G7 Global Taskforce 2021 Common Lobbying Positions

UK Cornwall G7 Summit

G7 Global Taskforce
2021 Common Lobbying Positions

for the UK's Cornwall G7

Contents

Introduction

Since 2009, the G7 Global Taskforce has prepared the Common Lobbying Positions (CLP) outlining the group's priority asks for the G7 governments. These policy recommendations lay out steps the G7 can take to address many of the most pressing problems facing people and planet. The CLP builds on the work and experience of the Taskforce's 500 plus members from 270 organisations across the G7 and beyond and these recommendations have been drafted and refined through considered research, discussion and debate to ensure they represent the priorities and focus of the members of the Working Groups.

While each year brings its own challenges, 2021 is an exceptional year. The increasingly visible climate emergency, the global pandemic, and the precarious economic situation has affected the world in ways not seen for three quarters of a century. The recommendations set out below aim to crack the crises, and as such, are ambitious in their reach but within the ability of the G7 to deliver - but only if G7 governments look beyond their national interest and short-term horizons.

We call on the G7 to implement these recommendations with urgency at the Cornwall Summit and related Ministerials.

G7 Global Taskforce Working Group Recommendations

Climate & Energy:
Working Group Recommendations

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 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 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 1.5ãC 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.
- The G7 should show international leadership on coal phase-out by setting retirement pace with more ambitious domestic coal phase-out pathways. The Leaders Communique 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

- In their Leaders Communique, 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 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

- 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.

Education:
Working Group Recommendations

Getting Sustainable Development Goal 4 on track for every girl by 2025 and achieved by 2030

Few children around the world have been spared from disruption to education caused by Covid-19. Indeed, 90% of learners worldwide have seen the pandemic affect their education.[1] UNESCO estimates that more than 168 million children have had their schools shut for almost an entire year due to the pandemic.[2] Sadly, these impacts have particularly affected girls and young women, with up to 20 million girls

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[1] UNESCO, 'Education: From disruption to recovery', https://en.unesco.org/covid19/educationresponse.
[2] UNICEF, 'COVID-19 and School Closures: One year of education disruption', March 2021, https://data.unicef.org/resources/one-year-of-covid-19-and-school-closures/.

at risk of never returning to the classroom.[3]

Girls themselves, however, are not a uniform group nor experience uniform challenges. Girls with disabilities face discrimination, stigma, and intersecting challenges to realising their right to education. Girls in situations of conflict and displacement often have their learning disrupted, seeing their future put on hold, often for multiple years or indefinitely. Without access to sexual and reproductive health services, girls are more likely to have an unplanned or unwanted pregnancy and be unable to return to school because of discriminatory policies and norms. Harmful gender norms, unsafe and poorly resourced classrooms, and gender-based violence all affect girls and keep them from achieving their full potential. And the impacts of climate change amplify these challenges for girls.

And yet, investing in girls' education is one of the most important ways in which the world can prevent the devastating consequences Covid-19 could have on nations, economies, opportunities, and futures. Girls' education improves their health now and in the future, as well as the health of the planet and the health of communities. It supports economic growth and opportunity. It leads to an empowered and unstoppable generation that can achieve anything they set their mind to.

So while the G7 summit comes at a time of great disruption, it also presents an opportunity for hope. By coming together, making strong commitments, and investing in children's futures, the members of the G7 can build a future where every child - including every girl - can realise their right to education. To do so, G7 Governments must set out an ambitious agenda that sees them commit to five years to achieve 10 actions to get Sustainable Development Goal 4 on track for every girl by 2025 and achieved by 2030. By doing so, the G7 will take a significant step towards building strong, inclusive, and resilient education systems that support all learners. By avoiding piecemeal or programmatic interventions, this agenda seeks to build a long-term approach that not only combats lost learning due to Covid-19, but also rebuilds a future where every child realises their right to education. By focussing on girls, the G7 can build on previous (and welcome) commitments and expand them to ensure systems are built for every learner, leaving no one behind.

This year, 2021, is the year for action, and the G7 is critical in this effort. By making a strong commitment, one that is resilient, inclusive, and fully financed, the G7 can use its power to get girls learning, once and for all. The world is waiting, there is no time to lose, and we must act now.

The 5-10-25 agenda sets out 10 clear, implementable actions that will ensure the G7 get girls learning. Together, these actions support the development of strong and resilient systems that will get - and keep - SDG4 on track and ensure it is achieved by 2030, for every girl.

5-10-25: five years to achieve 10 actions to get Sustainable Development Goal 4 on track for every girl by 2025 – and achieved by 2030

1) **Protect learning during Covid-19:** Ensure a safe return to school and prevent further lost learning for girls by addressing the gendered economic impacts of the pandemic,

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[3] L Fry and P Lei, *Girls' education and COVID-19: What past shocks can teach us about mitigating the impact of pandemics*, Malala Fund, April 2020, available at https://tinyurl.com/yp6vdvr9.

developing and financing fully accessible catch-up classes, addressing mental health and wellbeing needs, and accelerating efforts to close the digital divide for the most marginalised, in particular girls.

2) Finance for the future: Provide full financial support to address and meet all elements of the 5-10-25 plan inclusively and equitably, with a renewed commitment to spend 0.7% of GNI on ODA and support for debt alleviation, gender-transformative financing policies, a progressive commitment to 15% of ODA going to education by 2025, and a commitment to allocating 10% of humanitarian aid to education.

3) Deliver on quality and access: Direct funding to fully inclusive programmes designed to ensure 40 million more pre-primary, primary and secondary school girls in Lower-Income Countries and Lower-Middle Income Countries are in school and learning and a third more girls are achieving holistic learning and life-skills, ensuring these goals are underpinned by equity targets and with a focus on the most marginalised in every programme.

4) Eliminate systemic and gendered barriers: Prioritise legal and policy protections that address the structural barriers and gender norms that prevent girls from accessing and completing education – including poverty and inequality, inadequate facilities and services, adolescent and early pregnancy, child marriage, unpaid domestic work and high rates of violence against girls in schools and communities – and recognise the role of societies in attitudinal and behavioural change.

5) Create and sustain safe and gender-transformative learning environments: Develop, fund, and implement policies and practices that create safe and inclusive learning environments for children of all gender identities, end school-related gender-based violence (SRGBV), embed comprehensive sexuality education for girls and boys in the curriculum, invest in gender-transformative curriculum and teaching practices, and support women in education workforces.

6) Deliver comprehensive inclusive education: Strengthen inclusive education systems to ensure that all children with disabilities, including girls, access quality education by supporting the development of inclusive education sector plans (starting from early childhood education) that budget for inclusion and contain specific sub-targets for girls with disabilities. Track and monitor progress by using the OECD DAC Disability marker, disaggregating data, as well as ensuring inclusion in emergencies and protracted crises, and recommitting to the full delivery of SDG4 for every child.

7) Address climate change through green skills development: Ensure every girl receives gender-transformative green learning through educational reforms, ensuring learning responds to current challenges in society and empowers localised solutions.

8) Build climate resilient education sectors through national systems and frameworks: Recognise and embed education, in particular for girls, in climate financing, policies, and agreements (including Nationally Determined Contributions) to ensure strong and climate-resilient education systems that minimise disruption and keep all children affected by climate crises learning.

9) Commit to education in emergencies (EiE): Dedicate policies and financing necessary to ensure the full implementation of the Charlevoix Declaration by 2025, directing EiE funding to programmes designed to achieve learning outcomes for girls and boys equitably, investing in access to inclusive quality and holistic education,

promoting research on what works, and monitoring and communicating progress towards these outcomes.

10) Youth engagement: Commit to and adequately resource the meaningful participation of girl led groups and girl activists in key global decision-making processes through collaborative partnership models, ensuring accessible information and providing flexible funding to support participation and self-organising.

Food & Nutrition Security:
Working Group Recommendations

Introduction

Urgent action is needed by the G7 to respond to a deepening global food security and nutrition crisis. The implications of inaction are unfathomable with some countries having already declared famine like conditions and others on the brink of famine. We therefore welcome the decision to set up a Famine Prevention and Humanitarian Crisis Panel under the current G7 Presidency. The aims and impact of this panel will need to be ambitious and transformative. The G7's approach to tackling food insecurity and famine risk must be well resourced, multi-faceted and comprehensive. In addition to scaling up to meet urgent life saving needs the G7 must also ensure it supports longer-term solutions to global malnutrition and food insecurity.

Even before COVID-19 hit, 690 million people were chronically food insecure[4] and 135 million people were estimated to have been acutely food insecure in 2019[5].The world-wide economic contraction caused by Covid-19 containment measures has exacerbated already worrying trends in increasing levels of acute and chronic hunger due to climate change, conflict, and/or economic shocks. In humanitarian contexts, 77 million people (or 80 percent of acute hunger needs) were driven by conflict[6]. An additional 34 million people suffered from weather-driven acute food insecurity – a 17 per cent increase from the previous year, with these numbers expected to as more than 80 per cent of the world's most food insecure people live in disaster-prone countries[7]

Malnutrition, a factor in half of all child deaths, is predicted to rise and reverse years of progress. Disruption to already strained health systems, a key factor in the delivery of essential nutrition services, is a huge concern. Without urgent action, it is estimated that by 2022 an additional 9.3 million children will be wasted and an additional 2.6 million children will be stunted. An additional 168,000 children under-five are predicted to die by 2022 due to increases in child wasting and disruption to essential nutrition services.[8]

Good nutrition plays a fundamental role in cognitive development and ongoing cognitive and physiological capacity to learn, which impacts school performance, improves lifetime earnings

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[4] FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO. 2020. The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2020. Rome, FAO.

