

G7 2016 Agenda Proposed Priorities Presentation

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Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the symposium of the Japanese Platform for the Ise-Shima G7 Summit. It is excellent to see that civil society is working together to ensure the Summit is a success.

To introduce myself, I run an advisory firm on global issues for NGOs and foundations and have been involved in G7, and later, the G20 Summits, since 2004. I chair the G7 Global Taskforce which brings together policy specialists, campaigners and advocates from all G7 countries to share information, prepare common position statements and coordinate events and campaigns at the G7.

Overview

I would like to take this time to review the commitments and policy developments from the recent German G7 and identify possible agenda priorities for Ise-Shima Summit.

Schloss Elmau Outcomes

Firstly, I want to look briefly at the outcomes of the German G7 summit held in June this year in the Bavarian resort of Schloss Elmau. I think the German Summit was a mini-renaissance moment for the G7. Its new, smaller configuration appears to have allowed G7 governments to tackle a range of climate and development issues with greater clarity and resolve than we have seen for a few years and, as a result, there were a fair few significant commitments made by this year's G7.

The first such commitment was that the G7 economies will phase out fossil fuels by 2100. While this is quite a long time frame, it is significant statement and underlined the epic change in major economies' approach to fossil fuels.

Another key commitment was the pledge to raise 500 million people out of hunger and malnutrition by 2030. This commitment came late in the negotiations, but was a substantial announcement and builds on the work of the UK's 2013 Nutrition for Growth Summit that took place as part of its G7 presidency.

On health, the German government, as part of its G7 program, hosted a successful Global Alliance for Vaccines Initiative replenishment conference in January which mobilized \$7.5 billion allowing Gavi to save 5 to 6 million lives through immunization programs in the poorest countries. The G7 also addressed Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) by renewing pledges for both research & prevention and control for NTDs.

2015 saw the end of the Muskoka Initiative, a 5-year, \$5 billion plan launched by the G7 in 2010 to tackle Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (MNCH). While the 2015 G7 welcomed the newly revised Global Strategy for Women Newborn & Health, advocates were disappointed that there was no renewed commitments at the level of the Muskoka Initiative.

But the core of the work on health dealt with the devastating Ebola crisis that was at its peak in the run-up to the G7. The Summit supported an initiative to develop an effective health crisis management proposal to increase the timely mobilization and disbursement of both human and financial resources and improve global coordination. The G7 also agreed to support 60 countries including those in West Africa most affected by the pandemic, to build up their expertise and partnerships to prevent future outbreaks becoming global epidemics. However, critics were concerned this initiative focused more on reacting to health crisis to prevent contagion than building strong resilient health systems that could prevent and address outbreaks before they become global health crises.

Ise-Shima Summit Agenda

That was a quick review of the German Summit and I now want to look forward to Japan. Ise-Shima is uniquely important as it is the first major meeting of leaders under the new Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Climate Agreement and will therefore set the vision, ambition and level of commitment to delivering these key agreements.

I have consulted with colleagues from the G7 Global Taskforce as to the core areas for the 2016 G7 agenda and I would like to share on 4 key issues and 3 fundamentals that the Ise-Shima Summit should prioritise and deliver on

Syria

The first issue is Syria. The devastating crisis in Syria has led to the largest movement of refugees in 70 years. The G7 should address both immediate symptoms of the crisis as well as the root causes of conflict. A bold, new, and comprehensive plan is essential to address not only the needs of the millions who have fled Syria, but look to end the violence. The plan should include four key elements: firstly offering protection to significant numbers of refugees seeking asylum; second, create a Middle East Recovery Plan to support the Syria's neighbours that are shouldering the burden of millions of refugees; thirdly protecting civilians in Syria affected by the war and finally supporting a political solution through the Vienna Process.

Climate

The second is climate. As we know, on Saturday over 200 governments agreed the historic Paris agreement, and now the G7 countries must work on how they will meet the Paris agreement and their own 2015 commitment. We need to see an action plan and concrete milestones for the decarbonization of their economies from now to. The G7 must also end subsidies for fossil fuels and stop funding for coal and nuclear powered stations at home and abroad.

Food & Nutrition

Number 3 is Food & Nutrition. As I reference before, the German G7 made a critical commitment to address malnutrition and hunger and the 2016 G7 should to build on this with concrete steps, including a robust accountability framework for meeting that target. The Brazilian government will host the Nutrition for Growth Summit during the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio in August which will present an opportunity for the G7 to lay-out their own Road to Rio in terms of realizing the commitments and increasing the investments for nutrition and food security.

