

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS IN
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SUMMIT

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Executive Summary

We, the delegates of the 2020 Y7 Summit, during unprecedented times, convened virtually on June 3-5, 2020 with the support of the United States' selecting organization, the Young Professionals in Foreign Policy. United by our profound belief that the voice of the youth is an imperative contribution to the G7 decision-making process, we have deliberated, negotiated, and produced an outcomes document on important topic areas and global challenges. We call on the G7 leaders and the international community to hear the youth voice and take these proposals into consideration as they develop and implement policies to meet the needs of their citizens, and to work together in creating a healthy, prosperous, sustainable and fair future for all.

We call on the G7 leaders to promote healthy global connectivity - interconnectivity and the consequent movement of information, goods, people, and capital - and global trade - the beneficial exchange of goods, services, and intellectual property rights across borders. The following recommendations aim to ensure equality of access, use, and opportunities for all citizens globally.

We call on the G7 leaders to build a sustainable future for our generation and the generations to come by reaffirming the commitments made to climate change. We ask that they prioritize green energy while adapting to the new economic realities of COVID-19. We call on them for a true and profound investment in energy of the future and securing energy availability, accessibility, and affordability for all.

We call on the G7 leaders to focus on challenges that will affect future generations such as climate security, cyber-attacks, democratic resilience, and human rights. This requires a proactive approach to peace and security, including building resilience, strengthening institutions, and working with states outside the G7 to promote peaceful and safe communities for all.

We call on the G7 leaders to realize that rights to education and work are essential to promoting respect for human dignity and creating transformative change for young people. We urgently need increased investment, partnership, and commitment to multilateralism to ensure youth have equal opportunities as well as the tools and resources they need to succeed in a rapidly changing world.

In addition to these recommendations, we make two additional statements in light of recent events. We call on the G7 leaders to make a stronger, more coordinated response to the COVID-19 pandemic. We also call on the G7 leaders to publicly condemn and urgently address the violence, racism, marginalization, and police brutality against Black communities.

Global Connectivity & Trade

Global Connectivity refers to interconnectivity and the consequent movement of information, goods, people, and capital. The following recommendations aim to ensure equality of access, use, and opportunities for all citizens globally.

Global trade consists of the beneficial exchange of goods, services, and intellectual property rights across borders. To secure future opportunities for trade, the actions taken by the G7 must be in agreement with the goal to limit climate change set forth in the Paris Agreement.

As the Y7, we are calling on the G7 leaders to:

I. Close divides and inequalities within digitalization

Access to the Internet and digital infrastructure, including electricity, should be made available at an affordable cost and sensible quality to everyone. There should be a focus on closing divides and inequalities, in terms of countries and regions with different levels of development, different firms' size, gender, age and ethnicity, by:

- Establishing a G7 task force comprised of G7 and recipient-country representatives, technology companies and representatives of local stakeholders with the mandate of expanding digital infrastructure in underserved areas.
- Adopting innovative and synergic financing tools to blend public and private capital, such as public-private partnerships, or implement a framework of tax incentives for firms that make the aforementioned investments in underserved areas.
- Supporting public investments for digitalization of public services and the digital transformation of Small and Medium Enterprises.
- Reducing inequalities by co-creating digital technologies with and for marginalized communities.

II. Regulate data collection and usage while protecting human rights

There is an increased number of organizations and institutions converting their business practices to digital formats, increasing the amount of data collected. We call on G7 leaders to:

- Create an independent international authority to regulate data collection and usage, while promoting interoperability. It should provide regulatory frameworks on AI that foster innovation and growth, while preventing the violation of civil liberties and privacy. The authority should be governed by a balanced representation of all relevant stakeholders, including civil society.

COVID-19 has highlighted the importance of protecting human and civil rights while leveraging digital solutions to protect citizens. We call on G7 leaders to:

- Conduct and publish the results of a quarterly national review of the necessity and impact of the use of personal data (e.g. contact tracing) in managing the spread of COVID-19 and regularly revisit regulations about the level of access into people's personal data.
- De-identify data of individuals to maintain anonymity and privacy.

III. Take ambitious multilateral actions to promote global trade and show solidarity

Youth across the G7 call on their leaders to protect and support the multilateral institutions and systems we have in place today. In order to ensure transparency in the global trade system in light of the large costs and frictions associated with the increasing number of bilateral trade agreements, we call on G7 leaders to take more ambitious multilateral actions, working with the World Trade Organization, by:

- Mandating Sustainable Impact Assessments carried out by an independent body for all parties concerned in trade negotiations to assess all impacts of trade agreements.
- Urging the WTO to agree upon binding definitions of "developed" and "developing" countries within their framework to assure that assistance and exemptions from regulations reach appropriate recipients.
- Strengthening the role of the WTO as an advocate for the environment through initiating new regulations that also take into account the economic needs of developing nations and disadvantaged societal groups.

