



# G7 GERMANY

2022

**Policy Priorities  
for Germany's G7 Presidency  
in 2022**

Berlin, January 2022

## Policy Priorities for Germany's G7 Presidency in 2022

### Overview

On 1 January 2022, Germany assumed the Presidency of the Group of Seven (G7)<sup>1</sup> for one year. For the Federal Government, the G7 Presidency – and the G7 Summit in particular, to which the Federal Chancellor will be inviting the Heads of State and Government of the G7 members to Schloss Elmau from 26 to 28 June 2022 – presents a major opportunity to play an active role in shaping global issues already at the beginning of the legislative term. We want to seize this opportunity in order to **tackle key issues of multilateral coop-eration, cohesion in and between societies and common global challenges together with our partners.**

During Germany's Presidency of the G7 in 2022, we will follow up on the results and decisions of previous presidencies, ensure the **continuity of the G7's work** and **implement measures adopted** in the past. At the same time, we will set **our own priorities** as the G7 Presidency and initiate **new models of cooperation** for overcoming global challenges.

**Progress towards an equitable world** should be the objective that guides our work. Our agenda will be geared towards the following fields of action, which are interlinked in diverse ways. **Specifically, we want to deliver progress towards:**

1. **A sustainable planet:** pioneering strong alliances for progress on climate protection, especially through the establishment of an open and cooperative international climate club, on the protection of the environment and biodiversity and on

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<sup>1</sup> The Group of Seven (G7) is an informal forum of leading industrial nations and democracies. Alongside Germany, its members comprise Canada, France, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. The European Union is also represented at all G7 meetings.

accelerating the global energy transition

2. **Economic stability and transformation:** setting the course for economic recovery, financial stability and for a sustainable, social and just global economic system.
3. **Healthy lives:** strengthening global health with pandemic preparedness and response and an improved international health architecture.
4. **Investment in a better future:** promoting sustainable development and infrastructure, expanding partnerships on the climate, energy and development, as well as a commitment to peace and security.
5. **Stronger together:** committing to open, resilient and gender-equitable societies and human rights, defending liberal democracies, social participation, freedom of science and of the press, tackling disinformation, promoting the digital order and digital progress.

We will focus on measures that are of particular global urgency and of great importance to people's everyday lives. We want, to this end, to achieve **tangible improvements for the people** – within G7 countries and beyond, especially in newly industrialising and developing countries.

As leading industrial nations and partners with shared values, the G7 countries have a **particular responsibility for shaping a future worth living in for all people, on a healthy planet, with sustainable economic recovery, the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement in mind**. As part of our Presidency, we want to further strengthen the G7's responsibility for the global common good and, to this end, to be open to cooperating with all partners, especially within the framework of the United Nations and the G20, on the basis of a fair and rules-based multilateralism. The objective here is always for as coordinated and common an approach as possible on the basis of our shared democratic values and universal human rights. The connectivity of our work as well as active dialogue and cooperation above and beyond the G7 – with other countries, communities of states, at local and national level, and with civil society – are therefore important priorities for us that are reflected in the way in which our efforts are shaped, both in terms of contents and process.

## Our priorities in detail

### 1. A sustainable planet

Protecting the climate, environment and biodiversity, an accelerated global energy transition, and a sustainable and fair economic system are essential for a good life for all on our planet. Linking up with previous projects and initiatives of the G7 and G20 as well as within the framework of the United Nations (in particular, the Climate Conference in Glasgow/COP26), we want to take another significant step towards concrete implementation, “**from ambition to implementation**”. Building on experiences to date, we want to (further) develop joint approaches and **create strong alliances** and forge ahead with these important issues during our Presidency.

