

# YOUTH7

GERMANY 2022

EXECUTIVE REPORT



Documentation



ijab

# GREETING

## EDITORIAL CO-CHAIRS

**Dear partners, companions and friends of Youth7 Germany 2022, Dear Delegates, dear Track Sherpa,**

A more than eventful year lies behind us and it is difficult to put the complex endeavour, that has been Youth7 during the German G7 Presidency into words. Nevertheless, we would like to try:

Our shared journey towards the Youth7 Summit started in March with the KickOff Meeting, when we welcomed Delegates representing the G7 members. Countless working meetings and research work were complemented by impulse from international experts, renowned researchers of different scientific backgrounds and from representatives of the G7 Ministerial Tracks. In May, we finally convened in Berlin with all 48 Delegates, including representatives of our partner Delegations from Indonesia, Senegal, South Africa and Ukraine. Over the course of five days, policy debates were held, e.g. with Minister Lisa Paus, policy recommendations were finalised and culminated in an intense voting session, leading to an unanimous adoption. Finally, we were honoured to hand-over the Youth7 Communiqué 2022 to Federal Chancellor Olaf Scholz.

However, the Youth7 Summit was just the beginning of our advocacy journey that followed throughout the second half of the year: We have both been active in international youth work for ten years and have never had the opportunity to

influence political decision-makers as directly as we did in this process. We presented and discussed the Youth7 Communiqué in various ministries: the Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK), the Federal Foreign Office (AA), the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the Federal Ministry of Labour & Social Affairs (BMAS), the Federal Ministry of Health (BMG), the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL), the Federal Ministry of the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMUV), the Federal Ministry of Digital and Transport (BMDV) and the Federal Ministry of Housing, Urban Development and Building (BMWSB). Further, we found excellent support from the Federal Press and Information Office. The Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (BMFSFJ) generously funded Youth7 2022 and facilitated the implementation of the Youth7 Summit 2022. In addition, we highly appreciate the continuous support by the G7 Sherpa and the entire team at the Federal Chancellery, who established a series of meetings with the engagement groups and a direct exchange with us.

Looking at the G7 Leaders' Declaration, we draw a mixed conclusion though:

As Youth7, we repeatedly called for action and political commitment in support for mental health. The disruptive impact of the Covid19 pandemic has laid bare the urgency to address growing

challenges on mental health, exacerbated by the stresses in climate anxiety, economic distress and escalating conflict. We highly welcome that G7 Leaders listened to the voice of young people. Without doubt, mental health will continue to remain an imminent challenge for our generation. We urge the G7 to let the Leaders' Communiqué be more than words and that actions follows accordingly.

This is of utmost importance for us, as our partners Future Leaders Network from the UK had succeeded in placing this issue and putting it on the G7 agenda during the previous presidency. Sustained continuity is a very essential element for us to succeed in advocacy, which is why we have followed our work on this particular matter.

Another topic we dedicated advocacy efforts to was Youth, Peace & Security. As Youth 7 we are deeply disappointed to see that the Leaders' Communiqué did not mention the Youth, Peace and Security agenda. We are pleased to see that the Women, Peace and Security agenda is addressed and promoted. We urged G7 leaders throughout the entire process to focus on the role of young people in crises, peace and democracy. The G7 leaders have missed the opportunity to recognise the importance of youth in peacebuilding and democracy processes. We will continue to call upon G7 leaders to lead by example in the implementation and institutionalisation of the UN Security Council Resolutions 2250, 2419 and 2535 and to develop national action plans.

Looking ahead, the Japanese G7 Presidency and our partners G7 / G20 Youth Japan took up the baton of furthering youth participation and to hosting the Youth7 Summit 2023, early and in close cooperation with our team. We are most confident that our colleagues from Japan will continue to advocate for the issues that are close to the needs and interests of young people. We further hope that they will experience the same open-mindedness from their Presidency as we have, wish them all the best for the coming year, and look forward to accompanying the Japanese team on their journey. From our perspective, it is important to discuss and strive for diverse, inclusive and accessible youth participation.

**With the Executive Report in front of you, however, we would like to emphasis one aspect above all:**

**Thank you!**

Thank you to all our Delegates! We want to emphasise their extraordinary commitment to the diverse causes our Communiqué so convincingly addresses and their engagement in building the Youth7 network in the long run!

Thank you to the team of IJAB e. V. - Thank you for your tireless support! Thank you Marie-Luise, thank you Till, Felix and Roman. And last but not least: Thank you to our Coordinator Christina. Thank you for your incredible commitment, tackling challenges together.

In addition, we would like to thank the German National Committee for International Youth Work (DNK) for nominating us as Co-Chairs and supporting us on this incredible experience. The DNK also provided us with the most important group of people to accompany us on this journey: Our Track Sherpa!

Felix & Hannah leading the way to a Green & Sustainable Planet, Anne & Jonas stepping up for Economic Transformation for Shared Progress, Ruszlan & Lisa fighting for the Resilience of Democracies, Eva & Franka advocating for Global Health & Solidarity, and Paul & Katrina as guiding experts on Youth, Peace & Security! Without them Youth7 Germany 2022 would not have been possible.

**THANK YOU!**

Co-Chairs Youth7 Germany 2022  
Carolina Claus

Benjamin Günther

C. Claus





# YOUTH7





**Youth7** (Y7) is the civic youth engagement process officially mandated by the G7 Presidency. It serves as the platform for dialogue with the young generation, by engaging with representatives of youth organisations, young activists, and young leaders. Delegates to the Youth7, young people from the G7 members, the European Union as well as partner countries are working closely and develop their own concrete policy recommendations for action to be incorporated in the G7 process.

Their voices are taken into consideration by the G7 dialogue processes, through representatives taking part in the stakeholder engagement by Ministers throughout the Presidency. In view to the G7 Leaders' Summit, they negotiate joint policy positions and adopt a Youth7 Communiqué, which is focusing on the Presidency's priorities and youth-related issues alike. Across the G7 and beyond young change-makers are taking on the challenge to advocate on behalf of the Communiqué at the highest political level and seek to ensure a continuous engagement by decision-makers with youth.

The **Youth7 Summit 2022** saw Delegates convening in Berlin for a 5-day-meeting, during which they dedicated their expertise to negotiations, engaged in high-level exchanges, explored the German capital and its political institutions, and succeeded in handing over their Communiqué to Federal Chancellor Olaf Scholz.



Family Photo at the Federal Foreign Office

# YOUTH ENGAGEMENT IN THE G7



## YOUTH DIALOGUE ACROSS AND BEYOND THE G7

*Carolina Claus & Christina Arkenberg*

Youth7 accompanies the continuous dialogue of heads of state and government in the G7's comprehensive fora of political cooperation and negotiations. As the officially recognised framework for young civil society to extend their recommendations to the rotating Presidencies, Youth7 invites youth activities and young leaders to raise their voices in multilateral cooperation and to take a stand on today's global challenges.

The annual G7 Leaders' Summit is widely known to serve as an opportunity for intergovernmental cooperation at a high-profile venue, gifting spectators with a series of family photos and glimpses into the groups' meetings. Yet the media interest only throws a spotlight for a few days on an ongoing work process, building upon numerous, less visible, meetings, workshops and stakeholder events, which take place over the course of each Presidency. And with most of the preparations for agreements at the highest-level taking place on working level, Youth7 joined the G7 dialogue process aiming to contribute to policies from conception to coordination and adoption.

Reflecting the continuous G7 process, the Youth7 Summit 2022 was preceded by months of working meetings and preparatory work, establishing thematic policy Tracks dedicated to "Green & Sustainable Planet", "Economic Transformation for Shared Progress", "Resilience of Democracies",

"Global Health & Solidarity" and "Youth, Peace & Security". The wide range of policies addressed by Delegates reflects their broad expertise and extensive networks. Further, it allowed to address the different areas of focus and initiatives set out by the German Presidency and highlighted the importance to include youth as actors of any holistic approach to global challenges. Following the vision, that nothing about youth, should be decided without full and direct participation of young people, Youth7 made every effort to ensure the in-person (or online) participation of its representatives at the decision-making table, on the podium and at panels.

From March 2022, Track Sherpa and Delegates met to exchange ideas and perspectives, share their academic and professional insights and develop a joint position on core recommendations. In exchange with external experts from research and policy development alike, each Track agreed on a set of core demands, which laid the groundwork to reach a negotiation result after only three days at the Youth Summit 2022. It is due to their commitment, that a unanimous vote gave the Youth7 Communiqué its strong mandate and inclusive character. Building on the official handover to Federal Chancellor Olaf Scholz, the Youth7 Communiqué became the centrepiece of advocacy efforts beyond the Youth7 Summit, both nationally and internationally, with Delegations disseminating the core demands and recommendations to their respective governments and civil society stakeholders.

**Youth7 aimed to secure, that in the G7 nothing about youth, should be decided without full and direct participation of young people.**



Representing the young civil societies and engaged leadership, Youth7 joint its fellow engagement groups to highlight the importance to safeguard and support open societies, resilient structures for interest groups and community participation in policy-making. Engagement groups and the continuing dialogue with civil society and interest groups have a long, evolving tradition and are further developed under each Presidency. Further, they aim to involve key players and institutions of each member's civil society as well as their culture of civic action. Beyond serving youth as a marginalised group in society themselves, Youth7 always committed to join engagement groups in advocating for gender equity, global sustainable development and economic justice.

## Youth7 invited Delegations from Indonesia, Senegal, South Africa and Ukraine to join and broaden the scope of G7 collaboration in the field of youth.

Youth7 2022 was a youth-led project, with a team of young volunteers steering both the work and advocacy process as well as the programme of the Youth7 Summit 2022. Co-Chairs and Track Sherpa were nominated by the German National Committee for International Youth Work (DNK), which brought together alumni of previous Youth7 and Youth20 engagement processes, former Youth Delegates to International Organisations and young activists from youth associations and advocacy groups. In the spirit of global partnership, solidarity and friendship, Youth7 2022 invited Delegations from Indonesia, Senegal, South Africa and Ukraine to join and broaden the scope of G7 collaboration in the field of youth. This allowed for the inclusion of young voices from the Global South to be heard and incorporated in policy recommendations, it

enriched debates and the international experience for all participating and helped to foster global networks, including exchanges with Youth20 partners.

Under the impression of the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine, Youth7 decided to extend an invitation to Ukraine's youth and to establish a Track on Youth, Peace & Security (YPS). With Ukrainian Delegates joining the urgency for the G7 to deliver on human security and assistance, on resilience and peace-building efforts and on youth participation in rebuilding, was prominently underscored and continued to play a crucial role in all advocacy efforts throughout 2022.

In line with the rotating Presidency, the Youth7 engagement process passes from one youth organisation to another each year and builds upon mostly volunteer engagement to develop further fora of cooperation, ways of working and young networks. Youth7 continues to strive with every new cohort of Delegates, thanks to the extraordinary experience to join a global network of today's and future change-makers. Participating in a Youth7 Summit 2022, hopefully motivates to pursue the shared vision of a world that is stronger together to address pressing challenges through cooperation. Lastly, Youth7 2022 also aimed to set an example for the added value young voices offer to G7 Leaders, as experts for the realities of lives of future generation and innovative policy-making for a more sustainable future.



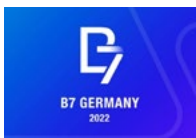
*Youth7 in dialogue with Members of the German Bundestag*



# ENGAGEMENT PROCESS 2022

## G7 IN DIALOGUE WITH CIVIL SOCIETY

In 2022, the German Presidency supported **seven official engagement groups**, ranging across civil society and interest groups, to academia and research as well as to social partners from businesses and unions. Each engagement group stood firmly independent and was coordinated by a non-governmental representative body, with the official mandate by the G7 Presidency. Youth7 Germany 2022 profited immensely from the active exchange and close collaboration among the engagement groups.