Following the COVID-19 crisis, we call on G7 leaders to take multilateral actions to ensure global trade, financial stability, and resilience, and to allocate sufficient resources to tackle the consequences, by:

- Lifting tariffs and export bans on medical supplies, encourage other countries to follow suit and show solidarity especially with developing countries via a "tariff-and-aid initiative": (i) a worldwide cancellation of tariffs on imported medical supplies and (ii) compensation to developing countries for revenue losses incurred from cancellations.
- Supporting the cancellation of debt repayments of developing countries at least for one year, and further develop financial instruments to help them respond to the negative economic shock while not reducing ODA.
- Strengthening the operational capabilities of the WHO with all member states adhering to their budgetary commitments and expanding existing multilateral efforts to fight against pandemics, including (i) the WHO's Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan and (ii) the UN COVID-19 Global Humanitarian Response Plan.

- Reinforcing international scientific collaboration for research and development regarding all solutions to the COVID-19 pandemic (including a potential vaccine) and make them accessible to everyone, whenever they become available and regardless of who develops them, at an affordable cost based on local purchasing power.
- Minimizing restrictions on the movement of people and goods across borders as much as possible within the limits of official public health guidelines.

IV. Establish a fair and transparent international tax framework

The Y7 calls for a multilateral approach to ensure that the international tax framework is fair and transparent, recognizing the challenges arising from transformations in global value chains, by:

- Supporting the current multilateral effort under negotiation at the OECD (BEPS). The revised framework should ensure that international businesses pay a minimum level of tax, which is in line with the effective tax rates applied to domestic businesses. The new regime should be based on the mandatory accession of multinationals.
- Increasing progressivity in income and wealth taxation, in particular for financial transactions and for the highest income brackets, in light of the decades-long decline in the labor share of income.
- Reforming tax systems to boost green and inclusive growth (SDG 1-17), encouraging long-term sustainable development.

Energy

We, the delegates of the Y7, urge the leaders of the G7, to achieve an energy transition that will build a sustainable future for our generation and the generations to come.

COVID-19 has sent shockwaves through the world in 2020, and we ask that you treat the energy sector as a tool for invigorating the economy, rather than choosing to prioritize the economy at an extreme cost to the environment. In a rare period of market malleability; we ask that green economic recovery packages be passed to reorient the energy sector, that funds be made available to achieve a technological revolution, and multilateral measures be put in place to secure a just transition for all youths.

As the Y7, we are calling on the G7 leaders to:

I. Strongly reaffirm commitments made to climate change

We urge you to recognize that climate change knows no borders, and that it requires a global, comprehensive, and intensified response.

- Reaffirm your obligations to fulfilling the targets set forth in the Paris Agreement, enhance your Nationally Determined Contribution, and accelerate the decarbonization of the global energy system.
- Enforce public sharing of environmental performance against Paris Targets, particularly via social media, to increase information reach to youth worldwide.
- Pursue UN SDGs with a particular focus on Goal 7: ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all.

II. Prioritize green energy in COVID-19 economic responses

Aligning COVID-19 recovery efforts with the objectives of the Paris Agreement and SDGs will require a multilateral approach comprising of; holistic policy packages, resource deployment, and enhanced international cooperation, but would result in global socio-economic gains.

- Commit to a green recovery stimulus package for inclusive economic growth whilst accelerating the green economy. Actively steer energy-related investments towards sustainability.
- Set carbon pricing to place a minimum cost on corporate CO₂ emissions, without allowances for businesses and without shifting the burden to consumers.

- Establish, by 2021, a clear action roadmap to systematically phase out subsidies for fossil fuel production and consumption. Reinvest this revenue in infrastructures that will safeguard young people's futures in all G7 countries.
- Invest in the building and infrastructure sectors to accelerate the penetration of Near-Zero Emission Buildings (NZEB), through high energy efficiency standards.
- Design tailored financial and fiscal support for enterprises that are dedicated to long term commitments of green energy transition and lowering environmental impacts.
- Shift government procurement standards to buy energy from sustainable sources.
- Make training schemes available for all employees in the traditional energy sector, so they are well-equipped to transition to careers in the green economy.

