



COMMUNIQUÉ 2022

Progress towards
an equitable world –
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When Civil7 started in late 2021, almost two years of the pandemic were already behind us, with millions of associated deaths worldwide and massive social and economic damage. Health and economic recovery seemed to be the top political priorities. The number of people living in extreme poverty and hunger has dramatically increased in the last two years. The health crisis joined a series of pressing global challenges such as extreme weather events, increased economic and social injustice, rising gender inequality, anti-democratic developments and armed conflicts. With the war in Ukraine and its devastating consequences, the focus has shifted. The world is in upheaval in 2022, and the international community is attempting to extinguish one fire after another. The urgency of systemic change has never been greater. Therefore, the motto of this year's G7 presidency, "Progress towards an equitable world", must be more than a promise.

The promises of prosperity, security and stability have already been eroding for more and more people in the G7 countries – during four decades of neoliberalism and exacerbated by the pandemic.

Economic inequalities are on the rise, globally as well as within countries. Political stability is threatened by economic grievances and political extremism. But what is a rollback of progress in the G7 countries is taking the form of an existential threat for many people in the Global South: a life in fear and insecurity, lack of freedom or the risk of becoming seriously ill and not having access to adequate nutrition and health care.

In early 2022, before war broke out in Ukraine, it was already estimated that 274 million people would need humanitarian assistance and protection, the highest figure in decades. The social and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change (compounded by ecological and food crises) and conflicts are most severe for vulnerable groups. Structural inequalities based on gender, income, age, ethnicity and disability have been aggravated. In many countries, we observe shrinking spaces for civic engagement and vulnerable populations. Global processes have become even less participatory. Those with the least decision-making power and political influence are always hit hardest.