### Business7

Business7 serves as the dialogue platform for dialogue with the international business community, bringing together the leading business and industry associations from across the G7. Under the German Presidency, Business7 was chaired by the Federation of German Industries (BDI).

Youth7 was represented by Track Sherpa Jonas Dechent at the Business7 Summit 2022, who shared Youth7 recommendations on global trade and investment policy, debt-restructuring and post-pandemic recovery measures.



### Civil7

Coordinated by VENRO - Association of German Development and Humanitarian Aid NGOs and the Environment and Development Forum, Civil7 brought together representatives from non-governmental organisations in their commitment to climate action and environmental justice, humanitarian aid, development cooperation and open societies. Throughout 2022, Civil7 hosted international workshops and debate fora, attended by Youth7 representatives.



## Labour7

Labour7 is representing the interests of workers and employees in the G7 engagement process, convening trade union confederations of the G7 members. The German Trade Union Confederation (DGB) coordinated the 2022 dialogue dedicated to recommendations and advocacy for a just and sustainable dual transition, solidarity-based crisis and pandemic management and the enforcement of labour standards and human rights due diligence. Youth7 and Labour7 joined forces in raising the civil society's voice at the Labour and Employment Ministers Meeting as well as the multi-stakeholder dialogue led by the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs.



## Science7

The German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina chaired the Science7 dialogue of science academies across the G7 members, which developed research-based policy positions on climate change, decarbonisation, pandemic preparedness and management as well as global health.

Co-Chair Carolina Claus and Track Sherpa Ruszlan Biwoino participated in the Science7 Summit 2022, which convened international experts and the public for a high-level science conference.



## Think7

Leading experts, representing academic and research institutions and think-tanks, are working together in the Think7 and bring forward science-based solutions and recommendations to G7 leaders and the public debate. In 2022, priorities focused on environmentally sound, sustainable, and socially just transformation as well as urgent global action in financial and humanitarian aid and conflict-responses.

Under the German G7 Presidency, the Global Solutions Initiative (GSI) and the German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS) chaired the Think7. Co-Chair Carolina Claus and Track Sherpa Lisa Mastiaux participated at the 2022 Global Solutions Summit, discussing the policy recommendations with representatives of the Think7 and Think20 community. Alongside, Youth7 Chair 2021 Sophie Daud (UK), Carolina Claus contributed to the Think7 Summit 2022 as panelists on youth engagement and intergenerational justice.





*Federal Chancellor Scholz welcoming the G7 Engagement Groups to the Chancellery*



## Women7

Women7 is an international network of more than 60 women's rights and feminist civil society actors, advocating for gender equality worldwide. Aiming to ensure transformative action for the lives of women and girls globally, the National Council of German Women's Organisations, hosted a multi-level consultative process as well as debates and panels throughout 2022. Priorities covered economic justice and rights, climate justice, feminist foreign policy, countering gender-based violence, gender-responsive pandemic management and accountability mechanism of the G7.

South Africa Head Delegate Hannah Hopper contributed to the Women7 Summit 2022 as a speaker.

# CALL TO ACTION

As a preamble to the Youth7 Communiqué, the Call to Action was adopted by the Youth7 Delegates at the youth7 Summit 2022 in Berlin. It expresses the shared vision to further youth participation in multilateral cooperation and to extend opportunities in an inclusive manner.

In view to the G7 Summit 2022 the Co-Chairs invited young leaders, youth activists, youth organisations and those in support for strong youth participation, to co-sign the Call to Action. Individuals and organisations from across the globe joined in and expressed their support for the policy recommendations to G7 Leaders.



# WE,

the young representatives of the G7 members, the EU, in partnership with Indonesia, Senegal, South Africa and Ukraine, came together in Berlin to ensure that the heads of governments and states of the G7 will include the young people's voices on all vital policy issues in a holistic manner.

We stand for inclusive, diverse and barrier-free youth participation that ensures all young people are heard and recognised.

We strive for a world that is stronger together and call for furthering multilateral cooperation that is based upon shared common values, mutual respect and justice.

We call for a progressive and future oriented G7 Summit and thus recommend to the decision-makers the following policy recommendations on Sustainability, Economy, Democracy, Global Health and Youth, Peace & Security, that are to be found in the Youth7 Communiqué.

# YOUTH7

## CO-CHAIRS, TRACK SHERPA & DELEGATES

### Co-Chairs

Carolina Claus

Benjamin Günther

### Track Sherpa

Hannah Schartmann

Anne Steuernagel

Lisa Mastiaux

Eva Croon

Katrina Leclerc

Felix Kaminski

Jonas Dechent

Ruslan Biwoino

Franka Weckner

Paul Klahre



## **G7 Delegations**

### **Canada**

Prativa Baral - Hargun Kaur - Jaya Scott - Michael Lecchino

### **France**

Mathilde Viart - Cécile Génot - Guillaume Ménard - Pablo Gil

### **Germany**

Johannes Röder - Antonia Kuhn - Işıl İşılar-Günes - Jannis Krüßmann

### **Italy**

Aurora Audino - Alessio Laconi - Emanuele Sacco - Tea Cimini

### **Japan**

Junki Fujii - Erina Kondo - Juli Sarkar - Nanami Okiyama

### **United Kingdom**

Safia Sangster - Annabel Rice - Michael Yip - Zain Iqbal

### **United States of America**

Jordan Lee - Aisha Espey - Daniella Torres - David Pham

### **European Union**

Jessica Antonisse - Josias Knöppler - Nikolaos Moullos - Rosalind Skillen

## **Partner Delegations**

### **Indonesia**

Anak Agung Mia Intentilia - Amira Bilqis Ganis - Radhiyan Pasopati Probadi - Raihan Ariatama

### **Senegal**

Aissatou Ndiaye - Ghislaine Dioh - Hane Marie Faye - Mahfou Aidara

### **South Africa**

Hannah Hopper - Keitumetse Pule - Oshea Roopnarian - Sicelo Shange

### **Ukraine**

Natalia Shevchuk - Kateryna Davydkova - Yevheniia Danyliuk - Yuliia Kotelnikova



Throughout 2022, Track Sherpa and Delegates have been working closely together to develop policy recommendations.

# WORKING SCHEDULE

**11.03.2022**

**KickOff Meeting**

- Exchange with Parliamentary State Secretary, Mr Sven Lehmann, Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (BMFSFJ)
- Exchange with G7 Sous-Sherpa, Dr Ulrich Oberndorfer, Federal Chancellery

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**19.03.2022**

**Working Session 1**

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**26.03.2022**

**Working Session 2**

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**03.04.2022**

**Interim Plenary Session**

- Exchange with G7 Sherpa, Dr Jörg Kukies, Federal Chancellery

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**23.04.2022**

**Working Session 3**

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**30.04.2022**

**Working Session 4**

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**16.-20.05.2022**

**Youth7 Summit 2022**

- Handover & Exchange with Federal Chancellor, Mr Olaf Scholz, Federal Chancellery
- Exchange with Federal Minister, Ms Lisa Paus, Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (BMFSFJ)

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**03.12.2022**

**FollowUp Meeting**

- Exchange with Parliamentary State Secretary, Mr Sven Lehmann, Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (BMFSFJ)





## TRACK 1

# SUSTAINABLE & GREEN PLANET

The urgency to address the climate crisis and its severe consequences, the importance to preserve the environment and biodiversity as well as the need to further global partnerships, set the framework upon which Track 1 developed its policy recommendations. The Delegates expressively welcomed the initiative to establish an open, cooperative “Climate Club”, as announced by the G7 Presidency, and the pursuit of more ambitious climate policies across and beyond the G7.



**Track 1 | Sustainable & Green Planet** called for holistic policies, recognising the complex interdependencies between climate change as a leading cause for biodiversity loss as well as an additional driver to it. Hence, enhanced protection of biodiversity both on land and at sea, through ambitious global standards and management practices, the empowerment of Indigenous, co-creation with local communities and regenerative agricultural practices, have been addressed and thoroughly debated by Delegates. In view to achieving ‘no pollution by 2050’, most polluting activities, including industrial emissions, wastewater, and waste, are recognised as pivotal levers to reduce environmental damage.

Central to any **climate mitigation and adaption measures**, Track 1 placed a focus on the dissonance in G7 policies between the level of ambition and willingness to take on concrete climate action and the degree of action that is in fact needed to effectively address climate change. Given their potential influence as well as their high share in emission, the G7 are called upon to take responsibility to enact global commitments to the 1.5°C warming limit, to make no further investment in fossil fuel projects, to strengthen adaption of infrastructures and the built environment and to fully commit to a green and transformative transition.

**The liveability of the planet that we inherit shall be determined by the decisions you, the G7 Leaders, take and the commitments you implement now.**

Convinced that the G7 must play a pivotal and leading role in sustainable development, Track 1 also addressed its potential to further **global climate cooperation** and to seek open partnerships to lead the way in the green transition. The recommendations introduce concrete mechanisms to secure climate justice, through a carbon price floor with differentiated prices, placing the onus carbon-emitters, public funding for climate change mitigation by countries most affected and a transition towards a regenerative economic model respecting planetary boundaries (“Doughnut Economics”).



# YOUTH DIALOGUE ACROSS AND BEYOND THE G7

*Hannah Schartmann & Felix Kaminski*

The Youth7's Track on Sustainable & Green Planet brought forth policy proposals that help maintain the liveability of the planet we inherited. This requires both courageous commitments that are in line with a sustainable future and the actual implementation of the decisions made. In this article, we would like to share key insights into how they perceived the work in the track and the demands

formulated by the Delegates.

## A shared vision for a better future

The Youth7 is, like the G7, a forum where people with different perspectives, shaped by their own national circumstances from all over the world, come together. Besides the Delegates from G7 members, Delegates from partner countries, namely Indonesia, Senegal, South Africa and Ukraine, attended the Youth7 Summit in Berlin in May 2022. Irrespective of these different national circumstances, the Delegates were united in their goals: maintaining the liveability of the planet we inherited, fighting the global climate crisis, and stepping up ambitions to meet the Sustainable Development Goals.

12 young environmentalists debated and agreed on nine ambitious environmental policy recommendations to include in the Communiqué. These covered a variety of topics, including biodiversity recovery, climate finance, and just energy transition. The Delegates discussed tirelessly and beyond the official time reserved for working sessions. This was not because opinions diverged that significantly but because the Delegates were so keen to hear all perspectives from both developed and developing economies in the unique setting of the Youth7 and to find the best wording to use the limited space in the communiqué as efficiently as possible.

## Making the climate club meaningful

In their recommendations, the Delegates also championed Federal Chancellor Olaf Scholz's goal to create an international Climate Club, which would promote further cooperation between countries. Delegates call upon G7 leaders to follow up and establish a Climate Club by the end of 2022. The climate ambition gap must be closed by strengthening global commitments to reach the 1.5°C target and by setting a carbon price floor at an adjusted level where high-income countries must take on the onus and step up their efforts. The Climate Club must include international revenue recycling and avoid carbon leakage, e.g., by avoiding exemptions for carbon-intensive industries. The G7 must use COP27 to move ahead beyond expressions of regret that neither global ambition nor implementation is sufficient to reach the 1.5°C target. Immediate action is needed to drastically reduce global greenhouse gas emissions and to mitigate the impact of the climate crisis. More specifically, the Delegates demand to make no further investments in new fossil fuel projects and redirect funding to renewable energy to ensure a universal and affordable energy supply.

