



Y7 2021

COMMUNIQUÉ

Making Waves for
Future Generations

Hosted by the Future Leaders Network
on behalf of the United Kingdom of
Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Call to Action

We, the Y7, convened virtually from February until May 2021 to discuss how to achieve a world fit for future generations. Together, drawing upon extensive consultations with young people across the G7, we identified systemic challenges that need to be addressed through bold policies and actions to make the world a better place by 2030.

At our Y7 Summit over the 14th - 15th May 2021, we discussed the necessary steps to build equitable and robust healthcare systems, ensure the safety and success of young people online, leave no person or country behind, and safeguard our planet.

We, and young people across the G7 countries, call on G7 leaders to involve us in decision making about our future, to assess the long-term impact of their decisions on future generations, to incorporate those assessments into policies, and to take immediate action on the recommendations in the communiqué. We have highlighted some of the cross-cutting themes in our recommendations below, which include climate resilience, digital literacy, sustainable economy and mental health.

G7 LEADERS MUST:



Climate Resilience

Protect future generations from natural disasters, by strengthening global early warning systems through climate stress-testing and knowledge-sharing on adaptation measures, and by 2022 increase co-designed risk reduction programmes with climate-vulnerable regions and marginalised communities.



Digital Literacy

Enable all young people to engage safely and productively in a digitally transformative world by achieving universal connectivity by 2025 on their territories, and by 2030 worldwide, and by embedding digital literacy in all curriculum areas for all learners.



Sustainable Economy

Incorporate the impact on future generations into budget decisions by jointly developing indicators of economic performance that supplement GDP with integrated well-being, sustainability, and inclusivity outcomes.



Mental Health

Ensure current and future generations can live in a world free of mental health stigma by immediately incorporating educational curricula changes and targeted campaigns, and train young people to be able to adequately support peers facing mental health crises.



Climate & Environment

Leaders must accelerate socially just transitions to long-term, sustainable practices to protect future generations' livelihoods. We envisage a world where Indigenous communities, women and girls are engaged and empowered to participate in decision-making to ensure societies and natural ecosystems thrive together.

In 2030 we want a world where:

To get there G7 leaders must:

CLIMATE FINANCE:

...investments are mobilised to support local, regional, national and transnational strategies that reduce emissions and mitigate climate change, and where access to funding and grants is equitable to ensure that finance flows target the most vulnerable communities.

- Develop an inclusive, efficient and transboundary system of carbon pricing through global coordination, avoiding energy poverty, and enhancing the redistribution of these revenues towards a globally affordable clean energy transition.
- Reorient public and private financial investments away from fossil fuels, further, by 2021, set plans for financial reorientation using 'brown' taxonomy to meet the G7's and global NDCs by 2030.
- Increase funding for green, climate-resilient research significantly through multilateral agreements, set R&D targets for their net-zero ambitions in 2021, and ensure renewables make up >75% of electricity mix by 2030.

CRISIS MANAGEMENT:

...collaborations are fostered and the implementation of climate-related crisis management, specifically collective efforts for disaster risk reduction and governance, are enhanced.

- Strengthen global early warning systems through climate stress-testing and knowledge-sharing on adaptation measures, and by 2022 increase co-designed risk reduction programmes with climate-vulnerable regions and marginalised communities.
- Create a global monitoring framework with standardised indicators to identify risks of microbial pollution and zoonoses, and mitigation solutions through stronger implementation of wildlife trade and land-use regulations.
- Mandate climate change and environmental education in curricula and corporations by 2022, with instructional agendas covering preparedness and recovery from natural and manmade disasters, combat ecological degradation and conserve biodiversity.

SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT:

...sustainable resource management is fundamental, achieved through developing the circular economy to fight habitat degradation and biodiversity loss on land and in our oceans, and through engaging with rural and indigenous communities.

