

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE G7 CLIMATE AND ENERGY WORKING GROUP OF THE G7 GLOBAL TASK FORCE

The Climate & Energy Working Group of the G7 Global Task Force is a broad coalition of over 60 civil society organizations from G7 countries and around the world. The group was created in 2018 during the Canadian G7 Presidency.

19 January 2021

The world is facing multiple unprecedented and devastating crises. The United Kingdom (UK), as new President of the Group of 7 of the wealthiest developed economies in the world (G7), has a unique opportunity to bring countries together to respond to the economic, social and cultural impacts of the global pandemic and the climate and biodiversity crises.

This pandemic is testing how we come together to address existing and pressing global challenges and creating and amplifying new ones. The Group of Seven (G7) must position itself in crisis mode and support multilateralism and solidarity. The G7 can lead the way towards a fully decarbonized, more equal, safer and healthier future. The G7 and the Groupe of Twenty (G20) presidencies must work alongside and set a clear vision for how it can capitalize on the opportunities that the G20 and G7 Presidencies can create as we approach COP26. The UK has already [noted](#) the opportunity to weave climate as a "*golden thread*" through these Presidencies and articulate those tangible outcomes needed to enable transformational action in 2021. In this document, the priorities laid out are areas of work that build upon previous G7 commitments, the strategic importance of the G7 with other diplomatic fora and the role the G7 must play in a world in crisis.

RAISING CLIMATE AMBITION AND DECARBONIZING THE GLOBAL ECONOMY IN LINE WITH SCIENCE

- All G7 countries have committed to make their economies carbon neutral by 2050. The G7 must now commit to putting forward a joint net-zero G7 plan that promotes the full decarbonization of the global economy and engages G7 countries to do their fair share in the worldwide effort to limit global warming to 1.5C. The G7 must also commit to communicating enhanced, robust, equitable and ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and long-term strategies by COP26. NDCs must reflect G7's highest possible ambition and equally prioritize mitigation and adaptation action.
- G7 countries must commit to supporting climate action, particularly adaptation and resilience to climate change as a critical priority, especially for those most vulnerable communities and countries where adaptation is also a matter of survival.
- The G7 must come together and propose climate policies that directly support public health and include them as part of their enhanced NDCs. G7 countries should prioritize integrating assessments of climate and air quality strategies in line with the World Health Organization [manifesto](#) for a healthy green recovery from COVID-19. This manifesto calls

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE G7 CLIMATE AND ENERGY WORKING GROUP OF THE G7 GLOBAL TASK FORCE

The Climate & Energy Working Group of the G7 Global Task Force is a broad coalition of over 60 civil society organizations from G7 countries and around the world. The group was created in 2018 during the Canadian G7 Presidency.

for *"investment in healthier environments for health protection, environmental regulation, and ensuring that health systems are climate-resilient."*

- The G7 has previously recognized the importance of mitigating emissions of short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs), including black carbon, hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), and methane, to help slow the rate of near-term warming. G7 countries must include their enhanced NDCs and long-term strategies reduction targets for 2030 on SLCPs, in line with the IPCC 1.5°C report and support and collaborate further through the Climate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce SLCPs. G7 members should ratify the Montreal Protocol's Kigali Amendment and ensure its implementation and undertake immediate actions to improve energy efficiency in the cooling sector.
- Strong carbon pricing contributes to protecting our health and well-being. The G7 must make carbon pricing and carbon border adjustment mechanisms critical priorities for the G7 in 2021 and promote international approaches on effective carbon pricing and international trade.
- Raising climate ambition requires making transformational investments, particularly in high emitting sectors, like the transport sector. The G7 has a unique opportunity to come together and adopt a global strategy to decarbonize transportation in the coming decade. As electric vehicle markets are advancing exponentially, G7 countries should agree to shift to 100% sales of zero-emission vehicles as soon as possible by 2035 at the latest.

