

G7/G20 ADVOCACY ALLIANCE (U.S.)

G7 CLIMATE RECOMMENDATIONS

2021 G7 Summit: Carbis Bay, Cornwall, United Kingdom

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The 2021 G7 comes at a critical juncture for the climate and environment. The G7 has a unique opportunity to build political momentum ahead of the G20 Summit and the COP26, by demonstrating ambitious action and leadership to accelerate the international agenda on climate and environment. The U.S. Government should work with other G7 countries to:

1. **Prioritize climate adaptation and resilience support, especially for the most climate-vulnerable people and countries.**
 - a. Reaffirm the commitment to at least double G7 countries' climate finance pledges for the post-2020 period.
 - b. Commit to allocating 50% of all new and additional climate financing resources to adaptation, and drive concessional finance to fragile, conflict-affected states and agents of change, especially women, youth, and Indigenous Peoples.
 - c. Support and implement the Principles for Locally-Led Adaptation to empower local communities with more decision-making power and resources to build resilience to climate change.¹

2. **Support a just transition toward a low-carbon, resilient, regenerative global economy.**
 - a. Ensure workers and their communities actively and meaningfully participate in shaping policy and determining resource usage as they relate to the design and implementation of economic transition.
 - b. New or transitioning jobs should provide decent work, and freedom of association must be respected.
 - c. Repurpose fossil fuel subsidies toward a just transition and clean energy investments. Ensure the energy transition is fair and equitable to those reliant on fossil fuels.

- d. G7 members should include Just Transition plans in their 2030 Nationally Determined Contributions and in their 2050 net-zero plans.
3. **Ensure a green recovery from COVID-19 that is inclusive and builds resilience in the face of climate change.**
- a. Ensure recovery efforts bolster existing community structures, social protection, public health systems, and other risk management systems to withstand climate impacts.
 - b. Ensure local actors are in leadership roles, shaping recovery solutions.
 - c. Ensure debt relief and stimulus packages support climate adaptation, and end development finance for fossil fuels.

BACKGROUND

Our world is at a tipping point for the climate and environment. While some progress has been achieved under the Paris Agreement, more is required to achieve its goals. Failure to do so will have far-reaching impacts ranging from agriculture and water security to health, infrastructure to economic opportunities, all of which worsen global inequality, especially gender inequality, and poverty, exacerbate humanitarian crises, and erode decades of development progress.

Left unaddressed, climate change could push up to 132 million people into extreme poverty by 2030² while the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance for climate-related disasters could double by 2050.³ An estimated 140 million people will be displaced within their national borders by 2050. Nearly 90% of those who fall ill due to climate change are children under five,⁴ and by 2040, almost 600 million children—1 in every 4—will live in areas with extremely limited water resources.⁵ Climate change exacerbates drivers of conflict and fragility, worsening health disparities, food and economic insecurity, and limits access to essential services. Seven of the 10 countries most vulnerable and least prepared to deal with climate change host UN peacekeeping operations or special political missions.⁶

In this context, the international climate agenda is inextricably linked with the broader development and humanitarian agenda.

With the UK and Italy hosting the G7 and G20, respectively, and co-hosting COP26, 2021 presents a critical opportunity to accelerate the international climate and environment agenda through multilateral fora. G7 countries can demonstrate ambitious climate action and leadership at the Cornwall Summit, using it as a launchpad to build momentum in the leadup to the larger G20 and COP26, leading the way towards a fully decarbonized, more equal, safer, healthier, and more prosperous future.

ABOUT INTERACTION

InterAction is a convener, thought leader, and voice for NGOs working to eliminate extreme poverty, strengthen human rights and citizen participation, safeguard a sustainable planet, promote peace, and ensure dignity for all people.

¹ Global Commission on Adaptation. “Principles for Locally Led Adaptation.” <https://www.wri.org/our-work/project/global-commission-adaptation/principles-locally-led-adaptation>.

² Jagino, B.A., Walsh, B., Rozenberg, J., and Hallegatte, S. (2020). “Revised Estimates of the Impact of Climate Change on Extreme Poverty by 2030.” Policy Research Working Paper 9417. World Bank. <http://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/706751601388457990/pdf/Revised-Estimates-of-the-Impact-of-Climate-Change-on-Extreme-Poverty-by-2030.pdf>.

³ International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. (2019). “The Cost of Doing Nothing.” <https://media.ifrc.org/ifrc/the-cost-of-doing-nothing/>.

⁴ UNICEF. “Environment and climate change.” <https://www.unicef.org/environment-and-climate-change>.

⁵ UNICEF. (March 2017). “Thirsting for a Future: Water and children in a changing climate.” <https://www.unicef.org/environment-and-climate-change>.

⁶ United Nations. (24 July 2020). “Climate Change Exacerbates Existing Conflict Risks, Likely to Create New Ones, Assistant Secretary-General Warns Security Council.” Press Release SC/14260. <https://www.un.org/press/en/2020/sc14260.doc.htm>.