[5] Global Network on Food Crises and Food Security Information Network (2020)Global Report on Food Crises 2020

[6] GHO 2021https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/GHO2021_EN.pdf

[7] Ibid

[8] https://www.researchsquare.com/article/rs-123716/v1

and productivity, and ultimately breaks the cycle of poverty.[9] When children enter school anaemic, stunted and malnourished, their education outcomes are compromised and limiting their ability to reach their full potential.

All drivers need to be addressed for the G7 to achieve its existing commitment to lift 500 million people in developing countries out of hunger and malnutrition. A lack of action on immediate and longer-term food and nutrition crises will result in more preventable deaths   and prolong the Covid-19-induced global economic contraction.

In 2021, the G7 must urgently focus on responding to the immediate crisis unfolding globally through targeted action that responds to, and prevents, emerging and current famine risk. The G7 must also deliver on its commitment to long-term action to address chronic hunger and malnutrition and commit to building back better after the pandemic to ensure there are no long-lasting impacts for the world's most vulnerable people. Finally, the G7 must prioritise other upcoming moments in 2021 which are vital for strong action on food security, nutrition and agriculture through taking advantage of key upcoming global processes such as the UN Food System Summit, COP 26 and Nutrition for Growth Summit to galvanise actions for more sustainable, nutritious and equitable food systems.

<u>Making famine response, prevention, and chronic malnutrition a G7 priority</u>

The Global Report on Food Crises estimated that there were 135 million people acutely food insecure in 2019.[10] By the end of 2020, the number of acutely food insecure people could have increased to 270 million due to COVID-19.[11] More than **30 million people**, in 41 countries, are currently facing emergency levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 4)[12] and are highly vulnerable to famine - and three countries already have populations in famine or famine-like conditions (IPC Phase 5).[13] This situation is predicted to worsen over the coming months which will have devastating impacts in terms of extreme human suffering,including extreme levels of malnutrition and significant mortality.

Further, an additional 9.3 million children are predicted to be wasted by 2022 unless urgent action is taken.[14] Currently, despite a strong correlation between wasting and child mortality, only 20% of children who suffer from wasting receive treatment.[15] Increased caseloads will place further stress on already fragile health systems.

Urgent and concerted action by the G7, including through the UK's proposed Crisis Panel,can mitigate the worst of the predicted impacts of the growing global food and nutrition crises. Inaction, or delayed action, would lead to a worsening situation, preventable deaths, and create entrenched inequality and human suffering which will absorb political and economic attention at greater rates in the future.

We welcome the focus of the planned Crisis Panel on resource mobilisation and anticipatory action. Success is possible but requires the commitment, leadership, and resources of the G7.

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[9] Shekar, Meera; Kakietek, Jakub; Dayton Eberwein, Julia; Walters, Dylan. 2017. An Investment Framework for Nutrition : Reaching the Global Targets for Stunting, Anemia, Breastfeeding, and Wasting. Directions in Development--Human Development;. Washington, DC: World Bank. © World Bank. https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/26069 p.45-46

[10] Global Network on Food Crises and Food Security Information Network (2020), Global Report on Food Crises 2020.

[11] (https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/GHO2021_EN.pdf)

[12] IPC/CH 2020&2021

[13] South Sudan, Yemen, Burkina Faso, IPC/CH 2020&2021

[14] https://www.researchsquare.com/article/rs-123716/v1

[15] https://www.nowastedlives.org/the-issue-1

In 2017, the G7's bold and decisive political leadership and commitment of significant financial resources (including ODA) to fighting famine in Yemen, north-east Nigeria, Somalia and South Sudan was instrumental in preventing massive loss of life. In 2021, even greater diplomatic efforts are needed to support peaceful resolution of conflict and to address constraints to humanitarian access to ensure timely access to humanitarian assistance the situation is even more grave and the time to act to save lives at scale is quickly slipping away-and the wider impact on child development, poverty and people's lives will endure for years to come.

Alongside conflict, climate change is a key driver of worsening food insecurity and malnutrition. Severe food insecurity, especially related to climatic effects, is largely predictable. Real-time early warning can enable anticipatory humanitarian action at scale to prevent food and nutrition crises. Experience shows that collective anticipatory action to food insecurity is possible and it carries significant cost savings over waiting to respond when a crisis hits.

Whilst the immediate famine response must be prioritised, prevention of malnutrition remains equally important. The G7 can ensure millions of people do not become malnourished due to the pandemic's lingering impacts in future years and instead maintain global progress on lowering chronic malnutrition, such as stunting. Global nutrition financing was woefully short of the World Bank Investment Framework which showed an additional $7 billion per year was needed.[16] An additional $1.2 billion per year is estimated to be needed to mitigate the additional impacts caused by the pandemic.[17] Ensuring good and healthy nutrition is vital to prevent long-term damage due to malnutrition, and to break its inter-generational cycle. Ineffectively responding to crises without prioritising nutrition may shift a crisis into a protracted issue of undernutrition within lingering individual and societal impacts.

We urge G7 countries to take the following immediate actions to enable an effective and urgent response to unfolding famine, food insecurity, and malnutrition crisis:

1. **Appeal for extraordinary resource mobilisation to respond to and mitigate famine and its catastrophic consequences** – and that these resources are safeguarded from political influence or decisions. This should include at least $5 billion in emergency assistance for comprehensive famine relief and mitigation to reach over 30 million people today at the highest risk of famine and in famine or famine-like conditions.[18]

2. **Take diplomatic action to prevent famine, protect civilians and protect humanitarian access in conflict** - in line with international humanitarian law and humanitarian principles. G7 members must commit to uphold such laws in their own foreign, defence and trade policy. They should also support efforts of Humanitarian Country Teams to identify and overcome unlawful access impediments, and hold governments to account where clear evidence emerges of breaches of food security related international humanitarian and human rights law.

   This is in line with UNSCR 2417 which establishes conflict induced food insecurity as an issue of international peace and security. It further reaffirms the prohibition on the deliberate starvation of civilians in times of war, the destruction of infrastructure necessary for their survival and the prohibition on humanitarian access impediments. Progress is now needed to see the principles of this resolution reflected in the

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[16]https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/nutrition/publication/an-investment-framework-for-nutrition-reaching-the-global-targets-for-stunting-anemia-breastfeeding-wasting

[17] https://www.researchsquare.com/article/rs-123716/v1

[18] As of 10 Feb 2021, the total numbers are $5.45 billion in order to reach 33.5 million people (IPC/CH 2020&2021)

diplomatic decisions of G7 and UN member states. G7 members of the UN Security Council should also support measures to improve reporting and accountability linked to the resolution.

3. **Support increased prioritisation of targeted actions to address malnutrition in food insecurity and famine response** - through intersectoral collaboration on the treatment and prevention of malnutrition. Essential nutrition services[19] remain vital in crisis settings, the G7 must show leadership including through prioritising primary nutrition services in at risk areas, adopting the OECD policy marker for nutrition in the programme design phase of ODA in humanitarian settings, and using nutrition data to inform early action and humanitarian response.

4. **Scale up emergency food assistance to populations at risk of famine** - in the form of in- kind distributions and or the provision of cash and vouchers, based on a robust market analysis and beneficiary preferences.

5. **Support real-time assessments and early warning systems** - to provide timely, credible and complete predictions of the food security and nutrition conditions from all countries of concern. Factoring in also climate change predictions and forecasts.

6. **Fully fund the 2021 Global Humanitarian Response Plan.**

To address malnutrition, food insecurity and famine prevention in future, the G7 must commit to supporting longer-term solutions alongside meeting immediate needs. We call on the G7 to:

7. **Ensure a 'triple nexus' approach to preventing food and nutrition crises -** Long-term prevention of crises, and progress in lowering rates of malnutrition, cannot be solved by alone by humanitarian action to address acute hunger. Comprehensively addressing the context specific drivers of malnutrition and food insecurity, investing in building equitable and sustainable food systems and nutrition-integrated health systems is needed to reduce household and community vulnerabilities to future food and nutrition crises in the long term.

8. **Scale up ODA investments for basic nutrition and food security** - ensuring it is aligned to country plans and targeting the poorest, most marginalised and vulnerable groups in line with Agenda 2030's commitments to leave no one behind and in line with the G7 commitment to lift 500 million people in developing countries out of hunger and malnutrition.

9. **Prioritise children in their first 1000 days** - given the potential short and long- term negative consequences of poor nutrition during this 'window of opportunity'.

10. **Ensure continued, and increased, technical assistance for nutrition and food security** - work with and support governments in high-burden countries to improve their own budgetary allocations and policy plans and nutrition specific and nutrition sensitive programmes, aiming at tackling both the direct and indirect causes of malnutrition.

11. **Increase investments in national social protection systems -** to address the key underlying drivers of hunger and malnutrition in both urban and rural areas to ensure the most vulnerable children and their families have sufficient access to affordable, nutritious food year-round, even in the hardest-to-reach places.

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[19] https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789241515856

12. **Target conflict reduction -** build long term resilience by investing in conflict sensitive and community based approaches to improving food security and livelihoods. Work to operationalise reporting and action on conflict induced food insecurity and malnutrition, including on UNSCR2417 in order to elevate crises up the UNSC agenda before famine like conditions emerge, with requests for concrete actions that can be taken by the UNSC and member states.
13. **Support the transformation towards sustainable food system - ensure smallholder farmers' resilience in the face of climate change and further zoonotic crisis, increase investments in sustainable and resilient smallholder farmers' livelihoods -** support agroecological production systems and local markets which help farmers to enhance control over production and keep a greater share of their income while protecting people's access to fresh and healthy food.