Phasing out fossil fuels

- In 2021, G7 countries must call for a global phase-out of fossil fuel subsidies. G7 countries must agree to develop clear national roadmaps to phase out all fossil fuel subsidies (including tax concessions and funds through multilateral development banks (MDBs)) by 2025 at the latest.
- The UK has announced excluding fossil fuel investments from all direct overseas public spending (including export credits). G7 members can follow and commit to shift public finance away from fossil fuels and align investments with the Paris Agreement's long-term goals.
- We call on the G7 to commit to an end of fossil fuel expansion as soon as possible following the lead of countries like Denmark and Costa Rica and propose the creation of a global initiative to incrementally reduce fossil fuel production by at least 6% annually and communicate this in their enhanced NDCs. This commitment must include policies that encourage accessible and affordable clean energy alternatives. The G7 must support the transition of energy systems in developing countries and provide, where necessary, targeted support to the most affected.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE G7 CLIMATE AND ENERGY WORKING GROUP OF THE G7 GLOBAL TASK FORCE

The Climate & Energy Working Group of the G7 Global Task Force is a broad coalition of over 60 civil society organizations from G7 countries and around the world. The group was created in 2018 during the Canadian G7 Presidency.

- The G7 should show international leadership on coal phase-out by setting retirement pace with more ambitious domestic coal phase-out pathways. The Leaders Communiqué should explicitly commit to ambitious coal action, with the COP26 Energy Transition Campaign's endorsement.

Just transition

- In 2018, during the Canadian G7, countries recognized the importance of just transition for workers, communities and Indigenous Peoples worldwide. Canada and the UK have also made progress on just transition as part of their commitment to phase out coal. The UK can use its presidency to make Just Transition a standing priority of the G7 agenda that addresses the transition of all sectors of the economy. G7 members should communicate in their enhanced NDCs domestic just transition plans for 2030 and as part of their 2050 net-zero plans.

WORKING TOWARDS A SAFER MORE RESILIENT, AND FAIRER POST-COVID-19 FUTURE

Economic recovery

- The UK should use its presidency to ensure economic recovery plans from G7 countries contribute to closing the gap between countries' current emissions trajectories and their climate targets and contribute towards restoring nature.
- G7 countries must ensure that COVID-19 recovery support goes to investments that help G7 countries reduce emissions and stop expanding and relying on the fossil fuel industry. G7 countries must also agree to domestic mandatory TCFD-aligned climate risk disclosure.
- We call on G7 countries to create a workstream led by Finance Ministers and Environment Ministers to share best practices on the alignment of COVID-19 recovery investments with the Paris Agreement and net-zero objectives.
- The G7 must ensure that green recovery measures are gender transformative and actively seeking to reduce gender and other inequalities. The G7 can lead by promoting investing in the care economy and reducing barriers for women and marginalized groups to access decent jobs in clean energy sectors.

Supporting a global recovery

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE G7 CLIMATE AND ENERGY WORKING GROUP OF THE G7 GLOBAL TASK FORCE

The Climate & Energy Working Group of the G7 Global Task Force is a broad coalition of over 60 civil society organizations from G7 countries and around the world. The group was created in 2018 during the Canadian G7 Presidency.

- In their Leaders Communiqué, the G7 must recognize the interconnections between the changing climate, ecosystem loss and degradation and health impacts, including the zoonotic origin of the COVID-19 pandemic, impacts on agriculture and hunger, migration of health vectors and the direct effects of extreme weather on health.
- We look forward to engaging with the G7 and meaningful outcomes that contribute to a global, just, and transformational recovery. This recovery must integrate, defend and expand human rights and the rights of Indigenous Peoples particularly: the right to information, participation and effective remedies, as well as freedom of expression and assembly.
- The G7 must commit to invest and financially support efforts to achieve a sustainable recovery in developing countries. The recovery must reduce inequalities by prioritizing the needs of the marginalized and discriminated people between and within nations, especially women and girls.
- This recovery should be built on social justice principles and promote creating jobs that deliver sustainable and decent employment for all workers without discrimination of any kind.
- The UK and Italy should work together to speed up the reform of development finance institutions, so their portfolios are fully aligned with the Paris Agreement goals.
- As part of this reform, the G7 should request development finance institutions to present a report on the multiple health, development, human rights protection, Indigenous People's rights protection and climate co-benefits resulting from financed projects.

