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PREAMBLE

As the year 2030 looms and just six years remain to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, the world is still facing a number of critical structural and systemic challenges with large groups of population such as women, children and youth and the most marginalised carrying the heaviest burden of the current polycrisis.

The G7 can be part of the problem, if it unilaterally promotes the interests of the most developed economies, or part of the solution, if it champions human rights and the common interests of humanity and the planet for a more peaceful, just, sustainable and secure future.

The compounding impacts of climate change, economic shocks, the consequences of the pandemic and the alarming increase of conflicts and wars, have been exacerbating the already unacceptable social and economic inequalities. Gender inequalities are magnified, food security and even famine are increasing, fostering forced migratory flows and driving humanitarian needs to record levels. The prolonged public-private indebtedness is at the same time a consequence and a further cause of the crisis. This complex situation, as a comprehensive result, is slowing and even reversing previous progress in leaving no one behind.

The prevalence of war is growing. Russia's war of aggression in Ukraine has now reached its third year, with deep consequences on the state of the population and the environment, and no perspectives of solutions seem close. In the Middle East, following the horrific attacks and hostage-taking on 7th October, the actions of the Israeli government and army are starving and killing the population of Gaza, without distinction or proportionality. In this context, the lack of initiative of the G7 and other countries becomes, de facto, a complicity. Words and actions of peace are needed and urgent, to avoid the escalation of the crisis.

In multiple protracted and often forgotten crises, blatant attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure, demonstrating clear violations of and lack of respect for International Humanitarian Law and humanitarian principles, coupled with a sustained lack of political commitment to address the drivers of humanitarian needs, are leading people to make horrific choices simply to survive.

The international civil society gathered in the Civil 7 (C7) believes it is necessary to recognise the critical relevance of the present moment, and the responsibility of all actors, including the G7 and its Presidency to treat the current situation with utmost importance. The threats to the planet's and humankind's health need political initiative, ambition and accountability. The fragility of global peace, poverty, inequalities, injustice, their drivers and root causes, while violence is perpetrated with impunity on a catastrophic scale, demand the utmost urgency, and concrete and bold action.

As a constituency, we cannot fail to remember how these processes have been marked since their beginnings by recommendations that asked global leadership to introduce a paradigm shift in development, with democratic processes to address the root causes of the current polycrisis.

We have chosen to move the C7 and C20 process forward in synergy, counting on the participation of over 700 civil society organisations from all over the world involved in seven C7 Working Groups: Climate, Energy Transformation and Environmental Justice; Economic Justice and Transformation; Global Health; Principled Humanitarian Assistance; Peace, Common Security and Nuclear Disarmament; Human Mobility and Migration; Food Justice and Food Systems Transformation. They are set to tackle the different drivers and root causes of poverty, inequalities and injustice.

Therefore, leveraging on its locally and globally linked experience and expertise from such different perspectives, the global civil society gathered in the C7 process is active in putting forward proposals and approaches based on human rights with a gender transformative lens, suggesting alternative visions and concrete recommendations, upholding transparency in decision-making, building on voices of those who are most excluded, the most vulnerable, and bringing them to the centre of the policy debate.

The C7 policy positions and recommendations are therefore collectively developed thanks to a vibrant and inclusive process to nourish the contribution to ensuring respect for human rights for every human being and to stubbornly promoting peace.

The multi-layered crisis requires **common resolve, strong international solidarity, centrality of human rights, International Humanitarian Law and UN-centred multilateral process** to firmly advance on the pathway towards sustainability, to address systemic issues, aiming at building open and resilient societies, bridging emergency solutions with a long-term vision, stimulating change.

We urge the G7 to play a constructive and ambitious role in building consensus and strengthening the UN multilateral spaces to promote a global just transition capable of fighting inequalities, providing climate justice, equal treatment for women and men, decent work for all and protection of the most vulnerable, using all available political, legal and technical opportunities, including the ones available in the perspective of new digital technologies and artificial intelligence, in a responsible way.

We call upon the G7 members to take clear responsibility at the domestic and international levels and be proactive and ready to find compromise and preserve dialogue despite strategic differences, highlighting main areas of common action. The current critical time requires a **systemic revision of the narrative for action** and the political approach determined to leave no one behind. The global challenges require **policy coherence between national and international dimensions, and among sectors**, to link together the future of the planet and of all human beings and to renew a bold promotion of global peacebuilding.



ECONOMIC JUSTICE AND TRANSFORMATION

CONTEXT: CHALLENGES TO ADDRESS

The evolving poly-crisis exacerbated economic systemic failures that, coupled with global policies unsuited to comprehensive and long-lasting responses, are reversing hard-won development gains and undermining the prospects for a just, equitable, and rights-based recovery. At a time of depletion of the current economic model that threatens the survival of the planet and humanity, there is no room left for business-as-usual responses. We call for a real transformation of the current economic, trade, and financial architecture, based on justice, centred on the sustainability of life, and aligned with social, economic, and cultural rights based on a gender perspective. We need to decolonise systems, governance, and policies to transform the competitive paradigm of business by placing cooperative and solidary care of the planet and all living beings at the centre of change.

C7 POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

Debt Relief and Resolution

60 countries are at high sovereign debt risk, while debt service burdens are at historically elevated levels for the majority of the Global South. High-cost borrowing reduces the fiscal space, including the financing of essential public services. The international debt architecture has proven inadequate; recent global debt relief initiatives have failed to reduce the debt of countries in need in order to promote a strong, equitable, and sustainable recovery. It is necessary to:

- Promote and support multilateral negotiations to move towards the establishment of a **debt resolution mechanism under UN auspices**, binding on all creditors, and comprehensively addressing the sovereign debt problems and vulnerabilities of all low- and middle-income countries.
- Implement national binding legislation that prevents **private creditors** from undermining multilateral debt restructuring agreements.
- Support the **introduction of debt service cancellation clauses** that protects from economic, political, climate, and security shocks.
- Promote debt transparency and accountability through the establishment of a **publicly accessible global debt registry** that includes all debt contracts and lenders, including bondholders.
- Support the elimination of **IMF surcharges policy**.
- Commit to defining the **participation of multilateral development banks** (MDBs) in debt restructuring processes.
- Disrupt the dominant role of private **credit rating agencies** and promote a multilateral initiative instead.

Concessional and Development Finance

In the face of tight fiscal spaces and an unfavourable international financial context, scaling up access to concessional finance for low and middle income countries will be essential to address the compounding crises. Therefore, we call on G7 leaders to:

- Support an immediate **new Special Drawing Right (SDR) allocation** to enable unconditional access to liquidity without increasing the debt burden, and act as a bridge to further reforms. The IMF and its shareholders should support regular SDR allocations that are needs-based, and to simplify the process for triggering these new issuances.

- **MDBs' reform**, including its governance, is needed to address the increasing financing gaps. Among the key needs is to increase its capacity lending, with efforts to provide **concessional lending**, beyond the capital adequacy policies, including a model of **rechanneling SDRs** through concessional financing and without conditionalities. MDBs approach should **minimise the risk for borrower countries** in initiatives such as debt swaps and private sector financing. In addition, it is key that MDBs **increase the development effectiveness of projects**, aiming to reduce inequalities, environmental care, and social needs; including the support of an external and independent evaluation of MDBs policies and programmes' development impact.
- **Fulfil the 0.7% Official Development Assistance (ODA) target** and agree on a clear timetable to reach and exceed it with new, additional resources, and in the form of unconditional grants.

Climate Finance

Efforts to meet the climate finance goal to mobilise \$100 billion annually to low and middle income countries have fallen short, and access to the funds is often blocked by bureaucratic and inefficient processes. The impacts of the climate crisis are increasingly and disproportionately affecting the countries of the South and their populations. There is an urgent need to fulfil commitments and mobilise additional concessional climate finance to tackle the crisis.

- Tackle the current controversies of **debt for nature swaps** and avoid promoting them as a solution to the current debt and climate crisis.
- Scale up new, additional, and grant-based **public climate finance, beyond meeting the \$100 billion/year commitment**, and at least **doubling the adaptation finance** to low and middle income countries by 2025, compared to the 2019 baseline.
- Determine and stipulate the sources of funding in the process towards the establishment of the **New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG)** on climate finance.

- Prompt **operationalization of the Loss and Damage Fund**, which should guarantee direct and additional resources disbursed as grants. Pledges should be additional to existing development and climate commitments. It is necessary to establish targets under mandatory contribution criteria, with major emitters/polluters contributing accordingly.
- **Stop international public financing of fossil fuels**, in line with the Clean Energy Transition partnership adopted at CoP26, and the G7's deadline for phasing out fossil fuel subsidies by 2025.

Gendered Economic Justice

Economic policies are not gender-neutral. Transformation can only succeed if gender inequalities are tackled at their roots. Public services, social protection, and care systems are critical for guaranteeing rights for all, in particular for women, girls and other underrepresented groups.

- **Scale up public investment** to provide free, universally accessible, and quality gender-transformative public care services, social protection, healthcare and gender-sensitive curricula and training.
- Prioritise **gender-sensitive financing and feminist fiscal policies** in all their components - debt, tax systems, social security contributions, ODA - to boost recovery and transformation for a more crisis-resilient future.