**Establishing a global alliance for climate protection.** We want to accelerate global climate and environmental protection through close collaboration among the G7 countries and targeted cooperation with wider international partners. A key role is played here by the energy sector, which is responsible for a significant part of all greenhouse gas emissions. In order to contribute to the implementation of the Paris Agreement and to achieve the 1.5 degree target, we want to **collectively reduce greenhouse gas emissions by advancing their regulation** including through **pricing** and by investing in **sustainable climate and energy concepts**. Following up on the resolutions of the 26<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 26 UNFCCC), we want to drive forward the **energy transition** by accelerating efforts towards the phasedown of unabated coal power, promoting the **decarbonisation of sectors – especially industry, transport and construction** – with the help of innovation, regulation and financial incentives, and strengthening international **climate financing**. Furthermore, we want to promote the contributions to climate protection made by agriculture, the healthcare sector and the digital transformation as well as by urban development to serve the public interest and make our societies and economies within and beyond the G7 **more resilient and adapt-able**. With this in mind, we want to use our Presidency to drive forward and collectively pioneer as the G7 the **discussion on a cooperative global climate club that is open to all countries**, expanding **international partnerships above and beyond the G7, especially with G20 partners**. The climate club’s objective is to accelerate the implementation of the Paris Climate Agreement, among other things by reaching agreement on uniform standards for the emission and pricing of CO<sub>2</sub>, as well as with common measures for supporting countries that implement ambitious climate protection measures. Partnerships above and beyond the G7 are intended to promote the transfer of knowledge and technology, support climate policy reform and to accelerate the just global transition towards sustainable and climate-neutral societies. Last but not least, we want to achieve further progress in **research on tackling climate change** and

more closely dovetail **climate aspects with the achievement of the global Sustainable Development Goals and, with a networked approach in mind, also with our security policy approach** in order to tackle climate change as a driver of poverty, hunger, gender inequality, conflict and displacement around the world.

**Protecting the environment.** The **preservation of biodiversity** will also play an important role during our G7 Presidency. The climate and biodiversity crises are closely linked. We therefore want to strengthen natural climate protection. Among other things, we want to work to achieve a **high level of ambition, sustainable financing, regulatory approaches and swift implementation in the field of biodiversity protection**, linking up with the 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP 15), the main part of which is scheduled to take place this year in Kunming, China. Moreover, we want to strengthen the activities of the G7 in the area of resource efficiency and the circular economy as a contribution to achieving climate change targets and preserving biodiversity. Together with our G7 partners, we also want to improve sustainable **chemicals management** and thus reduce global pollution by chemicals with all due resolve.

We also want to drive forward the **protection and sustainable use of the seas**. In continual cooperation with the G7, we want to improve the protection of marine biodiversity in the high seas, the Southern Ocean and the deep sea and continue to do our utmost to develop measures to counter the pollution of the seas. Last but not least, we want to achieve progress in the field of **sustainable agriculture** and **international water governance** and to drive forward the fight against **illegal financial flows in connection with environmental crimes**.

## 2. Economic stability and transformation

**Safeguarding economic recovery and financial stability.** We firmly believe that an environmental and socially just transformation and economic prosperity can go hand in hand. The joint focus on **sustainable economic recovery** and **inclusive growth** is therefore important to us. We are committed to a post-pandemic economic and financial policy that is geared to stability and growth and promotes resilience and price and financial market stability in a sustainable manner. The G7 plays an important role as a global anchor of stability especially in view of state debt, which has risen as a result of crises – both in the G7 and around the world.

The support measures put in place so far in response to the COVID-19 pandemic are historic and are making a key contribution to stabilising the global economy and safe-

guarding employment. The better coordinated these measures are, the more effective they will be. As the G7, we will continue to closely coordinate our efforts to shape the recovery of the global economy, which continues to be hampered by the impacts of the pandemic, and scale back our support measures in an appropriate and gradual manner. Coordination among the leading industrial nations remains important in view of the complex global situation. With our measures, we must also set the course for a sustainable future. We are committed to **sustainable as well as intergenerational and gender-equitable public finances**.

**Facilitating sustainable business and a socially just transformation.** Against the backdrop of decarbonisation, digital transformation and demographic change, we, as the G7, face major **transformation processes** for economic, mobility, labour and social security systems around the world. We intend to shape these processes – also by harnessing the transformative power of cities – in a socially just manner and to seize opportunities for new jobs and forms of employment. This is why we are committed to strengthening the employability of citizens with a special focus on inclusive continuing education and training, to creating **high-quality decent work** for a sustainable future economy and to strengthening the establishment and expansion of social security systems that are able to withstand crises.

In cooperation with our G7 partners, we want to work towards the strengthened international implementation of **sustainable finance** and increase transparency on sustainability and climate aspects so that financial market stakeholders can better reflect these considerations in their decisions. The political agreement on **reallocation of taxing rights** achieved in 2021 for major multilateral companies (especially in the digital economy) and for the introduction of a **global minimum tax rate** is a major step towards greater tax fairness around the world. During our G7 Presidency, we want to work to ensure that these decisions are implemented in good time and that the capacities of developing countries are strengthened in this regard. Moreover, we will address the issues of **central bank digital currencies** (CBDC) and the improvement of **cross-border payments**. In order to alleviate the debt burden of many countries, which has increased considerably once again as a result of the pandemic, we want to continue to work to strengthen the global financial architecture and ensure that the G20 Common Framework for **Debt Treatments** is implemented effectively.

