



**Y7** | ITALY  
2024  
YOUNG AMBASSADORS SOCIETY

# **Global Youth Leader Program**

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## **Final Statement**

## Inclusion and Equal Opportunities

Inclusion and equality are vital for a sustainable future. Amid unprecedented crises and rising inequalities, policies must prioritize human rights and increase investments and participation to ensure meaningful youth engagement and opportunities for generations.

**Gender-responsive policy-making and funding:** We urge G7 leaders to redress the gender employment and salary gap and support the capacity-building and operations of gender change-makers by:

- Establishing a G7-wide *Equal Parental Leave Act* requesting mandatory, well-paid paternity leave in the 3-5 months after childbirth, plus 360 days paid at 80% to be shared flexibly between parents, accompanied by a public awareness-raising campaign;
- Implementing equal pay laws for companies, with mandatory gender pay transparency, incentives for inclusive recruitment/promotion practices, and penalties for discrimination by gender or other grounds;
- Creating a €1.2B *G7 Support Fund for Feminist Actors 2025-2027* with core and flexible funding to organisations representing women, girls and young gender-diverse persons in all their diversity, to ensure their meaningful participation, leadership, and gender-responsive support/prevention services.

**Youth and Future Generations:** We urge G7 leaders to back youth empowerment through education, skill development, and political engagement by:

- Improving the quality of education in public schools, especially in rural areas, through the use of innovative educational frameworks (ex IB), stimulating vocational training and disruptive future-oriented skills development to adapt to demographics and technological changes;
- Allocate national funds to youth programs for enhancing meaningful political participation and representation, particularly targeting women;
- Fostering cooperation among local authorities and the private sector to improve employment levels, (SDG8) with a focus on job-specific training and internships for those under 30. Every internship must be paid to make it accessible for everyone, regardless of economic background. State-supported internships in SMEs covering 50% of costs and be tax-exempt;
- Establishing national data collection frameworks for youth employment, overseen by organizations such as national statistics institutes and ILO, translating them into action plans to bolster access to education, access to employment and youth entrepreneurship.

**Finance for Development:** We aim to foster sustainable development and economic growth in developing countries that face financial constraints and regulatory challenges interfering with their integration within the international community. We urge G7 countries to unlock financial resources for underinvested sectors by:

- Establishing institutional development plans to foster Public-Private Partnerships through WGB B-READY benchmarking tools and unlocking the flow of capital through the establishment of targeted projects financed in local currencies to strengthen capital markets.
- Channelling unlocked financial resources for:
  1. Early childhood education programs, including preschool and primary education (SDG 4.1.2), which have been proven to yield higher rates of return to human capital investment, measured through NER;
  2. Consistent investments in healthcare infrastructure and research (SDG3) to sustain monitoring and evaluation for strengthened, free vaccination coverage programs, care-seeking for acute respiratory symptoms, and the reduction of antimicrobial resistance through U5MR monitoring.

**Migrants and Displaced Persons:** With 280 million migrants in the world, migration represents one of the most urgent matters to address. To ensure migrants and displaced persons' rights and facilitate their integration into host countries, we urge G7 leaders to:

- Allocate funds to establish quality, multidisciplinary one-stop-shop reception centers near the arrival points, where migrants' rights are respected and professionals provide first aid services, trauma-responsive support combined with legal assistance;
- Improve cooperation between institutions, NGOs, community-based and youth-led organizations working to rescue and support migrants throughout their integration process and spread awareness through advocacy;
- Ensure their right to education by implementing measures such as providing free local language courses to abolish language barriers, expanding and facilitating the recognition of foreign educational certificates even through digital instruments and offering preparatory classes for migrant children to facilitate their educational journey.
- Facilitate migrant access to credit and financing for entrepreneurship, and partner with local businesses for vocational training and job placements.

## Innovation and Digital Transformation

In a world where huge developments in AI are side by side with disruptions in the global supply chain, where innovation can push forward many public services and support citizens' rights but is too slowly adopted by government institutions, we call on the G7 leaders to adopt the following policy proposals.