Investments

The investment gap across all SDG sectors has increased from \$2.5 trillion in 2015 to more than \$4 trillion per year today. G7 countries and the private sector committed to invest \$600 billion over 2027 through Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII). All investments, including the Mattei Plan, must have a broader and in-depth assessment of the economic, financial, social and environmental impacts for the territories and population involved. To achieve it, the G7 need to:

- Give adequate emphasis to the need for public social, health and intangible **infrastructures** or those of public relevance.
- **Prevent** the occurrence that the private investor's risk mitigation actions, especially in inherently risky and frequently unprofitable infrastructure projects, **transfer the risk to the public sector** in the form of contingent liabilities.
- Design and adapt new and existing **infrastructure to withstand, respond to and recover rapidly from disruptions related to climate change**. This requires strengthening public institutions, improving design standards and supporting the development of community led infrastructure and decentralised systems.
- Promote that private investors, lenders, investment banks (underwriters), bond holders and asset managers have a **due diligence responsibility** not to lend or buy bonds that creates excessive governmental and corporate debt by using official **debt sustainability and SDG financing assessments**.
- Promote that **investment from private sources** is appropriate, that follows **democratically** owned development plans, prioritises high quality and **equitable** public services, and meets international standards of **transparency, accountability** and **impact management**. National governments should preserve their capacity to regulate in the public interest.
- Promote a **global ban on short selling among all financial markets and algorithm based automated trading**. To ensure financing is available to those most in need, G7 should promote 'only essential trading' and halt, or impose punitive taxes on, high frequency trading, day trading, speculative hedge funds strategies and speculative financial products such as betting on volatility.

Taxation

Recognising the impact of tax resources to achieve justice in all its dimensions – economic, social, labour, political, climate, cultural, racial, gender, and regional, among others – we urge to promote structural changes in global tax policy with the following perspectives:

- Support the creation and implementation of the **United Nations Tax Convention (UNTC)** towards the establishment of the universal, intergovernmental tax convention under the auspices of the United Nations as a binding space to ensure that all countries benefit equitably from the allocation of global revenues ensuring civil society participation in tax debates and tax-decision processes.
- Work together to enact a **more progressive international tax system** to counter the ability of the ultra-rich to avoid paying their dues and introduce new rules that determine higher taxation of extreme wealth: the creation of a **global minimum tax on billionaires**, with political guarantees that the resources raised through this mechanism will be invested for the benefit of all.
- Undertake an **analysis of tax measures and spill-over effects**, where G7 assesses the tax impact of their own tax system and bilateral tax treaties in relation to other countries, especially low and middle income countries, to propose effective measures to address gaps and imbalances, particularly in gender analysis.
- Ensure transparency, especially beneficial ownership transparency, global automatic exchange of information (that benefits all countries) and establish national asset registries until they all converge into a **global asset registry**, so that there is **asset ownership information that allows the enforcement of wealth taxes** (so that wealth taxes cannot be evaded or avoided).
- **Tax the digital economy**, which will eventually encompass most of the economy. Each country and economy should be free to find the optimal way to tax the digital economy, and this may include customs duties in some cases.

Trade

The stalemate of multilateral trade governance and its contraction, due to the fragmentation of the production system and the impact of geopolitical and climatic instability on the viability of transnational trade routes, signals the need for a profound rethinking of its patterns, rules of flow, governance and democratic viability. We call G7 to:

- Ensure that any possible **reform of the WTO** strengthens its multilateral dimension and **does not weaken the consensus mechanism** in times of trade conflicts.
- Stop its expansion at a plurilateral level in issues, such as investments facilitation and digital trade, which do not register **full and balanced consensus among all members**;
- Voluntary declare an **immediate moratorium on the use by private investors** of any investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS) mechanism included in trade and investment agreements or other courts.
- Rethink how to lead global trade policies to a **binding assessment of their impact on human, social and environmental rights**, taking into account the **historical responsibilities** of the countries involved and current gender imbalances.
- Renegotiate the current agreement on **Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) waiver** to respond to the growing demands for the equal diffusion at global level of life-saving drugs and technologies, not only in the health sector but also in the climate and energy sectors.
- Support a **permanent solution on food public stockholding** to sustain the local production of low- and middle-income countries in times of crisis and to fight inflation.
- Enforce a **special safeguard mechanism (SSM)** that would enable members from low-income members to temporarily raise tariffs in the event of a sudden import surge or a fall in food prices.
- Voluntarily **avoid the proliferation of Bilateral agreements and Memoranda of Understanding** with individual countries and groups of countries.
- To provide a more appropriate and democratic policy space to strengthen **algorithmic accountability in trade** and build strong **public digital infrastructure and skills**.
- Ensure that all possible reshoring and friendshoring actions, as well as environmentally or socially based trade limitations, are preceded and accompanied by **multidimensional monitoring of their social, environmental and economic impacts** in the third countries involved. They shall be accompanied by mitigation and cooperation activities aimed at removing the material, social and political causes that generated these limitation needs.
- To preserve and actively **protect national governments' capacity to regulate** in the public interest
- To **guarantee civil society** transparency, dialogue, usability of decision-making and appeal spaces, and specific spaces for discussion in the context of negotiation processes, summits, meetings with stakeholders, with adequate, timely access and the **right to effectively comment the negotiation texts and agreements**

Business and Human Rights

In-work poverty is increasing for the first time in decades: support pay rises and facilitate collective bargaining are tools to ensure that all workers enjoy fair wages and decent working conditions. We recommend that G7:

- Introduce **human rights and environmental due diligence legislation for the corporate, financial, and public sector**, which includes strong mechanisms to ensure access to justice for victims, remediation, and safe and meaningful stakeholder engagement, building on the consensus reached in the EU on the Corporate sustainability due diligence directive (CSDDD)

- Enforce commitments made in G7 Leaders' Communiqués adopted in 2021, 2022 and 2023 to **eradicate child and forced labour**, including by introducing and enforcing import controls on products made in whole or in part with private and/or state-imposed forced labour, and addressing circumvention of such controls.

- Support the actions of **human rights and environmental defenders**, guaranteeing them adequate democratic political space and humanitarian protection if needed.

- We ask for the potential of the **"proximity economy" to be recognised**. The experiences of the civil economy, social and solidarity economy, fair trade, circular economy are not just "good practices": they support the national economic and productive system with a constant, multidimensional growth and they should be indicated and supported in their network of relationships with partner countries for the diffusion of a transformative economy centred on care, widespread well-being, social and environmental justice.

"G7 needs to commit to bring back trade policies, including digital trade, under UN framework, and to submit them to a binding assessment of their impact on human, social and environmental rights, taking into account the historical responsibilities of the countries involved and current gender imbalances".

Monica Di Sisto, C7 WG Coordinator, Fairwatch

"In a context of high debt levels and trillionaire financing needs to reach SDGs and the climate agenda, the G7 has an opportunity to set the path towards a global debt and financial architecture that allows a long-term fiscal sustainability centred on the people and the planet".

Patricia Miranda, C7 WG Coordinator, LATINDADD





CLIMATE, ENERGY TRANSFORMATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

CONTEXT: CHALLENGES TO ADDRESS

The G7 holds disproportionate responsibility for the climate crisis and biodiversity loss, while having disproportionate resources and capacity to respond. The 2024 G7 Summit should be a moment to respond with urgency and to propose long-term solutions to our current systems' dysfunctions.

In 2023, the G7 sent important signals on the need to phase out “unabated” fossil fuels and set targets for a massive scale-up of wind and solar – yet the Communiqué was riddled with loopholes. It was concerning to see the G7 call for the increase of liquefied natural gas (LNG) deliveries and public investments in gas, which ignored calls from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the International Energy Agency (IEA) to stop new investments in fossil fuel production and showed a dangerous submission to the gas lobby. As well, serious concerns remain regarding targets to triple nuclear capacity by 2050, which were adopted at COP28, about whether such unproven technologies will ever generate electricity safely and affordably, including its waste and global peace and security impacts. 2023 was by far the hottest year on record, with 1.48°C of warming above pre-industrial averages. With that, more severe and more frequent climate impacts like wildfires, droughts, hurricanes and floods, came across the world, hitting marginalised peoples and communities the hardest. Despite this devastating reality, the IPCC tell us that limiting global warming to 1.5°C is possible, provided that we exponentially increase our efforts to slash greenhouse gas emissions and involve “fundamental changes to how society functions, including changes to

underlying values, world-views, ideologies, social structures, political and economic systems, and power relationships.”¹ From the discussion and outcomes of COP28 in Dubai, the need to phase out fossil fuels and accelerate the energy and ecological transition is now clearly outlined. Limiting warming to 1.5°C is at the centre of the Global Stocktake (GST) decision which recognizes that this requires deep, rapid and sustained reductions in global average emissions of 43% by 2030 and 60% by 2035 from 2019 levels. Yet, fairly sharing the global mitigation effort among Earth's peoples and countries requires countries who have a large historical responsibility and capacity in the face of the climate crisis to **do more, and faster.**

Both the Paris Agreement and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change highlight the equity principle of “Common But Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities.” The Paris Agreement further explicitly acknowledges that the peaking of emissions will occur later in low and middle-income countries. This means that G7 countries need emissions reductions above the global average 1.5°C-aligned pathway, and to contribute substantially and financially to international climate finance to do their fair share of the global effort to limit warming to 1.5°C.²

C7 POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

G7 Environment and Energy Ministers and governments should seize the opportunity to show the level of ambition that truly grapples with their responsibility for the climate crisis. They should reaffirm links to formal multilateral climate negotiation issues, and demonstrate actions on shared commitment to deliver and build on the outcomes from last year's Summits including the G7, the G20, the UN Climate Change Conference in Dubai (COP28) and the UN Biodiversity Summit in Montreal (CBD COP15). We call on the G7 countries to pay careful attention to avoid any potential backsliding on both their respective previous commitments and that of the G7 on energy, climate, finance and nature. Therefore, we urge the G7 governments to take action in the following areas.