Although we recognise the importance of the G7 Summit in itself, a number of other important events are taking place in 2021. Their success will depend on the active and full engagement of G7 Members. We recommend that the G7 members commit to actively participate in, and make financial and policy commitments at the following:

1. **Nutrition for Growth Year of Action and Tokyo 2021 Nutrition for Growth Summit** - Drive donor efforts for the year of action leading to sustainable, reliable financial commitments for nutrition in line with recommendations made by the International Coalition for Advocacy on Nutrition and respecting the Nutrition for Growth Principles of Engagement, Commitment Guide, and relevant accountability mechanisms.
2. **UN Food Systems Summit and COP26 process** - Accelerate efforts to adapt the impacts of climate change on food, nutrition and agriculture by amplifying calls/galvanising actions for more sustainable and nutritious food systems at the UN Food Systems Summit and the COP26 process and integrate nutrition in national action plans. Foster greater collaboration across UN Food Systems Summit Action Tracks to ensure food security, nutrition and agriculture at the centre of all outcomes from the summit. Commit to food security and nutrition as a thematic priority for COP26, calling on all UNFCCC Parties to integrate nutrition into National Adaptation Plans of Action (NAPAs).
● **G20 Summit** - Ensure policy coherence on relevant subjects through both the G7 and G20 processes for stronger, and more unified efforts.
● **Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP)** - The replenishment period of the GAFSP (2020-2025) is an opportune moment to ensure finances to food security and agriculture. GAFSP should be replenished with new and additional funds , following which it must launch a quick and extraordinary call for proposal targeting producers' organizations, as well as low-income countries that are highly affected by the crisis.

Definition of terms

Famine - Famine occurs in areas where at least one in five households has or is most likely to have an extreme deprivation of food. Starvation, death, destitution and extremely critical levels of acute malnutrition are or will likely be evident. Significant mortality, directly attributable to outright starvation or to the interaction of malnutrition and disease, is occurring or will be occurring.

Food Security - Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social, and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food that meets their food preferences and dietary needs for an active and healthy life.

Hunger - Hunger is the body's way of signalling that it is running short of food and needs to eat something. Sustained hunger can lead to undernutrition, although it is only one of many causes; others include diarrhoea, malaria and HIV and AIDS.

Malnutrition - Malnutrition is a broad term commonly used as an alternative to undernutrition, but technically it also refers to overweight and obesity. People are malnourished if their diet does not provide adequate calories and protein for growth and maintenance, or if they are unable to fully utilise the food they eat due to illness (undernutrition). They are also malnourished if they consume too many calories

Undernutrition - Undernutrition is defined as the outcome of insufficient food intake and repeated infectious diseases. It includes being underweight for one's age, too short for one's age (stunted), dangerously thin for one's height (wasted – can also be referred to as 'acute malnutrition'), and deficient in vitamins and minerals (micronutrient malnutrition)

Stunting - Stunting refers to a child who is too short for his or her age. Stunting is the failure to grow both physically and cognitively and is the result of chronic or recurrent malnutrition. It can also be referred to as 'chronic malnutrition'. The effects of stunting often last a lifetime

Wasting - Wasting refers to a child who is too thin for his or her height. Wasting is the result of sudden or acute malnutrition, where the child is not getting enough calories from food and faces an immediate risk of death.

Women & Gender Equality:
Working Group Recommendations

Paper I - Foreign and Development Track

Women's Economic Justice and COVID-19 Economic Recovery

Extreme poverty, and inequality between countries, is set to rise worldwide while the pandemic has amplified existing gender, racial, social and economic inequalities, as well as vulnerabilities across societies.[20] Women are more likely to be employed in sectors most impacted by COVID-19, particularly in the informal sector with limited access to social protection.[21] The pandemic has also brought to the fore the centrality of public health and care services to human wellbeing, alongside the historically undervalued role of women's unpaid care work.

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[20] Hill, R. and Narayan, A. (7 January 20201). "What COVID-19 can mean for long-term inequality in developing countries." World Bank Blogs. https://blogs.worldbank.org/voices/what-covid-19-can-mean-long-term-inequality-developing-countries

[21] An estimated 42 percent of women globally are employed in high-risk sectors compared to 32 percent of men and 28 percent in low income countries compared to 17 percent of men. For further information, please see ILO (2020) ILO Monitor: COVID-19 and the world of work. https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/coronavirus/impacts-and-responses/WCMS_767028/lang--en/index.htm

To 'Build Back Better' for all, rapid and long-term measures are urgently required to provide governments with the fiscal and policy space to provide universal access to social protection, investment in the care economy, and measures to promote decent work, particularly in the informal sector.

Building on the G7 Taormina road map and in line with the emerging framework of the Generation Equality Forum's Action Coalition on Economic Justice and Rights - co-led by Germany - we call on Foreign Affairs Ministers to:

- Avert a major global debt crisis and increase fiscal space for equitable economic recovery in countries in the Global South through the cancellation of all outstanding sovereign debt across private, bilateral and multilateral creditors. The creation of a sovereign debt work-out mechanism, under the aegis of the United Nations, and the issuing of Special Drawing Rights is critical for achieving this;
- Promote democratic and inclusive global economic decision making on sustainable and equitable recovery and ensure that the international financial institutions respect the policy space of national governments;
- Commit to fair, sustainable trade and investment policies and practices which are subject to international human rights standards and in line with the SDGs;
- Exclude trade and investment provisions that protect investors at the expense of women workers and support the establishment of a UN Binding Treaty on Business and Human Rights, with a focus on women's human rights;
- Promote decent work through ratification, funding and enforcement of ILO conventions on collective bargaining and freedom of association and Convention 190 on the elimination of violence and harassment in the world of work throughout G7 supply chains;
- Recognise the importance of the care economy in securing prosperity for all and so end harmful donor-imposed austerity conditionality that reduces public services;
- Enable governments to invest at least two per cent of GDP in social infrastructure,[22] including robust gender-responsive public health and care services, to reduce women's unpaid care burdens and create decent work for women in the public sector;
- Recognise the centrality of care work to the economy and well-being by accounting for care work in economic policy making, providing publicly funding universally accessible care services;
- Provide finance for a Global Social Protection Fund to kick-start universal, publicly funded national protection schemes for low-income countries;
- Ensure economic empowerment initiatives reach the most marginalised women affected by crisis and conflict, in line with the joint G7/G5 Sahel Communique commitments and Women's entrepreneurship in Africa;
- Adopt gender-responsive budgeting, informed by gender impact assessments.

Gender based violence (GBV) / Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)

Gender-based violence (GBV), including intimate partner violence and early and forced marriage, have intensified to the point where they are being referred to as the 'shadow pandemic'.[23] The reality of limited social protection and underfunded, understaffed and poorly coordinated essential services to address GBV, have been highlighted by the COVID-19

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[22] As recommended by the ITUC in ITUC (3 August 2016). "Investing in the Care Economy: A Pathway to Growth." https://www.ituc-csi.org/investing-in-the-care-economy-a
[23] See for instance IRC (15 October 2020). "What Happened? How the Humanitarian Response to COVID-19 Failed to Protect Women and Girls." https://www.rescue-uk.org/report/what-happened-how-humanitarian-response-covid-19-failed-protect-women-and-girls

crisis.[24] In-line with the GBV Action Coalition of the Generation Equality Forum – co-led by the UK government - support for GBV prevention, mitigation and response, especially for most at-risk women and girls in fragile and conflict affected countries (FCAS), is key.

We call on Foreign Affairs Ministers to:

- Prioritise GBV prevention, mitigation and response as essential services in pandemic responses, recognising shelters and support for women facing violence and abuse - including access to safe abortion - as lifesaving services;
- Commit to increasing funding dedicated to GBV prevention, mitigation and response to a minimum of 1% of ODA;
- Ensure that GBV programmes are informed and led by specialist women's rights organisations and ring-fence a minimum of 25% of GBV funding for women's rights organisations -in-country- ensuring this funding is accessible, core, long-term and flexible for their self-defined priorities;
- Introduce and enforce legislation and policy measures to counter the surge and impunity of cyber violence and harassment in G7 countries. Foster international cooperation to this purpose;
- Ratify the Istanbul Convention on Violence against Women and Girls.

