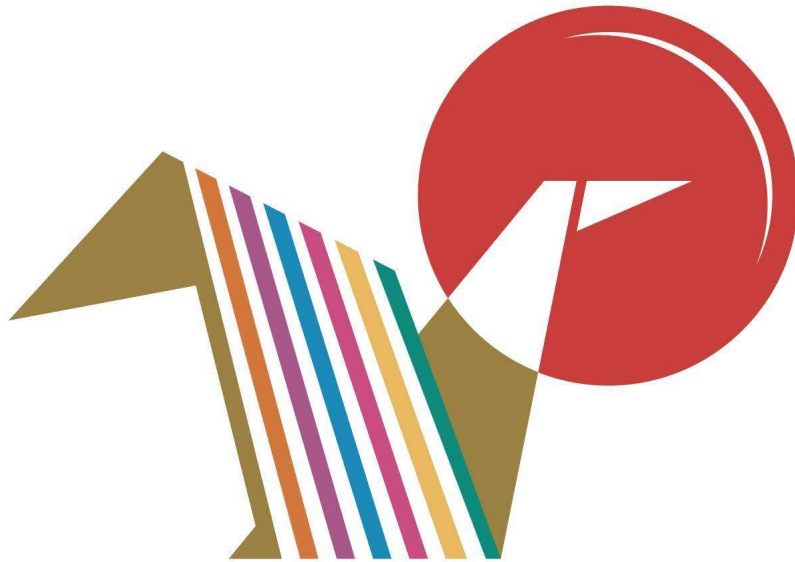


Y7 Summit 2023 Japan

Communiqué



Y7 JAPAN
2023 YOUTH7



Economic Resilience

Today's compounding crises involving environment, affordability, and inequalities require anticipatory policies and global cooperation against coercion. We call on G7 leaders to fundamentally transform our current economic systems and transition to more equitable socio-economic models that complement GDP by strengthening human capital, labor mobility, and economic circularity.

Human Capital Development: We call on G7 leaders to promote youth acquisition of skills critical for society-wide economic trends in line with the 2030 Agenda, focusing on foresight skills needed for the green and digital transformation, by:

- Incentivizing acquisition of the aforementioned skills for youth by (1) actively engaging with and supporting economically marginalized youth and connecting them with employment agencies and nonprofits and (2) subsidizing targeted training initiatives for young professionals;
- Increasing the credibility of informal learning certificates by standardizing their accreditation and connecting these certificate holders with paid apprenticeships via online or other platforms;
- Modernizing curricula in alignment with the SDG 4 framework for education, with an emphasis on reducing regional disparities and promoting financial literacy.

Entrepreneurship: As a key enabler of economic prosperity, innovation, and youth empowerment, we call on G7 leaders to promote equitable and accessible youth entrepreneurship by:

- Advancing entrepreneurial ecosystems through developing hubs that provide regional and global access to innovative technologies, best practice sharing, and diverse mentorship from corporate and cross-sectoral leaders, academic institutions, and training centers;
- Increasing equitable and long-term access to funding and financial tools, assisted by the private sector, to further sector-diverse business support for young, minority, and social entrepreneurs.

Equitable Labor Market: To address precarious employment and exploitative behavior amidst the cost-of-living crisis, we call on G7 leaders to increase equity and labor mobility as well as improve youth access to quality work by:

- Ensuring that all temporary internships and training experiences provide sufficient remuneration packages that are in line with living wages and cover associated expenses;
- Encouraging competency-based hiring, beginning with entry-level opportunities in the public sector, to promote socio-economic mobility;
- Reviewing current precarious labor standards focusing on contractual agreements with an aim of limiting contract renewals and maintaining conditions for decent and secure employment.

Economic Circularity and Diversification: To foster a sustainable, resilient economy and prevent economic coercion, we call on G7 leaders to increase transparent usage of natural resources, promotion of circular economic models, and diversification of supply chains by:

- Committing to their strategies to designate priority to critical materials for domestic industries, monitoring their supply chains, and propagating guidance on their diversification and recycling for resilience, human rights impacts, and redundancy, by 2025;
- Presenting their SDG progress through yearly Voluntary National Reviews at the HLPF and creating National Future Generations Commissioners across G7 countries to be launched at the UN Summit for the Future 2024, as pioneered in Wales, to protect rights of future generations through institutionalized and intergenerational dialogues and efforts.



Digital Innovation and Transformation

We ask G7 countries to lead the way in protecting human and civil rights in the digital space for the self-determination, well-being, freedom, and empowerment of future generations. We ask G7 countries to use deliberative, multi-stakeholder democracy tools to directly involve youth in defining ethical, safety, and fairness guardrails on technology products. We aim for effective digital innovation and transformation that achieves long-term growth and prosperity in a sustainable and fair way.

