



[The 47th G7 Summit is Held and Addresses Pressing Foreign Policy Issues While Promoting International Cooperation and Shared Values](#)

The 47th Group of Seven (G7) Summit was held this past week, with the respective countries tackling pertinent foreign policy topics and promoting their continued cooperation. The United Kingdom hosted the summit after the event was cancelled in 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic, and Australia, India, South Korea, and South Africa were invited as guest nations to observe the proceedings. The G7 set a goal to end the pandemic by 2022 and addressed how recovery from the year-plus health crisis should proceed. Leaders from the seven nations are using a reconstruction approach to incorporate green technology and gender equality into the recovery process, which also involves increasing pandemic preparedness, bolstering the individual nations' economies, and promoting free trade. The countries acknowledged their need for continued international cooperation and the shared responsibility and commitment of upholding freedom, democratic principles, and the respect for human rights across the globe. Lastly, they delved into foreign policy issues such as Chinese and Russian relations, condemnation of the Myanmar military coup, and support for Ukraine's sovereignty.

In addition to setting a goal to end the global pandemic by 2022, the members of the G7 expressed that the world needed a vaccination rate of 60% for immunization – which they declared a global public good. As the pandemic rages on, the nations agreed to information and resource sharing regarding COVID-19. The members called for sharing of 10% of the genome sequencing of future COVID-19 strains to address mutations and maintain the effectiveness of the current vaccines. They also discussed the importance of future pandemic preparedness by reducing the time needed to create vaccines from 300 days to 100 days. Additionally, the strengthening of the World Health Organization (WHO) was pinpointed as a necessary step forward.

Economic recovery and a commitment to free and fair trade were also major talking points, with the G7 nations acknowledging the 12 trillion dollars spent bolstering individual economies and the need to promote their continued growth. The group supports a 15% global tax rate to create a fair environment and reduce tax evasion, and outlined their focus on enhancing the World Trade Organization (WTO). Doing so would help to achieve economic growth, more widespread adherence to WTO laws, the prevention of unfair practices, female empowerment in global trade, and a smooth transition to a “green” economy.

The G7 nations also spoke about the importance of protecting the Earth from climate change, and the priority of using cyberspace for prosperous and humancentric ends. The countries agreed on the need to keep rising temperatures under 1.5 degrees Celsius and to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2050. In order to achieve this goal, they will attempt to transition from coal and fossil fuels to renewable and nuclear power, and also cut all fossil fuel subsidies by 2025. The group concluded that the energy, industry, transportation, and infrastructure sectors must all be transitioned into an environmentally-friendly system, with the members supporting initiatives to double the efficiency of household appliances over the coming decade. Another environmental subject that was discussed was the conservation of the Earth's landmass and oceans, with the G7 nations committing to 30% preservations on both fronts. Finally, improving safety measures on the internet and reducing hate speech while at the same time still maintaining freedom of expression was highlighted as one of the major challenges of our time, but something that must be tackled as digital usage continues to gain prominence in our everyday lives.