III. Invest in the energy of the future

We urge you to invest in R&D and multi-level partnerships in order to reach disruptive technologies in low-carbon energy and thus, reconciling growing needs with limited resources.

- Support the development and implementation of innovative decarbonization technologies with a wide reach, such as renewable energy, carbon capture and sequestration, poly-generation, energy storage, and hydrogen.
- Commit to low carbon transportation through: wider adoption of electric and active mobility, providing better access to charging infrastructure, expanding cycle lanes and investing in high speed alternatives to emission-heavy flights, such as high-speed rail, while maintaining competitive fares for users.
- Support strategic blended finance schemes and public-private partnerships for emerging solutions, by strongly mitigating the risk faced by private investors.
- Reinforce assessment of the construction, operation, and the decommissioning of all energy plants to absolutely minimize their damage to the environment.
- Enhance circular generation methodologies, committing to optimizing the use of energy losses and developing end of life solutions, including for PV, wind turbines and battery components.
- Explore nuclear fusion as a potentially safe, sustainable, non-carbon emitting, no long-lived radioactive waste-producing, limiting risk of nuclear proliferation, and virtually limitless form of energy.
- Support higher education and practical training for the youth by encouraging their collaboration with the clean energy sector, and by establishing certificate programs for energy-related training to facilitate international mobility.

IV. Secure energy availability, accessibility, and affordability for all

Energy is vital to our modern society. We, therefore, urge G7 leaders to support energy policies that can help generate wealth, reduce poverty, combat exclusion, and achieve a just transition for all nations and communities.

- Encourage the development of low-carbon energy technologies for developing countries, vulnerable, rural, and indigenous communities by reforming intellectual property rights.
- Endorse the principle of a diversified, low-carbon energy mix and secure supply chains of raw materials (particularly primary fuels and rare earth elements) essential to energy systems and infrastructures.
- Fortify the security and digital resilience of electrical grids as greater territorial interconnections may lead to cyber-related disruptions.
- Achieve local, resilient, and sustainable energy communities through empowering them to deliver infrastructures such as flexible power grids and efficient energy storage.
- Increase demand responsiveness to the wholesale price of energy to enhance responsible consumption. This requires smart device standards that can adapt to prices, in order to reorient the perception of energy from service to commodity.
- Create financial and fiscal incentives, especially for young first-time buyers, to encourage households to incorporate green self-generation systems including microgrids, batteries, and small-scale solar/biomass projects.

Peace & Security

We call on G7 leaders to focus on challenges that will affect future generations—such as climate security, cyber-attacks, democratic resilience, and human rights.

This requires a proactive approach to peace and security, including building resilience, strengthening institutions, and working with states outside the G7 to promote peaceful and safe communities for all.

As the Y7, we are calling on G7 leaders to:

I. Develop disaster mitigation strategies and prioritize climate security

21st century security threats will be non-traditional — caused by climate change, infectious disease outbreaks, and other global health crises. Special focus should be paid to those most vulnerable to natural disasters, including earthquakes, and health crises. Therefore, G7 countries should:

- Learn lessons from the Covid-19 response and embed responsible, long-term contingency planning into the heart of government for the “most likely” non-traditional crises, based on intelligence agency and expert threat assessments.
- Develop and regularly stress-test blueprints for multilateral execution in future crises, covering the basic functions of the global system (global supply chains, food & water security, communications & transport networks, provision of critical goods) and ways to support developing countries to respond effectively.
- Require firms using public funds to adopt resilience plans to cope with nontraditional crises.
- Spearhead a global working group to deal with 1) the preparation of joint climate security foresight and early warning assessments 2) resilience planning for vulnerable areas and populations 3) developing plans for emerging issues (i.e. climate displacement and competition in the arctic).
- Strengthen the resilience of food systems from resource-based conflict by prioritizing local farming and agro-ecological practices, minimizing water intensive crops, and working toward 30% food self-sufficiency within nations without compromising any individual’s other rights.
- Support policies that affirm the right of potable water and food for all as a common good, especially for vulnerable communities, to prevent resource-based conflict.
- Include climate security risk assessments and information on related risks in peace operations.
- Equip indigenous and rural communities with the tools and support needed to secure their rights to land and build sustainable communities.
- Assume responsibility for the effects of climate change and adopt the “Responsibility to Prepare and Prevent” framework for managing climate security risks.