Tackle Climate and Energy Security Coherently

- Demonstrate strong implementation of the COP28 agreement to **'transition away' from fossil fuels**. The G7 nations must send clear signals on implications for future fossil fuel production and a commitment to deliver 1.5°C aligned orderly national transition plans that include the phase-out of coal, oil, and gas, and agree to include these reduction goals in their 2035 NDCs.
- Demonstrate proactivity and send a clear message that just **renewable energy transitions** are the way to respond to the climate and energy crises, and advance energy security, and will need adequate resourcing to accelerate.
- Exclude the promotion of any **false solutions** and unproven technologies – like carbon capture and storage, blue hydrogen, nuclear, biomass and so-called “transitional fuels” – in their climate mitigation efforts.
- Deliver actions under the Global Methane Pledge - a special initiative to **cut at least 30% of methane emission** from 2020 levels by 2030.
- Implement their commitment to **phase out fossil fuel subsidies by 2025** and commit to present national action plans that ensure transparency and accountability of progress.
- Uphold the **G7 commitment to phase out international support** for fossil fuels by 2022.
- Commit to achieving a **fully renewable-based power sector by 2035**, including contributing to a tripling of renewable energy capacity by 2030 compared to 2022, and to a doubling of the global annual rate of energy efficiency improvements compared to 2022 levels, as soon as possible and by 2030 at the latest, and urge other OECD countries and the EU to do so as well.
- In line with the Nairobi Declaration agreed in September 2023, strengthen the implementation of **carbon pricing mechanisms**, including taxes, on fossil fuel trade, maritime transport and aviation and

channel revenues to compensate those vulnerable and finance the green and just transition.

- Demonstrate that they are **implementing Just Transitions domestically**, through guidelines and plans for a just, equitable and inclusive transition that help leave no one behind, foster social dialogue and identify social safety nets and job training plans, identify ways and means to ensure access to transition within and across countries.

Reform and increase climate finance

- As recommended by the C7 Economic Justice and Transformation Working Group, the G7 must commit to contribute to ambitious and far-reaching reforms of **international financial architecture and new climate finance pledges**, including, inter alia, new and additional finance on adaptation and loss and damage finance, based on grants instead of new forms of debt for the most vulnerable economies.
- Provide clarity on meeting their commitment to **mobilise at least \$100 billion annually until 2025** for climate finance, including by making up for the shortfall in the previous years and improving transparency on reporting.
- Support the setting up of an **ambitious post-2025 climate finance goal (New Collective Quantified Goal - NCQG) at COP29**, of which the provision of public finance is the central component of a multi-layered NCQG, which must go beyond a siloed approach to mobilisation. As well the G7 should support the NCQG encompassing sub-goals for **grants and highly concessional finance** for mitigation, grants for adaptation and grants for addressing loss & damage.
- Commit to increase adaptation finance and investments in **resilience** that have fallen short in the past, deliver **transparency** on the doubling of adaptation finance by 2025, and strengthen global and national **action on adaptation and loss and damage** by centring the protection and restoration of nature, and **Indigenous knowledge systems** as the basis for future sustainable development plans.

Tackle the converging nature, biodiversity and plastics crisis

- Boost effective and ambitious implementation of the **Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework** (KM-GBF) adopted at COP15 in Montreal.
- Reaffirm their continued commitment to deliver all four pillars of the **G7 Nature Compact** and to meet the goals of the Glasgow Leaders Declaration on Forests and Land-Use, including to **halt and reverse forest loss and land degradation by 2030**.
- Demonstrate early ambition through revised and enhanced **National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAPs)** and putting **KM-GBF goals** and targets in effect through national plans, regulations, and legislation.
- Commit to leading on the KM-GBF finance targets, **including increasing total biodiversity-related international financial resources** from high income countries to low and middle income countries to at least US\$ 20 billion per year by 2025 and to at least US\$ 30 billion per year by 2030; increasing the level of financial resources from all sources by 2030, mobilising at least US \$200 billion per year; identifying by 2025 and eliminating, phasing out or reforming harmful incentives, including subsidies harmful for biodiversity by 2030, mainstreaming biodiversity across sectors, aligning financial flows, and supporting the establishment and allocation of funds towards the GBF fund.
- Commit to **land an ambitious global Plastics Treaty in 2024** by taking a strong stand in support of capping global plastic production.
- Push for an **agroecological transformation of food systems** to decrease their impact on climate change, increase resilience and the inclusion of communities including women and Indigenous People.

Uphold a rights-based approach

- Recall a strong commitment to a **whole-of-society approach** and the importance of a full, effective, inclusive, equitable and child- and gender-responsive

participation to achieve a just and equitable low-carbon and climate-resilient future.

- Ensure that all policies, measures and investments respond to the **needs and aspirations of Indigenous Peoples** and safeguard their rights.
- In a world where the climate crisis and the dramatic loss of biodiversity will make access to resources and services increasingly difficult, it is of strategic importance to strengthen the **protection of human and civil rights** by investing in women's rights and gender justice organisations (including women human rights defenders, LGBTQIA+, children, youth and Indigenous women's organisations), and people with disabilities within all G7 priority objectives through domestic financing and official development assistance.

"G7 must help with the UN pathways both on climate and biodiversity. Fossil fuels phase out and transition to renewables as well as resource and energy efficiency must be accelerated, in line with science for 1.5°C: the world's historically industrialised countries must fulfil their responsibilities."

Mariagrazia Midulla, C7 WG Coordinator, WWF Italy

"The G7 needs to rebuild trust with the Global South by putting real money on the table and contributing constructively to new climate finance goal negotiations. This is what is necessary to make a just transition away from fossil fuels a reality, limit warming to 1.5°C and support people and communities in the face of mounting climate impacts."

Caroline Brouillette, C7 WG Coordinator, Climate Action Network Canada

Note

¹IPCC Sixth Assessment Report. FAQ 6

²The 2023 Fair Shares Equity. Civil Society Equity Review





GLOBAL HEALTH

CONTEXT: CHALLENGES TO ADDRESS

The G7 has repeatedly affirmed its commitment to achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC) within the 2030 Agenda, most recently in 2023 under the Japanese Presidency, through the G7 Global Plan for UHC Action Agenda¹. The G7 Health Ministers confirmed the commitment towards equitable access to medical countermeasures (MCMs) for health emergencies by promoting increased funding to research and development (R&D) and regional manufacturing in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), as well as enhanced political engagement towards a more coordinated, sustained and stronger governance ecosystem at all levels. Under the German G7 Presidency in 2022, the Health Ministers committed to increase focus on the human-animal-climate-environment nexus through the One Health approach and called for equity-driven and less fragmented global governance for pandemic prevention, preparedness and response².

Currently, 4.5 billion people lack coverage for essential health services³. An 18-million-person shortage in the global healthcare workforce continues to impede progress in achieving UHC, disproportionately affecting LMICs, including access to medical technologies for prevention, diagnosis and treatment. Health policies and practices are inequitable and lack inclusivity and systematic attention to the most vulnerable, underserved and marginalised populations, who are often prevented from accessing health care due to systemic discrimination and criminalization. By 2030, the direct health costs of climate change will surpass US\$2-4 billion a year globally⁴. Climate change poses serious challenges to global health including increasing malnutrition. Migration, internal displacements, humanitarian emergencies and subsequent interruptions of access to health care continue to escalate and cause

higher risks of communicable and non-communicable diseases (NCDs) with poor access to timely, gender-specific and gender-transformative, culturally sensitive health services. The international community remains ill-equipped to sufficiently address the interconnectedness of human, animal and environmental health posing a threat to equity, human safety and gender-specific prevention and response to global health emergencies. Meanwhile, the space for meaningful civil society engagement⁵ is shrinking with a negative impact on global, regional and country-level health governance. This is compounded by the lack of robust transparency and accountability mechanisms for national, regional and international commitments. The lack of sustainable and predictable financing for global health emergencies of today and tomorrow, coupled with the absence of sustained financing for the WHO, multilateral partners, as well as civil society and affected communities, contribute to the degradation of health. Political commitment continues to wane and implementation remains unsteady to the point that health is repeatedly referred to as an “unfinished agenda” and the finalisation of a meaningful Pandemic Accord is jeopardised. The G7 must step-up leadership to guarantee resources and strengthen efforts to make health equity and UHC a global reality, prioritising human rights, sustainability, and transparency. The G7 is called on to fulfil the commitment to spend at least 0.7% of GDP⁶ on Official Development Assistance (ODA) with at least 0.1% on ODA for health.⁷

The recommendations below underscore the protection and advancement of health equity and global solidarity by rebalancing geopolitical inequities and decolonizing health to guarantee the right of everyone to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health⁸. The G7 must firmly re-commit to put people and communities at the centre of global health strategies and responses as agents of innovation and change, so as to *Leave No One Behind*. This includes, but is not limited to women and girls in all their diversity, LGBTQIA+ and any vulnerable groups (children, youth, persons with disabilities, people living with HIV, older persons, Indigenous Peoples, refugees, internally displaced persons, migrants, and people in complex humanitarian settings, etc.).