Girls' education

COVID-19 is having a detrimental impact on girls' education. In addition to school closures, impoverished girls face challenges accessing education due to increased unpaid care responsibilities caused by the pandemic and the increased risk of early and forced marriage as well as unintended pregnancy during emergencies. An estimated 20 million secondary-school-aged girls will never return to their classrooms.[25]

 We call on Foreign Affairs Ministers to:

- Ensure that commitments on ODA for education prioritise the countries and children that are furthest behind and commit to measures that protect and further expand publicly-funded education budgets, recognising that this is most likely to reach the most marginalised children;
- Prioritise removing the structural barriers that prevent girls from accessing and completing education, including attitudes towards girls' education; attitudes towards disability; teenage pregnancy; FGM/C; early and forced marriage; high rates of violence against girls in schools and communities; menstruation stigma and lack of access to period products; lack of WASH infrastructure, including single-sex toilets in school and WASH facilities closer to home; and well-documented increases in unpaid domestic and care work;
- Increase access to comprehensive sexuality education. This is a key vehicle for educating girls about their rights and health information, a means of ending early pregnancy and HIV infection as well as empowering young people to recognise harmful gender norms and challenge practices such as child marriage and GBV;

[24] See for instance, Birchall, J. (2020). "Data and evidence on global rollback of women and girls' rights since 2016." K4D Helpdesk Report 924. Brighton, UK: Institute of Development Studies. https://opendocs.ids.ac.uk/opendocs/handle/20.500.12413/15886

[25] Malala Fund (6 April 2020). "Girls' Education and COVID-19: What Past Shocks Can Teach Us About Mitigating the Impacts of Pandemics." https://downloads.ctfassets.net/0oan5gk9rgbh/6TMYLYAcUpjhQpXLDgmdIa/3e1c12d8d827985ef2b4e815a3a6d a1f/COVID19_GirlsEducation_corrected_071420.pdf

- Recognise the right to quality education for all children, including children with disabilities. Disaggregate data by disability and use to monitor progress and to better inform and adapt policies and actions, towards the realisation of SDG 4 and use disability tags such as the "OECD-DAC Marker" to track funding for inclusion;
- Ensure the meaningful participation of girl-led groups and girl activists in key global decision-making processes on education, through collaborative partnership models, ensuring accessible information and providing funding to support their participation;
- Provide a clear pathway for children and young people to re-enter education systems, recognising that school closures can exacerbate gender inequalities, and establish systems to keep all girls engaged in learning during school closures (via radio programming, free internet access, or other methods) and for those out of school.[26]

Health and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

Alongside equitable access to vaccines globally, recognising of the role of women health workers will also be an important part of the COVID– 19 recovery. Women make up 70% of the global health workforce and do the majority of paid and unpaid care work.[27] In addition, as countries' health systems strain during crises, essential women's health services like access to contraception, prenatal and maternal care, and safe abortion are often the first to be deprioritised. It is estimated that a 10% drop in the provision of essential reproductive health services due to COVID-19 could translate to an additional 15 million unintended pregnancies, 28,000 maternal deaths, and 3.3 million unsafe abortions in one year alone in 132 low- and middle-income countries.[28]

In line with the emerging framework associated with the Generation Equality Forum's Action Coalition on Bodily Autonomy and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights--which is co-led by France - we call on Foreign Affairs Ministers to:

- Ensure global access to COVID-19 diagnostics, vaccines and medication including through COVAX, especially for women frontline workers;
- Ensure health and care workers, who are overwhelmingly women, are paid a living wage, have access to safe and decent working conditions with adequate PPE, and are properly trained, resourced, paid, and supported to respond to the pandemic while also protecting their own physical and mental wellbeing;
- Safeguard girls' and women's essential sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) during the pandemic, including access to services, supplies and information, and ensure it is not used as an excuse to target restrictions or regulations that limit access to SRHR;
- Advocate for safe, legal and accessible access to abortion services as part of a human right to healthcare;
- Ensure that every woman, youth and adolescent girl, regardless of their financial situation, nationality, sexual orientation, race, religion, status as a parent or any other form of discrimination has access to free, timely, non-judgemental, accessible sexual and reproductive healthcare services and contraception in a nearby location.

[26] Plan International (24 August 2020). "Building Back Equal: Girls' Back to School Guide." https://plan-international.org/publications/building-back-equal-girls-back-school-guide
[27] WHO (2019). "Delivered by women, led by men: A gender and equity analysis of the global health and social force." https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/nursing/delivered-by-women-led-by-men.pdf?sfvrsn=94be9959_2
[28] Riley, T., Sully, E., Ahmed, Z., and Biddlecom, A. (2020). "Estimates of the Potential Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Sexual and Reproductive Health in Low-and Middle-Income Countries." *International Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health*, *46:* 73-76. https://www.guttmacher.org/sites/default/files/article_files/4607320.pdf

Open societies - Women's leadership and political movements

Democracy requires the meaningful participation and leadership of women, including those facing intersecting discriminations. This is especially critical given the continuing impact of structural racism, the shrinking space for civil society globally, and attacks on women human rights and LBGTQIA+ rights defenders. Moreover, as the COVID-19 recovery unfolds, it is essential to ensure women and marginalised communities have a meaningful voice in all decision-making, putting equity at the centre of recovery ambitions.

In line with Agenda 2030 and the emerging framework associated with the Generation Equality Forum's Action Coalition on Women's Leadership and Feminist Movements - co-led by Canada -, we call on Foreign Affairs Ministers to:

- **Commit to achieving 20% of ODA for gender equality as a 'principal' and 100% as a 'principal' or 'significant objective' within 5 years**;
- **Increase flows of funding to women's rights organisations and movements**, recognising the barriers that marginalised women and LGBTQIA+ communities face;[29]
- **Guarantee space for meaningful engagement of civil society and safeguard freedom of expression for groups that do not traditionally have a seat at the table,** such as human rights and gender equality advocates, racial justice organisations, LGBTQIA+ organisations, youth organisations, organisations representing older persons, disability rights organisations, humanitarian organisations, and grassroots organisations;
- **Ensure that women are represented and heard in governance and decision-making processes,** particularly now in relation to COVID-19 response and recovery;
- **Acknowledge the role that structural racism plays in undermining democratic freedoms** and agree a plan to decolonise official development assistance as a means of correcting historic legacies;
- **Work with the OECD DAC and UN to provide disaggregated data as a basis for an evidence-based policy approach to understanding intersecting inequalities** in order to establish baselines, measure progress and report on gender equality related commitments stemming from G7 communiques and declarations. Ensure that all COVID-19 response and recovery initiatives are based on gender analysis, along with sex, race- and age-disaggregated data;
- In-line with the commitments of Canada and France (along with a number of non-G7 countries) adopt feminist approaches to foreign policies[30] which centre human rights, prioritise decolonising relationships between the Global South and North, promote the peaceful resolution of conflicts in foreign policy doctrine and ensure security, diplomacy and trade levers contribute towards internationally agreed goals and human rights commitments.

The Climate crisis

The climate crisis impacts on the rights of women and girls', undermines efforts to combat poverty and inequality, and fuels fragility as well as conflict. Even before COVID-19, the

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[29] Between 2017 and 2019, bilateral and multilateral donors committed over USD 1 billion in funding to support gender equality, particularly in the Global South. To date, however, the bulk of those resources has not reached feminist movements, who are key drivers of transformative and sustainable change. Instead, for decades, more than 99% of ODA funding for gender equality has consistently supported large, more mainstream organisations, has gone to governments, or stayed within development agencies themselves; for further information please see Lever, E., Miller, K. and Staszewska, K. (2020). "Moving More Money to the Drivers of Change: How Bilateral and Multilateral Funders can Resource Feminist Movements." AWID and Mama Cash. https://www.mamacash.org/media/publications/movingmoremoney_mama_cash_awid_cmi.pdf

[30] Thompson, L. (2020). "Feminist Foreign Policy: A Framework. Washington, DC: International Center for Research on Women." https://www.icrw.org/publications/feminist-foreign-policy-a-framework/

climate crisis had increased economic inequality between rich and poor countries by 25%.[31] Women and girls are more likely to experience climate impacts, yet their experiences and leadership have been absent and ignored in responses. Women are critical agents of change and their leadership is essential to understanding climate impacts and developing effective, equitable mitigation, adaptation and responses. We call on Foreign Affairs Ministers to:

- Step up financial support to gender-just climate action by ensuring that at least 20% of 'principal' and 100%[32] of 'significant' climate funding aims to achieve gender equality, and ensure it is accessible for local and national women's rights organisations. At the same time, G7 leaders must re-commit to achieving an annual floor of $100 billion in climate finance beginning in 2020, as pledged at COP15 in 2009. The majority of this funding should be grant-based;
- Incorporate gender considerations into climate change plans at all levels – local, national, and international – such as the National Adaptation Plans, Sector Adaptation Plans, and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs);
- Endorse, provide financial support to and fully implement the UNFCCC 5-year enhanced Lima work programme on gender[33] and its gender action plan;
- Within climate financing initiatives, include direct support for women's rights organisations, including grassroots and Indigenous women-led groups;
- Ensure COVID-19 recovery plans and economic stimulus packages advance progress towards the Paris Agreement and its commitment that all climate actions promote gender equality. For example, accelerate the phasing out of fossil fuels and subsidies and actively seek to reduce gender and other inequalities through investing in the care economy, and reducing barriers for women and marginalised groups to access decent jobs in clean energy sectors;
- Develop and implement accountability mechanisms to hold corporations hosted in G7 states responsible for environmental degradation and attacks on women human rights and environmental defenders and mandate compliance with the 'polluter pays' principle;
- Develop and launch new best practice standards for green, gender-transformative learning and include goals and policies for gender-equitable education access in national climate planning in G7 countries;
- As part of long-term measures to address the growing debt crisis, set up an automatic interest-free moratorium on debt payments for developing countries experiencing climate disasters.