Health

The fourth issue area is Health where there are a number of key activities the G7 should address. *First is the Global Fund for HIV/AIDS, Malaria and TB.* In 2016, the Global Fund will

convene a funding or replenishment conference. These replenishments determine the resources available to the Fund for the next three years. The role of the Fund is important and over its lifetime, millions of people living with HIV/AIDS have had their lives prolonged by anti-viral drugs but the fight is not over by a long way - 40% of those living with HIV/AIDS still do not receive these life-saving medicines. We are also seeing a marked rise in TB cases globally and malaria still kills - over 300,000 under-5s died from malaria in Africa alone in 2015. So it is essential that the G7 pledges to support the Global Fund's work and commits to funding its replenishment. And it would be great if the Japanese government led the way by committing to maintain or even succeed its current pledge.

Related to this is the fight against polio. There is a good chance that the world could see the end of polio by 2019. The Global Polio Eradication Initiative is working to see this through and the G7 needs to ensure there is adequate funding to get this over the finish line.

As I mentioned above, the Schloss Elmau Summit resulted in renewed pledges to support Neglected Tropical Disease-related research, in addition to investing in the prevention and control of NTDs.

Some of the most common NTDs are on the edge of being controlled or eliminated and these achievements now should be consolidated and the G7 should make investments now to use the existing, effective treatments that are at its disposal. The year 2016 could offer the great opportunity for the government to cement Japan's legacy of establishing concrete initiatives for global health. Japanese leadership could elevate this issue by creating a concrete-time-bound action plan that leverages its previous investments to finish the job it started nearly twenty years ago.

Finally on health, it is great to see the high priority that the Japanese government has given to Universal Health Coverage for its G7 presidency as shown by its hosting the conference on UHC & the G7 scheduled for later this week. UHC is a powerful movement taking place around the world: it has been adopted as a target in the SDGs and globally, citizens are demanding access to health care on a fair basis and not rationed by wealth. Many of the health initiatives listed above would be systematically addressed through the provision of universal health coverage and in the new era of the SDGs, it is time to build a forward looking agenda to deal comprehensively with health. The Ise-Shima is an excellent opportunity to help countries build universal health coverage into their systems and, to do so, the G7 governments should take the following specific actions::

- Endorsing UHC and its principles for the first time.
- Commit to harmonizing their aid behind national health plans and not their own priorities.
- Explore mechanisms to support UHC through frameworks like the Health Systems Funding Platform and how to better use IHP+.

The recent Ebola crisis underlined the importance of the provision of a good level of healthcare, including health workers and primary care, to help countries respond to crises and identify and react faster and more efficiently to prevent future crises. Implementing UHC should be a core part of its work to improve the ability of national health systems to identify and respond to future outbreaks.

3 Fundamentals

These agenda priorities are based on three fundamental elements underpinning the G7 work – financing, gender and accountability.

Financing

Financing is a fundamental for the G7. Firstly, G7 countries need to follow the lead of the UK and commit 0.7% of GNI for overseas aid as well as supporting countries adapting and mitigating to climate change and meet its Copenhagen commitment to raise \$100 billion per year by 2020. Ise-Shima can support member countries, and developing countries, with domestic resource mobilization by tackling corruption and lack global tax laws that allows corporations to move money to the lowest tax. Also, on corporations, the G7 should further the German Summit advances on responsible supply chains and address unsafe and poor working conditions.

Womens' Empowerment

All of these issues center around the fundamental priority of gender, and in particular, women's empowerment. In Germany, this year, the G7 focused on women's economic empowerment - on how to increase opportunities for jobs, training and entrepreneurship and it would be excellent if the Japanese government for their G7 focused on both women's economic and social empowerment. The role of women in tackling all aspects of health, climate, food and nutrition is critical to their delivery and so the 2016 G7 Summit should use women's empowerment as a lens for addressing these core issues.

Accountability

The last fundamental item is much ignored but it is essential in terms of delivery and that is accountability. The G7 undertakes annual accountability review and every 3 years it undertakes a comprehensive report. The last such report was in 2013 and the next will be in 2016. I encourage the Japanese government to take this very seriously: and hold consultations beyond member governments and talk to civil society in G7 and developing countries; to assess the impact and progress towards their commitments; and finally ensure the report is published with enough time to allow discussion and debate prior to the Summit itself.

Let me finish by saying civil society itself has an important role to ensure G7 governments are accountable and meet their commitments. So it is excellent see this new civil society platform take form and start working on next year's G7. And you won't be alone - the coalition of G7 civil society groups will also be working in their countries to ensure all G7 government to come to Ise Shima with the mandate to deliver concrete actions and commitments. So we look forward to working with you all over the next few months to ensure the 2016 G7 Summit is a success.

Thank you