**Track 1 was dedicated to address the existing interdependence between the climate crisis, biodiversity degeneration, global conflicts, and insufficient efforts to implement the SDGs, calling for holistic approaches.**





During the Youth7 Summit representatives of Track 1 | Sustainable and Green Planet expressed their expectations towards G7 Leaders in the field of climate and sustainability with broadcaster Deutsche Welle:

***"I am here to remind the G7 leaders that their choices at the G7 Summit actually impact not only their own countries, but also the rest of the world. [...] We advocate, support and call for the G7 Leaders to fulfill their pledges for helping the developing nations, both financially and by the transfer of technologies in all aspects of climate change mitigation efforts, as well as adaptation."***

*Amira Bilqis, Delegate Indonesia*

***"I think now is really the moment to push for renewables and renewable energy resources. And I believe this should be done in a very inclusive way. [...] Young people will see the results of decisions taken today. Their participation brings climate ambition, especially in the context of world crises we are facing today."***

*Aurora Audino, Head Delegate Italy*

***"It is very important to the German G7 Presidency to establish an international Climate Club for stepping up international climate ambition. And in our proposal, we made a great add-on to this initiative by introducing an international youth participation mechanism to ensure that this climate club will be generationally just."***

*Felix Kaminski, Track Sherpa*

## Environmental crises are interlinked

Although the climate crisis was very prominently addressed in the policy proposals of the track, the Delegates highlighted the links to other crises, such as biodiversity degeneration, global conflicts and the insufficient implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. To create a truly just and sustainable world, we need economic models that help meet societal needs whilst returning to planetary boundaries and drastically reducing our resource consumption. For the Delegates, it was very clear that fighting these multiple crises can only be done through global partnerships and solidarity. Amongst other things, they advocate for advanced economies to provide US\$ 500 bln in public financing for climate change mitigation and adaptation to developing economies from 2020 to 2025 (increasing thereafter) and to expand annual public financing for biodiversity by US\$ 10 bln at Kunming.

## Establishing a long-lasting network

Our Track put forward powerful policy proposals that G7 leaders need to hear. Besides to exchanges with governmental representatives, the presentation of the communiqué to Federal Chancellor Olaf Scholz and the Youth7 Co-Chairs' attendance at the G7 Climate, Energy and Environment Minister's Meeting, many of the Delegates presented the policy proposals to their national decision-makers. Moreover, the Youth7 Summit 2022 was not a one-time occasion for the Delegates: Given that most Delegates are active in national environmental or climate youth organisations, the strong connections established through Youth7 remain valuable for every one of us as we participate in upcoming exchanges and continue our advocacy for a just and sustainable future!



## TRACK 2

# ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION FOR SHARED PROGRESS

Based on the shared conviction that the present economic transformations will disproportionately affect today's youth and future young generations, Track 2 focused on outlining policies that ensure a socially and intergenerationally just transition, setting the course for a more sustainable future. Efforts to secure post-pandemic recoveries and a more equitable economic advancement globally, have been of particular importance in the debates held.



To succeed in the digital and green transitions, Track 2 | Economic Transformation for Shared Progress advocated for **sustained investments in education and training** of 0.5% of GDP annually and for **comprehensive support for temporary protection seeker, refugees, and other marginalised groups** (re)entering the workforce and seeking employment. Further, Delegates brought forward the initiative to promote ethical leadership in the private and public sector through a globally recognised, science-informed training on climate change for decision-makers. In view to much needed and more sustainable innovation, Track 2 called for **capital and financing tools** to be made accessible in a fair manner for all and on the condition of good business practices.

Regarding **structural domestic and global inequalities**, the recommendations sketch out a comprehensive approach for a sustained growth agenda covering calls for an increase in official development assistance (ODA), support for

improved domestic resource mobilisation and for debt restructuring and debt relief. Further, they place a robust social protection, decent work, and labour standards at the heart of policies of a more equitable economic order. Vulnerable and under-served groups were given particular consideration as most adversely impacted by the transitions.

And third, examining the **efficiency and sustainability of markets**, Track 2 highlighted the need of globally consistent global sustainability-related disclosure standards, a fair and differentiated global carbon price and a just and transparent international tax system. Carbon neutrality and the decarbonisation of portfolios and operations of financial institutions may further contribute to the transformation of markets and fiscal policies across the G7 and beyond, intrinsically linking the recommendations with those of Track 1 | Sustainable and Green Planet.

*"This year's title expresses the ambition to create an inclusive G7 and Y7 process: May economic progress and welfare be shared beyond the G7 on a global scale. For this reason, we have focussed on development and multilateral actions in the Communiqué. Furthermore, the climate crisis is still the most pressing issue of our time. It is therefore imperative that progress can only be achieved in a green economy."*

*Anne Steuernagel, Track Sherpa*

## YOUTH7 CALLING FOR MORE THAN A PROMISE

*Anne Steuernagel & Jonas Dechent*

The promise of advanced economies – prosperity for everyone – has recently come into question. A cost-of-living crisis follows a pandemic that itself is not over yet. Economic recovery after the pandemic has been highly unequal: many economies have not yet returned to pre-pandemic GDP levels while others have already surpassed them. Job losses

have hit vulnerable groups hard, including youth in the G7 countries and around the world. Some groups were exposed to difficult and dangerous work environments during the pandemic without sufficient protection or compensation. With respect to disturbed supply chains and the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine, price increases in food and energy have led to a decrease in welfare in some countries. Meanwhile, the transition towards a green economy has moved to the side-lines. To find strong policy responses to these issues has been the focus of this year's economy track.



More than ever before, these grievances highlight the necessity of a political framework that enables the creation of high-quality employment. Equitable labour standards, access to free general and professional education for everyone, and the translation of technological innovation into safe and more innovative workplaces can contribute towards this goal. Also, while creation of high-quality jobs and technological innovation can be mutually invigorating processes, they need to be supported by strategic policies, requiring an active government and policies to procure the funds necessary for investments. At the same time, the pandemic has put a heavy strain on public finances. Future fiscal policies therefore have to balance the needs for climate action, growth and equity.

The Youth7 Communiqué calls for inclusive economic policies along three main axes. "Economic Advancement through Education and Innovation" outlines future policy frameworks for investment in areas that lead to sustainable growth, particularly making use of undeveloped talent through education and fostering innovation in key technologies. "Towards a Sustainable and Equitable Economic Order" demands the advancement and adoption of fair labour standards and social protection in a diversifying economy, concerning in particular youth employment and mental health, and assuming global responsibility for indebted and developing countries. "Responsible Markets and Fair Fiscal Policy" calls for designing market, tax and transparency policies that facilitate the global transformation to net zero.

This year's German G7 Presidency was special in many ways. We live in a time of multiple crises. The Covid-19 pandemic was followed by a dramatic increase in the cost of living, exacerbated by Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. In other words, the issues to discuss at the Y7 summit were plentiful and pressing. Furthermore, the Youth7 Summit in Berlin was the first in-person event of its kind since the start of the pandemic in 2020. Therefore, we had the pleasure to get to know each other twice, first at the preparatory online working sessions where we had to coordinate time zones from Japan to New York, and again later at the in-person summit in Berlin. We were able to build a constructive work environment on the shared values – such as democracy and multilateral solidarity – of the youth Delegates.

***All the G7 documents had one thing in common: While they were well intentioned, we found a frightening ignorance of youth-specific issues, a lack of concrete commitment, and no qualitatively creative measures beyond some more-or-less of the status quo.***

Without a doubt, the Delegates of the economy track proved to be dedicated, highly motivated and qualified to discuss and advocate for the interests of the youth in the G7 countries and beyond. The lively discussions during the deliberations benefitted from the insights of experts such as Dr Florian Kern of the Institute for Ecological Economy Research (IÖW) and Prof Marius Olivier from the International Institute for Social Law and Policy (IISLP). Another beneficial addition was the participation of the partner Delegations from Indonesia, Senegal, South Africa and Ukraine. Thanks to their contributions, the discussion gained a multitude of insights and viewpoints which, in the end, improved the recommendations in the Youth7 Communiqué.

The strong financial and organisational support of the BMFSFJ was crucial to make the Youth7 a success and ensured connection to institutional politics. Beyond that, the handover of the Youth7 Communiqué to Federal Chancellor Olaf Scholz as well as various meetings at the Federal Chancellery ensured a continuous dialogue at the level of the Youth7 Co-Chairs and the G7 Sherpa.

However, in many high-level interactions with engagement groups and political stakeholders, it emerged that there was a lack of preparation, interest in and understanding of the role of Youth7 as one of the official engagement groups. We were at times faced with officials that referred to Youth7 as a "simulation", while others were entirely ignorant of the very existence of Youth7. By contrast, the opportunity to give a speech and engage with the G7 Labour and Employment Ministers' Meeting (LEMM) in Wolfsburg, as well as bilateral meetings with the German and Japanese Ministers, set an important precedent for the inclusion of engagement groups in general and youth in particular. This gave us the opportunity to present our demands on labour and social policy in a high-level but also professionally interested format. For other topics within the economy track, we had the opportunity to engage at administrative level



with Germany's Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK), talking about international research and education collaboration and German trade policy, respectively. These meetings were fruitful, established connections for future Youth7 teams, and enabled us to raise our concerns about the leaders' and respective ministerial communiqués. All the G7 documents had one thing in common: While they were well intentioned, we found a frightening ignorance of youth-specific issues, a lack of concrete commitment, and no qualitatively creative measures beyond some more-or-less of the status quo.

As the German G7 Presidency ends, we can draw a positive conclusion regarding the Youth7 process. Nonetheless, there are several areas where we expect an increased effort from the G7 in the future. As of today, efforts to transition our economies towards a sustainable future in line with the 1.5°C goal are falling short. Therefore, the Y7 maintains its call for differentiated and fair carbon pricing as well as a rapid increase in public and private climate financing to transition towards a green global economy. At the same time, we must acknowledge the disproportionate responsibility the G7 countries have had in advancing this climate crisis in the past. Therefore, the Youth7 continues to call for appropriate support for countries in the global South for climate adaption and to foster their green economic transition.

Furthermore, we call upon the G7 leaders to reiterate their commitment and finally adhere to the 0.7% ODA goal set by the OECD. The efforts to transition our economies must be supported by

education to equip workforces with the necessary skillsets for a green economy. In particular, the Youth7 calls for investments in the future of our countries by increasing funding for the innovative and future-proof education of our youth. Lastly, we can only master current and future crises if the global community works closely together. For this, we need strong and viable multilateral institutions. Hence, the Youth7 calls for strengthening such institutions and in particular supports a reform of the WTO with respect to the dispute settlement mechanism and the concern for climate protection in international trade.

During the Youth7 process and our advocacy efforts, we have been able to establish a multitude of connections to engagement groups and government. We hope that these links will prevail beyond the current presidency and ensure a more impactful involvement of future Youth7 and Youth20 Delegations. In preparation for Japan's upcoming G7 Presidency, we have shared our experiences with the Japanese colleagues and supported them in becoming involved institutionally in the G7 process as early as possible. Japan faces some quite similar problems as Germany: on the one hand, an industrial economy reliant on natural resources, a highly skilled workforce and an ageing population; on the other, it has a lot of work to do on gender equality, youth participation and mental health. In view to our joint advocacy work, it is incumbent on young people and their allies to stand up for the much-neglected issues that do not directly translate into economic priorities. However, we are optimistic as the continuation of our common task is in good hands. We wish our colleagues the best of luck!





## TRACK 3

# RESILIENCE OF DEMOCRACIES

With citizens and civil society actors placed firmly at the heart of deliberations within Track 3, Delegates addressed complex current challenges to the resilience of democracies, open societies, and active citizenship. Early on, Delegates agreed on a broad concept of democracy, inextricably linked to the free and fair elections, strong and responsive institutions, transparent and good governance, equal opportunities for participation and a vibrant civil society.