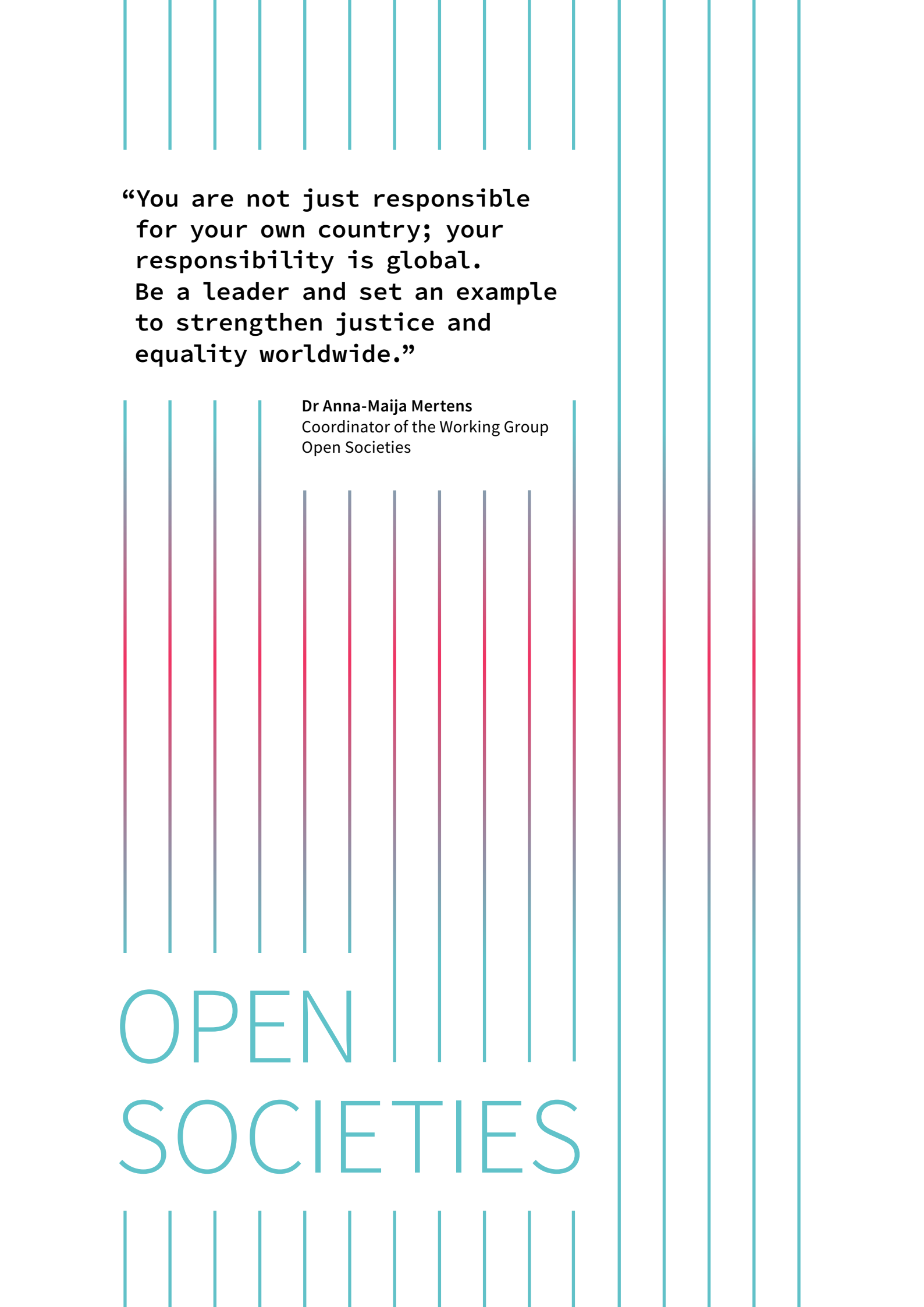


What became clearer than ever in the last few years: Politicians must think and act with the awareness that all crises are interdependent. They have to take responsibility for a fair and sustainable world, where no one is left behind and planetary boundaries are respected. Otherwise it will always be crisis management. This means affirmative action for the poor, disadvantaged, discriminated, excluded persons and countries. It also means adjusting trade, fiscal, energy, agricultural and other policies accordingly. Without important policy changes, the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that the world's heads of state and government adopted at the United Nations in 2015 will not be achieved.

When the G7 leaders meet to discuss their priorities in the context of this year's German presidency, the voices of civil society and, above all, of the people most affected by crises, must be heard. The G7 countries only account for ten percent of the world population, but together their economies generate about 45 percent of the global gross domestic product. This implies significant power – but first and foremost the responsibility to contribute

to global change. The G7 must contribute to maintaining multilateralism and resist calls for a new “the West against the rest” mentality.

Civil7 represents voices from international civil society and is coordinated by VENRO (the Association of German Development and Humanitarian Aid NGOs) and the German NGO Forum on Environment and Development, accompanied by an international steering committee. Over the past few months, about 500 representatives from more than 40 countries have been working in the Civil7 network across five working groups. This C7 Communiqué reflects the policy positions and priorities of Civil7 2022 along the Working Groups: Open Societies; Humanitarian Assistance and Conflict; Economic Justice and Transformation; Climate and Environmental Justice; and Global Health. United, Civil7 calls for strong, progressive and sustainable outcomes at the G7 Summit and associated ministerial meetings.



**“You are not just responsible
for your own country; your
responsibility is global.
Be a leader and set an example
to strengthen justice and
equality worldwide.”**

Dr Anna-Maija Mertens
Coordinator of the Working Group
Open Societies

**OPEN
SOCIETIES**

Only 2 in 10 people still live in a free country

In light of the tragic and atrocious events unfolding in Ukraine, as the illusions of a post-Cold War world order shatter, democrats worldwide finally begin to realize that the very survival of democracy is at stake. We find ourselves at a turning point, the roots of which lie in the slow, gradual and worldwide democratic backsliding we are experiencing, fueled by corruption and the rise of authoritarianism. The pandemic has further accelerated and exacerbated this trend. According to Freedom House, only 2 in 10 people still

live in a free country. Civic space has been shrinking or has vanished altogether in some countries, and fundamental human rights and freedoms are being infringed upon. The G7 countries have a historical responsibility to protect civil society organizations and actors and guarantee their rights and freedoms. Only then can civil society contribute effectively to safeguarding and building resilient democracies and fighting authoritarianism and corruption.