Moreover, we are committed to **rules-based free trade that takes into account fair social, environmental and human rights standards** as the foundation for prosperity and sustainable business. We will therefore, as part of our G7 Presidency, work to **strengthen multi-lateralism** with a global trade policy and to tackle protectionism and unfair trade practices. To this end, we want to support the **reform and further development of the World Trade Organization (WTO)**, also with a view to an overhaul of the rules on market-

distorting subsidies and safeguarding a level playing field, ending the deadlock in the area of the dispute settlement mechanism and gearing efforts toward the Paris Climate Agreement as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Moreover, **global supply chains** play a key role for functioning global trade, the global economic recovery and sustainable development as a whole. We therefore want to work together to address disruptions in supply chains with common action and, by creating suitable conditions, to support international companies in their efforts to make their supply chains even **more resilient and sustainable** in the future. Rules-based free trade is an important prerequisite in this regard. We want to work to ensure that **international environmental, labour and social standards** constitute the framework for doing business and discuss requirements with respect to an internationally accepted, binding standard for corporate due diligence. Companies should contribute to achieving environmental, social and economic Sustainable Development Goals around the world via their supply chains. Further policy priorities include strengthening sustainable supply chains in agriculture, which make an important contribution to safeguarding the global food supply, as well as promoting deforestation-free supply chains, which play a major role in the area of climate protection and the protection of biodiversity.

The COVID-19 pandemic has also turned the spotlight on issues of **health and safety in the workplace**; we want to focus on these issues during our G7 Presidency. In so doing, we will also address the challenges posed by climate change with respect to health and safety in the workplace in a targeted manner. We want to realise the potential of sustainable occupational health and safety for productivity and safeguarding employment and are committed to improving the enforcement of standards around the world.

### 3. Healthy lives

**Tackling the COVID-19 pandemic and preparing for future pandemics.** With its unprecedented social and economic impact, the global COVID-19 pandemic, which is far from being overcome, has underscored the importance and currency of global healthcare issues at the international level. The G7 plays an important leading role, primarily with its commitment to and investments in pandemic preparedness and response, as well as strengthening global healthcare structures. Overcoming the pandemic around the world is the most pressing objective. A substantial acceleration of the global vaccination rollout and strengthening of healthcare systems especially in the poorest regions is vital in order to achieve the objective of the World Health Organization (WHO) of vaccinating 70 percent of the world's population by the middle of 2022. Appropriate and timely **support for all pillars of the ACT Accelerator including its vaccination pillar COVAX**, as

the core multilateral initiative, is an important component to this end. In this regard, we want to continue to support vaccination rollouts and **local vaccination production in developing countries**. Moreover, we want to step up our efforts to **tackle antimicrobial resistance (AMR)** – the “silent pandemic” that is already under way – and to develop appropriate medical countermeasures.

**Improving the global health architecture.** It is important at the same time, on the basis of the experiences of the current pandemic, to strengthen the **global healthcare architecture in the medium and long term**; this should be underpinned with tangible and structural measures. A practical exchange of experiences is intended to take place in the form of a **pandemic exercise** together with the newly established WHO Hub in Berlin. At the same time, we want to expand the dialogue on the worldwide course of the pandemic and the insights gained in this context to date. We also want to discuss the **connection between climate change, biodiversity and global health issues** with the One Health approach in mind.

We want to hold discussions in the G7 on the further **funding of global health**. In structural terms, this means strengthening the **WHO’s leading and coordinating role** in particular, as well as preventing future pandemics with sustainable and reliable funding and the implementation of the International Health Regulations.

#### 4. Investment in a better future

Global sustainable development with the 2030 Agenda in mind is the basis for a just and better future for all. We therefore want to use our G7 Presidency to drive forward **international cooperation, first and foremost in climate, environmental, healthcare and urban development policy**. We intend, to this end, to strengthen, expand and establish new **partnerships on climate, energy and development**. A particular focus will be on the **promotion of sustainable infrastructure as well as the dialogue and cooperation with selected African and Indo-Pacific countries**. This is also coupled with enhanced cooperation with the most vulnerable countries on adapting to climate change and the approach to climate-related loss and damage.

