

- Ensure that the proposed International Pandemic Treaty places human rights at its core, and that any restrictive measures adopted with the aim of responding to pandemic threats and other public health emergencies

## Technology, Digital Democracy, and Human Rights

### Human Rights-based Technology

- Protecting privacy is key to ensuring human dignity, safety and self-determination.
- Develop evidence-informed risk and human rights impact assessment frameworks to be used before the development, deployment, and use of artificial intelligence, including for national security purposes, and consider the impact of all new technology on human rights, civic freedoms, and democracy.
- Only secure vendors, providers and partners which have demonstrated an ethical use of technology and conduct human rights due diligence.
- Regulate AI to ensure transparency, traceability, and accuracy to safeguard against the destructive reinforcement of bias in generative AI algorithms.

### Surveillance Tech, Privacy and Other Human Rights

- Establish a moratorium on the use, export, sale, and transfer of surveillance technology including facial recognition and spyware technology in international standards and national laws, until the authorities and companies responsible can demonstrate compliance

## Social & Environmental Justice

- Ensure participation of local residents, including Indigenous Peoples, in development planning and access to environmental justice.
- Ensure equal access to natural resources to achieve sustainable development; reduce social inequalities and deliver environmental justice; and equitable payment of loss and damage funding in response to climate injustice

comply with international human rights law obligations.

- Ensure transparent and accessible opportunities for all impacted and affected stakeholders to contribute to the International Pandemic Treaty development and the review of the International Health Regulations.

with privacy and other human rights and absence of the discriminatory impact on civil society including protest organisers, human rights defenders, children, women, and other marginalised communities.

- Introduce liability for surveillance tech and artificial intelligence, obliging States to impose actual liabilities upon private entities responsible for the development and distribution of spyware and artificial intelligence technology.

### Protection of Children and Youth in the Digital Space

- Strengthen all efforts to keep children safe online in line with the Convention of the Rights of the Child: General comment No. 25 (2021) on children's rights in relation to the digital environment, including domestic regimes, law enforcement cooperation and information sharing, to target violence against children online, especially child sexual exploitation and abuse.
- Foster greater access to inclusive, child-friendly, and digitally equitable education on digital literacy, digital ethics, and the proliferation of fake news for the protection of children's mental health.

and climate debt.

- Improve environmental risk management and maintain a safe and healthy environment, especially for those who have traditionally lived, worked and played in areas closest to industrial pollution and contaminants.



# Open and Resilient Societies

## Transparency and Accountability

### Accountability of G7 Commitments

- Ensure transparency and accountability around its processes through improved target settings and reporting on past commitments, prioritising engagement with civil society through regular consultations, co-creations, and collaborating and sharing lessons across other global fora such as the G20.

### Beneficial Ownership Transparency

- Implement open and free beneficial ownership registers of legal entities and arrangements with verified information. Registry authorities should be empowered to sanction non-compliance and breaches. Such standards should be drafted with consideration of the specific characteristics of non-profit entities and public benefit foundations to ensure that they do not disrupt these legitimate activities.
- Commit to introducing additional transparency requirements for state-owned enterprises, including beneficial ownership disclosures in line with the UNODC Oslo Statement on Corruption involving Vast Quantities of Assets.

### International Cooperation in Cross-border Corruption and Cooperation among Law Enforcement Authorities

- Establish a task force to coordinate efforts and share intelligence information in the investigation of cross-border corruption, money laundering and economic crime. The initiative could build on the experience of the recently created Transatlantic task force established to

## Social Justice and Inclusion & Equality

- Protect the rights of migrants, refugees and ethnic and racial minorities as well as those discriminated against in society, including by providing refuge through transparent admission systems; protect human rights in the labour sector for these marginalised communities, es-

pecially those without legal status.

### Open Contracting

- Strengthen the open data infrastructure by opening data across the whole procurement cycle by publishing structured, high-quality open data that is readily machine-readable for ease of interoperability amongst multiple systems, covering all methods of procurement, including Public-Private Partnerships and procurement by State-Owned Enterprises.

### Anti-Money Laundering and Asset Recovery

- Ensure that all G7 countries expand Anti-Money Laundering (AML) and Counter Financing of Terrorism (CFT) obligations to non-financial businesses and professions, requiring them to carry out the same AML/CFT background checks as banks and other institutions. Set up more robust sectoral risk assessments that lead to targeted, proportionate and effective measures which do not hamper legitimate activity of non-profit organisations in any way. Commit to introducing legislation detailing civil recovery powers. This would allow law enforcement agencies to freeze and seize assets and compel individuals to explain the source of wealth used to purchase assets and to freeze illicit funds in banks and financial institutions without the need for a criminal conviction. When assets are returned they need to be aligned to the Global Forum for Asset Recovery (GFAR) principles, including through the engagement of civil society and community groups.

- Support Indigenous Peoples and minority groups by protecting the right of self-determination and recognise the need to respect and promote the inherent rights of Indigenous Peoples, especially their rights to their

lands, territories and resources.

- Advance equality and social justice for older people through a UN Convention for the Rights of Older People, focusing on preventive health care aligned with the UN Decade of Healthy Ageing; and a flexible and inclusive labour policy/framework recognising the potential to build a silver economy.
- Adopt and enact gender and disability inclusive laws. The legal recognition of multiple forms of discrimination is a vital first step towards addressing and ultimately enforcing the human rights of persons with disabilities

and dementia, and protecting them from discriminatory acts.

- Re-commit to mid- and long-term development strategies that include investing in human capital, especially for women, advancing gender equality in education particularly in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), and Health System.
- Commit to strengthen the social protection floor, including by supporting the establishment of a Global Social Protection Fund and resilient education systems.

## Justice, Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion & Rights of People with Diverse SOGIESC

- Establish Pride 7 as an official engagement group.
- Enact anti-discrimination laws regarding SOGIESC, the legalisation of equal marriage, and the enhancement of legal protection for same-sex partnerships and their families, building on the Leaders' Declaration of G7 El-mau Summit which called for ensuring the full, equal, effective, and meaningful participation of LGBTQIA+ people in society.
- Track key indicators across a range of policy areas, to ensure the inclusion of people with diverse SOGIESC.
- Ensure meaningful engagement of all genders, marginalised groups, including and not limited to: age, nationality, ethnicity, religion, descent etc., in every stage of decision and policy making processes in international fora, diplomacy, and peace processes.

*“G7 must uphold the human rights norms and principles not just in words but through actions at home and abroad. It is crucial for the G7 to remain dedicated to putting an end to human rights violations, discrimination against minorities, corruption, and limitations on civic space.”*

### **Hiroataka Koike**

Coordinator of the Open and Resilient Societies Working Group /  
Senior Political & External Affairs Officer, Greenpeace Japan

*“Many societies around the world are closing. Politics is becoming more divisive. Rights are being curtailed. Corruption is increasingly undermining fair and equal systems. Malign influence from states and other actors is undermining citizens’ trust in their governments. There is a lot to do, but I am convinced that if we come together we can begin to push for the kind of change we’d like to see. Let’s strive to foster constructive positive synergies between government and citizens.”*

### **Narayan Adhikari**

Coordinator of the Open and Resilient Societies Working Group /  
Co-founder and South Asia representative for the Accountability Lab





# Civil 7

## Communiqué 2023

The C7 (Civil 7) is one of the official engagement groups of the G7 and represents positions from the international civil society.

The Japan Civil Society Coalition on G7 Summit 2023 has been coordinating the C7 process, as the C7 Secretariat.

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