We recommend that the G7 leaders

1. Set up a Civic Space Task Force

Establish a Civic Space Task Force as a global initiative of G7 governments, civil society groups, businesses and banks to increase engagement with and support for civil society organizations, particularly those under threat from authoritarian regimes and conflict.

In June 2021, G7 leaders in Cornwall committed to protecting civic space and open societies. This year, G7 leaders in Elmau should agree to set up a permanent Task Force to fulfil these commitments. As a first step, the Task Force should work with multiple stakeholders to strengthen and expand protection mechanisms for civil society organizations and activists under threat to enable them to operate in conflict areas or temporarily relocate to

other countries. It should work with financial institutions to facilitate uninterrupted funding for these groups and provide further resources to support civil society, also in G7 countries. The Task Force could facilitate discussions and recommendations for G7 governments and the broader community. Aspects should be opportunities for coordinating civil society support, overcoming threats faced by civic actors and considering civil society needs in devising solutions to global crises and conflicts.

2. Adopt a revised Open Societies Statement

The G7 governments should adopt a revised Open Societies Statement as part of the G7 Elmau Communiqué and the outcome documents of future summits.

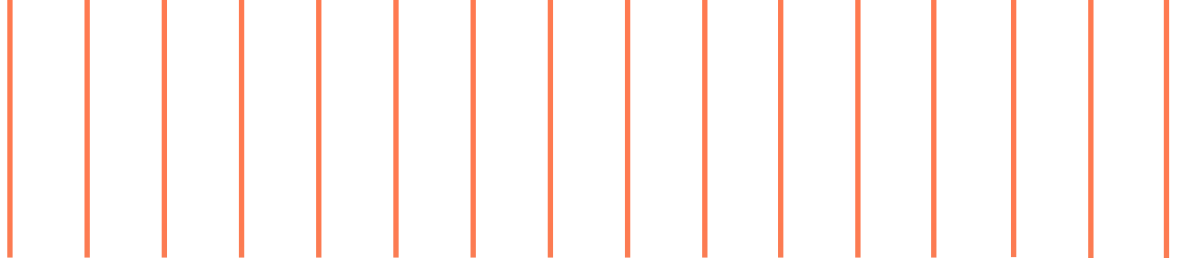
By incorporating the Open Societies Statement in their Communiqué, the G7 countries would ensure that they focus on priority issues requiring G7 action. The renewed Open Societies Statement should build on the 2021 Open Societies Statement. It should reflect upon the progress achieved so far on current commitments and agree on priority areas of action for the next year. A draft with our proposals for the Open Societies Statement is published on the C7 website Civil7.org.

3. Implement the commitments in national contexts and abroad

The G7 leaders should lead by example and commit to aligning their domestic laws and policies with their commitments on Open Societies. Therefore, they should review existing and add new commitments in their respective National Action Plans within the Open Government Partnership initiative. Open Societies Statement priorities should also become an integral part of foreign policy engagements, including in development, trade and security policies programming and funding. The G7 countries should engage with the OECD Observatory of Civic Space, for example by committing to undertake Civic Space Scans around open societies issues. G7 members could also expand the mandate of the G7 Rapid Response Mechanism to incorporate Open Societies Statement priorities.


“G7 governments should maximize the contribution of civil society through their action. By doing so they will build more democratic and open societies that better meet the challenges of our times and steer our progress towards a more equitable world”

Katerina Hadzi-Miceva Evans
Coordinator of the Working Group
Open Societies



“G7 is a powerful forum, but global challenges are bigger, and a meaningful participation of all affected states and vulnerable groups must be assured to find sustainable solutions to rising hunger, conflicts, climate change hazards and gender injustice globally.”