Conflict and women peace and security

COVID-19 has exacerbated existing conflict, fragility, insecurity and crisis as well as impacted negatively on women's and girls' rights. Long-term response to the pandemic should take into account the way in which COVID-19, along with future pandemics, climate change and crisis, impact conflict dynamics which are gendered in themselves.[34] Women's rights organisations and movements have an essential role to play in achieving progress through accountability,

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[31] Diffenbaugh, N.S. and Burke, M. (2019). "Global warming has increased global economic inequality." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 116(20): 9808-9813. https://www.pnas.org/content/116/20/9808

[32] Based on European Commission benchmark and Biglio, J. and Vogelstein, R. (June 2020). "Understanding Gender Equality in Foreign Policy: What the United States Can Do." Council on Foreign Relations. https://cdn.cfr.org/sites/default/files/report_pdf/discussion-paper_bigio-and-vogelstein_gender-equality_or_0.pdf

[33] UNFCC. (2014). The Enhanced Lima Work Plan on Gender. https://unfccc.int/topics/gender/workstreams/the-enhanced-lima-work-programme-on gender#:~:text=In%202014%20the%20COP%20established,responsive%20climate%20policy%20and%20action.

[34] Smith, J.M., Olosky, L. and Fernandez, J.G. (2021). "The Climate-Gender Conflict Nexus: Amplifying Women's Contributions at the Grassroots." Georgetown Institute of Women, Peace and Security. https://giwps.georgetown.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/The-Climate-Gender-Conflict-Nexus.pdf

services and resisting backlash on women and girls' rights, but are chronically underfunded. We therefore call on G7 WPS Partnership Initiative members and Foreign Affairs Ministers to:

- Recognise the lack of funding for gender equality in FCAS and commit at least 15% of ODA to FCAS within OECD DAC Gender Equality Marker 2 and ensure 10% of ODA directly reaches women's rights organisations in FCAS through long-term, core, flexible funding for their self-defined priorities.[35] These targets should be monitored and evaluated and made publicly available for transparency, accountability and learning;
- Ensure G7 WPS national action plans focus nationally as well as externally, and ensure that WPS Partnership Initiative meetings are inclusive of civil society, including women's rights and girl-led groups, networks and movements, from G7 states and FCAS;
- Enable the participation, leadership and influence of diverse women and women's rights organisations within conflict and disaster preparedness, as well as COVID-19 response and recovery-related decision-making spaces and only fund peace processes that are inclusive of at least 25% (and ideally 50%) women and girls - including those from diverse communities facing intersecting barriers to gender equality, including civil society delegations;
- Implement, monitor and publicly report on existing commitments on women's and girls' leadership and rights and preventing sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (PSEAH) made in the Whistler Declaration in 2018 and reaffirmed in 2019;
- Include concrete steps to deliver on the economic rights of women in WPS action plans, including addressing regulatory barriers to displaced and crisis-affected women's right to work and economic well-being.

Paper 2 - The Leaders Track (for use also with Climate and Finance tracks)

Trade and prosperity

The pandemic has laid bare the existing inequalities and vulnerabilities between and across societies,[36] as well as the interdependence of the global economy. To truly 'Build Back Better' in a way that promotes, rather than undermines, gender equality will require rapid measures that prevent global recession and instead promote prosperity across the world - prioritising those countries most at risk of the secondary economic impacts of COVID-19.

Immediate action and financing are urgently required to prevent another global debt crisis and give governments in the Global South the fiscal and policy space to provide universal access to social protection, investment in the care economy, and measures to promote decent work. Action is also necessary to regulate and promote trade in a way that contributes to international obligations including the SDGs. Such measures would build on the G7 Taormina road map and ensure that a more equitable recovery is possible.

We call on G7 leaders to promote sustainable equitable recovery in the following ways:

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[35] GAPS (2021). "Now and the Future - Pandemics and Crisis: Gender Equality, Peace and Security in a COVID-19 OECD (2020). "Twentieth Anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 1325: Financing gender equality and women's empowerment in fragile contexts." https://www.oecd.org/development/gender-development/OECD_Gendernet_Financing%20UNSCR.pdf

[36] Hill, R. and Narayan, A. (7 January 20201). "What COVID-19 can mean for long-term inequality in developing countries." World Bank Blogs. https://blogs.worldbank.org/voices/what-covid-19-can-mean-long-term-inequality-developing-countries

- Avert a major global debt crisis and increase fiscal space for equitable economic recovery in countries across the Global South through the cancellation of all outstanding sovereign debt across private, bilateral and multilateral creditors, and the issuing of Special Drawing Rights;
- Promote democratic and inclusive global economic decision making on sustainable and equitable recovery and ensure that the international financial institutions respect the policy space of national governments;
- Commit to fair, sustainable trade and investment policies and practices that are subject to international human rights standards and in line with the SDGs;
- Exclude trade and investment provisions that protect investors at the expense of women workers and support the establishment of a UN Binding Treaty on Business and Human Rights with a focus on women's human rights.
- Promote decent work through ratification, funding and enforcement of ILO conventions on collective bargaining and freedom of association and Convention 190 on the elimination of violence and harassment in the world of work throughout G7 supply chains.
- Recognise the importance of the care economy in securing prosperity for all and so end harmful donor-imposed austerity conditionality, and enable governments to invest at least two per cent of GDP in social infrastructure[37] - including robust gender-responsive public health and care services, to reduce women's unpaid care burdens and create decent work for women in the public sector;
- Provide finance for a Global Social Protection Fund to kick-start universal, publicly funded national protection schemes for low-income countries.

Open democracy - Women's leadership and participation

Democracy requires the meaningful participation and leadership of women, including those facing intersecting discriminations. This is especially critical given the continuing impact of structural racism, the shrinking space for civil society globally, and attacks on women human rights and LBGTQIA+ rights defenders. In-line with Agenda 2030 and the emerging framework associated with the Generation Equality Forum's Action Coalition on Women's Leadership and Feminist Movements (co-led by Canada), we call on G7 leaders to:

- Guarantee space for meaningful engagement of civil society and safeguard freedom of expression for groups that do not traditionally have a seat at the table, such as human rights and gender equality advocates, racial justice organisations, LGBTQIA+ organisations, youth organisations, organisations representing older persons, disability rights organisations, humanitarian organisations, and grassroots organisations;
- Increase flows of funding to women's rights organisations and movements, recognising the barriers that marginalised women and LGBTQIA+ communities face;[38]

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[37] As recommended by the ITUC in ITUC (3 August 2016). "Investing in the Care Economy: A Pathway to Growth." https://www.ituc-csi.org/investing-in-the-care-economy-a

[38] Between 2017 and 2019, bilateral and multilateral donors committed over USD 1 billion in funding to support gender equality, particularly in the Global South. To date, however, the bulk of those resources has not reached feminist movements, who are key drivers of transformative and sustainable change. Instead, for decades, more than 99% of official development assistance (ODA) funding for gender equality has consistently supported large, more mainstream organisations, has gone to governments, or stayed within development agencies themselves; for further information please see
Lever, E., Miller, K. and Staszewska, K. (2020). "Moving More Money to the Drivers of Change: How Bilateral and Multilateral Funders can Resource Feminist Movements." AWID and Mama Cash. https://www.mamacash.org/media/publications/movingmoremoney_mama_cash_awid_cmi.pdf

- Acknowledge the role that structural racism plays in undermining democratic freedoms and agree on an anti-racism action plan that seeks to correct historic legacies between the Global South and North.

The Climate crisis

The climate crisis impacts on the rights of women and girls', undermines efforts to combat poverty and inequality, and fuels fragility as well as conflict. Even before COVID-19, the climate crisis had increased economic inequality between rich and poor countries by 25%.[39] Women and girls are more likely to experience climate impacts, yet their experiences and leadership have been absent and ignored in responses. Women are critical agents of change and their leadership is essential to understanding climate impacts and developing effective, equitable mitigation, adaptation and responses. We call on G7 leaders to:

- Step up financial support to gender-just climate action by ensuring that at least 20% of 'principal' and 100%[40] of 'significant' climate funding aims to achieve gender equality, and ensure it is accessible for local and national women's rights; organisations. At the same time, G7 leaders must re-commit to achieving an annual floor of $100 billion in climate finance beginning in 2020, as pledged at COP15 in 2009. The majority of this funding should be grant-based;
- Incorporate gender considerations into climate change plans at all levels – local, national, and international – such as the National Adaptation Plans, Sector Adaptation Plans, and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs);
- Endorse, provide financial support to and fully implement the UNFCCC 5-year enhanced Lima work programme on gender[41] and its gender action plan;
- Within climate financing initiatives, include direct support for women's rights organisations, including grassroots and Indigenous women-led groups;
- Ensure COVID-19 recovery plans and economic stimulus packages advance progress towards the Paris Agreement and its commitment that all climate actions promote gender equality. For example, accelerate the phasing out of fossil fuels and subsidies and actively seek to reduce gender and other inequalities through investing in the care economy, and reducing barriers for women and marginalised groups to access decent jobs in clean energy sectors;
- Develop and implement accountability mechanisms to hold corporations hosted in G7 states responsible for environmental degradation and attacks on women human rights and environmental defenders and mandate compliance with the 'polluter pays' principle;
- Develop and launch new best practice standards for green, gender-transformative learning and include goals and policies for gender-equitable education access in national climate planning in G7 countries;
- As part of long-term measures to address the growing debt crisis, set up an automatic interest-free moratorium on debt payments for developing countries experiencing climate disasters.