Reflecting on disinformation, digital disruption and accessibility barriers, policy recommendations of Track 3 | Resilience of Democracies emphasised **education as a top priority for G7 Leaders**: By fostering critical thinking, digital skills and media literacy, independent decision-making and assessing competence, citizens must be equipped by the ability to actively get involved in building resilient democracies. Reshaping educational systems, sufficient resources for educators and teachers as well as investment in digital infrastructure and connectivity were identified as key levers to education in the digital age.

It came naturally to Youth7 Delegates, to underscore the **importance of youth participation** and the empowerment of young people through project-based and collaborative learning and international exchange.

Concerning emerging and persistent threats to democratic institutions, the G7 was called upon to develop and establish coherent and common definitions and independent monitoring mechanisms to strengthen the understanding and **safeguarding of open societies**. With the latter relying on transparent and accessible advocacy processes and good governance practices, Track 3 advocated for complementary legislation to foster transparency and accountability in all decision-making, effective

platform regulation as well as citizen empowerment regarding their human and civil rights.

Finally, the recommendations outlined nothing less than a shared vision on **reshaping democracy for 21st century citizenship** – inclusive, engaging, responsive and accessible for all. The introduction of a duty-to-respond-mechanism by 2050, was brought forward as an important building block alongside continuing evaluation and review of the inclusivity of the policy-making process. As their key demand and initiative, Delegates recommended the creation of arms-length civil society task forces by the G7 members and partners to further increase community participation in policy-making.

**Governments across the G7 should finance the accessibility of digital and physical environments and economically enable participation to ensure deliberation processes are inclusive.**

On the occasion of the International Day of Democracy, as celebrated by the United Nations on September 15, Track Sherpa Lisa Mastiaux and Ruszlan Biwoino released a short statement, reiterating the message to G7 Leaders calling for renewed efforts to strengthen civil societies as a critical component of a resilient and healthy democracy.

*“Our Track embraced a broad understanding of democracy which does not only focus on casting your vote in a free and fair election. We call upon G7 Leaders to strengthen each individual citizen’s opportunity and capacity to participate in political deliberations as well as society at large!”*

*Lisa Mastiaux, Track Sherpa*

*“Youth7 showcases the importance of youth participation, active youth spaces, transformative education, and the accessibility of advocacy processes. Commitment to democratic action flourishes if conditions like these are provided equally.”*

*Ruszlan Biwoino, Track Sherpa*



# DEMOCRACY THRIVES WHEN FRICTION IS AT ITS GREATEST.

*Lisa Mastiaux & Ruszlan Biwoino*

With democracy under attack and declining around the world, we decided to dedicate ourselves to the resilience of democratic societies and the creation of a strong community of values. Before the devastating developments of 2022, already less than half of the world's population lived in a somewhat democratic environment, whereas only 6.4% enjoyed the advantages of a "full democracy". Thus, societies and governments of the G7 are continuously challenged to consider how to realise the idea of democracy for everyone – inside as well outside of the Western hemisphere.

However, while we all acknowledge the advantages of democracy, substantive differences became apparent in the shape of varied perspectives and circumstances from every Youth7 Delegation. The following focus areas served as a basis for the subsequent drafting of recommendations based on shared values and needs:

1. "Education in the Digital Area"
2. "Safeguarding & Strengthening Open Societies"
3. "Reshaping Democracy for 21st Century Citizenship".

In order to propose universal solutions that meet a complex and multifaceted reality, we sharpened and adapted all three focus areas according to the situation in each G7 member and partner country.

Despite the differing views, our debates – some of which continued into the night – were constructive and respectful. All representatives worked hard to show the leaders that young people can come up with strong and effective solutions to tackle current world problems. As one of our Delegates rightfully stated, "Democracy thrives when friction is at its greatest." Thus, the best solutions emerge when and only when the exchange of opinions takes place under free and democratic conditions.

High-quality education and global educational equity are key to achieving an encompassing democracy. Education means equipping people with the tools necessary to find solutions for the world's most pressing issues. As Youth7, we want education to unfold its power and to build a solid foundation for democracy.

As advocates for education, Track 3 speaks out on reshaping the educational system to equip citizens with skills to address challenges caused by digital disruption, including disinformation, digital threats, and ethical challenges. This should be achieved by incentivising youth participation and critical thinking from an early age, equipping young people with the tools to recognise threats, the ability to access and analyse messages in social and mass media, and to adapt to evolving societies to improve access to quality education.

## High-quality education and global educational equity are key to achieving an encompassing democracy.

Open societies are crucial in strengthening our structures and values. The world is continuously confronted with anti-democratic tendencies; thus, the essential questions are how to strengthen civil spaces and human rights, how to safeguard freedom of expression and the press as well as the integrity of information, and how to consider the implications of an ever more digital life to create a truly inclusive society.

As expressed in our recommendations, the Delegates call for open societies to be strengthened and safeguarded by creating mechanisms that combat emerging threats to democratic institutions, increase transparency of social media platforms, and protect civil society's ability to engage in advocacy, especially for marginalised groups.



The remaining challenge is to improve the resilience of democracy. Immediate disruptions to the system such as Russia's war of aggression have shown that our community of values must work on a future- and bullet-proof vision of democracy. The key question was how to include all parts of society in decision-making to strengthen the foundations of democracy.

To solidify trust and reshape democracy and promote active citizenship, the Track urges leaders to facilitate inclusive methods of engaging youth and marginalised communities who face structural barriers to contributing their perspectives, legislating the government's duty to respond to feedback, and ensuring accountability and measurement of success of the policy-making process.

While the policy recommendations were not considered by the G7 Leaders, we struck a responsive chord at the further engagement groups. In the context of the German G7 Presidency, we look back on constructive cooperation with various institutions and stakeholders which we would like to expand and deepen in the future. It is also a particular concern of ours to share our experience and expertise to contribute to the establishment and strengthening of participation, advisory and/or consultation structures in political processes.

**With democracy under attack and declining around the world, the motive for dedicating ourselves to this challenge is to create a strong community of values.**



We hope that the inclusion of our policy demands will be intensified in the coming years.

As the German G7 Presidency comes to an end, democracy remains under siege. To combat threats and support democratic efforts, the world requires active citizenship. We need to develop the G7 in the direction of a value-based partnership beyond the immediate economic and fiscal focus to support partners worldwide in empowering the idea of democracy.

In this endeavour, G7 Leaders should include young people as they are an integral part of society and the future, a source of impetus, and often the spearhead of movements for liberty, equality, and democracy. Only when we manage to rebuild trust in our institutions can we harvest the benefits of democracy.

Bearing in mind these complex challenges, we wish Youth7 Japan 2023 great success in coping with the various tasks, and a sure hand in the difficult but fruitful discussions!



## TRACK 4

# GLOBAL HEALTH & SOLIDARITY

Striving for progress towards a gender-just and more equitable world, Track 4 addressed pressing challenges to healthy lives and well-being for all and a world without hunger and food insecurity. Delegates agreed on concrete recommendations on how to put partnerships, solidarity, and policies to address the structural causes of inequalities into action and to deliver on a global scale.



As a primary field of action, Track 4 | Global Health and Solidarity highlighted improving **women's health** and gendered support infrastructure. With reference to Sustainable Development Goal 5, dedicated to achieving gender equality, their recommendations underscored the urgency to counter and prevent all manifestations of gender-based violence, to strengthen support structures for victims and children affected and to address the gender health gap. Further, Track 4 called for a guarantee of sexual and reproductive health, rights, and care.

Against the backdrop of converging crises of the global pandemic, climate change, escalating and persisting conflicts as well as economic consequences thereof, **food insecurity and access to sustainable food assistance programs** were addressed as a priority. In their calls to G7 Leaders, Track 4 pointed out possible courses of action, ranging from waiving food export restriction and speculation, or relieving global scarcity of staple food by all diplomatic means possible, to stepping up diversification of food production. In view to preventable and emerging diseases, a One Health approach must be followed, considering all aspects of human, animal and environmental health.

*„Many groups have so far been insufficiently represented in global health and justice matters. In order to create justice, we have to give everyone a seat at the table.“*

*Eva Croon, Track Sherpa*

Track 4 concludes with an outlook on future developments, innovations and digital health solutions as well as **sustained global partnerships and cooperation**. Through increases in non-earmarked funding to the World Health Organisation, the G7 must strengthen long-term programmes and mechanisms established and may further develop their country-specific global health diplomacy, together with consistent and diverse youth representation. Lastly, Delegates addressed **mental health in young people**, growing from particular crises, including climate anxiety and the negative effects of the ongoing Covid19 pandemic. Their call to action covered universal, accessible, effective and affordable services, expanded training for professionals of the field as well as public awareness campaigns and mental health education.

In autumn 2022, Track Sherpa Franka Weckner participated in a high-level conference hosted by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) on “Feminist Development Policy - Transforming International Cooperation”. Under the leadership of Federal Minister Svenja Schulze, the conference invited high-ranking officials and representatives, leading scholars and researchers and practitioners from civil society and NGOs to exchange perspectives on important features of a feminist approach to development cooperation and a gender-just future. Building upon the strong feminist motifs in Track 4's recommendations and the discussions held on global solidarity, Franka highlighted the importance to include marginalised groups in a more holistic policy approach.

*“We are excited to see a feminist agenda in development policy. Any effort to create more inclusive approaches must include young people - in particular the youth of the Global South. Young women in particular are drivers for change and a just world. We urgently need co-creation, co-ownership and co leadership - at the negotiation table and in international development policy. Further, the SDG's set a clear frame of reference for Youth7's policy recommendations. Feminist development policy is an indispensable strategic advance towards implementing the Agenda 2030 and human rights.”*

*Franka Weckner, Track Sherpa*



# THERE IS NO HEALTH OR SAFETY FOR ALL, WITHOUT INCLUDING WOMEN.

*Eva Croon & Frank Weckner*

In March 2022, our track came together to get to know each other and find out about our Delegates' strengths and perspectives. We were a group with diverse backgrounds and different perspectives. We concretised what it means for all to live healthily and safely, specifically for women and other marginalized groups. The topic of health is always very closely linked to one's personal life, which is why we also had various opportunities to share our different personal experiences to understand where the other person is coming from.

Having experienced a global pandemic that not only brought to light but also exacerbated existing inequalities, we have noticed the particularly serious consequences that affect (young) women and marginalised groups. COVID-19 has had devastating impacts on the world's health, showing how a lack of multilateral agreements and partnerships further exacerbates inequality. The Russian war of aggression against Ukraine also impacted our work and made us focus on the weaknesses in our food systems, showing once again that effects of war are suffered far beyond the battlefield. After years of decline, hunger is on the rise again. Currently, 41 million people across 43 countries are at imminent risk of famine without funding and humanitarian access.

We were lucky that our topic "Global Health and Solidarity" was already a central theme of the German G7 Presidency. Given this, we had the chance to bring in new perspectives and to introduce somewhat more daring approaches to something that was already discussed. We especially tried to cover the topics looking through a feminist lens, enhancing equality for people of all genders - including men. The following topics served as our working basis:

1. Women's Health
2. Food Security and Conflict
3. Global Partnerships

Our Delegates divided into subtopics according

to their best interest. They researched the topics, what each G7 member is doing in the field and how they addressed these issues during the pandemic. They wrote background papers with further links to governmental and institutional information and identified civil society stakeholders already active in the field. Therefore, the Delegates were able to prioritise the most pressing issues and started drafting the recommendations. Exceptionally, our Delegates finished their zero-draft before the last digital meeting. When we met in Berlin, the Track had time for energetic and constructive discussions and enjoyed meeting in person for further exchanges.