DELIVERING ON FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS, INCREASING RESILIENCE AND ENSURING SOLIDARITY WITH VULNERABLE COUNTRIES

- G7 countries must reaffirm their collective commitment to at least double their individual climate finance pledges for the post-2020 period in the global effort to jointly mobilize USD 100 billion annually by 2020 from all sources to support climate action in developing countries. The G7 must acknowledge the urgent need to work towards a new post-2025 financial goal that considers the developing countries' needs and aspirations.
- The UK and Germany have announced their intention to organize high-level moments on climate finance in 2021. G7 countries must use these moments to promote more grant-based climate financing, which is new and additional and increases adaptation support to at least 50% of all climate finance resources.
- G7 countries must support developing countries' net-zero plans and NDC plans. G7 members must also announce investments that reach the poorest women and girls, LDCs and SIDS. The G7 must invest in locally-led gender-sensitive grassroots projects following

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE G7 CLIMATE AND ENERGY WORKING GROUP OF THE G7 GLOBAL TASK FORCE

The Climate & Energy Working Group of the G7 Global Task Force is a broad coalition of over 60 civil society organizations from G7 countries and around the world. The group was created in 2018 during the Canadian G7 Presidency.

the Principles for Locally Led Adaptation to ensure funds are effectively targeting local levels.

- G7 countries should indicate a commitment to fund water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services for the climate-vulnerable communities who lack them, including as part of climate finance.
- We ask that the G7 take leadership to establish a new window of public finance for loss and damage, in addition to the existing finance for adaptation and mitigation. The G7 should make ambitious pledges to fund this window, above and beyond existing finance. The compounding crises faced in 2020 have forced people to leave their homes. G7 countries should offer financial and social protection to those displaced by climate change impacts, including by opening pathways to safe and legal migration.
- The UK has previously supported investments for the transition from biomass cooking to Modern Energy Cooking Services in vulnerable countries. The G7 can lead by committing to integrating modern cooking in climate investments to shift the 2.7 billion people in vulnerable countries who still rely on biomass, phasing out climate forcing black carbon. This commitment should include increasing access to reliable and renewable electricity to allow for cooking loads, for some of the 700 million underserved people in ODA-eligible countries, through the extension of national electrical grids or off-grid systems.
- The G7 should discuss shifting from emergency response to forecast-based early warning/early action anticipatory approaches, focusing on the 1 billion people that should be covered by fully-functioning early warning/early action systems by 2025. Key priorities in this area include expanded availability of shock-responsive social protection, livelihoods support and cash assistance before the onset of the crisis to the most vulnerable groups.

Fiscal space

- G7 countries must launch a debt for climate initiative that would include debt for climate swaps, green bonds and require the IMF to develop a plan to support members to undertake a green and inclusive recovery.
- The G7 should require the World Bank to disclose all investments towards a green recovery.
- The G7 must work together on unlocking IMF issuance of Special Drawing Rights in early 2021.
- In 2021, all G7 members must secure a G7 agreement to increase ODA to the agreed levels of 0.7% of GNI.

Nature

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE G7 CLIMATE AND ENERGY WORKING GROUP OF THE G7 GLOBAL TASK FORCE

The Climate & Energy Working Group of the G7 Global Task Force is a broad coalition of over 60 civil society organizations from G7 countries and around the world. The group was created in 2018 during the Canadian G7 Presidency.

- The G7 should jointly pledge to reverse nature loss by 2030 and encourage other countries to sign the Leader's Pledge for Nature and act with resolve and urgency to deliver the commitments it sets out. The G7 should also encourage countries to protect 30% of land and seas by 2030 and encourage other countries to join the High Ambition Coalition for Nature.
- Building on the Leader's Pledge for Nature in 2020, the G7 must commit to delivering an ambitious global biodiversity framework at the CBD COP15 in 2021 in China. The G7 must commit to fully contributing to reverse the catastrophic loss of nature by 2030 to ensure its implementation is well resourced.
- The G7 can advance the Sustainable Land Use and Commodities Trade Dialogue with consumer and producer countries to be ready to launch a package of policies at COP26 that delivers deforestation-free supply chains.
- Indigenous Peoples are the stewards of 80% of the world's remaining forest biodiversity. 24% of above-ground carbon in world's tropical forests is found in Indigenous lands. The G7 should invite Indigenous Peoples to the Leaders' Summit and ensure that commitments on nature are aligned with and respect Indigenous Peoples rights and aspirations.

We look forward to working with the G7 Presidency in 2021.

Contact:

Eddy Pérez
Climate Action Network Canada
eddy@climateactionnetwork.ca

Tom Evans
E3G
tom.evans@e3g.org

Sue Willsher
Tearfund
sue.willsher@tearfund.org