Digital Rights and Governance: We ask for the introduction of a Universal Charter of Digital Rights by 2025 and a commitment to facilitating a Tech For Good approach that achieve:

- The prioritization of data privacy and ownership by users by ensuring that personal data is only gathered, used, and capitalized with the express empowered consent of the users and guaranteeing the right to data erasure and collective data stewardship by users;
- The creation of a data sharing framework for verified academic, civil or government institutions to access data from businesses for research in the public interest;
- The protection of human agency, transparency, accountability, robustness, and fairness by design in private and public citizen-facing Artificial Intelligence applications, according to their level of risk to humanity. We stress the introduction of public registries of product factsheets explaining when automated systems are used, how decisions are made, and how they can be appealed and/or reverted to ensure transparency. We also ask for the adoption of benchmarks, model risk validation, and certification by independent audits to guarantee accountability and robustness.

Digital Ecosystem and Innovation: We urge G7 countries to foster digital innovation by:

- Creating ecosystems that encourage the R&D and the adoption of emerging technologies, particularly in strategic sectors that are yet to be significantly transformed by technology;
- Accelerating the creation of technology enterprises by automating the registration and trademark process to reduce barriers around entrepreneurship and innovation;
- Streamlining the regulatory environment to facilitate startups and SMEs in utilizing non-personal and open data through cross-border and cross-sector collaborations;
- Enabling the proliferation of frontier research, specifically in next generation computing, from academia to industry through public-private partnerships and research commercialization, leading to examples such as generative AI.

Digital Empowerment of the Youth: G7 countries must ensure equitable access to basic digital skills, safe open internet, and digital tools to enable youth participation in democratic processes and facilitate greater tech-enabled workforce opportunities. We urge G7 leaders to work with youth-led, youth-centered organizations and public policymakers to:

- Address digital literacy and IT skills disparities by mandating a baseline digital literacy curriculum for young people and incentivizing educators to upskill around digitization;
- Foster workforce upskilling and reskilling through innovative methods which bridge the knowledge gap in technical fields, such as the use of no-code, low-code tools;
- Facilitate the development of safe online spaces and low-barrier digital feedback systems, and ensure deliberative representation in decision-making processes.



Climate and Environment

We are inheriting a planet at risk due to consistent political inaction and shortcomings of our current economic models. Thus, to address biodiversity loss, pollution, and climate change, we urge G7 leaders to commit to transformative, evidence-based, and coherent policies based on the IPCC Reports (AR6). **In the strongest terms, we call on the G7 to:**

Ensure a Just and Equitable Transition: *Phase out* fossil fuels and *endorse* the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty in alignment with the Paris Agreement. *Commit* to no new investment in the exploration or production of fossil fuels to redirect investments into renewable energy projects, ensuring energy security and accessibility, whilst prioritizing energy efficiency and reducing energy demand. *Strengthen* loan-free climate financing mechanisms (i.e. from the COP27 Loss and Damage Fund and COP15 Agreement) and green investments that target Low and Middle-Income countries and island states, and *design* national transition roadmaps aligned with ambitious, youth-informed NDC targets. *Improve* the collection of climate inequality statistics to ensure inequality checks for climate and development policies. *Embed* the principles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) in all climate policies and *establish* a Youth Engagement Group in the G7 Climate Club by valuing intergenerational dialogue, decolonial frameworks, and youth inclusion. *Expand* climate education through holistic curricular frameworks to ensure sustainable livelihoods, *support* workers within impacted sectors, and *prepare* younger generations for green jobs through upskilling and reskilling opportunities.

Restore Biodiversity and Protect Ecosystems: Prioritizing rural youth, indigenous, and community leadership, *deliver* socially equitable and nature-positive commitments to reverse biodiversity loss, deforestation, and soil degradation. To protect and restore ecosystems, *act* on the Global Biodiversity Framework's 30x30 commitment and endorse responsible Nature-Based Solutions. Recognizing climate change and global threats on food security, *lead* the transition to regenerative agriculture and plant-based food systems, *establish* ambitious animal welfare standards for livestock, and *divest* from intensive monocultures by urgently acting upon the Global Methane Pledge. *Strengthen* the United Nations Convention for the Laws of the Seas (UNCLOS) to align with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) processes and the Paris Agreement. *Enforce* international surveillance systems against illegal, unregulated and unreported fisheries. *End* dangerous indiscriminate fishing techniques (i.e. regulating the trawling size and banning demersal seine) and *ban* deep sea mining.

Prioritize and Finance Resilient Human Settlements: *Ensure* urban and rural planning and development — including the new construction and retrofit of infrastructure and housing, management of green and blue spaces, and disaster risk reduction — be sustainable and resilient by design, operate in accordance with circular economy principles, and be centered in community-led engagement. *Accelerate* the transition towards net zero cities, by investing in affordable and accessible public transportation to incentivize sustainable mobility and *create* urban ecosystems for youth-led innovation for the climate transition. *Recognize* and *protect* climate refugees and internally displaced persons within national and international law, acknowledging threats to security posed by climate change and disasters.



Global Health and Happiness

Health and well-being of global citizens must sit at the heart of all G7 policies and priorities to fulfill individual and collective happiness as an overarching goal, which is intrinsically linked to prosperity and social cohesion. Achieving health equity requires dismantling the institutional and societal disparities that disproportionately affect underrepresented groups, particularly youth and including but not limited to women, LGBTQIA+, racialized, rural, indigenous, and persons with disabilities.