Achieving healthy populations with high levels of solidarity to scale up measures and humanitarian action for those in need is key to strong, equal and just societies. These are interconnected with multilateralism and global cooperation, food safety and health, especially for marginalised groups.

## Our Delegates advocate for a world, where women in all their diversity, inclusive of gender identity, are safe.

Thus, we as Youth7 call on G7 Leaders to invest adequately in healthcare, meeting the reality of the crises COVID-19 as an interconnected crisis brought us. Our Delegates advocate for a world, where women in all their diversity, inclusive of gender identity, are safe. This means no more gender-based violence, and that gender discrimination in healthcare is effectively addressed. Sexual and reproductive health and rights are guaranteed. Further, our Delegates addressed the topic of food insecurity, advising to tackle not only agroterrorism but also income inequality, climate change and conflict.

A strong focus was also put on the significant challenges posed by COVID-19. The current mental health crises especially affecting young people



should be addressed through investments in innovative solutions (e. g. digital health) and health equity, but also by making healthcare services more accessible and increasing security for young people everywhere. This will give everyone the same opportunity and chances to live together and in peace.

Often, it seems that specifically two topics are attributed to young people by (senior) leaders. Next to the climate crisis, the topic mostly referred to as a so-called “youth topic” is Mental Health. With continuous advocacy, the topic not only made it in last year’s communiqué but was addressed this year again, proofing that still not enough was done to holistically support and strengthen the health of young people. Due to our constant advocacy, the need for accessible and effective mental health services was mentioned in the G7 Leader’s Communiqué. This is a huge success for our Y7 2022. Important to the G7 Leaders are collective efforts to achieve comprehensive Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR). For our Delegates, it was specifically important to address access to legal and safe abortions, even though this meant we would hardly negotiate this recommendation. This was not further recognised by G7 Leaders in general but welcomed by respective ministries and other stakeholders. For more meaningful exchange

and diverse civil society participation through perspective in decision-making processes, we hope to build on the cooperation we established during our Youth7 process.

The concepts of feminist foreign policies and feminist development policies are discussed and partly already implemented in German and Canadian politics. We would wish for a change of perspective regarding healthcare policies - what would it mean to have a feminist healthcare policy, that leaves no one behind and focuses on existing needs instead of pursuing profits? This would mean not securing the country’s own immunization to a global pandemic in the global north first, but rather fully and effectively supporting the COVAX initiative to end the suffering of millions, especially in the global south. To implement feminist healthcare efforts, the G7 need to include young people to reach healthy, equal, and just societies.

Having in mind the pandemic slowly develops into an endemic, this does not mean our healthcare systems, nor our societies are recovered from all additional constraints and burdens. We wish you lots of success, strength, and patience to address these challenges during the Japanese Presidency and all efforts in Youth7 Japan 2023!





**TRACK**

# **YOUTH, PEACE & SECURITY**

Under the impression of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, Youth7 affirmed their commitment to young peacebuilders and all those young people across the world dedicated to strengthening peace, resilient societies, and human security. The establishment of an additional Track allowed Delegates to discuss the further implementation of the United Nation's Youth, Peace & Security (YPS) agenda as well as their specific recommendations to the G7 Leaders. Further, it gave impetus for joint calls for an end to violence and conflict, military escalation and atrocities of war worldwide, in particular and immediately in Ukraine.



Strengthening the role of young people and youth engagement, builds on the key concern of the G7 youth engagement process, which was reflected in the high motivation and engagement of Youth7 to amend their work programme. First and foremost, Delegates called for a recognition of the vital role of youth in building peace and sustaining democratic processes. Youth, Peace & Security asks to **improve youth participation on all levels, in a meaningful way and across the political agenda.** Under the co-leadership of youth organisations and with the G7 members taking on a leading role, YPS must be supported in its further institutionalisation and implementation on national and international level.

Secondly, the recommendations underlined the importance to respond to immediate **needs of protection, support and (re)integration** care of youth facing violence, affected by conflict, or being displaced. In every conflict, support should be provided to young people recognising their age-specific, group-specific, and individual needs. Throughout their in-depth discussions, Delegates recognised severe consequences of the ongoing war of Ukraine for its young generation. In their calls to action, they highlight contextually relevant responses as well as general predicaments, given that each conflict should receive equal amount of attention and a specific response through adjusted actions.

*Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) refers to the ensemble of intergovernmental civil-society-led efforts to advance young people's role for peace. Changing the narrative surrounding youth from perpetrators or victims to agents of change and partners in peace, the YPS agenda consists of the five pillars: participation, protection, prevention, partnership, and reintegration.*

*Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) has most recently developed a comprehensive framework the adoption of the UN Security Council (SC) resolutions 2250 (2015), 2419 (2018) and 2535 (2020). Yet neither a joint formal recognition by the G7 nor a systemic approach to implementing the resolutions has been adopted. Throughout 2022, Youth7 called for a serious debate to be held on youth in peace and human security and later welcomed to see the young generation referred to in pledges to the recovery and reconstruction of Ukraine.*

## #YOUTH4PEACE - AN UNEXPLORED POTENTIAL FOR THE G7

Paul Klahre

Young people's key role for peace and security translates into opportunities for conflict prevention, conflict resolution, sustaining peace and ultimately human security. While it remained almost invisible to the G7, the Youth7 Summit 2022 issued

strong and comprehensive recommendations to draw attention to the implementation of and key demands of the Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) agenda.

A Track on Youth, Peace and Security was added to the Youth7 Summit 2022 working schedule shortly after Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The unprecedented attention since directed at concerns of peace and security by the G7 emerged as an opportunity - if not a necessity - to advocate for young people's role in this agenda. For the first time since the adoption of UN Security Council resolution 2250 (2015), YPS was included in the Youth7 process.



Given that the Delegations were composed of four members each, a Delegate was designated by each country to shape the YPS discussions on top of their initial track. This led not only to additional workload for the outstanding double-track Delegates, but it also shaped the modalities of the work. Most of the work leading to the final recommendations was conducted prior to the in-person Youth7 Summit thanks to smooth digital collaboration with an overall active engagement and full commitment of Delegates. Online sessions included an introduction to the YPS agenda led by an external expert, a brainstorming session to identify key concerns of the Delegations, self-organised drafting sessions of sub-groups and three rounds of feedback, suggestions from the Track Sherpa, negotiations, and fine-tuning. Throughout the process, multiple draft versions were circulated so that a consensus for initial draft recommendations could be achieved prior to the Summit.

In the preparation, core demands emerged early on and – despite last-minute negotiations during the voting session of the Summit – were reconfirmed by their adoption:

First, improve youth participation in formal and informal peace and democratic processes through recognition, countering exclusion and partnerships with youth organizations. Second, guarantee protection of conflict-affected youth, counter narratives of youth as threats and focus on human security and rights for migrant and refugee youth. Third, institutionalise YPS by develop national strategies in co-leadership with youth with ensured funding, participation and follow-up mechanism. Lastly, protect, support and finance young people's activities in response to conflict and war everywhere, including in Ukraine. Overall and most importantly, governments and civil society organizations need to turn their attention towards young people, to reconsider their perceptions and to work with young people as partners.

The recommendations were received with great interest by a wide range of stakeholders both in Germany, across the G7 and beyond. In Germany, high-level representatives of both the Federal Foreign Ministry (AA) and the Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (BMFSFJ) demonstrated their intention to further explore the potentials of the YPS agenda and expressed their increased commitment to implement YPS. A general

impression was that there is little knowledge about and understanding of YPS in-house, which reconfirmed the need for both further dissemination of the agenda and guidance from civil society, academia and countries that are further advanced on YPS so that successful national implementation can be achieved. Multiple non-governmental stakeholders, including the United Network of Young Peacebuilders, the Kofi Annan Foundation, Search for Common Ground and the Global Coalition on Youth, Peace and Security applauded the Youth7 recommendations on YPS. NATO's Special Representative for Women, Peace and Security pledged to include youth in her mandate and has emerged as a strong ally for YPS. Unfortunately, the G7 Leaders' Communiqué did not explicitly take youth in matters of peace and security into account.

The expectations set forth by the Youth7 are straightforward and require investing in translating these recommendations into tangible actions. A key milestone will be to facilitate national multi-stakeholder coalitions within G7 countries to bring national youth, governments, civil society, academia and interest groups together to define clear objectives and potential cooperation, develop a national roadmap for implementation and set up monitoring and follow-up mechanisms. A platform that generates ideas, exchanges knowledges and inspires action and a strong network of YPS champions and championing organisations may emerge in the future. This process should be youth-led, inclusive and participatory.

Deliberations during Youth7 have shown, that the YPS agenda and its holistic concept of youth participation may feed negotiations in any of the thematic Tracks established. The potential of mainstreaming YPS across topics ultimately means attaching more importance to young people as agents of change in our societies.

***Even though, the G7 Leaders missed the chance to explicitly take youth in matters of peace and security into account, a wide range of stakeholders welcomed the recommendations on Youth, Peace and Security and expressed their intention to further its potential.***

# DELEGATES

## Track 1 | Sustainable & Green Planet

Jaya Scott, Canada  
Cécile Dénot, France  
Nanami Okiyama, Japan  
Jordan Lee, USA  
Amira Bilqis, Indonesia  
Hannah Hopper, South Africa

Jannis Krüßmann, Germany  
Aurora Audino, Italy  
Annabel Rice, United Kingdom  
Rosalind Skillen, European Union  
Ghislaine Dioh, Senegal  
Yuliia Kotelnikova, Ukraine

## Track 2 | Economic Transformation for Shared Progress

Michael Lecchino, Canada  
Pablo Gil, France  
Junki Fujii, Japan  
Danielle Torres, USA  
Radhiyan Pribadi, Indonesia  
O Shea Roopnarian, South Africa

Isilay Isilar-Günes, Germany  
Tea Cimini, Italy  
Michael Yip, United Kingdom  
Josias Knöppler, European Union  
Mahfou Aidara, Senegal  
Kateryna Davydkova, Ukraine

## Track 3 | Resilience of Democracies

Hargun Kaur, Canada  
Guillaume Ménart, France  
Erina Kondo, Japan  
David Pham, USA  
Anak Agung Mia Intentilia, Indonesia  
Keitumetse Pule, South Africa

Johannes Röder, Germany  
Emanuele Sacco, Italy  
Safia Sangster, United Kingdom  
Nikolaos Moullos, European Union  
Hane Marie Faye, Senegal  
Natalia Shevchuk, Ukraine

## Track 4 | Global Health & Solidarity

Prativa Baral, Canada  
Mathilde Viart, France  
Juli Sakar, Japan  
Aisha Espey, USA  
Raihan Ariatama, Indonesia  
Sicelo Shange, South Africa

Antonia Kuhn, Germany  
Alessio Laconi, Italy  
Zain Iqbal, United Kingdom  
Jessica Antonisse, European Union  
Aissatou Ndiaye, Senegal  
Yevheniya Danylyuk, Ukraine

## Track | Youth, Peace & Security

Jaya Scott, Canada  
Mathilde Viart, France  
Juli Sarkar, Japan  
Aisha Espey, USA  
Anak Agung Mia Intentilia, Indonesia  
Natalia Shevchuk, Ukraine

Antonia Kuhn, Germany  
Tea Cimini, Italy  
Safia Sangster, United Kingdom  
Nikolaos Moullos, European Union  
Keitumetse Pule, South Africa



# YOUTH7 ADOPTION OF THE COMMUNIQUÉ

Building upon the hard work of several weeks and countless hours at the Summit, Youth7 Delegates unanimously adopted the Youth7 Communiqué.