C7 POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

We urge the G7 to take action in the following areas.

Health Equity

- Remove all forms of discrimination and criminalization from health policy frameworks at all levels and enable multi-sectoral policies and practices to accelerate **accessible healthcare for all**.
- Adopt a **universal rights-based**, accessible, intergenerational, gender-affirming framework in **healthcare delivery** in alignment with international human rights instruments.
- Collect disaggregated, intersectional data as evidence to inform decision-making, and the **transparent tracking of progress made to achieve UHC**.
- Prioritise financial investments for **resilient health and community systems**.
- **Enable R&D and manufacturing** of medical technologies including vaccines, treatments, and diagnostics **in LMICs**.
- Enable access to essential medicines and treatments by **removing Intellectual Property barriers** and including conditionality clauses to public funding for medical research.

Global Health Architecture (GHA)

- Enable the accelerated implementation of mechanisms for meaningful **participation of civil society and local communities at all levels and phases of global health governance**.
- **Prevent the further fragmentation of the global health architecture (GHA)**. Fully enable and connect existing mechanisms, especially those that effectively involve civil society and affected communities, such as The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria (The Global Fund), UNAIDS and Unitaid. Recognize their crucial role in strengthening health systems through innovative and equitable approaches.
- Accelerate **holistic approaches** to reduce disparities by building on intersecting factors, such as climate change, housing, ageing, access to clean water and sanitation, antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and

emerging infections.

- Support the **Quadripartite organisations (FAO, UNEP, WHO, WHOA)** and champion intergovernmental coordination to strengthen One Health stewardship.
- Implement clear, **transparent and independent monitoring and accountability measures**, including of PPR financing, the Pandemic Accord and the International Health Regulations.
- **Strengthen WHO's leadership** and coordination in global health through sustainable, predictable and unearmarked financing, and strive for a more inclusive WHO by revising and strengthening the Framework of Engagement with Non-State Actors and guard against commercial conflicts of interest.
- End AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria, as well as polio and Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) and other major epidemics. **Make ambitious commitments to fully fund** the upcoming replenishments of The Global Fund, Global Financing Facility (GFF) and Gavi.
- Commit to **allocating 5% of GDP to health and 1% to primary health care** as recommended in the UHC2030 Action Agenda to strengthen financial protection to ensure everyone can access the health services they need without financial hardship⁹.

Universal Health Coverage

- Ensure the **right to person-centred health care across the life course, with fully** functional and well-equipped health facilities guaranteeing available, accessible, and affordable services and medicines. Prevent and reduce life-threatening and life-limiting conditions and improve end-of-life care, particularly in LMICs.
- **Prioritise health promotion and preventative public health measures** (including WASH, good nutrition, vaccinations, mass drug administration (MDA), HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis, screening programs and early diagnosis and treatment) to avoid and reduce the impact of NCDs, mental health, dementia, NTDs and other infectious diseases, and to promote healthy ageing.



- Support the adoption and the implementation of the **World Health Assembly Resolution on social participation**¹⁰.
- Ensure gender-sensitive, **gender transformative health systems** prioritising investments in sexual, reproductive, maternal, new-born, child and adolescent health.
- Recognize sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) as essential services in any health policy, including in all humanitarian, conflict and environmental crisis settings and as a critical component of UHC¹¹. Take concrete steps to ensure **access to quality SRHR interventions** by analysing SRHR needs among all people, throughout the life course, by mapping available resources and systems constraints.
- Enhance and **support gender medicine** as crucial to overcoming the gender bias surrounding health research and education, as well as the provision of services and therapies, which often incite worse health outcomes for women in all their diversity and gender-diverse people.

Climate and Health

- Integrate public health considerations in **cross-sectoral actions** in critical climate frameworks like Nationally Determined Contributions.
- Enable **One Health** leadership and stewardship along the entire scope of Pandemic Prevention Preparedness Response (PPPR).
- Address the **root causes** of disease (re)emergence and spillover at the human-animal-environment interface as the most cost effective way to achieve health equity.
- Strengthen food sovereignty and scale-up **quality nutrition care** for the most vulnerable and underserved, especially children under-five, adolescent girls and women in climate-affected communities.
- Commit to **just transitions** and anticipatory actions to strengthen communities' resilience. Strengthen emergency-responsive social protection systems that support migrants, internally displaced people and

rural communities and respond to immediate and long-term climate impacts that affect access to food, nutrition, clean water, health security, and the spread of infection and vector borne diseases, e.g. malaria.

- Transform food systems to deliver **affordable, healthy diets** while protecting the planet, including transition to sustainable food supply chains and adoption of climate resistant and bio fortified indigenous crops.
- Include in the negotiation and delivery of ambitious **New Collective Quantified Goal** health and other social losses and damages.

“Women and girls, vulnerable groups, key populations are often prevented from accessing healthcare by discrimination and criminalization. The G7 must re-commit to put them at the centre of global health strategies and responses as agents of change, so that everyone can enjoy the human right to health”

Stefania Burbo, C7 WG Coordinator, Global Health Italian Network

“We are living in a world that is only becoming increasingly complex with tightly interwoven poly crises. This includes the shrinking space for communities and civil society to equally and fully participate in solving the persistent health and climate challenges that we collectively face. G7 Leaders have the power to make this change within our global health architecture so that together, we can ensure a more equitable, just and resilient world.”

Robin Montgomery, C7 WG Coordinator, Canadian HIV Legal Network

Note

¹ G7 Global Plan for UHC Action Agenda – G7 2023

² G7 Health Ministers' Communiqué – G7 2022

³ WHO, World Bank, 2023 Universal Health Coverage (UHC) Global Monitoring Report

⁴ WHO, Climate Change, 2023 Factsheet

⁵ www.governance-principles.org/

⁶ OECD, ODA in 2023

⁷ WHO (2001), *Macroeconomic and Health*

⁸ WHO, *Human Rights*, 2023 Factsheet

⁹ UHC, *Action Agenda*

¹⁰ *Proposal for World Health Assembly Resolution on social participation*

¹¹ https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/reproductive-health/uhl-technical-brief-srhr.pdf?sfvrsn=ceca4027_1&download=true



PRINCIPLED HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

CONTEXT: CHALLENGES TO ADDRESS

What has happened to the G7 resolve to protect humanity? The humanitarian principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence, enshrined in international law, are foundational to creating an enabling and protected space for humanitarian action. They underpin the work of local, national and international civil society actors who are delivering assistance in times of crises because all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.

C7 and all the humanitarian actors are alarmed that the very foundation upon which principled humanitarian action is based is in danger of collapse. Human suffering is observed by political actors through distorted lenses, where geopolitical interests apply double standards to human lives. A growing lack of trust in multilateralism and respect for international norms, agreements and laws, including International Humanitarian Law (IHL) exposes deep and dangerous divisions in a world struggling to uphold a functional international system.

The world is increasingly one of widespread, preventable suffering. Civilians are being killed, forcibly displaced, and driven to the extremes of hunger while violence with impunity is carried out on a catastrophic scale. Weapons produced and supplied by states - including G7 members - are being used to indiscriminately kill or target civilians, their infrastructure and the humanitarian workers trying to assist them. Moreover, the failure of state-led climate action to mitigate impacts is driving hunger, starvation and famine.

Lack of political will to resolve the many protracted and often forgotten crises driving humanitarian need is leading people to make horrific choices simply to survive.

Humanitarian actors face immense challenges, by working in insecure and hard to reach environments, and increasingly from constraints imposed by G7 members and other donors. The burden of compliance with sanctions, counterterrorism, reporting and vetting requirements is undermining humanitarian principles, and challenging humanitarian organisations' ability to safely deliver with sufficient quality and accountability to crisis-affected people. Never-sufficient funding means humanitarian actors are forced to overstretch international efforts, this year trying to assist 181 million people impacted by conflict and climate-related emergencies across 72 countries. Local civil society and community-based actors at the frontline of crises are working to assist many millions more.

C7 POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

G7 members have the moral, ethical and legal responsibility to act – for the sake of humanity.

Therefore, we urge G7 members to promote systemic, transformative and generative changes in international policies and to:

- Issue a joint, public statement and implement policy to firmly and clearly **place humanity and the right to life with dignity back at the centre of the multilateral humanitarian agenda** and to affirm the humanitarian imperative - that action must be taken to prevent or alleviate human suffering arising out of disaster or conflict, and that nothing should override this.
- **Review** all G7 States international **aid funding policies** in consultation with civil society and take action to address **donor conditions** which impede rather than enable the delivery of equitable and impartial assistance to those most in need.