Transformational Tools for Well-being: We urge G7 leaders to centralize physical, mental, social health and well-being within all policies, by:

- Establishing and requiring official parameters and key policy indicators that assess health and well-being outcomes in all policies and an accompanying roadmap, to increase cross-departmental effort and resource efficiency;
- Creating or strengthening respective national mental health strategies to build on the 2021/22 G7 Communiqué. Each strategy must increase funding to (1) pursue de-stigmatization, (2) expand access to timely therapy and wider support, and (3) address root causes;
- Adding Health (H) into the ESG (Environment, Social and Governance) to create an ESHG framework and setting it as a standard mandate (1) for corporate responsibility and (2) to guide more investment and innovation into health.

Equity and Access for Health and Care: We urge G7 leaders to ensure increasing equity and access for all current and future generations, by:

- Setting out a 10-year International Women and Girls Health Action Plan to Eliminate the Gender Health Gap by defining common measurable targets, allocating funding, and eradicating institutional and systemic violence against women;
- Legally implementing standards for urban and rural areas to accelerate the integration of health into design and adaptation of the built environment. Reducing geographic health inequity by increasing environments conducive to mobility and accessible physical activity, nutritious food, water, green, and safe spaces;
- Providing financial and legal support to tackle the critical state of our exhausted and underfunded healthcare services and workforce; strengthening legal implementation to ensure anti-discrimination in access to healthcare notably for LGBTQIA+; and equitably distributing human, technological, and monetary resources.

Preventative Methods and Interventions: We urge G7 leaders to prioritize prevention and early interventions for prolonged healthy life, by:

- Increasing funding towards Antimicrobial Resistance programs to strengthen global preparedness for communicable diseases, aligning with a One Health approach while ensuring a defined allocation to support Low and Middle-Income countries;
- Allocating and protecting funding for (1) early interventions in schools and communities to establish basic health literacy and (2) health campaigns — which are culturally appropriate, accessible, inclusive, and youth-prevalent — to disseminate public health information;
- Adopting and adequately funding social prescribing as a standard method of care for a person-centered approach to early treatment and prevention, relieving pressurized health systems with provision of alternative community-based programs and services.



Peace and Security

We condemn the Russian government's invasion of Ukraine and any other conflicts that challenge the rules-based international order, and any attempts to change the status quo by force. The Y7 calls for a negotiated end to the conflict that respects Ukraine's territorial integrity and includes Russian withdrawal while recognizing the need for maintained G7 support to Ukraine to enable this. We demand increased efforts to support youth organizations both in Ukraine and globally in their role during conflicts and their resolutions and allocate funds to data collection to support this. We note the impact of the conflict on issues highlighted in this Communiqué and therefore view its aforementioned end as fundamental for addressing these effectively.

We condemn the threat of the use of nuclear weapons by the Russian government during the invasion of Ukraine. As the Y7 gathered in Hiroshima to reflect upon both the horror of nuclear warfare and reconstruction enabled by the friendship between past enemies, we call on the G7 leaders to commit with non-G7 nuclear armed states to set a step-by-step timeframe for complete abolition of nuclear weapons. We call on the G7 leaders to reaffirm their support for meaningful youth participation in disarmament and non-proliferation emphasized in the UNGA Resolution 76/45 through concrete actions and financing tools. We further urge G7 states to preserve the memories and learn the lessons of Atomic Bomb Survivors (Hibakusha) in Japan and around the world through collaboration with youth organizations and the promotion of peace education, for youth to shape a collective understanding on the horrendous suffering from nuclear weapons and the necessity for disarmament.

We urge the G7 leaders to recognize the Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) agenda as a core framework in peace-making and peace-building processes. We demand the creation of G7 nationwide action plans on the agenda, informed by the five YPS pillars (participation, protection, prevention, partnerships as well as disengagement and reintegration), based on the related UN Security Council resolutions. During and post-conflict, we emphasize the importance of youth exchanges and facilitation of visa access to counteract division between parties and promote mutual understanding, and we urge G7 states to ensure the continuity of these exchanges amidst rising geopolitical tensions.

We support the proposal of Women 7 2023 to implement ambitious and intersectional feminist foreign policies (FFP), and we urge for the creation of a minimum standard FFP. We recognize the additional threats to security faced by members of the LGBTQIA+ community globally. We call for G7 countries to ensure their fundamental human rights through access to essential services and guarantees to personal safety.

We urge all G7 leaders to commit to protecting young refugees and asylum-seekers, in line with the rule of law by upholding their fundamental rights, dignity and access to integration support, psychosocial assistance, healthcare, housing, legal aid and employment. We also call on G7 leaders to urgently combat hate-speech and discrimination targeted at migrant and diaspora communities.

A peaceful world requires strong cybersecurity. We recognize that the increasingly digital nature of the global environment necessitates attention on protecting critical infrastructure. We recommend that G7 countries work at an intergovernmental level and with private sector entities to establish performance-based cybersecurity regulations predicated on existing cybersecurity frameworks, voluntary consensus standards and work to develop a cohesive plan to combat misinformation and disinformation.