**Promoting sustainable infrastructure and investments.** In their transformation towards sustainable and climate-neutral societies, industrialising and developing countries around the world have an enormous need for investment that has yet to be met. Promoting **socially, economically and environmentally sustainable infrastructures and framework conditions** is essential for bringing about this transformation. We are seeking a stronger role for and common **global commitment on the part of the G7** to this end. Our objective

in this regard is to develop concrete initiatives for promoting high-quality infrastructure – and thus for strengthening global public goods in the fields of climate, global health and the digital transformation, as well as gender equality and education – that take social security into account and are sustainably planned and implemented. As such, the G7 will make a relevant and high-profile contribution to the global and socially just transformation. We also want to promote support for developing countries with a view to the **mobilisation of private resources**, for example by strengthening the global tax architecture, developing local financial markets and improving conditions for sustainable investment. An **approach geared to demand and rooted in a spirit of partnership**, flanked by joint and **active dialogue with partner governments**, is a priority in this regard. To this end, we want to use existing initiatives such as the **G20 Compact with Africa, Global Gateway and Build Back Better** and drive forward their **concrete form and links between them**. Furthermore, we want to closely involve **national and international development banks and financing institutions** and improve the coordination among them, increasingly gear our efforts to financing global public goods such as the climate, biodiversity, environment and health and strengthen the targeted involvement of private stakeholders.

The **2030 Agenda**, which is supported by all member states of the United Nations (UN), continues to be the **central international frame of reference** for our commitment to sustainable development. The pandemic has led to severe setbacks to the achievement of its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We believe that the G7 has a special responsibility to implement the **SDGs ambitiously – locally, nationally and globally**. To achieve this, the transformative power of cities and municipalities is key to this end. Promoting good governance at local level creates the preconditions for a successful approach to global challenges. We want to use our G7 Presidency to shape the urban lives of citizens – within the G7 and beyond – in a sustainable manner and intend to launch international alliances to this end. In implementing the SDGs, we want, moreover, to make tangible progress in the areas of **food security** and **girls' education**. Implementing measures adopted in the past is also particularly important in this context. In order to keep track of this, we want to draw up a **comprehensive review** of the state of implementation of the key G7 obligations with respect to development policy of recent years.

**Strengthening the G7's role as a bridge-builder and mediator for peace and security.** On the basis of their shared values, the democratic G7 countries can adopt a **clear stance with respect to international crises**. Firmly embedded in the multilateral rules-based order, especially in the framework of the United Nations, we want to outline **solutions for crisis situations** and **global challenges** with common initiatives and work to implement them together with the international community. Closely **coordinating our efforts with partners around the world** and **advocating for our positions** are at the core of the G7's work in this context. With a **preventive and transformative agenda** in mind, we therefore

want to work to protect and strengthen **democratic institutions** and **human rights worldwide**, in addition to promoting accountability for human rights violations. Moreover, there will be a focus on the expansion of **strategic foresight, crisis prevention** and **disarmament**, as well as on **strengthening the multilateral rules-based order**. We will defend international law with all due resolve. In the 20<sup>th</sup> year of the G7-led Global Partnership against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction, we want to focus on biosecurity, also in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. With a view to improved prevention, we want to strengthen **anticipatory humanitarian assistance** in order to avoid impending – including climate-induced – humanitarian crises before they occur.

## 5. Stronger together

A resolute commitment to **open societies** and human rights as well as the defence of **liberal democracies**, both within the G7 countries and in the broader international community, forms the basis of our actions. The ongoing fight against organised crime, extremism and terrorism and against hybrid threats is also part of this. The pandemic has put societies around the world under pressure and set many citizens back both economically and socially, while at the same time exacerbating spatial segregation, which is making municipalities in particular face major challenges. Social inequality undermines confidence in the ability of democratic systems to function, while increasing insecurity sets the stage for disinformation and is exploited to dismantle civil society and the rule of law. A commitment to **human rights, the rule of law, civil and political rights and economic, social and cultural participation for all, to gender equality and social security**, as well as against polarisation and the curtailment of **freedom of expression, freedom of the press and freedom of assembly**, and to an **inclusive global digital order**, will therefore guide our actions during our Presidency.