Protection of Civilians

This year the world celebrates seventy-five years since the 1949 Geneva Conventions were adopted, yet **every day there are flagrant and unpunished violations of IHL** in conflicts all around the world. As ever, it is **innocent civilians who are suffering** - precisely those whom the Geneva Conventions, other international instruments and customary humanitarian law are meant to protect.

Warfare today focuses on terror over civilians, with a shocking disregard for humanity. Large-scale killing and maiming of civilians, destruction of vital civilian infrastructure, sexual and gender-based violence, forced displacement of whole populations, targeting of humanitarian workers, as well as intentional blocking of humanitarian aid and access to food, water, electricity, and health services have become weapons of war turned against children and adults alike.

Parties to armed conflict - and their backers - are responsible for allowing these shocking IHL violations in times of war.

We urge G7 members to:

- **Respect and ensure respect for IHL and its principles of distinction, proportionality and precaution**, no matter the context, including to unequivocally and without ambiguity condemning all violations of IHL by any actor in every conflict and war, regardless of their political status or affiliations.
- **Ensure compliance with all UN Security Council resolutions on the protection of civilians**, including resolutions 1894¹ on protection of civilians in armed conflicts, 2175² on protection of humanitarian personnel and UN and associated personnel in armed conflict, 2286³ on protection of the wounded and sick, medical personnel and humanitarian personnel in armed conflict, 2601⁴ on children and armed conflict, and 2417⁵ condemning the starving of civilians as a method of warfare, as well as resolutions on women, peace and security, sexual violence in armed conflict, protection of education in armed conflict, and protection of persons with disabilities in conflict.

- Uphold the commitments of the 2021 **G7 famine prevention and humanitarian crises compact**⁶ on respect for IHL and protection of civilians and use all political, legal, economic and humanitarian diplomacy avenues to advocate with states including the G20 to make similar, public commitments.

Accountability to Affected People (AAP) & Inclusion of All in Humanitarian Action

It is crucial to acknowledge the diverse individuals within the affected population, and how they experience the crisis differently. Negative impacts are felt most by women and girls, children and youth, racial and ethnic minorities, persons with disabilities, older people, displaced persons, migrants, persons with diverse sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics, indigenous peoples, persons living in detention, the urban poor and rural communities.

Humanitarian crises compound **structural issues that result from current and historical neglect, marginalisation, discrimination, stigmatisation and deeply rooted inequalities**. Yet we know that people develop resilience, coping skills and capacities during conflicts and crises and continue to play valuable roles within their communities. Delivering principled, needs-based assistance requires **identifying the most marginalised people**, understanding their needs and priorities, and ensuring their inclusion, meaningful participation and equitable access to protection, services and assistance, while at the same time **ensuring that their own capacities and perspectives are recognised and listened to**.

We urge G7 members to:

- Demonstrate true **Accountability to Affected People**, through leadership to advocate for a stronger focus on inclusion within the international humanitarian system, and require **regular monitoring and public reporting on humanitarian assistance** responding to specific needs of the most-at-risk, marginalised groups, ensuring data is disaggregated at least by age, gender, and disability.

- Increase funding to **civil society organisations that have the expertise** to ensure an equitable needs-based approach to quality programming and assistance, including multi-purpose cash, and in line with age, gender, and disability sensitive approaches;
- Implement policies that support and encourage the **involvement of local communities and civil society organisations**, including women's organisations, organisations for people with disabilities, older peoples' organisations, and childrens organisations to ensure their meaningful participation to address the specific needs of individuals within the community.

Humanitarian Access

Safely ensuring the most at risk can access adequate, timely and quality assistance requires an enabling environment. Host governments, non-state-armed groups as well as humanitarian donor states all have a responsibility to facilitate humanitarian access in crises and conflict settings. Insecurity, conflicts, politicisation of aid, intentional or unnecessary restrictions of movement and bureaucratic impediments are massive obstacles for humanitarian aid and for people to access assistance. The secondary impacts of international and national sanction regimes and counter-terrorism measures create additional obstacles for principled life-saving aid in line with humanity and impartiality.

More than ever before, there is a need for humanitarians to dedicate time and resources to build trust with local communities, authorities and all conflict stakeholders. Humanitarians need the support of states to **depoliticise aid**, and ensure that **humanitarian action is not linked to taking sides in conflict**, but that assistance is purely guided by the assessed, identified needs and reaches wherever the need is greatest.

We call on the G7 members to:

- Safeguard the ability of humanitarian organisations to **operate independently and impartially**, free from political interference or reprisals and recognise the importance of local organisations as

vital in understanding the needs of people requiring assistance and ensuring humanitarian access, and provide financial support to enable their effective response;

- Support and facilitate organisations in **engaging with all stakeholders, including states, non-state armed groups, and de-facto authorities, in negotiating access to reach the populations in need** and overcoming bureaucratic and administrative impediments, in line with the commitments of the G7 famine prevention and humanitarian crises compact⁷ and the Call for Humanitarian Action⁸;
- **Ensure humanitarian exemptions in all national and regional counter-terrorism and sanctions regimes** including alignment of policies among states, provision of clear guidance on sanctions frameworks, engagement with the private sector to prevent overcompliance and de-risking, and avoid any criminalisation of legitimate humanitarian organisations, to ensure complete implementation of UNSCR 2664⁹ on humanitarian exemptions to asset freeze measures imposed by UN sanctions regimes, and support the transposition of the resolution into national regulations in countries of humanitarian interventions, UN and G7 member regimes.

Humanitarian Financing, Development, Anticipatory Action and Disaster Risk Reduction

The **funding situation in 2024 is bleak** and the humanitarian system has been forced to undertake a radical prioritisation of actions in Humanitarian Response Plans, effectively providing aid to some, while denying it to others, potentially leaving millions exposed to hunger, diseases, protection risks and lack of access to essential services. Although humanitarian funding is badly needed, **closing the humanitarian funding gap is not enough**, as addressing humanitarian problems on their own will not deliver the impact to create long-lasting changes, unless factors that drive communal/societal vulnerability are tackled. It is paramount for development,



humanitarian, conflict/peace, and climate actors to **work in full collaboration**, understanding their specific but complementary roles, and proactively bring substantive and sustainable resources to work strategically to reduce needs over time, including with investments to Disaster Risk Reduction and Early and Anticipatory action.

Strengthening of resilience at local and regional levels to manage risk, prevent, respond and recover more effectively from crises is vital, especially in addressing the compounding effects of growing climate-related hazards that impact lives and livelihoods. **Early and anticipatory action and using available technologies to better understand crisis risks, are key** for the delivery of more proactive, faster and dignified aid. However, there is still a lack of political will to mainstream and significantly scale up these approaches.

We urge G7 members to:

- **Increase predictable, flexible and unearmarked, multi-year humanitarian funding**, based on needs and free from political agendas, including for protracted and often forgotten crises, leading by example and advocating collectively and individually with other states, including the G20, for increased humanitarian funding;
- Encourage development and climate actors to engage in **strategic collaboration with humanitarian actors**, including civil society organisations, to enable humanitarian action to remain focused, including, for example, to advocate for reallocating part of the funds from the Green Climate Fund toward anticipatory action and humanitarian responses related to climate change impacts, given the urgent levels of need and the slow disbursement of the Fund for its original purpose;
- Expand the provision of **direct and indirect quality funding to local and national NGOs and CSOs, who are trusted first responders on the ground**, and implement meaningful dialogue directly between humanitarian donors and local actors.

"G7 must recognize today's increasing attacks on IHL and humanitarian principles, that must be free from geopolitical interests. As signatories to Geneva conventions, G7 States must reaffirm their commitment to IHL and humanitarian principles, and promote humanity as the central value that must be protected in all conflicts."

Miro Modrusan, C7 WG Coordinator, INTERSOS

"As Civil Society we must continue to demand G7 members, and all States, uphold their responsibilities and enable us to fulfil the humanitarian imperative to prevent or alleviate suffering wherever needed."

Jeremy Wellard, C7 WG Coordinator, ICVA

Note

¹ [Resolution 1894 \(2009\)](#)

² [Resolution 2175 \(2014\)](#)

³ [Resolution 2286 \(2016\)](#)

⁴ [Resolution 2601 \(2021\)](#)

⁵ [Resolution 2417 \(2018\)](#)

⁶ [G7 famine prevention and humanitarian crises compact - G7 2021](#)

⁷ [G7 famine prevention and humanitarian crises compact - G7 2021](#)

⁸ [The Call for Humanitarian Action](#)

⁹ [Resolution 2664 \(2022\)](#)



PEACE, COMMON SECURITY, AND NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

CONTEXT: CHALLENGES TO ADDRESS

On May 19, 2023, following G7 leaders' *Hiroshima Vision on Nuclear Disarmament* proclaimed a "commitment to achieving a world without nuclear weapons with undiminished security for all." As anxieties over global crises continue to grow, the pursuit of undiminished common or collective security has never been so necessary.