### Digital Transformation

Given the enormous potential of AI and emerging digital technologies to improve our society, it is crucial to leverage their competitive advantages in public services while fortifying a secure global supply chain network. Therefore, we advocate G7 leaders to:

- Establish a G7 semiconductors Point of Contact (PoC) consisting of delegates from member nations responsible for coordinating data sharing, promoting diversification strategies, and facilitating R&D initiatives on current and emerging semiconductors.
- Develop dedicated digital public services to enhance citizen participation in the local decision-making processes, including the provision of personalised, step-by-step guidance for citizens to manage their tax obligations or specific online forums dedicated to exchange of ideas for policy development.
- Invest in the digital transformation of correctional facilities to ensure effective reintegration, by implementing an AI-platform with resources related to digital literacy, professional skills, and job search, as well as communication channels including video calls, emails, and augmented reality, while always keeping the human contact alive.

### Transparent, Accountable, and Accessible AI

The development of AI is accompanied by a lack of transparency and accountability and poses significant systemic risks that widen inequalities. We urge the G7 leaders to:

- Create a country-based AI asset platform managed by technology and functional experts where young employees, from private entities participating in the framework, share knowledge of their AI implementation use-cases and adoption best practices. This will foster a knowledge loop between funding institutions (i.e. governments gathering feedback to improve policies) and final users (i.e. young employees).
- Establish a Trusted Data Space for equal data access and cybersecurity designed to safeguard vulnerable online users, particularly teenagers. This should involve collaboration with relevant institutions, experts, and industry partners to continuously evaluate and improve data security measures. Findings should be publicly available.
- Develop a G7-level comprehensive framework that requires AI systems to inform users of their non-human nature and a unified AI watermarking of text, audio, and audiovisual content for AI content identification.

### Digital Literacy and AI Education

In the rapidly evolving technological landscape, it is crucial to educate youth on the new digital technologies and their impact on society. Therefore, we urge G7 leaders to:

- Agree on a G7 AI educational framework that sufficiently introduces the young generations (from primary to high school) to the digital and emerging technologies, especially AI, focusing on an ethical perspective. Integrate this educational path at each country level based on the specific country-curricula is recommended.
- Expand investments on STEM scholarships and start-ups to stimulate youth engagement in fields for new technologies development, as well as encourage youth-centred academia-start-ups collaborations to supply the job market with skilled innovators. Focus on semiconductor supply chain and AI should be prioritised.
- Stimulate interdisciplinary paths throughout all levels of education, focusing on the mix between humanities and technological literacy. This will empower young generations to navigate their personal paths with a deeper understanding of how technology can influence societal ethics, and how humanities can enhance creativity and well-being through innovation.

## Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change

We acknowledge the goals set by G7 countries to become net-zero by 2050, as well as the CMA.5 decision on the Global Stocktake (GST) adopted at COP28 and the recent commitments presented in the Climate, Energy and Environment Ministers' Meeting Communiqué adopted in Turin (April 2024). However, the current efforts are insufficient to achieve a climate-proofed future, and more ambition is needed to grasp the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution, together with the current global humanitarian and food emergencies. Urgent action is critical to accelerate the transition towards sustainable economies in line with the Paris Agreement to prevent irreversible damage. We call the G7 to design and implement equitable solutions for climate action, low-carbon energy, and ecosystem preservation, ensuring a just transition to a more sustainable and resilient future for all.

**Climate Action:** To transition away from fossil fuels in a just and equitable way, triple renewable energy capacity globally, and double the global average annual rate of energy efficiency improvements by 2030, we urge G7 leaders to:

- Implement targeted climate mitigation measures, also by investing in research and development of innovative technologies and energy vectors to decarbonise hard-to-abate industries.
- Enhance public and private investments in multi-sectoral youth- and gender-sensitive adaptation solutions, including climate-proofed and green infrastructure, Nature-Based Solutions (NBSs), regenerative agricultural and food systems transformation, reforestation and ecosystem restoration, climate services and early warning systems, primarily targeting most vulnerable communities and countries, ensuring alignment with local stakeholders' priorities.
- Advocate for a new ambitious Collective Quantified Goal on climate finance to replace the USD 100 billion goal agreed at COP15, boosting climate finance from a wide variety of sources.