Kira Fischer
Coordinator of the Working Group
Humanitarian Assistance and Conflict



HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE AND CONFLICT



Act now – The humanitarian system is under immense and increasing pressure

Global humanitarian needs have never been so high. Even before the catastrophic escalation of war in Ukraine, 274 million people needed humanitarian assistance and protection worldwide. At least 45 million people globally are just one step away from famine, and more than 600,000 people are on the brink of starvation. Driven by conflict, climate crisis, social injustice and COVID-19, these figures will only increase.

As representatives of the Civil7, we call on G7 members to respond to their moral and political obligation to mobilise resources and implement policies to anticipate, prevent and respond to these rising needs. The G7 must invest in humanity through a principled, dignity-centred, gender-sensitive, inclusive and needs-based approach to financing, policy, advocacy

and diplomacy. Efforts to prevent and respond to crises must be conflict-sensitive and informed by the leadership and decision-making of all people affected, especially women, LGBTQIA+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transsexual/Transgender, Queer, Intersexual and Asexual) persons; children, youth and elderly persons; refugees and internally displaced persons; and those with diverse disabilities.

The humanitarian system is under immense and increasing pressure, primarily due to political and policy failures. Much more must be done by G7 members to take anticipatory action to prevent conflict, crises and disasters of all types. Without this action, the G7 will be unable to fulfil its ambition of progress towards an equitable world.

We recommend that the G7 leaders

1. Reduce the need for humanitarian assistance

Increase political efforts to prevent conflict-, climate- and health-related crises from occurring in the first place. Invest in conflict prevention and peacebuilding and implement policies that meaningfully address climate-related loss and damage through locally led mitigation and risk reduction efforts, wherever they occur. Strengthen early warning systems to ensure adequate and timely anticipatory action for emerging conflict, climate and health risks and

hazards, and strengthen efforts to help crisis-affected communities enhance resilience, absorb shocks and minimize the impacts of crises.

2. Strengthen compliance with international humanitarian law

Take concrete action to ensure the protection of civilians in all conflicts and crises. Uphold obligations, including to end sexual and gender-based violence; to prevent and prosecute starvation as a method of warfare; and to protect civilian objects,

including medical facilities and schools. Build on the commitments endorsed by 51 states plus the European Union in the 2019 Call for Humanitarian Action to implement international humanitarian law on the ground, to advocate with and train state and non-state actors, including communities, in international humanitarian law and to document violations and seek accountability to fight impunity in all its forms.

3. Enable and ensure a principled humanitarian response

Ensure that the humanitarian response to all crises can be delivered in line with humanitarian principles without being hampered by conditions or diverted by political agendas. Strengthen humanitarian diplomacy, ensure safe and unimpeded access so assistance can reach those most in need, and act when people are prevented from receiving the assistance to which they are entitled. Protect humanitarian space by ensuring that humanitarian exemptions are included in the design and implementation of all sanctions and counter-terrorism legislation.

4. Increase the quantity and quality of funding, prioritizing support for local actors

Recognize the invaluable role of local and national actors as they are the first and most context-aware responders in a crisis. Improve funding quality in order to quickly, predictably and flexibly reach those best placed to anticipate and respond to crises, ensuring meaningful participation and

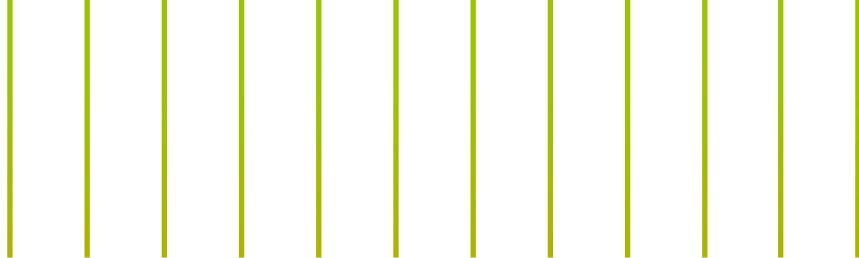
leadership of local and national organizations, including youth and women's organizations. Increase funding quantity and transparency to ensure that needs can be met in all crises, and the response to new and escalating needs does not divert funding from other critical humanitarian responses.