- Promote pesticide-free CSA and prohibit environmentally harmful practices, by increasing usage of forestry certificates for imported products and promoting circular land-use management, whilst increasing youth education and employment in agriculture.
- Increase corporate transparency on polluting activities by 2021 through mandating harmonised eco-labelling systems, while developing worldwide solutions for waste streams, notably renewable energy, aligning with circular economy principles before 2030.
- Implement a legally binding agreement for the conservation of marine biodiversity and sustainable management of all activities in the High Seas, and establish 10% of fully protected MPA by 2030.



Digital

Young people are expected to live an increasingly large proportion of their lives online, to socialise, learn, and work in cyber. COVID-19 has only accelerated this. We envisage a world where all young people are equipped to navigate the internet in a safe and successful way, and where the benefits of digital are felt by all of society.

In 2030 we want a world where:

To get there G7 leaders must:

DIGITAL EDUCATION:

...all young people are equipped with the digital skills and literacy to fully engage online. Digital infrastructure and resources are made available to all, with investment focused on closing digital divides and inequalities, particularly to remote, unserved and Indigenous communities.

- Achieve universal internet connectivity by 2025 on their territories and empower multilateral donors to increase their investments to ensure global universal access to broadband by 2030.
- Recruit, train and equip educators with the capability to teach digital literacy and digital skills at all levels of education.
- Embed digital literacy in all curriculum areas for all learners to equip young people to engage safely and productively in a digitally transformative world.

DIGITAL EMPOWERMENT:

...young people, together with historically underrepresented and excluded groups, are meaningfully integrated into decision making processes dealing with emerging technologies, in order to promote the development and deployment of fair and transparent technologies.

- Establish a Youth Council for the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) comprised of youth delegate(s) representing each member country and acting as the youth voice on AI.
- Secure fair representation of all, including historically underrepresented and excluded groups, in technology industries, by forging private-public partnerships to provide funding, mentoring and life-long learning, particularly in post-secondary education.
- Establish a minimum youth representation quota of 30% of members under 30 in public technology bodies, and encourage private companies to do the same.

SOCIAL MEDIA:

...young people can engage safely online. Focusing on historically underrepresented and excluded groups, social media is drastically transformed to champion the health, privacy and safety of all, while placing democratic values at the heart of the open internet.

- Increase data protection transparency by empowering the Global Privacy Assembly to provide common international approaches to high standards of data protection regulation, including compelling seals of quality for privacy policies.
- Design policies to keep companies accountable for harassment, misinformation and disinformation happening within their platforms, building on the commitments made by G7 digital ministers.
- Address the growing issue of internet addiction amongst young people by compelling social media platforms to develop corporate social responsibility that increases user control over suggestion algorithms and time management.



Economy

COVID-19 is exacerbating inequalities and pushing millions into poverty. We therefore need bold, sustainable investment today, that is responsible and justifiable to future generations. We envisage a world where our economies drive inclusive and forward-looking labour markets and societies, and leave no country behind.

In 2030 we want a world where:

To get there G7 leaders must:

INCLUSIVE, FORWARD-LOOKING LABOUR MARKETS AND SOCIETY:

...all young people receive quality education and are equally empowered to pursue career aspirations. Young people are supported into high-quality jobs. Reskilling and upskilling opportunities are widely accessible. Workplaces are fair, anti-discriminatory and contribute to healthy, fulfilling and dignified lives.

- Promote social mobility and address rising child poverty across the G7 by increasing expenditure for universal quality education, and considering unconditional basic income for young people and families with children.
- Improve employment prospects of young people, including those not in education, employment and training, through strengthening vocational training, incentives for green and digital job creation, and public-private upskilling initiatives.
- Embed job quality and pay into youth employment strategies and monitor outcomes, while ensuring workplace policies close labour market gender gaps and promote the mental health of young workers.

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION:

...our economies are pillars of a forward-looking international economic system centred on climate action, human rights, sustainability, and well-being. International trade standards accelerate achievement of net-zero targets. Businesses support the green transition and protect workers' rights through responsible supply chains.