II. Build a free and secure cyberspace

Cyber threats pose profound challenges to democratic societies. G7 countries must work together to address cyber-attacks, invest in capacity-building efforts, protect critical infrastructure, and promote a free, peaceful, and non-discriminant cyberspace. Therefore, G7 countries should:

- Work together to enhance multilateral deterrents to prevent state and nonstate actors from hacking critical infrastructure of other states.
- Develop public-private partnerships by strengthening commercial infrastructure resilience and confidential reporting procedures when cyber-attacks occur; create opportunities for private sector security experts to contribute their expertise; and red-team vulnerabilities in core areas such as the health and financial sectors.
- Ensure privacy of citizens, particularly as use of mass surveillance technologies grow.
- Establish cyber capacity building programs and cyber exercises focused on the development of national cyber strategies and protection of critical infrastructure to enhance cyber resilience and respond effectively to cyber threats.
- Partner with youth to establish shared rules and regulations regarding internet norms.
- Regulate artificial intelligence in military operations, including nuclear warfare, and in the fields of facial recognition, language processing, and internet searches.
- Negotiate treaties for cyber arms control and standard practices for how cyber weapons may – and may not – be used during conflict.
- Strengthen collaboration between the UNGGE and OEWG and reassert the importance of the Budapest Convention on Combating Cybercrime.

III. Defend democracy and develop democratic resilience

G7 countries should actively work to preserve the cornerstones of democracy, such as free and fair elections, checks and balances, and international institutions. Therefore, the G7 countries should:

- Support local governments in developing community-led initiatives aimed at increasing social capital and self-sufficiency.
- Lead the international community in an explicit call for states not to interfere in the elections of others through cyber-based tools and share best practices to ensure election integrity.
- Cooperate during crises with a wide range of countries to prevent leaders from (a) exploiting states of emergency to increase their hold on power and (b) adopting divisive and racist rhetoric that contributes to extremism.
- Increase financial and social support for communities who have been (a) subject to long-standing, institutionalized discrimination and/or (b) deprived of educational opportunities due to natural disasters or conflict.
- Maintain backstops to prevent exploitative coercive economic diplomacy.
- Prevent and mitigate the effects of, mis- and disinformation by incorporating digital literacy, fact-checking, and other strategies into citizens' lives to help them distinguish between true and

false information, ensuring G7 leaders do not (in)advertently contribute to the spread of misinformation, and working with and regulating social media companies.

IV. Promote human rights, gender equality and inclusion

Promoting equality—with regards but not limited to gender, race, age, and sexual orientation—is defending a critical human right. Therefore, G7 countries should:

- Further opportunities for youth groups to be involved in decision making within governmental and non-governmental organizations.
- Adopt feminist foreign policies based on the principles of intersectionality, transformative change, and equality and evaluate each policy decision based on its impact on women, children, minorities, indigenous groups, and other under-represented groups by experts.
- Ensure equal participation for the aforementioned groups in foreign policy by (1) developing work entry points and removing policies that prevent diverse groups from getting promoted equitably; (2) partnering with CSOs that further this mission; (3) prioritizing diversity in top posts in national security agencies and field missions.
- Increase efforts to invest in women and girls worldwide as a proven way to reduce extreme poverty and prevent violent conflict.
- Involve vulnerable groups in the development of disaster and conflict recovery strategies, in peace operations, and safeguard their health and safety during recovery efforts.
- Protect the rights of citizens from policing and justice systems that disproportionately target racial and ethnic minorities and address structural inequalities.
- Guarantee freedom of expression and information, especially during conflicts, and affirm the rights of whistleblowers.

Education & Jobs

We, the delegates of the Y7, urge the leaders of the G7, to realize the rights to education and work is essential to promote respect for human dignity and create transformative change for young people.

As the Y7, we are calling on the G7 leaders to:

I. Eliminate structural inequalities and discrimination

It is critical to protect and prioritize the diverse needs and experiences of young people by tackling systemic barriers and restructuring our societies. To give youth the best start in life, G7 leaders must:

- Reduce child poverty by at least 50% by 2025, and increase income benefits for vulnerable populations, including migrants and Indigenous communities living below the poverty line.
- Provide universal, publicly funded pre-school education and increase investment in early learning and childcare to 1% of GDP by 2025.
- Implement locally led mentorship networks to build cooperation with and offer targeted support to underprivileged families and youth facing academic challenges and contemplating their future.
- Center needs of youth with disabilities in policies on the future of work including by increasing R&D investment in assistive technologies and mainstreaming a Universal Design Approach in services.
- Launch and fund national-level Youth Data Strategies for collecting intersectional, disaggregated, and longitudinal data on young people's experiences with access to education and employment.