5. Hold themselves and each other accountable for all commitments


Uphold accountability and ensure coherence in all political and financial commitments, placing human security and dignity at the heart of every action. Fulfil the full range of obligations undertaken in the 2021 G7 Famine Prevention and Humanitarian Crises Compact, and adjust where necessary to respond to the growing hunger crises and rising humanitarian needs and prevent further crises. Report on the fulfilment of these and future commitments in the G7 accountability report and establish a permanent G7 agenda to focus on conflict prevention and humanitarian assistance beyond 2022.

“The failure of responsible parties in preventing and addressing the drivers of conflict and insecurity means the humanitarian system must be further reinforced and resourced as we try to meet ever-increasing levels of global vulnerability and need.”

Jeremy Wellard
Coordinator of the Working Group
Humanitarian Assistance and Conflict



“Let’s raise our civil society voices around the world jointly to demand from the G7 to end poverty and advance a fair, just and peaceful transition towards a zero-carbon sustainable economy!”



Dr Klaus Schilder
Coordinator of the Working Group
Economic Justice and Transformation



ECONOMIC JUSTICE AND TRANSFORMATION

The old models of economic growth have served the economic interests of a happy few

In the third year of the pandemic and in light of the war in Ukraine, the human toll mounts while the world faces severe economic and financial consequences from the crises – both inside the G7 and across the Global South. The multiple crises are undermining the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and worsen global inequalities, poverty and hunger. Resulting injustices are not gender-blind, as women and girls across the world are particularly affected.

Above all, it is clear that the economic models of the past are unsuitable for the future. Hyper-globalization, deregulated free trade, globalized supply chains and economic growth at any price have served the economic interests of a happy few. This old model has crashed. The challenge is now a managed de-globalization, a green and just transition towards an economic

and financial system that is sustainable, respects both planetary boundaries and people's well-being and does not leave anyone behind. What is needed is deep transformative action towards a society and an economy based on the principles of sufficiency, sustainability of life and human rights, including reform of the global trading system.

As C7, we urge the G7 leaders to strengthen crisis responses and take swift action for a steady and inclusive economic recovery, particularly in the countries of the Global South. We call for an economic and financial transition that is climate-neutral and environmentally neutral, people-centered, human rights-based and inclusive, thus putting a strong emphasis on equity, gender equality and diversity sensitivity.

We recommend that the G7 leaders

1. Tackle the debt crisis

Send a clear signal on fulfilling the G7's responsibility for a binding inclusion of private creditors by committing to legislative protection and financial support for debtor countries who need to default on stubborn creditors. In addition, provide immediate debt relief for vulnerable countries, e.g. those affected by catastrophic events, and ensure that "catastrophe" clauses are included in future loans.

2. Meet developing countries' urgent financing needs

Work towards a new SDR (Special Drawing Rights) allocation in 2022 of 2.35 trillion USD and a significant and fair rechanneling of SDRs through vehicles beyond the IMF, following the key principles of being debt-free, non-conditioned and accessible to low- and middle-income countries.

3. Mobilize tax revenues

Introduce democratic global tax governance with inclusive participation of developing countries through negotiation of a UN tax convention for improved and equitable international cooperation on tax; undertake fundamental corporate income tax reform by introducing unitary taxation; and introduce much needed comprehensive beneficial ownership registers to curb illicit financial flows.