In keeping with the modes of operation and the established rhythm of the G7 fora, Youth7 discussed the Presidency's Priorities as well as selected questions, providing policy recommendations on the most pressing challenges throughout 2022. At the very core stands the Youth7 Communiqué, representing thematic priorities set by Delegates themselves and the negotiation results on the chosen topic. Each Track identified three strategic policy areas within their framework as well as three specific recommendations for concrete action. Delegates draw direct references to the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals as well as multilateral frameworks of cooperation and international treaties.

To fully reflect the comprehensive process of deliberation within the Tracks and across Delegations, a final, open voting session was held at the Youth7 Summit 2022. After each Track introduced their draft to the plenary, further arguments were exchanged, and amendments discussed. Through unanimity in adoption, Delegations expressed their strong support for the negotiation results achieved.

The Youth7 Communiqué further provided the common basis for advocacy efforts and was handed over to numerous Heads of Governments, Ministers, Members of Parliament, Ambassadors, stakeholders in civil societies and allies of the youth engagement process.





**„Young people have so much input and value that they can share with each other and bring to these important policy discussions.“**

*Safia Sangster, Head Delegate United Kingdom*

Until the very late evening, their passionate commitment to achieve a position that holds the full support of all Delegations - G7 members and partner Delegations alike.

## Young Expertise & Young Leadership

Youth7 continues to provide an international forum for young activists and leaders eager to contribute to shaping the world's most current challenges, on all levels, from local change to multilateral fora. Not only are they able to provide a youth-centered approach by taking on leadership and ownership themselves, which is not yet a structural element of the G7. Delegates bring in their professional and academic knowledge and skills, ranging across fields from medical school graduates to environmental engineers, as likely as young lawyers-in-training to teachers, they represent a diverse community among themselves. This allows for international hands-on best practices being shared as well as building a learning network, collecting up-to-date and science-based information on their various topics.

## Unanimously adopted, endowed with a strong mandate

Calling for a progressive and future oriented G7 Summit, the Youth7 Communiqué 2022 successfully addressed all the priority areas of the G7 Presidency and outlined a comprehensive programme. In its ambition, the Youth7 Communiqué reaches beyond the Leaders' counterpart - which may be assumed a natural given that the youth engagement process brought together strong young activist voices and young civic leaders. The most impressive aspect of the 23 page-manifesto, is grounded in the unanimous vote upon each Track. From early March to mid-May, Delegates managed not only to identify the most pressing challenges, gathered research, included perspectives from academia and politics, but further succeeded in negotiating a series of policy recommendations that answer to the demands of young people from 12 Delegations spanning the entire globe.

Youth7, and Youth20, deserve closer attention and the full political support of each Presidency, as the format involve youth in sharing and further developing knowledge into policy, and the dissemination of their demands to decision-makers and civil society - an advanced course in active citizenship and public leadership.

## Global voices heard and recognised

With all Delegations joining for the final vote, the Youth7 Communiqué 2022, reflected not only common positions but also the global outreach of Youth7. Its recommendations not only considered the long-term implications of political decisions for future generations, but ever more so global interdependencies and consequences of the actions taken by the leading economies of the G7 world-wide. The perspectives and insights did inform the negotiations within the Tracks and deliberations

during the Youth7 Summit, enriched by a panelists from Argentina, India, Syria to give additional context and feedback. All Track recommendations reflect the global dimension by given reference to frameworks such as the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In parallel, the German Presidency has invited Argentina, India, Indonesia, Senegal and South Africa to join the G7 Summit 2022, consulting partners from across the globe and aiming at broader partnerships.

**„Our participation is most important because the future of our country is in our hands. The Youth7 Summit is an opportunity for us to express our voice.“**

*Aissatou Ndiaye, Head Delegate Senegal*



## Starting point and reference for advocacy

In their closing remarks, Co-Chairs Carolina Claus and Benjamin Günther emphasised the importance to share both the Youth7 spirit and the Youth7 Communiqué with governments, stakeholders, civil society and representatives of international youth cooperation: “After the Summit, is just before the Summit.” With the G7 Summit firmly in view, advocacy efforts immediately started - with Delegations presenting the Communiqué to their respective Ambassadors to Germany, the coordinating team reaching out to fellow engagement groups and Co-Chairs and Track Sherpa participating at Ministers' Meeting in late May. The second edition of the Youth7 Communiqué was published in time for the G7 Leaders' Summit at Elmau, knowing that its key messages and calls to action has already been disseminated to the Federal Chancellery and Federal Ministries involved. Throughout the advocacy efforts the Communiqué has proven its extensive reach and served as a comprehensive compendium on various policy fields, including gender equality and sustainable urban development.

*Christina Arkenberg*

**“I want them to understand that 2050 is too late and that the decisions they're making now for 2030 in the next five years or so, are going to be what we have to live with for centuries to come. The future is pretty much in their hands. [...] 65% of young people worldwide feel their governments have failed them. So, there has been a lot of talk, but now we're at the last minute for action. I think our proposals are very action-focused and they take up current policy discussions within the G7 They say: This is the more ambitious version that we need now for youth.“**

*Jaya Scott, Delegate Canada*





Final vote!



In their Final Vote on the Youth7 Communiqué 2022, Delegates reached unanimity, which gave their wide-ranging recommendations and strong demands additional gravitas and political leverage.





**WE CALL  
UPON  
G7 LEADERS  
TO**





## Track 1 | Sustainable & Green Planet

Create a Climate Club aiming for a just energy transition and including meaningful participation of youth and those most impacted. The Climate Club's carbon price floor should be set at a level to reach 1.5°C, with differentiated prices, according to CBDR-RC principles, putting the onus on high-income countries. The Climate Club must include international revenue recycling and avoid carbon leakage by creating tariffs rather than exemptions for carbon-intensive industries.



## Track 2 | Economic Transformation for Shared Progress

Succeed in the digital and environmental transitions of jobs. Develop and promote strong partnerships between educational and scientific institutions, industry-leading companies, start-ups, MSMEs, and social enterprises to ensure young people have wider access to paid work placements. Introduce a globally recognised, science-informed climate change certification program for decision-makers in the private and public sectors to promote ethical leadership.



## Track 3 | Resilience of Democracies

G7 governments and their partners should create arms-length Civil Society Task Forces that will implement tailored communication and engagement tools to increase community participation in policymaking. The Task Force should be cognisant of local needs, proactively engage all citizens facing barriers to participation, and represent diverse youth and marginalised communities. Governments should finance the accessibility of digital and physical environments and economically enable participation to ensure deliberation processes are inclusive.



## Track 4 | Global Health & Solidarity

As per SDG 3.4, improve the provision of support services in order to address growing challenges on mental health from particular crises, including climate anxiety and COVID-19. Services should be universal, accessible, effective and affordable across educational institutions, workplaces and the community. National requirements outlining standards for the provision of mental health education from the age of seven, coupled with national campaigns and training for universities and employers, to address structural causes and prevent discrimination.



## Track | Youth, Peace & Security

Lead by example in the implementation of the Youth, Peace & Security (YPS) agenda. From young people's participation in peace processes and strong partnerships with youth organisations to their protection and meaningful (re)integration, concrete actions for the institutionalisation of YPS is needed. Focus on young people in response to every conflict and war, including in Ukraine.



# ROAD TO THE SUMMIT



Youth7 welcomed Delegates to Berlin to convene for a five-day-conference.





The Youth7 Summit took place in Berlin from 16 to 20 May 2022 and was the highlight of the youth engagement process under the Germany's Presidency of the G7.

With keynote speeches, panel discussions, workshops with experts and activists as well as excursions to the political heart of Berlin, the Youth7 Summit provided its participants with opportunities to engage directly with high-level decision-makers. Meaningful youth participation in the G7 ensures that the voices of the global youth are heard, and their opinions, visions and needs are considered.





# AGENDA

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## Monday 16 May 2022

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### **Welcome & Opening Greetings**

Bettina Bundszus, Head of Department for Children and Youth, Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (BMFSFJ)  
Marius Schlageter, Speaker, German National Committee for Youth Work (DNK)  
Marie-Luise Dreber, IJAB - International Youth Service of the Federal Republic of Germany

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### **Opening Remarks**

Carolina Claus & Benjamin Günther, Youth7 2022 Co-Chairs

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### **Panel Discussion "The Power of Education?"**

Immersing right into the summit's core topics, the first panel discussion centered around the question of the power of education: how can we foster quality education globally amidst the ongoing COVID19-pandemic? Our panelists Prof Dr Andreas Schleicher of the OECD, Magdalena Fernandez Lemos of Enseña x Argentina/ Generation Chile, Prof Dr Christine Schmalenbach from the University of Hamburg, Diana Ayala of Global Partnership for Education (GPE) and Thaís Queiroz of the World Organisation of the Scout Movement discussed the most urgent issues and potential solutions: understanding the complexity and diversity of learners, aligning needs with resources and democratize education systems enabling youth to participate meaningfully.

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### **Panel "Feminist Foreign Policy (FFP) & Youth, Peace and Security (YPS)"**

The second panel, addressing both the concept Feminist Foreign Policy and the nexus of Youth, Peace and Security, emphasised the necessity to promote gender equality through diplomatic relations and to actively engage youth leaders in peace processes - So the voices of women, young people and other marginalized groups are heard and considered in peace negotiations. Panelists included: Kirthi Jayakumar, Co-Chair of Advisory Working Group 4 Feminist Foreign Policy, Women7, Miriam Mona Mukalazi, Board Member, United Nations Association Germany (DGVN), Nora Teuma, Board Member, UN Women, Ahmed Helmi, Activist, Ta'afi Organisation Syria, Paul Klahre, Youth Representative for Peace, World Organisation of the Scout Movement and Marius Schlageter, Speaker, German National Committee for Youth Work (DNK).

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### **Working Session #1**

Delegates started in Working Session #1 in their respective tracks, as the first in-person meeting after preparing and organising on-line in the previous months.

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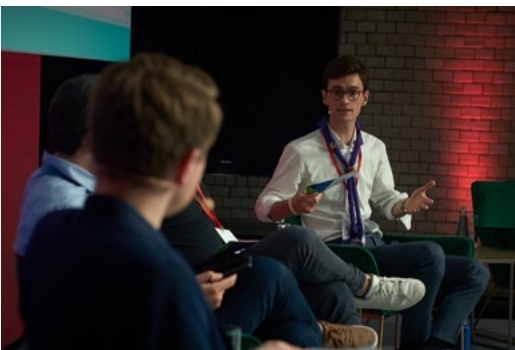
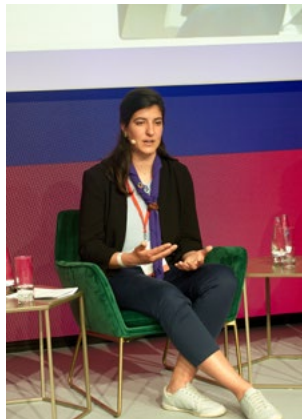
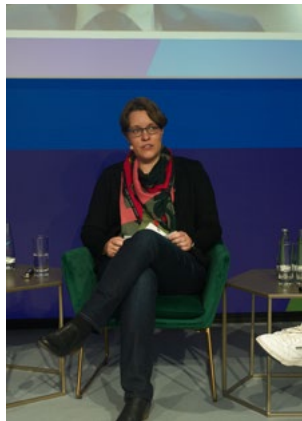
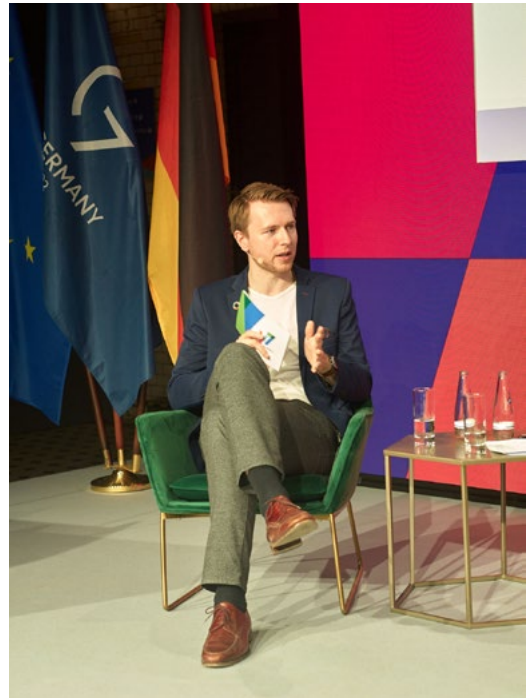
## Tuesday 17 May 2022

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### **Working Session #2-#4**

Negotiations between Delegates continued to exchange ideas and perspectives, in order to reach a broad agreement expressed in their policy recommendations. Their commitment for the cause carried some Tracks into late night sessions.