II. Ensure equitable and inclusive education for all

Strong and fair education systems that are accessible for all and prioritize well-being are the building blocks of thriving communities. To ensure no young person is left behind, G7 leaders must:

- Increase domestic spending on education to at least 7% of GDP & improve access to education for vulnerable students by investing in improving school infrastructure & distance education learning.
- Forgive student debt for households earning a net income of up to 150% of the median income and make public post-secondary education free for all, including offering online degrees and MOOCs.
- Implement gender sensitive curriculum, pedagogies and mentorship, and ensure free sanitation products for girls and young women in all learning environments.
- Embed mental health education in school curriculums and offer free, preventative, personalized mental health support for young people where they live, learn and work.

III. Facilitate transitions to labor market and empower through life-long up-skilling

To prepare young people for the world of work, we must foster stronger connections to the labor market as early as possible and promote multiliteracy in skills relevant to the 21st Century. G7 leaders must:

- Develop and fund “School-to-Work” Strategies for youth in partnership with educators and employers, focused on job-matching, expert career guidance, apprenticeships, mentorships.
- Introduce a “Universal Learning Allowance” to facilitate upskilling and provide tax exemptions to enterprises that offer grants and facilitate project-based classes for students.
- Redesign school curricula and testing methods to implement mandatory financial and digital skills training, scale up STEM as well as civic education, and promote transferable and soft skills.
- Scale up quantity and quality of teaching professionals by establishing decent salaries; introduce incentives to join the profession as well as to undergo training to improve digital and social literacy.

IV. Strengthen youth focused and gender balanced job market measures

Intersectional and youth-sensitive approaches should be central to developing socio-economic policies, setting ambitious targets, and improving working conditions. To reduce vulnerabilities, G7 leaders must:

- Reduce youth unemployment by at least 50% by 2025 and target the pandemic-related wave of youth unemployment via large-scale investment in training and offering job guarantees.
- Eliminate the gender wage gap by offering grants for training in higher-paid sectors, including STEM and Finance; achieve gender parity and racial diversity for leadership and board positions by 2025.
- Support working parents by increasing quantity of and salaries for nursery workers; implement gender-neutralizing parental leave and transparency on usage and subsidized childcare.
- Prohibit all unpaid internships, setting at least a minimum MBM wage; strengthen knowledge of and access to social services, particularly for NEET youth or those in the gig and informal economy.
- Stimulate youth entrepreneurship by promoting business skills; facilitate access to credit with a 0% interest rate, private capital, and structural support for youth start-ups.

V. Prioritize a green economy, climate change education, and resilient systems

Inclusive growth relies on sustainability, individual and community resilience, and circularity. To engage young people in this transition and prepare for future emergencies, G7 leaders must:

- Implement mandatory climate change education in schools and workplaces; introduce incentives for firms to “go green” and promote low carbon jobs for youth.
- Engage and include low-skilled youth in the green economy by creating free, certified green training centers and subsidizing emerging green companies that employ youth.
- Build resilient and sustainable schools and workplaces; develop adaptive capacity of young people to prepare for and respond to future disasters and public health crises.

VI. Redesign education and work for the age of AI and digital transformation

Increased connectivity and rapidly evolving technologies offer promise as well as challenges for the future of work. To close the digital divide and ensure youth can cope with and thrive in the digital era, G7 leaders must:

- Declare the internet as a global public good and invest in public access solutions including city-wide Wi-Fi and digital rights training at public libraries.
- Provide young people with free digital tools, capacity-building workshops, and technical support, especially in rural areas, refugee camps and marginalized communities.
- Modernize vocational training programs to equip youth with technical skills for the digital economy, including artificial intelligence, robotics and programming.
- Mandate schools and employers to support flexible learning and work modalities, and ensure young people are provided safe and operational environments whether working in-person or remotely.

VII. Reinforce international cooperation and commitment to the SDGs

To tackle the impact of the pandemic on access to education, especially in fragile contexts, and address the persisting barriers to mobility, education, and employment across the world, G7 leaders must:

- Commit to spending 0.7% of GNI on ODA by 2022 & increase bilateral and multilateral spending for education to 10%.
- Prioritize collaboration between NGOs and Governments to increase education spending in humanitarian response to tackle disruptions to education, including for children in refugee camps.
- Empower young women in LDCs, particularly rural areas by implementing technical skills training in agriculture, economics, and technology to build resilient communities.
- Increase investment in new supranational partnerships on mobility of youth and teachers while decreasing administrative burden and pursue plurilateral recognition of skills and qualifications.