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[39] Diffenbaugh, N.S. and Burke, M. (2019). "Global warming has increased global economic inequality." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 116(20): 9808-9813. https://www.pnas.org/content/116/20/9808

[40] Based on European Commission benchmark and Biglio, J. and Vogelstein, R. (June 2020). "Understanding Gender Equality in Foreign Policy: What the United States Can Do." Council on Foreign Relations. https://cdn.cfr.org/sites/default/files/report_pdf/discussion-paper_bigio-and-vogelstein_gender-equality_or_0.pdf

[41] UNFCC. The Enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender. https://unfccc.int/topics/gender/workstreams/the-enhanced-lima-work-programme-on-

gender#:~:text=The%20enhanced%20gender%20action%20plan,United%20Nations%20entities%20and%20all

Health and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

Alongside equitable access to vaccines globally, recognising of the role of women health workers will also be an important part of the COVID– 19 recovery. Women make up 70% of the global health workforce and do the majority of paid and unpaid care work.[42] In addition, as countries' health systems strain during crises, essential women's health services like access to contraception, prenatal and maternal care, and safe abortion are often the first to be deprioritised. It is estimated that a 10% drop in the provision of essential reproductive health services due to COVID-19 could translate to an additional 15 million unintended pregnancies, 28,000 maternal deaths, and 3.3 million unsafe abortions in one year alone in 132 low- and middle-income countries.[43]

In-line with the emerging framework associated with the Generation Equality Forum's Action Coalition on Bodily Autonomy and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights - which is co-led by France - we call on G7 leaders to:

- Ensure global access to COVID-19 diagnostics, vaccines and medication including through COVAX, and especially for women frontline workers, e.g., in health care and care sectors.
- Ensure health and care workers, who are overwhelmingly women, are paid a living wage, have access to safe and decent working conditions with adequate PPE, and are properly trained, resourced, paid, and supported to respond to the pandemic while also protecting their own physical and mental wellbeing.
- Promote, domestically and internationally, safe, legal and accessible abortion services as part of a human right to health care.
- Safeguard girls' and women's essential sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) during the pandemic, including access to services, supplies and information, and ensure it is not used as an excuse to target restrictions or regulations that limit access to SRHR.

Health:
Working Group Recommendations

G7 Global Health & Covid-19 Working Group
2021 Policy Positions

The novel coronavirus, or COVID-19, pandemic has now led to more than 2 million deaths globally[44]. The pandemic has exacerbated existing health inequalities both within and between countries, with significant disparities in risk and impact on the basis of age, sex, ethnicity, geography, deprivation, as well as the existence of comorbidities or pre-existing health issues.

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[42] WHO (2019). "Delivered by women, led by men: A gender and equity analysis of the global health and social force." https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/nursing/delivered-by-women-led-by-men.pdf?sfvrsn=94be9959_2
[43] Riley, T., Sully, E., Ahmed, Z., and Biddlecom, A. (2020). "Estimates of the Potential Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Sexual and Reproductive Health in Low-and Middle-Income Countries." *International Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health*, *46:* 73-76.
https://www.guttmacher.org/sites/default/files/article_files/4607320.pdf
[44] https://covid19.who.int/

The pandemic has also had significant indirect health impacts; according to the World Health Organization, almost 90% of countries have experienced disruptions to health services and all types of health services have been affected[45]. The pandemic is exacerbating weaknesses in health systems and barriers in access to health care, impeding and reversing progress to meet the targets outlined in Sustainable Development Goal 3. It has also shown that health is interconnected to every aspect of our lives; we cannot have prosperous societies and economies without healthy populations worldwide.

There is now an urgency to prioritise and invest in efforts to achieve universal health coverage (UHC), and build on the commitments made in the UN Political Declaration on UHC in 2019[46]. Given the G7's legacy and initiatives on addressing global health concerns, such as the formation of The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the G7 must step up and present ambitious commitments and push for real change in achieving health for all.

As part of a comprehensive global response to address COVID-19, health inequalities and progress towards UHC, the G7 Global Health & Covid-19 Working Group[47] recommends that the G7 use its 2021 G7 process and Summit:

1. **Invest in health system strengthening in their own country, regionally and globally, through:**
a) Ensuring equitable access to COVID-19 commodities, which must be considered alongside mitigation measures that prevent indirect impacts - tackling COVID-19 should not be done through a vertical approach. Sustainable health system strengthening will be necessary for pandemic recovery, preparedness for future health emergencies, and mitigation of future impacts. Approaches to ensuring sustainable health system strengthening must be based on securing all the necessary interventions needed to ensure quality primary health care and achieving UHC. This must include access to routine immunisation services, prevention and treatment of malnutrition, and services for infectious diseases, which represent three of the most effective ways to save lives and prevent illness.
b) Implementing standing health and finance ministerial meetings within the G7, committing to spend at least 0.1% of GNI on Official Development Assistance for health (as per the WHO recommended target), and supporting countries to equitably mobilise progressive and sustainable domestic resources for health, in order to reach at least 5% of GDP for health, including through tackling corruption in the health sector;
c) Ensuring all health (physical and mental), nutrition, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services are accessible and affordable to all, gender and age responsive, disability inclusive and are resilient to health shocks;
d) Building and increasing health workforce capacity to fill global shortages, in this International Year of Health and Care Workers[48], and strengthening primary health

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[45] https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-2019-nCoV-EHS_continuity-survey-2020.1

[46] https://www.un.org/pga/73/wp-content/uploads/sites/53/2019/07/FINAL-draft-UHC-Political-Declaration.pdf

[47] The G7 Global Health & Covid-19 Working Group is a sub-group of the G7 Global Taskforce. The Working Group is an informal network of over 100 organisations from across the G7 working together to achieve progressive outcomes at the G7 on global health.

[48] https://www.who.int/news/item/11-11-2020-2021-designated-as-the-international-year-of-health-and-care-workers

care at the community level to build the resilience of the overall system, as per the Alma Ata and Astana declarations;

e) Ensuring primary health care remains a priority within the G7, including through the implementation of the primary health care universal knowledge initiative launched during the French G7 presidency in 2019.

f) Utilising appropriate digital health technologies, including boosting tele-medicine (and tele-rehabilitation), whilst ensuring the highest quality of health care and rights to privacy

g) Through the urgent mitigation of the indirect impacts on essential health services such as the disruption to routine immunisation. The G7 offers a unique opportunity to shape international approaches to securing equitable access to routine immunisation services to ensure everyone, everywhere has access to lifesaving vaccines and strengthen global political will on the UK's commitment to ending preventable deaths.

h) Commit to the delivery and integration of a package of preventive and curative health interventions, and reliable referral mechanisms between routine immunisation services, nutrition health care, and services for infectious diseases

2. Improve global health security, which can only be achieved through global solidarity and through:

a) Helping to create and ensuring equitable access globally to COVID-19 vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics, by equitably funding all components of the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator, as well as helping remove intellectual property barriers and encouraging the sharing of the science, know-how and technology of COVID-19 health technologies;

b) Ensuring current funding commitments to global health (such as the The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the Global Polio Eradication Initiative and GAVI) continue to be met, as well as committing to plugging the financing gap in global health, including the additional $5 billion shortfall the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis is experiencing for their Covid-19 Response Mechanisms[49].

c) Financing efforts to mitigate the direct and indirect impacts of COVID-19 on other health issues and services, to avoid competition between global health issues

d) Where appropriate, integrating the delivery of COVID-19 health technologies through existing health systems in a way that optimally balances pandemic response with existing health priorities;

e) Ensuring investments in pandemic preparedness align with and strengthen existing health, nutrition and WASH systems and capacity at global, national and sub-national levels.

f) Committing to adopt a rights-based approach to health[50] and nutrition[51] in the response to COVID-19, by evaluating and strengthening policies, legal and institutional frameworks surrounding the recovery from the pandemic.

g) Safeguard girls' and women's essential sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) during the pandemic, including access to services, supplies and information, and ensure it is not used as an excuse to target restrictions or regulations that limit access to SRHR; Advocate for safe, legal and accessible access to abortion services

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[49] https://www.theglobalfund.org/media/10508/covid19_2021-01-13-situation_report_en.pdf

[50] https://www.results.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/The-Right-to-Health-%E2%80%93-lessons-for-COVID-19-from-the-history-of-HIV.pdf?mc_cid=a0047b4226&mc_eid=50e7c65585
[51] https://www.results.org.uk/sites/default/files/files/Policy%20briefing-%20Nutrition%20as%20a%20human%20right.pdf

as part of a human right to healthcare; Ensure that every woman, youth and adolescent girl, regardless of their financial situation, nationality, sexual orientation, race, religion, status as a parent or any other form of discrimination has access to free, timely, non-judgemental, accessible sexual and reproductive healthcare services and contraception in a nearby location.

h) Through protecting and promoting the health and rights of women, children and adolescents through strengthened political commitment, policies, and domestic resource mobilisation and financing. Covid-19 is disrupting the provision of life-saving maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health (MNCAH) services, According to early estimates of the indirect impact of COVID-19 on child and maternal mortality, more than 2 million additional child and maternal deaths are estimated over 12 months (2020-2021) above the pre-pandemic level because of disruptions to essential health and nutrition services.

3.   Take a 'One Health' approach for prevention and early detection of future pandemics, and to holistically improve health and wellbeing, through:
   a) Ensuring a multisectoral, multidisciplinary and integrated approach to human, animal and environmental health, including antimicrobial resistance, zoonotic diseases, vector ecology and management, food security and nutrition, and WASH;
   b) Adopting a 'health in all policies' approach, domestically and internationally, to ensure coherence and that all sectors - such as trade, agriculture, manufacturing, transport and energy - are promoting and not compromising good health
   c) Committing to combating climate change, reducing pollution and improving environments, to strengthen the health of people and planet;
   d) Addressing the social and gender determinants of health, by committing to tackle the underlying systemic causes of inequality, with a multisectoral approach to policy decisions, including access to education, good standard of housing, living and working conditions. including consideration of where we live, learn, work and play
   e) Strengthen global political will across G7 member states on the UK's commitment to ending preventable deaths, including this commitment in agenda items and political declarations .