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Hy7summit

# HIGH LEVEL EXCHANGE

WITH FEDERAL MINISTER LISA PAUS |  
INTERNATIONAL YOUTH PARTICIPATION





In her introductory address to Youth7 Delegates, Federal Minister Paus highlighted that personal encounters and direct dialogue with political decision-makers are a necessity for meaningful international youth participation. In a lively Q&A session after her remarks, Minister Paus responded to questions raised by the Delegates on youth participation in environmental politics, for example on Germany's G7 initiative to form an International Climate Club, the role of young people in climate diplomacy and on political support for non-formal international youth work.

Later, Youth7 Delegates had an opportunity to talk more informally with Federal Minister Paus on the roof top terrace and advocate for their priority topics, such as Youth, Peace and Security, in bilateral and more personal exchanges.

**Youth7 welcomed Federal Minister Paus on the podium for an engaged exchange with Co-Chairs and Delegates.**





***“Young people should have a say in all decisions that affect them. That is the hallmark of democracy, and that is where the Y7 Youth Summit comes in. At the Summit, the young people of the G7 states and their peers from various guest countries including Ukraine can engage with policymakers. At the national level, Germany promotes youth participation in a variety of ways, including through an action plan for child and youth participation. The Youth7 Summit was a major opportunity for young people to be given a louder voice in international processes, too.”***

*Federal Minister for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, Lisa Paus*

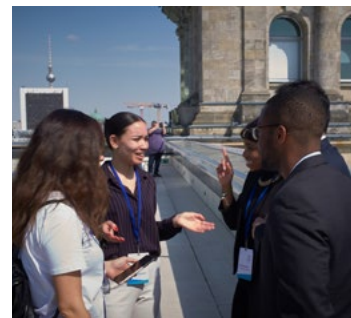


***“International youth participation thrives on personal encounters and direct exchange with political decision-makers. The fact that it was possible to meet in person again, after the pandemic, has been a great benefit for everyone participating. Young people have a very clear idea of how they want to contribute to shaping politics. I had an intensive exchange with the Delegates at the Youth7 Summit about their ideas for strengthening youth participation.***

***I am impressed by what the young people have put together on their own responsibility and across national borders in preparation for this summit.”***

*Federal Minister for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, Lisa Paus*





# AGENDA

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## Wednesday 18 May 2022

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### **Working Session #6**

In a final round of debate, Delegates finalised their policy recommendations and calls to action, concentrated on incorporating feedback, editing the wording and formatting the document.

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### **Visit of the German Bundestag Exchange with Members of Parliament**

While the Co-Chairs and organisers worked hard in the background to incorporate all the recommendations into one coherent Communiqué and prepare for the final vote, our international Delegates headed to Germany's upper house of parliament, the Bundestag, to meet with six Members of Bundestag, advocate for their core issues: Johannes Wagner MdB, Merle Spellerberg MdB, Anke Hennig MdB, Kristian Klinck MdB, Karl Bär MdB and Klaus Wiener MdB. Parliamentarian and Youth20 Alumni Johannes Wagner emphasised the need to meaningfully engage with young people at every political level and encouraged the Delegates to organise and make their voices heard.

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### **Final Voting & Adoption on the Youth7 Communiqué 2022**

Inspired by this open and equitable dialogue with politicians, our Delegates gathered for the final vote on the Youth7 Communiqué. While most of the recommendations were adopted by all G7 Delegations, the EU delegation as well as the partner Delegations of Indonesia, Senegal, South Africa and Ukraine, some recommendations sparked a debate. However, following intense negotiations, the final Youth7 Communiqué 2022 was adopted unanimously!

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## Thursday 19 May 2022

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### **Workshop "Youth, Peace & Security"**

Paul Klahre, Track Sherpa Youth Peace & Security

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### **Workshop "Strategic Advocacy as Youth7"**

Youth7 2022 Track Sherpa

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### **Visit of the Federal Foreign Office**

Exchange with Foreign Service Members

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## Gala Evening

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## Friday 20 May 2022

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### **Handover of the Youth7 Communiqué**

Exchange with Federal Chancellor Olaf Scholz

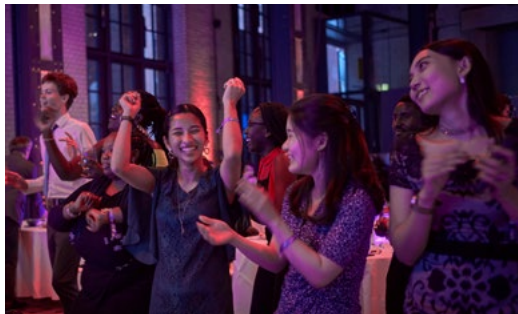
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### **Closing Remarks**

Carolina Claus & Benjamin Günther, Youth7 2022 Co-Chairs

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# Youth 7 2022

## Handover of our Communiqué



## HANDOVER OF THE YOUTH7 COMMUNIQUÉ TO FEDERAL CHANCELLOR SCHOLZ

A high-level exchange with Federal Chancellor Olaf Scholz marked a highlight of the Youth7 Summit 2022 and its conclusion. The Youth7 Communiqué was handed over to Federal Chancellor Scholz by Co-Chairs Carolina Claus and Benjamin Günther and Head Delegates.

In an inspiring speech, Federal Chancellor Scholz emphasised the necessity of global cooperation in challenging times, placing reference on a meaningful inclusion of voices from the Global South. He expressed his gratitude to the Delegations of the Youth7 partner countries for representing their regions and countries' perspectives and thereby enriching the G7 youth policy dialogue. In a Q&A session, Delegates highlighted, among other topics, Germany's initiative to form an International Climate Club and the role of mental health in education and health systems.





Federal Chancellor Olaf Scholz received the Youth7 recommendations from Co-Chairs and Head Delegates at the Youth7 Summit.



# ADVOCACY HIGHLIGHTS

<b>9 March 2022</b>	Global Health Hub - Key Priorities of the G7 Presidency
<b>28-29 March 2022</b>	Global Solutions Summit 2022
<b>23-24 May 2022</b>	Think7 Summit 2022
<b>24 May 2022</b>	G7 Labour and Employment Ministers' Meeting
<b>24-25 May 2022</b>	Women7 Summit 2022
<b>26-27 May 2022</b>	G7 Environment, Climate and Energy Ministers' Meeting
<b>31 May 2022</b>	Science7 Summit 2022
<b>20 June 2022</b>	Business7 Summit 2022
<b>27 June 2022</b>	Joint Press Conference by Women7 and Youth7 on the G7 Summit 2022
<b>29 June 2022</b>	World Urban Forum (WUF) 2022
<b>29 August 2022</b>	Post Summit Advocacy Event: From Crisis to Opportunity - Economic Frameworks for the 21st Century
<b>12 September 2022</b>	Meeting with NATO Secretary General's Special Representative for Women, Peace and Security
<b>27 September 2022</b>	High-Level Conference on "Feminist Development Policy - Transforming International Cooperation".
<b>29 September 2022</b>	Berlin Peace Dialogue 2022
<b>13 October 2022<sup>A</sup></b>	Women7 Strategy & Evaluation Meeting
<b>13-14 October 2022</b>	G7 Gender Equality Ministers' Meeting
<b>25 October 2022</b>	International Expert Conference on the Recovery, Reconstruction and Modernisation of Ukraine
<b>7-9 November 2022</b>	World Forum for Democracy 2022
<b>16 November 2022</b>	G7 Workshop on Carbon Sequestration in Agriculture - Opportunities & Challenges
<b>24 November 2022</b>	World Energy Outlook 2022
<b>29 November 2022</b>	G7 Multi-Stakeholder Conference on eSafety
<b>30 November 2022</b>	G7 Multi-Stakeholder Conference on the Digital-Environment Nexus
<b>30 November - 1 December 2022</b>	G7 Employment Working Group
<b>1 December 2022</b>	Joint Press Conference by Civil7, Women7 and Youth7 on the Outcomes of the German G7 Presidency


In view to the G7 Summit 2022 at Elmau from 26-28 June 2022, Youth7 reminded G7 Leaders of their key recommendations and demands, as expressed in the Youth7 Communiqué 2022:

 Youth7 2022  
@y7summit

Countdown to #Elmau: **5**

#Youth7 calls @G7 leaders to


- 🇺🇳 fully commit to the 1.5° C goal, climate crisis mitigation & adaptation
- 🌳 create a #ClimateClub - led with ambition and aiming for a just transition for all
- 👉 ensure meaningful youth participation in climate policy

 Youth7 2022  
@y7summit

Countdown to #Elmau: **4**

#Youth7 calls @G7 leaders to

- 🚀 succeed in the digital and environmental transformation of jobs
- 👉 foster intersectorial partnerships to ensure access for youth to paid work placements
- 100 promote science-informed climate education & ethical leadership

 Youth7 2022  
@y7summit

Countdown to #Elmau: **3**

#Youth7 calls @G7 leaders to


- 👉 create Civil Society Task Force and ensure community engagement
- 🗨️ proactively engage all citizens facing barriers to participation
- 🏠 finance the much needed accessibility and equal participation in deliberation processes

 Youth7 2022  
@y7summit

Countdown to #Elmau: **2**

#Youth7 calls @G7 leaders to

- 💜 improve the provision of support services to address mental health challenges
- 🏠 safeguard universal, accessible, effective and affordable health services for all - everywhere
- 👉 address structural barriers & discrimination

 Youth7 2022  
@y7summit

Countdown to #Elmau: **1**

#Youth7 calls @G7 leaders to

- 🇺🇳 lead by example and implement the #YouthPeaceSecurity Agenda
- 👉 support youth in peace processes & partnerships with youth organisations
- 👉 focus on youth in every conflict - including the war against Ukraine

# ONE STEP FORWARD IS NOT YET ENOUGH, G7!

Carolina Claus, Benjamin Günther & Christina Arkenberg  
Garmisch-Partenkirchen, 27 June 2022

Youth7 closely followed the G7 Leaders' Summit 2022 at Elmau from the International Media Centre at the foot of the Bavarian Alps. In Press Conference with Women7, we once again reiterated our key expectations and policy recommendations of Youth7 Communiqué. In a first reaction to the G7 Leaders' Communiqué we published the following press statement:

***Youth7 welcomed the rejuvenated commitment to fostering rules-based multilateral cooperation and the return of the "Stronger Together" ideal. Yet, regarding concrete action, the G7 lack behind the expectations formulated by Youth7 Delegates.***

Please find below a preliminary analysis of the G7 Leaders' Communiqué, read against the Youth7 Communiqué as adopted by Delegates from across the G7 and partner countries earlier this year.

