

EDUCATION AND JOBS POLICY TRACK

Zoe Martin (UK)

Michael Leyendecker (Germany)

Kirtbir Chahal (Canada)

Kanako Yamagami (Japan)

Khadija-El-Kalila Ben Romdhane (France)

Sherpa: Elizabeth Zalanga

Vanessa Boi (Italy)

Karolína Lískovcová (EU)

Giovanni Bruna (USA)





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DEFINING THE TRACK

Realising the rights to education and work is essential to promote respect for human dignity and create transformative change for young people.

However, COVID-19 has exacerbated existing inequalities, while creating new challenges for re-thinking and re-building education and employment systems.

- How do we make education and the world of work more inclusive for young people? Which structural barriers exist preventing progress on this issue?
- How do we support youth for 21st Century jobs?
- How can we create resilient education & work systems, green jobs, ensure well-being and a healthy work-life balance, and prepare for the digital economy?
- What do we need to do to realise the SDGs and ensure no one is left behind? What is the role of international cooperation?



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NEGOTIATION PROCESS

- Presentations about countries' context
- Presentations and policy proposals relative to the issues within the G7
- Reviewing previous G7 and Y7 communiqus, CTAs and commitments
- Identifying common themes and proposals between delegates' proposals and merging calls to action
- Specifying, shortening and negotiating the language
- The principle of compromise



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CHALLENGES & CONSIDERATIONS

Process

- Various priorities, contexts, personal views
- Reducing length
- Choosing the appropriate language
- COVID-19 lens or not?

Topic

- Importance of taking an intersectional approach
- Broad topic
- Uncertainties around the pandemic and its impact
- New, technological challenges versus ongoing challenges around basic access



1. Eliminate Structural Inequalities and Discrimination

It is critical to protect and prioritize the diverse needs and experiences of young people by tackling systemic barriers and restructuring our societies. To give youth the best start in life, G7 leaders must:

- Reduce child poverty by at least 50% by 2025, and increase income benefits for vulnerable populations, including migrants and Indigenous communities living below the poverty line.
- Provide universal, publicly funded pre-school education and increase investment in early learning and child care to 1% of GDP by 2025.
- Implement locally-led mentorship networks to build cooperation with and offer targeted support to underprivileged families and youth facing academic challenges and contemplating their future.
- Center needs of youth with disabilities in policies on the future of work including by increasing R&D investment in assistive technologies and mainstreaming a Universal Design Approach in services.
- Launch and fund national-level Youth Data Strategies for collecting intersectional, disaggregated and longitudinal data on young people's experiences with access to education and employment.



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2. Ensure Equitable and Inclusive Education for All

Strong and fair education systems that are accessible for all and prioritize well-being are the building blocks of thriving communities. To ensure no young person is left behind, G7 leaders must:

- Increase domestic spending on education to at least 7% of GDP, & improve access to education for vulnerable students by investing in improving school infrastructure & distance education learning.
- Forgive student debt for households earning a net income of up to 150% of the median income and make public post-secondary education free for all, including offering online degrees and MOOCs.
- Implement gender sensitive curriculum, pedagogies and mentorship, and ensure free sanitation products for girls and young women in all learning environments.
- Embed mental health education in school curriculums and offer free, preventative, personalized mental health support for young people where they live, learn and work.



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3. Facilitate Transitions to Labour Market and Empower through Life-long Upskilling

To prepare young people for the world of work, we must foster stronger connections to the labor market as early as possible, and promote multiliteracy in skills relevant to the 21st Century. G7 leaders must:

- Develop and fund “School-to-Work” Strategies for youth in partnership with educators and employers, focused on job-matching, expert career guidance, apprenticeships, mentorships.
- Introduce a “Universal Learning Allowance” to facilitate upskilling, and provide tax exemptions to enterprises that offer grants and facilitate project-based classes for students.
- Redesign school curricula and testing methods to implement mandatory financial and digital skills training, scale up STEM as well as civic education, and promote transferable and soft skills.
- Scale up quantity and quality of teaching professionals by establishing decent salaries; introduce incentives to join the profession as well as to undergo training to improve digital and social literacy.



4. Strengthen Youth Focused and Gender Balanced Job Market Measures

Intersectional and youth-sensitive approaches should be central to developing socio-economic policies, setting ambitious targets and improving working conditions. To reduce vulnerabilities, G7 leaders must:

- Reduce youth unemployment by at least 50% by 2025, and target the pandemic-related wave of youth unemployment via large-scale investment in training and offering job guarantees.
- Eliminate the gender wage gap by offering grants for training in higher-paid sectors, including STEM and Finance; achieve gender parity and racial diversity for leadership and board positions by 2025.
- Support working parents by increasing quantity of and salaries for nursery workers; implement gender-neutralising parental leave and transparency on usage and subsidized childcare.
- Prohibit all unpaid internships, setting at least a minimum MBM wage; strengthen knowledge of and access to social services, particularly for NEET youth or those in the gig and informal economy.
- Stimulate youth entrepreneurship by promoting business skills; facilitate access to credit with a 0% interest rate, private capital and structural support for youth start-ups.



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5. Prioritise a green economy, climate change education and resilient systems

Inclusive growth relies on sustainability, individual and community resilience, and circularity. To engage young people in this transition and prepare for future emergencies, G7 leaders must:

- Implement mandatory climate change education in schools and workplaces; introduce incentives for firms to “go green” and promote low carbon jobs for youth.
- Engage and include low-skilled youth in the green economy by creating free, certified green training centers and subsidizing emerging green companies that employ youth.
- Build resilient and sustainable schools and workplaces; develop adaptive capacity of young people to prepare for and respond to future disasters and public health crises.



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6. Redesign education and work spaces for the age of AI and digital transformation

Increased connectivity and rapidly evolving technologies offer promise as well as challenges for the future of work. To close the digital divide and ensure youth can thrive in the digital era, G7 leaders must:

- Declare the internet as a global public good, and invest in public access solutions including city-wide WiFi and digital rights training at public libraries.
- Provide young people with free digital tools, capacity-building workshops and technical support, especially in rural areas, refugee camps and marginalized communities.
- Modernize vocational training programmes to equip youth with skills for engaging with the digital economy, including artificial intelligence, robotics and programming.
- Mandate schools and employers to support flexible learning and work modalities, and ensure young people are provided safe and operational environments whether working in-person or remotely.



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7. Reinforce international cooperation and commitment to the SDGs

To tackle the impact of the pandemic on access to education, especially in fragile contexts, and address the persisting barriers to mobility, education and employment across the world, G7 leaders must:

- Commit to spending 0.7% of GNI on ODA by 2022 & increase bilateral and multilateral spending for education to 10%.
- Prioritize collaboration between NGOs and Governments to increase education spending in humanitarian response to tackle disruptions to education, including for children in refugee camps.
- Empower young women in LDCs, particularly rural areas by implementing technical skills training in agriculture, economics and technology to build resilient communities.
- Increase investment in new supranational partnerships on mobility of youth and teachers while decreasing administrative burden, and pursue plurilateral recognition of skills and qualifications.



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QUESTIONS?