The G7 Global Health & Covid-19 Working Group is a sub-group of the G7 Global Taskforce. The Working Group is an informal network of over 100 organisations from across the G7 working together to achieve progressive outcomes at the G7 on global health.

Peace & Security:
Working Group Recommendations

Recommendations for G7 Foreign Ministers meeting

Recurring and increasingly protracted wars across the globe, exacerbated by tensions and uncertainty created by the Covid-19 pandemic, show we cannot wait until a crisis escalates to respond. Failing to address conflicts early puts significant increased demand on G7 members to pursue costly interventions in the future. The COVID-19 pandemic has created both a demand and an opportunity for the prevention of armed conflicts across the globe.

In its human impact, the Coronavirus has added to the toll on communities living in conflict-affected and fragile states. It threatens to reverse decades of advancements in poverty reduction, gender equality and development and exacerbate existing conflicts or create

conditions that spur new ones. Recovering from the global pandemic is going to be harder, if not impossible, without concerted action to halt and prevent the escalation of conflict and violence across a diverse array of countries and regions.

In addition to the enormous human cost of conflict, the economic consequences are devastating. This is particularly concerning at a time when the global economy is under enormous pressure due to the pandemic. Conflicts cost the world $14.1 trillion in 2018, exceeding the money spent on health globally ($7.2 trillion in 2015) and significantly more than the estimated investment required to end global hunger. As has been noted by the UN Secretary General: '*this financial cost is unsustainable, and the human cost is unbearable. Instead of responding to crises, we need to invest far more in prevention. Prevention works, saves lives and is cost-effective.*"

At the same time, the international and intergovernmental architecture designed to respond to armed conflicts has been hampered by division and divergent agendas among member states, weakening the ability of governments and institutions to devise coherent, coordinated, and timely strategies to respond or prevent armed conflicts or mass atrocities, and complicating the achievement of policy imperatives of vaccine roll out and pandemic containment.

Timely action to prevent conflicts and escalating atrocities requires political will, leadership, and coordination, all of which are currently lacking. The G7 could seize this current moment to commit to renewed multilateral action on conflict prevention, mitigation, and response as an integral part of the 2021 Build Back Better agenda and as a contribution to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)16. A set of clear commitments from the G7 to address and prevent some of the most pressing humanitarian crises would go a long way to building resilience and stability in the current moment.

In line with the UK G7 Presidency's stated intention to focus on preventing conflict at the G7 Foreign Ministers' summit, **the G7 could declare its commitment to develop a compact of action to halt and prevent future armed conflict**. This could include commitment to an overall goal to reduce the number of people living in chronically fragile states by half by 2030 in accordance with SDG 16 and include vital steps, such as:

1. **Invest more in prevention,** committing to increase political support and funding for long-term conflict prevention programmes and local peacebuilding initiatives. This could include:
   - Delivering on past G7 commitments and seeking G7-wide agreement to spend 50% of G7 overseas development assistance in fragile and conflict affected states on programmes that prevent and address conflict and its consequences.
   - Allocating new predictable and flexible funding that address the root causes of conflict, prevent escalations in needs and violence, and by supporting the UNSG's call for at least $500m annually to be invested in the UN's Peacebuilding Fund.

2. **Reform all G7 member's arms sales policy** to ensure adherence to the Arms Trade Treaty, building on the positive US announcement on Yemen to ensure other G7 countries do not indirectly support or contribute towards exacerbating conflicts.

3. **Ensure counter-terrorism measures and sanctions are better aligned across G7 countries to fully comply with international humanitarian and human rights law by:**
   - developing clear sanctions and counter-terrorism financing policies that safeguard civic space and allow unimpeded humanitarian work.

- ensuring legal safeguards such as humanitarian exemptions are incorporated into all relevant UN Security Council resolutions.
- including wide-ranging exemptions or General Licences in all relevant domestic legislation in G7 countries to support humanitarian operations in sanctioned countries.

4. **Support the protection, inclusion and empowerment of women and children living in conflict by:**
   - ensuring women's participation in the design and outcome of negotiations becomes a requirement of all UN supported peace processes.
   - focusing on transforming social norms that reinforce inequality and gender-based violence and
   - committing to treat all children – even those allegedly associated with armed groups - primarily as victims and give child protection actors full access to these children.

5. At the same time, the G7 could **act in several urgent crises to de-escalate conflict and promote the transition towards more peaceful, resilient societies**. These include:
   - **Myanmar** - build on G7 leaders' early statement to take concrete steps to sanction and restrict the military regime, hold perpetrators of crimes and human rights violations to account, and enable a return to democratic governance. This should include continued engagement of the UNSC as well as bilateral efforts.
   - **Yemen** – seek to prevent the Houthi offensive on Marib and call for an urgent nationwide ceasefire; ensure the UN's humanitarian appeal is fully funded to prevent famine; and appeal to the UN Security Council to adopt a new resolution to succeed 2216 to lay out a more inclusive peace framework.
   - **Ethiopia** – declare the G7's readiness to support increased humanitarian assistance, a national dialogue and appeal to the government to ensure unfettered humanitarian access and an independent investigation into human rights violations as the necessary foundation for justice, peace and security.
   - **The Sahel** – lead the surge of political and diplomatic engagement in the Sahel, as a complement to military intervention, to address the region's governance and humanitarian crisis.

Crisis specific recommendations

Myanmar: With violence against peaceful protesters escalating daily, public service provision almost non-existent and financial systems that now barely function, the crisis in Myanmar that has emerged due to the military coup threatens to hamstring the development aspirations of its people for years to come. Those already displaced within the country or across neighbouring borders by conflicts in the north-west, north-east, and south-east will be among the worst affected, as pre-existing vulnerabilities are exacerbated.

Humanitarian agencies on the ground were already struggling with a persistent deterioration in operational space prior to the coup, disrupting efforts to respond to the growing needs of vulnerable communities and IDPs in conflict-affected areas – needs that have been exacerbated by Covid-19. Recent political developments could spell humanitarian disaster for over 1 million vulnerable people if aid organisations are further restricted in delivering relief across the country. Further still, the destabilising effect of the military coup risks undermining existing peacebuilding efforts and diminishing the prospects of long term and durable solutions to both conflict and human rights issues.

Key recommendations:

- G7 leaders must continue to use all bilateral and multilateral channels to push for the release of the civilian government, activists and journalists and the restoration of the elected NLD government; end their support and engagement with the de facto military regime; and leverage all relevant accountability mechanisms to hold the military to account for both recent violations and previous crimes - including against the Rohingya.

- The UN's commitment to stay and deliver humanitarian assistance in Myanmar is welcome and must be accompanied by strong joint commitments from G7 leaders to provide the necessary funds to support the 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan, which seeks USD $267.5 million. Additional humanitarian needs beyond the scope of the HRP may emerge in the post-coup context and should be flexibly accommodated by donors.

- Humanitarian access must remain at the forefront of international political and diplomatic attention in the weeks ahead, with G7 leaders using all available channels to ensure humanitarian access for national and international aid agencies improves. Arrests of staff members of aid organizations in ethnic minority areas have already taken place and must be strongly condemned.

- All development funding to Myanmar should be reviewed, and funds that may come under the direct or indirect management of the de facto authorities should be halted. Any development funding that continues to be available to Myanmar should be used for essential small-scale, grassroots efforts to sustainably improve living standards, build peace and reduce disaster risks and should be managed by international or local agencies that operate independently of the de facto authorities.

- G7 leaders should encourage ASEAN to continue discussions on the situation in Myanmar and identify a common position allowing it to effectively promote a de-escalation of tensions and broker dialogue to help restore political stability in the interests of the Myanmar people.

- G7 leaders should ensure that the UNSC remains seized of the situation in Myanmar and utilizes all possible means to ensure accountability for those who instigated the coup and those ordering the use of disproportionate force against peaceful protesters including but not limited to targeted sanctions, global travel bans, and assets freezes on military leaders and military-affiliated enterprises.

- G7 leaders should lead a coordinated, global arms embargo on Myanmar and should proactively ensure that access of the military junta to technology that may be used for surveillance and repression of dissent is blocked.

Yemen: March 2021 sees six years since the war escalated in Yemen. The country's infrastructure, schools, hospitals, and public services are shattered. Famine warnings have now resurfaced; 16 million people are at risk of starvation in the country, and a new report launched by the UN [52] shows that acute malnutrition among children under 5 has hit the highest levels ever recorded in a humanitarian crisis, and yet the humanitarian response plan remains significantly underfunded.

Yemen has also been battered by the economic impacts of COVID-19, people have lost their jobs, at the same time as food prices are escalating. A massive funding shortage has already cut lifesaving programmes to millions. Escalating conflict in Marib, Hodeidah and other parts of Yemen has seen the number of civilian casualties increasing in recent months. Over 2,000

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[52] IPC ACUTE MALNUTRITION ANALYSIS JANUARY 2020 – MARCH 2021

civilians in Yemen were killed or injured by armed violence in 2020. It is clear there can be no military win to this conflict, a political settlement must be negotiated.