- Enshrine environmental standards in trade agreements, including by eliminating tariffs on environmental goods and services, enforcing transparency of the environmental impacts of supply chains, and promoting trade of secondary materials.
- Penalise companies that fail to take concrete steps to eliminate child and forced labour and human trafficking in supply chains, and enforce international conventions on decent work and human rights.
- Jointly develop indicators of economic performance that supplement GDP and integrate well-being, sustainability, and inclusivity outcomes, and commit to a roadmap to benchmark and align budget decisions to these indicators.

LEAVE NO COUNTRY BEHIND:

...all countries are supported to prevent, prepare for, and recover from crises through development assistance and emergency response frameworks. Financing is accessible across all contexts of vulnerability. All countries are empowered to innovate through facilitated knowledge-sharing for global public goods.

- Fulfil their commitment to raise ODA to 0.7% of national income, focusing on achieving the SDGs through cross-sectoral action, including by closing funding gaps for the GPE and the WFP.
- Coordinate, accelerate and scale up existing crisis response frameworks by increasing financial commitments and accessibility, to strengthen the resilience of the most vulnerable countries to economic, social and environmental crises.
- Reform intellectual property systems, including TRIPS, embedding a development approach to innovation that closes knowledge gaps, starting by temporarily waiving COVID-19 patents, increasing technology-sharing through C-TAP, and addressing procurement barriers.



Health

The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic will be felt by future generations for years to come. We envisage a world of universal access to robust healthcare systems, where service provision and education embraces the potential of digital technologies and recognises the mental health needs of its recipients.

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SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH:

...all young people receive, and have access to, high quality education, which includes health literacy and where health systems are strong enough to permit inclusive and affordable universal access to health-care, regardless of background or social circumstances.

- Ensure accessible, equitable and high-quality health literacy education for young people, especially those in marginalised groups, through its inclusion in school programmes both domestically and internationally.
- Strengthen health systems by increasing public healthcare spending by 1% of GDP to ensure accessible, affordable and fundamental healthcare, particularly global, equitable COVID-19 vaccination access before the end of 2021.
- Implement better quality and evidence-based community healthcare and social care programmes that reduce health and social disparities among marginalised populations, as well as stronger anti-discrimination accountability standards in healthcare environments.

MENTAL HEALTH:

...all young people take mental health awareness classes at school, have access to mental health support and care when, where and in the way they need it, and are involved in the development of mental health services intended for them.

- Introduce mental health stigma eradication measures through incorporating educational curricula changes and targeted campaigns immediately, and train young people to be able to adequately support peers facing mental health crises.
- Provide universal, accessible, affordable mental health care services both as part of primary care provision and in convenient environments such as educational and workplace settings, where youth may seek help.
- Include youth directly in designing, delivering, promoting and evaluating mental health services intended for them by valuing their expertise and lived experience through data-based processes, including disaggregated data analyses.

DIGITAL HEALTH:

...all young people have safe, robust and accessible health care, with virtual-based options, through strategic and sustainable investments in digital health systems, privacy, and infrastructure.

- Increase the digitalization of health services to empower patients and improve patient care through better digital infrastructure, use of novel medical technologies, interdisciplinary collaboration and strategic partnerships.
- Ensure safe, regulated and reliable cyberspace in healthcare by providing cyber-education for medical professionals and investing in secure, accessible monitoring systems, with an emphasis on patient information privacy.
- Create interoperable, secure digital health ecosystems that permit public epidemiological and health research data collection where findings are shared equitably, privacy guarantees are robust and pandemic responsiveness is strengthened.

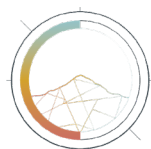
Glossary

CSA	Climate Smart Agriculture
C-TAP	COVID-19 technology access pool
G7	Group of Seven
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GPE	Global Partnership for Education
MPA	Marine Protected Areas
NDC	Nationally Determined Contributions
ODA	Official Development Assistance
R&D	Research and Development
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
TRIPS	Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights
WFP	World Food Programme
Y7	Youth Seven



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