The 2023 G7 Leaders' and Foreign Ministers' Hiroshima Communiqués consistently condemn the Russian invasion of Ukraine and pledge economic and military support to Ukraine. The Foreign Ministers' Communiqué commits to "promoting peace and security" in a wide range of geopolitical regions¹ and identifies broad "global challenges."² The G7 has also addressed the unprecedented situation in Israel-Palestine, declaring on December 6, 2023 that "Israelis and Palestinians have an equal right to live in safety, dignity, and peace."

The *Hiroshima Vision* recalls the Joint Statement of the Leaders of the Five Nuclear Weapon States from January 3, 2022, affirming that a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought and lauds the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) as the "cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime and the foundation for the pursuit of nuclear disarmament..." The use or threat of use of nuclear weapons is condemned only in connection to Russia's threats. Notably, the *Hiroshima Vision* states that "nuclear weapons, for as long as they

exist, should serve defensive purposes, deter aggression and prevent war and coercion." The Foreign Ministers' Communiqué voices support for strengthening the United Nations "to address the changing international environment and challenges to collective security," including through implementation of the 2030 Agenda and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

The world is at a geopolitical crossroads, shifting away from the post-Cold War order into a new era of multipolarity and, potentially, fragmentation. The reaction of the G7 to these tectonic shifts will greatly impact prospects for a more peaceful, just, and secure future. The UN Secretary-General António Guterres (UNSG) expresses in *UN Policy Brief 9: A New Agenda for Peace* that "collective security is gravely undermined by the failure of [United Nations] Member States to effectively address the global and interlocking threats before them, to manage their rivalries and to respect and reinforce the normative frameworks that both govern their relations with each other and... the well-being of their societies." Collective or common security refers to the recognition that states must pursue mutual security rather than at the expense of another state and is based on trust, solidarity, and universality.³

Russia's war of aggression in Ukraine has now entered its third year with no end in sight and no encouraging signs of progress towards a resolution. While the G7 has highlighted its support for Ukraine's self-defence and Zelensky's 10-Point Peace Plan, the human and environmental toll continues to grow. At the same time, the lack of action of the G7 and other States paves the way for a silent complicity that enables the continued devastation of Israel's warfare against the population of Gaza without distinction, proportionality and precaution, which has so far killed nearly 34,000 Palestinian people, including over 13,000 children while the Israeli hostages taken by Hamas, in its horrific action of 7 October, have not been returned. There is justified concern that tensions could escalate to a larger regional or even wider war.



The war between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces has killed 14,000 people, with over 8 million people displaced, many facing acute food insecurity. The number of countries experiencing armed conflicts has risen to 56, and many existing conflicts have gone on for decades without a true resolution.

Security is increasingly viewed through a purely military lens while diplomacy continues to be weakened. Global military spending has risen every year since 2015. At the same time, the international arms control framework has eroded and bodies such as the UN Security Council (UNSC) have been paralyzed by competing interests. New and unregulated military technologies have emerged and many are already in use.⁴ The political will to seek compromise and understanding is nearly completely absent in leaders' rhetoric and actions while at the same time militaries have become first responders to broad issues from migration to climate change, and even health crises. Despite increasing research linking gender equality to decreased military aggression and the participation of women in peace processes with meaningful peace agreements and reconstruction, global commitments to the women, peace and security agenda remain insufficient.

The nuclear arms control regime has all but disappeared as nuclear weapons possessing countries increase their rhetoric and threat of use. The New START agreement, the last remaining nuclear arms treaty between the US and Russia is set to expire in 2026. Russia has positioned its nuclear weapons in Belarus while US nuclear weapons are stationed in Italy, Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, and Turkey. Leading figures in countries including South Korea and Japan have considered hosting US nuclear weapons on their soil. The accidental or intentional use of nuclear weapons or the weaponization of nuclear energy facilities seem more likely at this point than at any time since the Cuban Missile Crisis; two nuclear weapons possessing states are currently engaged in active wars while several others are in latent conflicts that could re-erupt at any time. At the same time, many countries across the Global South and beyond have supported the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), with 93 signatories and 70 states parties.

C7 POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

The fragility of global peace demands the utmost urgency and concrete, multilateral action. The G7, as representing a specific bloc of a much larger international community, must recognize that they cannot achieve peace and security on their own and must strengthen focus on global cooperation and resolve rivalries that prevent cooperation. The G7 must be ready to find compromise and preserve dialogue despite strategic differences.

To this end, we urge the G7 to take action in the following areas.:

Common Security

- Reaffirm support for an international order based on **international law** and build on the **global and regional peace architecture**.⁵ Recognize their vital role in the peaceful resolution of disputes and promotion of common security.
- Express active **support for the UNSG's New Agenda for Peace** including reforms to the UN Security Council, revitalization of the UN General Assembly (UNGA), and elevating the work of the Peacebuilding Commission.
- Focus resources and attention on addressing the **root causes of violence and conflict**, adapting a **holistic systems approach** that includes economic and social exploitation, repression, and injustice.⁶
- Actively include women and youth in peacebuilding activities as recommended in UNSC Resolution 1325, UNSC Resolution 2250 and subsequent resolutions accordingly - ensuring their meaningful and equal involvement in conflict prevention and resolution, protection, relief and recovery at the local, national, and international levels. Address the linkage between a high level of violence against children and wars.⁷
- Address the **interlinked nature of war, militarism, climate change, and environmental degradation**.

- Actively involve and financially **support civil society and grassroots peacebuilders** in every aspect of conflict resolution and peacebuilding.
- Invest in **peace education**.

General Disarmament

- **Reduce military spending and arms production** in favor of investments in diplomacy and human security, including the meeting of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs. Prohibit the funding of political parties and election campaigns by the military sector.
- Act swiftly to **expand international, multilateral treaties** on emerging military technologies including artificial intelligence, cyber warfare, space weaponry, and unmanned vehicles or drones.
- Strengthen policies on **preventing arms transfers** into conflict-prone and active conflict zones in particular where international law has been violated.
- Reaffirm support for and actively work for a **fourth Special Session on Disarmament in the UNGA**.

Nuclear Disarmament

- Reaffirm the G7 position that the **use or threat of nuclear weapons use by any actor is unacceptable**. Acknowledge the risks that come with nuclear deterrence and the power imbalances that come from their possession. Commit to a no first use policy.
- **Resume with urgency nuclear arms reduction processes**, with a view to achieving the elimination of all weapons of mass destruction. Reinvigorate strategic stability talks between the USA and Russia and dialogue with China for immediate and severe restrictions on nuclear weapons with a clearly outlined timeline and benchmarks toward the complete elimination of nuclear weapons.
- Participate in good faith in **Meetings of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW)** as observers.

“In recent decades, surges in military spending and militarisation have led to a world increasingly at war and incapable of tackling real global problems. The G7 should lead a now unavoidable change of course, putting disarmament choices at the forefront of renewed policies for a positive Peace”

Francesco Vignarca, C7 WG Coordinator, Italian Network for Peace and Disarmament

“How much longer must we wait before it becomes evident that nuclear weapons also fail as a deterrent? The leaders of the G7 must lead the way towards the paradigm shift around security that we need: Common security has proven effective in the past and can once again lead to international disarmament, diplomacy, and sustainable peace.”

Emily Molinari, C7 WG Coordinator, International Peace Bureau (IPB)

Note

¹ Including the Indo-Pacific, China, North Korea, Myanmar, Afghanistan, Iran, the MENA region, Central Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean

² The full list is free and open international order, global governance, peacebuilding and peacekeeping, disarmament and non-proliferation, economic resilience and economic security, development finance and infrastructure, outer space and cyber security, countering foreign interference and disinformation, energy security, climate change, environmental degradation, food security, nutrition, humanitarian assistance, global health, gender equality, and disaster-risk reduction.

³ See also the 2022 report Common Security: For Our Shared Future: www.commonsecurity.org

⁴ The most significant example is represented by Artificial Intelligence, a dual use technology increasingly used in battlefields. This development is particularly worrying because of the ethical, legal, and operational dilemmas that a shift of decision-making capacity from the human being to a machine cause. Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS), Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs/drones), weapons in space, and the lack of transparency and accountability of algorithms, disinformation, and social media all pose difficulties that require international cooperation.

⁵ Including but not limited to the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the African Union (AU), Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC)

⁶ Including food, energy, water, technology, health, gender, education, inclusion of marginalized and indigenous groups

⁷ See Peace Studies and Violence against Children: *War and child education* by Franz Jedlicka





HUMAN MOBILITY AND MIGRATION

CONTEXT: CHALLENGES TO ADDRESS

Migration has been a fundamental part of human development through history: people moving within countries or from one country to another have greatly contributed to economic growth, innovation, trade, culture, and wealth of both origin and destination societies. Indeed, migration is a permanent phenomenon, it always existed, and it will always exist, as a result of conflicts, serious economic imbalances, anti-democratic systems, persecutions, human rights violations, climate changes, natural disasters, poverty alleviation and personal reasons. In the historical era we are living, there are political, climate and socioeconomic inequalities that are widespread and, in some areas of the world, are significantly increasing. With them, inevitably, population movements expand, and this phenomenon is currently involving more than 280 million people¹ on the move in the world.