Key recommendations:
- Acting as a block, G7 leaders should use diplomatic channels to encourage Iran to use its leverage over the Houthis to prevent a violent offensive on Marib and return to the negotiating table.
- End all arms sales at risk of being used in Yemen and put pressure on both conflict parties through regional and international diplomacy to observe an immediate nationwide ceasefire and pursue regional de-escalation.
- Support a more inclusive peace framework. Update UN Security Council Resolution 2216 to include a wider range of actors in the official peace negotiations Including civil society, women leaders, and youth. Ensure Yemeni civil society working on peace, rights and development are supported now.
- Pay for the aid operation. The March 2021 pledging conference saw a dramatic drop in funding for the humanitarian response from G7 countries. The UN has stated that $3.85 billion in aid is needed to avert a large-scale famine in Yemen with current pledges of $1.7 billion falling far short of this. G7 leaders must increase their funding and disburse rapidly, and influence other governments, to increase their pledges to prevent the country sliding further into famine.
- Conduct high level diplomacy with authorities across Yemen to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid by addressing access impediments and the protection of civilians. The common approach formed in the Senior Officials Meetings co-chaired by the European Commission and Sweden need to be accelerated to ensure the principled delivery of aid to scale up to prevent famine
- Mobilise an economic rescue package for Yemen, to stabilize the economy and address the secondary impacts of COVID-19. This should include injections of foreign exchange to help stabilise the economy and prevent further food price rises. As well as foreign reserves to subsidise commercial imports of food and fuel and pay much-needed salaries. This should be accompanied by reforms needed to address transparency and accountability of the Central Bank and key financial institutions.

Ethiopia: Six months since the conflict escalated in Tigray, a sustained violent insurgency is having devastating humanitarian consequences that are already starting to spread instability to other parts of Ethiopia. The humanitarian response is not being carried out at the scale needed due to serious access constraints to limited locations under government control.

There are extensive reports of violations of human rights and international humanitarian law – including witness testimonies of torture and rape. In addition, the fate of 20,000 Eritrean refugees is unaccounted for after the camps in which they were housed were attacked and destroyed. Yet due to access and communications constraints, none of these reports have not been verified or investigated and officials attribute inaction on these issues to the lack of a sufficient evidence base.

Key recommendations:
- Work via UN mechanisms to push for full, unfettered access to humanitarian actors across conflict lines: facilitate the approval of travel permits to Tigray for surge staff; set up civilian-military coordination mechanisms; ensure needs assessment can occur in areas beyond government control.
- Urge the government of Ethiopia to work with the humanitarian community on addressing the projected emergency levels (IPC4) of food insecurity, which have been made worse by access constraints. Conflict in Tigray broke out at the time of the only harvest in the region.

- Urge the government of Ethiopia to take all necessary steps to restore essential public services for the people of Tigray, in particular healthcare and education.
- Pursue direct diplomacy and via the Africa Union to urge the government on Ethiopia to commit to an immediate ceasefire and a de-escalation of hostilities.
- Propose affirmative action at the UN Human Rights Council to carry out full and independent investigations into allegations of IHL violations, including indiscriminate attacks against civilians and targeting of civilian infrastructure by any party to the conflict.
- Urge the government of Ethiopia to engage in an inclusive national dialogue to resolve the core dispute over Tigray's autonomy and, more broadly, over the balance of power between central authorities and Ethiopia's regions. Without such a comprehensive dialogue, fundamental political divisions will continue to fester.

The Sahel: The central Sahel region of Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger continues to experience escalating violence and humanitarian need because of ongoing conflict rooted in a governance crisis that began in Mali nearly nine years ago. Years of violent attacks, an ineffective global response, poorly designed development policies, and the effects of climate change have exacerbated the humanitarian needs of already vulnerable populations, disrupting livelihoods and uprooting communities. Almost 7,000 people were killed by armed groups and security forces in the last year.[53] With over 1.5 million IDPs fleeing violence – a twenty-fold increase in two years – the central Sahel sits at the epicentre of "the world's fastest growing displacement and protection crisis."[54] Underfunding and restrictive counter-terrorism laws prevent necessary aid from reaching a record 13.4 million people – half of them children – in need of humanitarian assistance.[55]

The heavily militaristic international response to the crisis in the Sahel which prioritizes counter-terrorism efforts has failed to curb, or protect civilians from, continued violence and instability. Recognizing that military intervention alone cannot provide a lasting solution, Sahelian and international civil society organizations have underscored the need for an urgent shift in approach that addresses the root causes of conflict and is maximally responsive to the needs of Sahelians. The People's Coalition for the Sahel has recommended government interventions in the Sahel be guided by four priorities critical to restoring trust in the State: the protection of civilians, a comprehensive and inclusive political solution, depoliticization and effective distribution of necessary humanitarian aid, and accountability for all perpetrators of atrocities and abuses against civilians.[56]

International stakeholders and donors in the Sahel have a sizable role in actioning the "political and diplomatic surge" called for in the lead up to the high-level summit of G5 leaders in N'Djamena, Chad in February.[57] Commitments made in N'Djamena to strengthen the protection of civilians, governance, humanitarian access, and the fight against impunity must now be operationalized to make a real difference for Sahelians.[58]

Key recommendations:
- Advance a purposeful surge of political and diplomatic engagement in the Sahel, as a complement to military intervention, to address the region's governance crisis; exercise

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[53] UNOCHA, https://www.unocha.org/sites/unocha/files/Central%20Sahel%20facts_figures_20201015.pdf

[54] UNHCR, https://reliefweb.int/report/burkina-faso/unhcr-warns-mounting-needs-sahel-forced-displacement-intensifies-enar

[55] UNOCHA, https://www.unocha.org/sites/unocha/files/Central%20Sahel%20facts_figures_20201015.pdf

[56] https://www.sahelpeoplescoalition.org/home

[57] https://www.rfi.fr/fr/afrique/20210210-sahel-la-france-appelle-%C3%A0-un-sursaut-diplomatique-et-politique

[58] https://www.elysee.fr/emmanuel-macron/2021/02/16/communique-final-du-sommet-de-ndjamena

leverage to encourage Sahelian states to engage in dialogue, improve delivery of basic services to citizens, establish transparent management of public resources, and actively mitigate civilian harm by state security forces.

- Integrate the protection of all civilians as a core mandate of all military operations in the Sahel; ensure military partnership and support is conditioned on adherence to international humanitarian law and implementation of effective mechanisms for prevention, protection, reparation, care, and accountability for abuses against civilians.

- Prioritize political resolution of conflict through the development of a comprehensive political strategy to address root causes of insecurity, in consultation with affected populations (including marginalized groups, women and youth); support and insist on effective establishment of transparent, equitable and accountable governance systems, transparent management of resources including defence budgets, and credible, fair, and neutral conflict and justice arbitrations.

- Ensure humanitarian activities are excluded from the scope of national laws, donor clauses, and other anti-terrorism measures as applied to the Sahel; demand that Governments include clear humanitarian exemptions in counter-terrorism legislation to allow humanitarian negotiations with all parties to the conflict, streamline administrative procedures, and limit restrictive access measures to conflict zones.

Untangle climate change-related interventions from stabilisation agendas and ensure that they are led by a deep understanding of root cause

Appendix

Background – G7 Global Taskforce

The G7 Global Taskforce has existed in various guises since 2004 but has been operating as the G7 Global Taskforce since 2014. It is an informal group of over 500 individual members from 270 organisations across the Taskforce and its Working Groups from all G7 countries and beyond. It is chaired by Kel Currah, CEO of What World Strategies. The Taskforce focuses on promoting progressive policies for the G7 on climate, women & gender, food & nutrition security and agriculture, global health & Covid-19, education and peace & security.

It aims to create a space for organisations to share information and intel; create joint advocacy initiatives and campaigns as appropriate; and engage the G7 Sherpas on policy recommendations and civil society engagement. It has also facilitated joint press conference and G7 Summit activities at past G7s. It works primarily through a monthly conference call and an annual face-to-face strategy meeting in the host country.

The work of the Taskforce is carried out through the main Taskforce itself and its 7 working groups (see below) which develop area specific policy recommendations and advocacy initiatives. New working groups are formed based on demand from members and a core group willing to lead and support the group and are chaired by volunteers from member organisations. The Taskforce is an informal, volunteer group and is funded by its members.

G7 Global Taskforce & Working Groups:

- **G7 Global Taskforce**
  Email: g7-global-taskforce@googlegroups.com
  Chair: Kel Currah, What World Strategies – info@whatworldstrategies.com

- **Education Working Group:**
  Email: g7-education-working-group@googlegroups.com
  Co-chairs: Anja Nielson, UNICEF UK
  Co-chair: Anne Darling, Plan UK

- **Climate & Environment Working Group:**
  Email: g7-climate-energy-working-group@googlegroups.com
  Chair: Eddy Perez, Climate Action Network Canada

- **Food Security & Nutrition Working Group:**
  Email: g7-fns--ag-working-group@googlegroups.com
  Co-Chair: Callum Northcote, Save the Children UK
  Co-Chair: Kira Fischer, Aktion gegen den Hunger

- **Women & Gender Working Group:**
  Email: g7-women--gender-equality-working-group@googlegroups.com
  Co-chairs: Lyric Thompson, ICRW
  Co-chairs: Jessica Woodroffe, Gender and Development Network

- **Global Health & Covid-19 Working Group:**
  Email: health-g7-taskforce-sub-working-group@googlegroups.com
  Co-chair – Thoko Elphick-Pooley, Uniting to Combat NTDs
  Co-chair – Kel Currah, What World Strategies

- **Peace & Security Working Group:**
  Email: g7-peace--security-working-group@googlegroups.com
  Chair: Eleanor Kennedy , Crisis Action