4. Actively promote transformative development finance

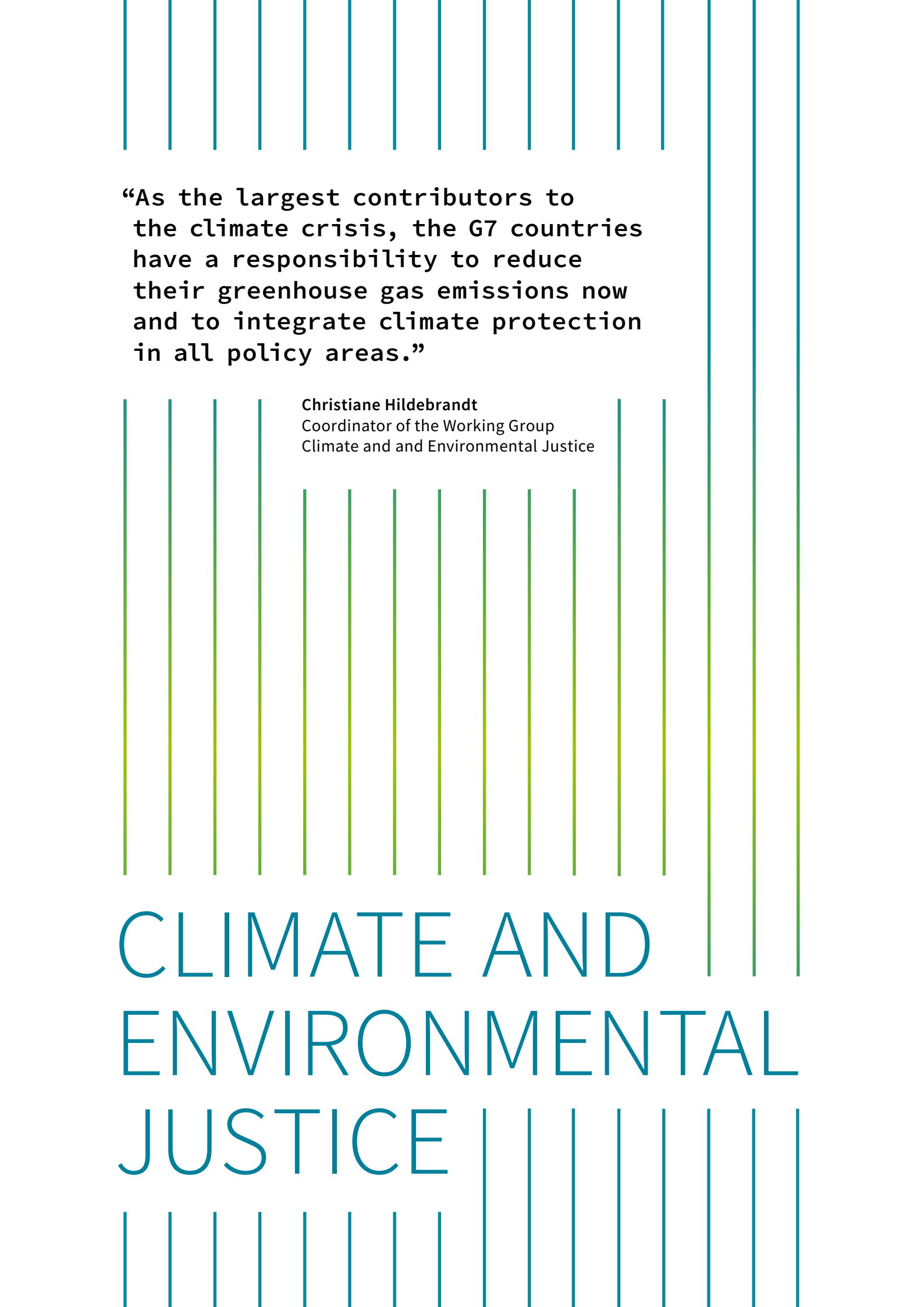
Recommit to the 0.7% ODA target and agree on a clear timeline to reach this target with new and additional resources; mobilize new and innovative sources, including a financial transaction tax, e.g. to finance a new Global Fund for Social Protection.

5. Reverse and stop the negative impacts of private financing

Stop the promotion of private equity investment for social infrastructure initiatives; initiate a joint commitment of the G7 to terminate international investment agreements; establish mandatory environmental, social and governance due diligence obligations for all companies in line with the UN Guiding Principles and OECD Guidelines; actively support the UN open-ended intergovernmental working group in its work towards a binding instrument on business and human rights.