**Safeguarding freedom and the integrity of information.** Free and independent media and secure, reliable information each play a key role for strong democracies and resilient societies. Democratic opinion-forming processes must be protected against disinformation and distortion, hate speech must be fought, the freedom of opinion ensured and the security of journalists must be safeguarded. Linking up with existing processes, we, as the G7, want to develop suitable preventive approaches to **improving the integrity of information** and offering our citizens even better support with respect to being able to **identify and actively counter disinformation and conspiratorial ideologies**. We want to emphasise the role of free and independent media in this regard. The G7 brings together some of the world's leading locations for science and research. With common science and research projects, we want to develop suitable approaches and counterstrategies for **curbing disinformation**. Moreover, we want to protect the **freedom, and therefore also**

**the integrity and security of science and research**, to an even greater extent, as well as to ensure the participation of civil society and to strengthen scientific communication.

**Strengthening gender equality.** Gender equality forms the basis of an **equal society** and is a key value of the G7's open, inclusive and democratic societies. As part of our G7 Presidency, we want to also **advance equality between women and men and non-binary people globally** and work to ensure that all people have the same opportunities in all areas. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on women and girls has negated hard-fought achievements in the area of gender equality in recent months. We want the G7 to work to turn this development around and to further promote gender equality, setting ourselves the aim of ensuring that everyone, including LGBTI people, has the same opportunities and is protected against discrimination. We want to focus on the issues of care work and equal pay and work towards the more equal participation of women in leadership positions. Together with the G7 Gender Equality Advisory Council, we will continue to promote and develop the monitoring of the G7's gender equality goals. Our approach is consistently guided by the principle of gender mainstreaming, i.e. the obligation to take into account the different impacts on men and women in all areas of action and decisions. Moreover, we will promote an intersectional approach with regard to gender equality and take the links between different forms of inequality and discrimination into account. It is important in this regard to continue to advance gender equality in our own countries, to integrate it as a key value in our global commitment to sustainable development and to promote it in a targeted manner.

**Advancing digital progress in an inclusive global order.** The COVID-19 pandemic was a clear reminder of the need to speed up, and also to shape the **digital transformation**. The approach that countries take at national and international level will have a profound impact on innovation, economic progress and prosperity. As part of our Presidency of the G7, we want to promote the free flow of data with trust across borders, **counter digital inequality, strengthen security on the internet, advocate good governance in cyberspace, facilitate fair competition and improve connectivity**. In doing so, we also want to work to harness the potential of the digital transformation for a **sustainable way of life and economy** even more effectively while making digital progress itself **more sustainable and inclusive**.

Together with our G7 partners, we want to work towards an **open, reliable and secure internet** that does not restrict, but rather strengthens **democratic principles and universal human rights**. Furthermore, we want to develop a **common understanding** as the G7 with respect to the areas of the **global digital order** in which we must strengthen international cooperation with like-minded partners. In this context, we are, together with our G7 partners, seeking to achieve **stronger international coordination with**

**respect to setting standards and norms** that are embedded in an open, democratic and rules-based order.

## Process

In addition to the summit of the Heads of State and Government at Schloss Elmau from 26 to 28 June 2022, numerous meetings of the relevant G7 ministers are scheduled to take place during Germany's Presidency (see Annex).

The personal representatives of the Heads of State and Government, known as G7 sherpas, meet at regular intervals in preparation for the Summit of the Heads of State and Government.

We want to continue the work of the G7 Gender Equality Advisory Council and to strengthen its role. During Germany's G7 Presidency, a comprehensive dialogue with non-state actors in a total of seven dialogue forums is planned (Business7, Civil7, Labour7, Science7, Think7, Women7 and Youth7). Within the dialogue forums, representatives of the respective groups will develop common positions on the issues of the G7 agenda. These groups will be solely responsible for their opinion-forming processes.

The Federal Government will, as a rule, forgo sponsoring services as part of its G7 Presidency. Necessary additional expenditure is taken into account in budget planning. Exceptions to this can, on a small scale, be made in the form of regional products (sponsoring in kind), taking into account the requirements of the administrative regulation on sponsoring applicable to the federal administration.

We will host the events of the Presidency in accordance with tried and tested sustainability criteria in order to avoid greenhouse gases as far as possible. Any remaining emissions will be offset, thus making the Presidency climate-neutral.