## Shaping the Global Economy | Climate Mitigation

We call upon G7 leaders to follow up and establish a Climate Club by the end of 2022. The climate ambition gap must be closed by strengthening global commitments to reach the 1.5°C target and by setting a carbon price floor at an adjusted level. High-income countries must take on the onus and step-up efforts.

We urge the G7 to move ahead beyond expressions of regret that neither global ambition nor implementation is sufficient to reach the 1.5° C goal by 2030.



## Promoting Partnerships for Infrastructure & Investment

We welcome the provision of US \$ 600 bln and the holistic approach to infrastructure sketched out in the G7II, addressing persisting gender gaps and under-served and marginalised groups. While the focus on the recovery of health support service in a post-pandemic perspective is well set, we regret to see no action plan to secure a vaccine waiver and allow access to vaccination and vaccination research for all.

## Economic Stability and Transformation

We support the G7's stance on rules-based free trade, taking into account binding human rights and environmental due diligence standards and international labour rights.

We call upon G7 leaders to support a green and just transition. Economic transformation and advancement require a strong political and financial commitment to education and innovation. We urge the G7 to invest 0.5% of GDP per year in the appropriate education and skills training for all to adapt and succeed in the digital and environmental transition of jobs. We deeply regret to see that no mention is to be found regarding children, youth and young adults in education and training.

***"We deplore the lack of commitment and concrete ambition in the leaders' and ministers' communiqués on economic policy topics, and their full omission of youth-related perspectives. However, we welcome the strong and ongoing economic support for Ukraine to counter the Russian aggression."***

Jonas Dechent, Track Sherpa



## Cooperating on Foreign & Security Policy | World in Conflict

As Youth 7 we are deeply disappointed to see that the Leaders' Communiqué did not mention the Youth, Peace and Security agenda. We are pleased to see that the Women, Peace and Security agenda is addressed and promoted.

We will continue to call upon G7 leaders to lead by example in the implementation and institutionalisation of the UN Security Council Resolutions 2250, 2419 and 2535 and to develop national action plans.

## Mental Health

As Youth7, we repeatedly called for action and political commitment in support for mental health.

The disruptive impact of the Covid19 pandemic has laid bare the urgency to address growing challenges on mental health, exacerbated by the stresses in climate anxiety, economic distress and escalating conflict. We highly welcome that G7 Leaders listened to the voice of young people.

## Stronger Together: Addressing Food Security & Advancing Gender Equality

We welcome the G7 Statement on Global Food Security and the joint provision of US \$ 4.5 bln in financial support via the Global Alliance for Food Security to ease the burden on the societies most affected, in particular on the African continent. In pursuing the goal to lift 500 million people out of hunger and malnutrition, the G7 give their much-needed impetus for the UN Agenda 2030 and the Zero Hunger Coalition.

## Resilience of Democracies

We endorse the Joint Statement 2022 Resilient Democracies Statement adopted by G7 members and partners.

We fully support the expressed commitments to protect and foster open, pluralistic and gender-equitable Civic Spaces.

***„Without doubt, mental health will continue to remain an immanent challenge for our generation. We successfully urged G7 Leaders to include mental health in their policies and right and centre of the political agenda. Now action has to follow suit.“***

*Carolina Claus, Co-Chair*



# GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS WITH YOUTH7 & YOUTH20

*Christina Arkenberg*

As the young civil society engagement processes to the G7 and G20, Youth7 and Youth20 provide exceptional fora of exchange for representatives of youth organisations, young activists, and young leaders on the most pressing global challenges and more specifically the G7 / G20 priorities. In keeping with the rotating Presidencies, formats differ from year to year and tend to reflect the host country's young civil society. Cooperation throughout the year and handovers have proven to be valuable instruments, steering towards more continuity in advocacy efforts and working formats.

Building upon the Youth7 Summit and Communiqué, Youth7 has given a platform to young leaders engage with the highest level of decision-making as well as the G7 / G20 Sherpa and key government representatives to advocate on behalf of the young generation. While it can be considered as an expression of the extraordinary commitment to support civic spaces and actors by the German G7 Presidency and the Federal Government, Youth7 representatives called for a strengthening youth participation in multilateral formats in general and continuing beyond its one-year term. Young people

***Global partnership, in particular partnering with non G7- or G20-affiliated countries, opens new perspectives on how the advance collaboration in the field of youth.***

most definitely see their rightful place at the negotiation table and at the forefront of policy-making and international coordination. Not only do they strive for securing inclusive opportunities to participate, facing multiple crises, multilateral cooperation itself is in need of public support, active engagements and change-makers who continue to work with global partners in the long term.

Global partnership, in particular partnering with

non G7- or G20-affiliated countries, opens new perspectives on how the advance collaboration in the field of youth.

Beyond the political engagements undertaken, Youth7 and Youth20 also provide an extraordinary experience for each Delegate and contributor. Participation allows for opportunities for individual growth, for exploring one's field of expertise in an international environment, to further develop negotiation and leadership capabilities as well as intercultural skills. Hopefully taking part, motivates each Delegate to further engage in youth associations or as activists for a specific cause, to pursue an education or training to foster expertise and knowledge and to serve as ambassadors for international youth cooperation. It has been a particular pleasure to see, how many of the young people in leadership positions have been in fact alumni of youth delegate's programmes, previous Youth7 and Youth20 processes and continue to serve the Youth7 / Youth20 community in their association.



As of January 1, 2023, Japan holds the G7 Presidency and is inviting the G7 to convene for the Leaders' Summit in Hiroshima on May 19-21.

G7 / G20 Youth Japan, the coordinating organisation, is inviting Delegates to Tokyo in early April for the Youth7 Summit. Priorities will cover (1) Global Economy, (2) Environment, (3) Digital Transformation, (4) Global Health as well as Peace Building, which is highlighted by a study visit to the historical site of Hiroshima. The close cooperation between the Co-Chairs and the Steering Committee has ensured the exchange of good practice and lessons learned as well as a smooth transition from one Presidency to another, contributing to the continued development and consolidation of policy fields addressed by Youth7.

For Co-Chair Carolina Claus returning to Tokyo for the KickOff Event in late October has been an exceptional opportunity to meet with fellow Youth20 alumna and Vice-President in 2023, Wakana Asano.

In view to the G20 Summit 2022 from 15-16 November 2022, Youth7 Co-Chairs joined the Youth20 community in their Call to Action directed at Leaders convening in Bali, Indonesia.



Youth20 is the official youth engagement process to the Group of Twenty (G20) and much like Youth7 serves as a platform to raise young voices to heads of states and government. In 2022 it was chaired and coordinated by Indonesia Youth Diplomacy (IYD), a youth organisation.

Thanks to the participation of a Delegation from Indonesia at the Youth7 Summit in Berlin as well the close exchanges between the Chairs, in particular with Chair Michael Sianipar, Youth7 enjoyed a fruitful and most valuable collaboration.

**Youth7 & Youth20 provide youth with an opportunity for dialogue and direct channels to decision-makers. Moreover, they loudly press international leaders to deliver for the young generation.**

**Ahead of the G20 Leaders' Summit, [...] reiterate the importance of the G20 upholding meaningful multilateralism, rights-based consensus-building and global cooperation that transcends political divides. Such global cooperation is crucial to yield effective action on securing an equitable future resilient to climate and ecological crisis, ensuring productive employment opportunities, and creating a just, inclusive, and people-centered digitally transformed society for all.**

**[...] The G20's action - and inaction - have immense impacts and global reverberations, particularly on countries and communities that are not members of the forum. We emphasize that the critical issues of today - the planetary emergency, global health, geopolitical conflict, and financial crisis amongst others - are global challenges necessitating global solutions. [...]**

**[...] Finally, we call on G20 Leaders to incorporate youth participation across all decision-making processes at all levels on all issues, so as to create a blueprint for a sustainable, liveable, and equitable future. Nothing about us without us.**

**Only by acting in concert and with solidarity can we Recover Together, Recover Stronger.**



# THANK YOU

We would like to express our sincere thanks and gratitude for their support to:

## **Federal Chancellery**

Federal Chancellor, Mr Olaf Scholz

G7 Sherpa, Dr Jörg Kukies

G7 Sous-Sherpas, Dr Lucinda Trigo Gamarra & Dr Ulrich Oberndorfer

G7 Sherpa Team & Youth7 Coordinator, Ms Sophie Stützel

## **Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women & Youth (BMFSFJ)**

Federal Minister for Youth, Ms Lisa Paus

Parliamentary State Secretary, Mr Sven Lehmann

Head of Department, Ms Bettina Bundszus

Youth7 Coordinators, Mr Uwe Finke-Timpe, Ms Annika Nulle, Ms Ute Trentini, Mr Andreas Böhm

## **Federal Office of Family Affairs & Civil Society Functions (BAFzA)**

Josephine Köpping, Anna-Maria Dähn & Team

## **Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs & Climate Action (BMWFK)**

## **Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety & Consumer Protection (BMUV)**

Vice-Chancellor & Federal Minister, Dr Robert Habeck

Federal Minister, Ms Steffi Lemke

G7 Team & Coordinator, Ms Moska Timar

## **Federal Ministry for Labour & Social Affairs (BMAS)**

Federal Minister, Mr Hubertus Heil

Head of Department, Mr Carsten Stender

G7 Team & Coordinator, Ms Maria Kipp

## **Federal Ministry for Digital & Transport (BMDV)**

Federal Minister, Dr Volker Wissing

G7 Team & Coordinators, Dr Mirko Paschke, Mr Jan-Hendrik Pieper, Ms Lisa Günther

## **Federal Ministry for Housing, Urban Development & Building (BMWSB)**

G7 Team & Coordinator, Dr Oliver Weigel

## **German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) GmbH**

G7 Team & Coordinator, Dr Bettina Silbernagl,  
Mr Carl-Philipp Schuck

## **Federal Ministry of Defence (BMVg)**

G7 Team & Coordinator, Dr Nora Röhner

## **Speakers & Contributors to our Working Sessions, to the Youth7 Summit & our Post-Summit Advocacy**

Prof Dr Marius Oliver, International Institute for Law and policy (IISLP)

Katri Bertram, Senior Policy Advisor on G7 and G20,  
Federal Ministry for Health (BMG)

Prof Dr Andreas Schleicher, Director, Education & Skills, OECD

Magdalena Fernandez Lemos,  
Enseña x Argentina/ Generation Chile

Prof Dr Christine Schmalenbach, Universität Hamburg

Diana Ayala, Global Partnership for Education (GPE)

Thaís Queiroz, World Scout Committee,  
World Organisation of the Scout Movement

Kirthi Jayakumar, Co-Chair of Advisory Working Group 4 Feminist Foreign Policy, Women7

Miriam Mona Mukalazi, Board Member,  
United Nations Association Germany (DGVN)

Nora Teuma, Board Member, UN Women

Ahmed Helmi, Activist, Ta'afi Organisation Syria

Dr Marva Corley-Coulibaly, International Labour Organisation

Prof Dr Achim Truger, German Council of Economic Experts

Lisa Schmid, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK)

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IJAB implements projects on youth policy-related issues together with its international partners and promotes the exchange of expertise within the child and youth services community, bringing together stakeholders from Germany and abroad. Previously, IJAB coordinated the Youth7 Summit 2015 and the Youth20 Summit 2017.

A youth-led process, Youth7 was chaired and hosted by volunteers selected and seconded by the German National Committee for International Youth Work (DNK), a coordinating body for European and international youth work by the German Federal Youth Council, German Sports Youth and Ring politischer Jugend. Co-Chairs and Track Sherpa contributed their valuable experience in youth participation and guided Delegates in developing, negotiating and advocating their own policy recommendations.

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