“The multiple crises and the unequal recovery reflect the urgent need for global actions that the G7 can start to succeed in the objective of leaving no one behind.”

Patricia Miranda
Coordinator of the Working Group
Economic Justice and Transformation



“As the largest contributors to the climate crisis, the G7 countries have a responsibility to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions now and to integrate climate protection in all policy areas.”

Christiane Hildebrandt
Coordinator of the Working Group
Climate and Environmental Justice

CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

The G7 must protect the climate and restore biodiversity

The world is at a tipping point. Global warming is intensifying, more frequent and severe climate impacts are causing damage and suffering and hitting those hardest who are least responsible. The loss of biodiversity has never been as grim as it is now, and climate-related hunger is increasing.

Half of the world's population lives in areas which are highly vulnerable to climate change. Furthermore, climate change disproportionately affects indigenous peoples, women, children, small island nations, small-scale farmers and fishermen as well as people on the move and in fragile contexts. The COVID-19 pandemic, conflicts, extreme weather events and intensive agriculture, compounded by ecological and food crises, have drastically reinforced structural inequalities and increased poverty and human rights violations.

The window of opportunity is rapidly closing for mitigation and adaptation to global climate destabilization. Limits to some forms of human adaptation have been reached, resulting in losses and damages. Time is running out to limit global warming to 1.5°C and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The world must act now. Economies must be weaned off fossil fuels, food systems must be transformed and biodiversity protected and restored. Policy solutions must be gender-sensitive and based on human rights, placing the most vulnerable at the centre.

Mitigating and adapting to climate change and addressing loss and damage requires evidence-based, socially and gender-just and holistic policies, as well as a rapid redirection of financial flows away from fossil fuels.

Yet, governments are still subsidizing fossil fuels, which account for 80 percent of all greenhouse gas emissions and are fuelling conflicts that harm both human and natural environments. Some governments also promote false solutions such as biomass from forests and electricity produced with natural gas that allow industries to continue polluting the environment and destroying ecosystems.

The G7 economies are overwhelmingly responsible for the socioecological crises we are experiencing. The G7 leaders have the duty to disentangle economies from fossil fuels, protect and restore biodiversity and ecosystems and contribute to a more equitable, just, resilient and healthy world for everyone everywhere.

The G7 needs to play an important role in the negotiations for the new global biodiversity agreement and the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty to complement the Paris Agreement and to financially support a rapid, equitable and managed phase-out of fossil fuels. The leadership and meaningful participation of indigenous people, women, local communities and vulnerable populations must be ensured at all stages of climate action.

We recommend that the G7 leaders

1. Ensure an equitable fossil fuel phase-out and a just transition

Align the G7's policies with the Net Zero Scenario of the International Energy Agency (IEA) and ensure that energy security prioritizes energy efficiency and renewable energies instead of diversification of fossil fuel supply. On an international level, increase technological cooperation, capacity building and financial support for a just transition, respecting environmental and human rights.

2. Address climate impacts

Address climate impacts faced by vulnerable countries and people by urgently increasing adaptation finance and setting up a needs-based target in the 2025 goal. Commit to supporting the establishment of a Loss and Damage Finance Facility at COP27 with new, additional, sustained resources and scale up accessible grant support.

3. Protect and restore ecosystems


Implement robust, human rights-centred 30x30-compatible plans to protect and restore ocean and land ecosystems in partnership with local communities, and increase resources for governance and monitoring of protection zones.

4. Ensure sustainable food systems

Ensure a just and inclusive transition to sustainable food systems and the right to healthy and climate-friendly diets, achieve SDGs 2 (zero hunger) and 15 (life on land) by fostering agro-ecological systems with a focus on small-scale farmers and women and stopping harmful subsidies, and end hunger and malnutrition.

“The rich industrialized countries must meet their obligations to support developing countries with finance and technology to deal with the climate impacts and adopt greener development policies.”