There are more women, men and children on the move nowadays than ever before.

A map of the world today shows, in all continents, a complex network of internally displaced persons, refugees, asylum seekers and other migrants. Among them, women and children represent an increasing component, around 50 per cent; those who are unaccompanied, pregnant, heads of households, disabled or elderly are especially vulnerable during migration. Too often, they experience different kinds of gender-based violence at various stages of the journey and are particularly vulnerable to human trafficking – sometimes linked to criminal groups – and other forms of

modern slavery. The vulnerability to severe exploitation of migrant men, women and children is amplified by the lack of access to protection mechanisms and of safe pathways to migration.

Ensuring that people migrate safely across the world has been a long-lasting challenge for many governments. Migration impacts on countries of origin, transit and destination in different ways and, when not facilitated by adequate policies, it jeopardizes people's ability to experience and enjoy their human rights. The complexity of the current challenge is linked to the mixed nature of the flows, consisting of individual, social, economic, environmental, and political factors and dimensions. To address the complexity of the phenomenon and ensure rights are protected and promoted, the international community has been called to multiply its efforts.

The world has lost the long-term perspective on migration, approaching it as a crisis rather than a stable part of States' policies. For this reason, **in order to improve migration governance, the G7 vision should be to shift the focus on human mobility from an emergency approach to an encompassing and long-term one, turning migration flows into predictable, safe, regular and manageable migration channels.**

It is essential to address and mitigate the potential for racist implications in migration policy responses. Racism, which may be covert, can lead to violence such as from traffickers of migrants and manifests within institutional practices and public sentiment.

Regular migrations are an opportunity that not only represents an essential component of development at a global level but is also central to combating the root causes of poverty in countries of origin, facilitating cultural and economic prosperity, flexibility in the occupancy sector and dignifying employment in destination countries. In addition, regular migration promotes cross-cultural and societal benefits for host and origin countries through skills transfer and information-sharing. Regular and planned migrations are also a key to reduce life risks and could guarantee respect for human rights combating all forms of modern slavery.

C7 POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

In the framework of the multilateral action and in true partnership with the Global South and with the diaspora, the G7 governments should adopt an approach to manage migration based on the concept of human mobility, enshrined in the efforts encompassed by the Agenda 2030 and the Global Compacts. This view allows to broaden and rebalance the perceptions of the migration phenomenon, reflecting a complex and highly variable reality, thus applying a Human Development approach.

This implies shifting the focus from the emergency to an encompassing and long-term approach, based on joint responsibilities for shared benefits, and underlining the **development and migration nexus** and the necessity to establish a true **partnership between countries of origin, transit and destination** to ensure a safe, orderly and mutually beneficial human mobility based on human rights.

Safe and regular human mobility can indeed benefit origin, transit and destination countries in terms of economic prosperity and development (this is particularly true, for example, for ageing societies, in terms of sustainability of social security systems, but also in terms of contribution to poverty eradication).

This approach could induce G7 countries to take action in the following areas.

- **Ensure safe and regular migration channels** in order to promote protection of human rights and sustainable development of origin, transit and destination countries. Regular and safe migration paths would have positive impacts on all parties involved. To this end, it would be important to protect migrant workers, also outlawing unethical recruitment practices, and to integrate climate mobility into national and global policies.
- **Establish cooperative migration governance**, according to the whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches across migration corridors, and

expressing commitment to share burdens. Replace migration policy approaches that externalize borders with human-rights-centered cooperation in support of migrants and host communities' wellbeing. Better financing and interventions are needed to support the reception and the integration of migrants, enabling their capacities to flourish together with those of host communities for the sustainable development of the destination country as well as the country of origin.

- **Invest in countries of origin and transit**, on the basis of specific partnership agreements, financing sustainable projects identified together with the partner country, involving CSOs and diasporas on the basis of the principle of local ownership, to pursue high social and economic impact – consistently with the implementation of the SDGs. **Avoid the instrumentalisation of ODA to reduce migration** through measures that are detrimental to human rights.
- **Support low-income countries of destination** to increase their capacity to host migrants, by increasing supply of adequate housing and basic services, especially in cities with high prevalence of informal settlements² and high vulnerability to climate change. This entails supporting large scale slum upgrading programs and projects, which have proven to improve human development outcomes.
- **Pursue fundamental objectives of development cooperation in addressing root causes**: fighting poverty and inequality, supporting the resilience of communities. The narrative of addressing the root causes of migration to reduce flows is misleading and fails to consider how **development leads to increased migration in the short to medium term, for which safe and regular channels must be provided**. Fighting inequality and other structural issues is essential to affirm the right to stay, but this means transforming unjust economic and financial systems.



- **Ensure the protection of persons at heightened risk of abuse and gender-based violence,**

including but not limited to women and children, with particular attention to people who experience trafficking or other forms of modern slavery. Ensuring access to protection and basic services, such as public health, with particular attention to sexual and reproductive services, education, and child-sensitive assistance.

- **Value the positive aspects** of human mobility

for all parties (destination, transit, origin countries, and migrants themselves), by promoting **integration and social inclusion** of migrants and refugees in the host countries, and by adopting effective measures to ensure access to protection mechanisms and basic social and health services, national education systems, and overcoming barriers to labour market integration.

“It is important to value the positive aspects of human mobility for all parties: destination, transit, origin countries and migrants themselves. Promoting occupancy, integration and social inclusion of migrants and refugees in the host countries.”

Francesco Aureli, C7 WG Coordinator, GCAP Italy

“Migration has been a fundamental part of human development through history: people moving within countries or from a country to another have greatly contributed to economic growth, innovation, trade, culture, and wealth of both origin and destination societies.”

Rose Worden, C7 WG Coordinator, InterAction

Note

¹ IOM, *Interactive World Migration Report 2022*

² Habitat for Humanity, IIED, 2023, *Improving housing in informal settlements*





FOOD JUSTICE AND FOOD SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION

CONTEXT: CHALLENGES TO ADDRESS

Food systems are central to ecosystem health, social justice and well-being, food and nutrition security, culture and landscape protection, and planetary rights. The current model of industrialised agriculture is posing critical challenges regarding biodiversity loss, overconsumption of water, greenhouse gas emissions, groundwater pollution, and antibiotic resistance phenomena, with very serious implications for human, animal and environmental health. Food systems today are impacted by pandemics associated with reduced natural spaces and biodiversity. The climate crisis severely affects agriculture and food production, and the G7 countries are among those that need to be held accountable for their contributions to this phenomenon. Globalised food systems are afflicted by financial speculation and corporate concentration. The serious weaknesses of global supply chains are increasingly being exposed. Food inequality and poverty, aggravated by armed conflicts and related insecurity conditions, continue to grow, along with the exploitation of small-scale producers and workers. The crisis is not one of global availability, but of unequal and inequitable access to food. The causes are structural and addressing them requires a deep transformation of our food systems.

The priorities identified by the Italian Presidency of the G7 include food security, infrastructure, gender, and accountability. The deliverables are related to food and finance, food and climate, and other cross-cutting initiatives related to research and innovation

for development and gender. In the area of food and finance, food swap initiatives are gaining attention as a means of addressing food security, while African governments are calling for Special Drawing Rights to promote food security. In the WTO the G7 supports transparency and predictability for export bans in agriculture. Infrastructures are considered as central to linking agriculture and energy to address the climate crisis. The Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII), a multi-year financing plan for infrastructure, builds on the COP 28 declaration which calls for the integration of climate and agricultural plans. The G7 food strategy remains uncertain at this stage, with many unknown elements such as the focus of investment, the different actors' roles, the impact of de-risking amid geopolitical tensions, the scope and coherence of the Mattei Plan, Italy's flagship proposal for cooperation in Africa, and the outcome of the "Apulia Food Security Initiative" at the G7 Leaders' Summit. The latter aims to address the food-climate nexus and reinforce G7 commitments to sustainable food systems.

Food Governance.

Decision-making related to food is dispersed across various forums, where the voices of the most affected are often disregarded by powerful states. Additionally, global corporations have consolidated their power in global supply chains to unprecedented levels. This trend is mainly due to inadequate regulation by governments, treating food as a profit-generating commodity rather than a fundamental human right, as in the TRIPs agreement. Unregulated digitalization of agriculture is currently driving the concentration of corporate power in the food supply chain.

The increasing weight of financial actors in the economy has led to speculation on food and land and has sparked hikes and instability of food prices. To address this issue and alleviate debt burdens requires rethinking financial governance. Global trade rules and WTO policies need reform since they disregard workers' conditions, human rights, and democracy and exacerbate food crises by discouraging public strategic food reserves.



The use of food as a weapon of war, a particularly worrying governance challenge today, must be banned in line with International Humanitarian Law and the UN Security Council Resolution 2417 (2018).

Agroecology Transition and Just Food Systems.