**Low carbon energy:** The transition to a sustainable climate future relies on securing critical raw materials for renewable energy technologies while optimizing energy efficiency across sectors. In this context, accelerating the adoption of renewable energy production and consumption will be crucial to mitigate carbon emissions. Therefore, we urge G7 countries to:

- Enforce rigorous building energy standards, aiming for a Zero-Energy Buildings framework, and establish financial mechanisms to retrofit at least 50% of existing public buildings by 2030 and promote the construction of new ones as Zero-Energy Buildings.
- Implement decentralized renewable energy systems that place energy consumption closer to energy production points in order to increase energy access and resilience and achieve the goals set by the G7 Clean Energy Economy Action Plan.
- Foster the capacity of electricity grids and invest in energy storage technologies, ensuring the adoption of circularity principles in the battery value chain, by considering a target of a minimum collection quantity set at 60% by 2030.

**Environmental safeguard:** Climate change is having a major impact on food and water security and biodiversity preservation. Therefore, the strategic management of these resources is crucial for the advancement of socially and environmentally sustainable systems. Therefore, we urge G7 countries to:

- Reduce at least 50% of food waste and accelerate the transition towards sustainable food systems, from production to consumption, by 2030 through collaborative initiatives involving relevant stakeholders.
- Establish an Integrated Water Management System integrating climate adaptation, disaster risk reduction and sustainable development principles to address water-related challenges by 2030.
- Promote NBSs to combat the adverse impacts of climate change by identifying and evaluating areas with the highest degree of social, economic and environmental vulnerability.
- Raise awareness on food security, also by improving investments in research, education and training on climate resilience and food waste management.

## **New Skills, Entrepreneurship and the Future of Work**

In the midst of rapid technological transformation, the future of work poses both opportunities and challenges. These policy proposals aim to steer international efforts towards the development of new skills, enhancement of entrepreneurship, and inclusive access to education and training opportunities with a particular attention to underserved communities and vulnerable population groups.

### **Facilitating continuous learning and skill development initiatives**

To create a more resilient workforce, we call on G7 Leaders to enhance and promote continuous learning and better align education and training to the evolving needs of the job market, also fostering public-private partnerships, by:

- Providing and increasing financial and fiscal incentives to businesses that invest in employee training and retraining. For instance, offering tax credits to companies that offer paid time off for employees to participate in skill development programs;
- Requiring academic institutions to incorporate mandatory and recurring practical activities into their study programs (e.g., dissertation research projects, internships, apprenticeships, challenge-based methodologies) by collaborating with companies and organisations, particularly tech firms and startups.

### **Enhancing youth transition into the workforce through increased support and awareness**

We urge G7 leaders to prioritise facilitating a smoother transition of youth into the workforce, fostering readiness for the demands of the modern job market, by:

- Strengthening career guidance services to provide students and graduates with job search assistance, resume writing support, and mentoring programs to enhance awareness of available opportunities, implementing online career counselling platforms that use AI technology to provide personalised recommendations based on individual skills and interests;
- Developing outreach campaigns online and in local communities to inform NEET and unemployed youth about available job and training opportunities, leveraging online platforms to establish mentorship programs connecting experienced professionals with NEET and unemployed youth to provide guidance, advice, and support in career development and entrepreneurship.

### **Youth entrepreneurship and sustainable models for workers**

We call on G7 leaders to exploit and enhance the business climate and expand opportunities for G7 members' youth, by:

- Offering informative training to families, schools, and young students on the start-ups' ecosystem (e.g., steps, pipeline, context, VC names, incubators) to promote public general knowledge on the entrepreneurial world and build confidence in those who wish to pursue a career in innovative business sectors;
- Supporting young entrepreneurs towards their pension plan during periods when they may not be drawing a salary by contributing to the pension scheme on their behalf, provided that certain outcomes are achieved (e.g., startup is founded);
- Reinforcing and updating the conditions for social dialogue between workers' representatives and employers to engage with technology providers (e.g., AI developers), establishing algorithmic co-design and consultation as a standard practice throughout technologies' deployment lifecycle, to avoid negative ethical implications.