Harjeet Singh
Coordinator of the Working Group
Climate and Environmental Justice



“The main responsibility of the G7 is to demonstrate sustainable political leadership and live up to the responsibilities rich states have: universal health coverage and access to the best possible treatment for everyone.”

Peter Wiessner
Coordinator of the Working Group
Global Health

GLOBAL
HEALTH

A transformation of the global health architecture is required

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has buckled health and community systems and services. It has also exacerbated existing inequalities within and across countries through inequitable access to vaccines, diagnostics, therapeutics and other health innovations. This puts vulnerable people at further risk. Tackling these challenges requires a transformation of the global health architecture to address today's public health threats and ward off tomorrow's.

We call on the G7 leaders to recommit to fighting global pandemics such as HIV, tuberculosis, malaria, polio and COVID-19, as well as poverty-related neglected tropical diseases and non-communicable diseases, malnutrition and antimicrobial resistance, and to protect the universal right to the highest attainable level of physical and mental health.

Our recommendations underscore the principles of global health solidarity, multilateralism, localization/decolonization and country ownership, protection and advancement of health equity and human rights. We call for equal access to scientific evidence and innovation, for balancing the health of people, animals and ecosystems, and for recognizing that the health of people is closely connected to the health of animals and our shared environment, as expressed in the One Health concept. We call for gender equality and comprehensive sexual reproductive health and rights as well as people-centred health and community systems. Meaningful participation of key and vulnerable populations, including the poorest and most marginalized, must be placed in the centre, as well as the principles of partnership, transparency and accountability, so as to leave no one behind.

We recommend that the G7 leaders

1. Strengthen Universal Health Coverage

Scale up investment in community-based/-led primary health care through monitoring and enabling legal, policy and social environments. Strengthen all pillars of health systems, notably the health workforce – including health promotion, prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, palliative care as well as procurement and supply chains. Ensure that all basic needs are met

in critical areas such as water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), nutrition as well as digital health. Moreover, end out-of-pocket payments.

2. Improve pandemic preparedness, response and recovery

Strengthen WHO's independence and coordinating role, multilateral structures and public health systems to prevent fragmentation and reinforce global

solidarity. Increase resources for the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A) and initiate reforms with communities, civil society and low- and middle-income country (LMIC) governments. Prioritize the One Health approach, equitable access to diagnostics, prevention and treatment, including mental health support, to prevent future pandemics.

3. Tackle communicable and non-communicable diseases (NCDs)

Increase investment in poverty-related and neglected tropical diseases, NCDs and diseases of aging. Invest in publicly-funded research and development and create enabling environments for behavioural change. Secure equitable access to vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics and prevention, as well as mental health services. Remove the determinants that cause obesity and NCDs among the most vulnerable people.

4. Ensure equitable access to medicines and health commodities

Ensure the availability, accessibility, acceptability and affordability of medicines and health commodities through immediate support for the proposed TRIPS waiver on COVID-19 health commodities; ensure complete technology transfers to LMICs to increase local production; ensure systematic, meaningful community participation at all stages.

5. Increase health financing

Go beyond official development assistance to include global public investment and other innovative funding mechanisms, including expanding the multi-sectoral health financing of WHO and fully funding the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria with a minimum of USD 18 billion and other multilateral financing mechanisms such as ACT-A, the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), the Vaccine Alliance Gavi, the international drug purchase facility Unitaid, the Global Financing Facility (GFF) and the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI).

“Build civil society in your countries like your lives depend on it.”

Olha Boiko
Climate Action Network for
Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and
Central Asia, Kyiv, March 2022



Imprint

The Civil Society 7 (C7) Group is one of the official engagement groups of the G7 and represents positions from the international civil society. VENRO, the Association of German Development and Humanitarian Aid NGOs, and the German NGO Forum on Environment and Development, were mandated by the Chancellery to coordinate the C7.

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VENRO

ASSOCIATION OF GERMAN DEVELOPMENT
AND HUMANITARIAN AID NGOS

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