Farmers' rights to their own seeds - a pillar of agroecology and just food systems - are undermined by policies such as those of the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV), in contradiction with other relevant policies such as UNDROP (United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas) and the International Treaty on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

Access to land is obstructed by land grabbing, unfavourable laws, and land tenure systems, particularly for women, youth, and vulnerable groups. Smallholder farmers lack the necessary resources to engage in sustainable agriculture. These resources include knowledge, inputs, services, and market access. This problem is compounded by the failure of many states to meet their commitment to invest at least 10% of their budgets in agriculture, as outlined in the Malabo Declaration of 2014. Moreover, underinvestment in agriculture has made the sector extremely vulnerable to shocks such as pandemics, climate change, and tensions in world markets.

The industrial farming and livestock system, under the control of corporations, relies on subsidies and technological fixes that hinder the transition to sustainable agriculture. Consumers face challenges in accessing information, while farmers engaged in this system suffer from inadequate incomes and are trapped in a vicious cycle of policies that perpetuate polluting agriculture.

Food Crisis.

Hunger and food crises are complex issues that affect many areas and people around the world. The Global Report on Food Crises (GRFC) for 2023 highlights that an increasing number of people are experiencing acute food insecurity and require immediate assistance.

The underlying causes of these crises are structural. They are linked to regional conflicts, the climate crisis, poverty, and inequality, which are further compounded by dysfunctional food systems and a lack of adequate social protection and access to basic services.

A major challenge in addressing food crises is the lack of funding, especially in an era of structural instability and "poly-crisis". According to the Hunger Funding Gap Report of 2024, only 35% of appeals for countries facing crisis levels of hunger were met in 2023. This resulted in a hunger funding gap of 65%, which increased by 23% from the previous year. The problem is not a lack of food or resources but of political will to mobilise and use them in a coordinated and effective way.

Despite increased food production, little has changed in food reserve utilisation rates. Malnutrition, hunger, and obesity-related diseases are symptoms of systemic issues. To address this, global and local food systems need to be rethought.

C7 POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

We urge the G7 governments to take action in the following areas.

Support democratic policy decision-making rooted in a human rights framework

- **Recognize and support the UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS)** as the leading international, multi-actor, and intergovernmental policy platform on food security and nutrition. Together with its High-Level Panel of Experts and the Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples Mechanism, and along with the Rome-based UN Agencies, the CFS can ensure quality analysis, independence, and democratic participation in decision-making processes on food systems. It can help provide globally coordinated, transformative policy responses to emerging food crises. All actors must be permanently involved in dialogue and negotiation regarding food systems and related issues at all levels.

- Uphold existing international frameworks that have been agreed upon by all parties, such as the UN Decade for Family Farming (UNDF), the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition, and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (UNDROP). **'Multistakeholder' approaches** to governance should be excluded since they overlook human rights, and power imbalances, hinder marginalised social groups' participation, and eliminate government accountability. **Corporate interests** should not be allowed to override the broader public interest, and accountability mechanisms should be strengthened to prevent corporate influence on public policy decision making.

Redirect trade agreements, market regulations, and investments towards supporting food justice

- Reaffirm and implement the G7 Agriculture Ministers' commitment to monitor and promote **transparency in agricultural markets**. It is important to **support the introduction of market regulations – for both financial and real markets** – and to promote farmer aggregation to ensure fair prices for small-scale food producers, to cover their production costs and provide a just remuneration for their labour, while ensuring healthy diets at accessible prices for food insecure consumers. Low-income food-deficit countries (LIFDCs) should be allowed space to adjust/regulate their levels of food imports and exports, invest in local food production and public procurement, create strategic food security reserves, and to uphold Farmers' Rights in line with UNDROP. The World Bank should update its Corporate Scorecard to include sustainability indicators on agriculture, family farming, territorial markets, food security, and nutrition progress.
- **Ban** investments promoting industrialised agriculture and export-oriented **supply chains that impede people's access to land, water, and seeds**.

Ensure Policy Coherence for Development

- Ensure that the G7 countries policies and practices **do not harm the food security of any partner countries**. This applies specifically to areas such as debt, climate, trade, agriculture, fishery policies, and corporate due diligence.
- Take the lead in cancelling debts, especially for Africa. This will create the necessary **fiscal space for African governments** to establish proper social protection schemes and mechanisms and to promote domestic food provisioning and access to public services such as education, health and water and sanitation.
- Ensure **corporate due diligence, support the Binding Treaty on Business and Human Rights**, and adopt participatory systems to verify that all investments, whether public or private, comply with environmental and human rights standards.

Sustain the agroecology transition and resilient territorial food systems

- Support international actors who are committed to building **resilient food systems** alongside local communities, farmers, indigenous peoples, and other marginalised communities. This can be achieved by **co-planning agroecological and food system transformation pathways** with a view to subsidiarity.
- Strengthen policies to support the **agroecological transition** and the **role of farmers in managing the rural environment and biodiversity**, including supporting farmer-managed seed systems. The agricultural subsidy system should be repurposed with a balanced approach that enables farmers to manage the transition phase to sustainable agriculture. **Food systems need to be transformed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other climate impacts**, support climate adaptation efforts, protect biodiversity, and accelerate the adoption of the Global Biodiversity Framework.



- Prioritise **transforming livestock production and aquaculture** to reduce industrialization and antimicrobial use, to achieve a more sustainable and equitable food system. This will increase access to diverse, nutrient-rich diets and build food sovereignty and resilience for smallholder farmers. Protecting **land rights** and promoting inclusive innovation processes are also crucial.
- Strengthen the local territorial dimension of the food system and the **participation of all key actors** encouraged through dialogues, policies, and investments. This will increase the resilience to shocks and fragilities of the global supply chains.

Support for gender justice

- Promote **women's empowerment and agency in food systems** by supporting policies to **transform social norms and structural barriers** to ensure full inclusion, including access to financial services and enforcement of land rights.
- Increase **investments and programs** for agroecological transition in food systems that recognize and **enhance the role of women** in all aspects of the supply chain, with an intersectional approach.
- Support **women's knowledge, skills and abilities** and their role in food systems, biodiversity conservation, as well as climate change adaptation and mitigation.
- Support **economic empowerment** by recognising women's workload and their overrepresentation in the unpaid care economy as a main factor for malnutrition.

Prevent Food Crises

- Scale up data collection and analysis on food insecurity to strengthen the evidence base and ensure greater investment in data-driven anticipatory action that effectively addresses malnutrition. This should be done by recognising the centrality of the **Integrated Phase Classification (IPC)**, in line

with the G7 2021 Pact on Famine Prevention and Humanitarian Crises, and investing in long-term and flexible **anticipatory financing accessible to local actors, including communities, civil society and grassroots organisations**, while ensuring greater investment in early warning systems as part of a global and national response to climate change.

- **Combine humanitarian diplomacy with funding for hunger-related programs.** This will help to maintain and increase assistance where it is still needed, particularly in protracted and often overlooked crises where needs remain high. To tackle armed conflicts, investing in peace-building and **preventing the use of hunger as a weapon of war** is crucial. Additionally, a more effective and reformed food aid system can help anticipate and prepare for disasters, provide access to land for displaced people and marginalised communities in fragile contexts, and invest in cost-effective approaches.

Allocate and operationalize adequate resources to food crises

- Scale-up cash assistance and **essential life-saving services** and establish and implement plans for addressing food security crises at both national and local levels. These plans should be coordinated and ensure a comprehensive response to deteriorating food and nutrition security situations.
- Make ambitious and trackable commitments at the **2025 Nutrition for Growth**, within a strong, transparent and accessible accountability framework.
- Commit towards a **multi-sectoral approach**, agriculture, health and social protection that transforms systems and reduces malnutrition. This would include strengthening social protection and health systems by boosting public funding and integrating essential nutrition intervention.
- Foster the development of a **global plan that enhances accountability and coordination** in responding to food crises, recognizing the centrality of the UN CFS.

- Prioritise food security, nutrition, and sustainable agriculture as a lens in the upcoming **IDA21 replenishment**,. Focus on strengthening the nexus approach, investing in prevention and preparedness and in resilience-building for small-scale producers of nutritious food to tackle hunger and build resilience.

“Food systems are in crisis, and farmers are increasingly demanding fair prices and recognition of their role, because food is not just a commodity: agroecology and food justice are key to overall wellbeing”

Italo Rizzi, C7 WG Coordinator, LVIA

“G7 political economic system works against and increases food insecurity for the small-scale producers. Food is not just a commodity but a fundamental human right. Our culturally acceptable food defines our purpose in transforming the global food system by increasing food diversity and providing nutritious diets.”

Musa Sowe, C7 WG Coordinator, ROPPA

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Civil 7 Communiqué 2024

The Civil 7 (C7) is one of the official Engagement Groups of the G7.

It provides a platform for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to bring forth proposals and demands aimed at protecting the environment and promoting social and economic development and well-being for all, ensuring healthy lives, gender equality, Human Rights and the principle of *leaving no one behind*, in order to stimulate a constructive dialogue with the G7.

The C7 gathers the voice of more than 700 organizations from around 70 countries and in 2024 has established seven thematic working groups.

The C7 Communiqué, as all C7 policy positions and recommendations, is developed collectively as the result of a vibrant and inclusive process, representing a coral voice of civil society.

The C7 process under Italian Presidency is coordinated by the coalition GCAP Italy (Global Call to Action against Poverty) with the widest representation of the Italian Civil Society Organizations.

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