

B7

United Kingdom 2021



B7 Summit 2021

Joint Statement

May 2021

Contents

Introduction	03
Chapters	
1. A global recovery is dependent on global vaccination	04
2. Restarting international mobility	06
3. The road from crisis to recovery	07
4. A competitive agenda for business to drive inclusive economic recovery	09
5. A rebirth of the global trading system	10
6. Tackling climate change and protecting the natural world	12
7. Showing global digital leadership	14
8. Seizing the moment	14
B7 recommendations	15
Annex: B7 Policy Paper Recommendations	17
References	21

Introduction

We, the business federations of the Group of 7 countries (“the B7”), issue this declaration after the B7 Summit of 11-12 May 2021.

Economies across the world are in the midst of the worst social, health and economic challenge in decades. As we look to the future, from crisis to recovery, now is the time for unity in the face of adversity. 2021 provides a unique opportunity to re set global leadership and cooperation with business playing a significant role as an agent as well as an advocate of this mission.

If met with the right level of energy and ambition, renewed leadership from the G7 can drive forward a sustainable and inclusive recovery for all. Underpinned by shared values of freedom, democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights, the G7 has an important role to play in setting the multilateral agenda and driving real change.

To make this a reality, we will also need stronger collaboration between businesses, with governments and across nations. Business will also lead the shaping of a global recovery which delivers an economy fit for the future. With strong leadership and partnership, we can create jobs whilst addressing societal challenges. Making progress towards net-zero emissions and a renewed commitment to global health security are essential and we must be more ambitious to truly build back better for all. We must reverse the move towards protectionism, with business leading the way where governments have struggled to collaborate.

From reskilling for future industries, to ensuring women’s economic empowerment and inclusive education, now is the time to start creating opportunity and prosperity for all. Business can and will show leadership in shaping a global recovery which delivers an economy fit for the future.



A global recovery is dependent on global vaccination

The distressing humanitarian situation across the world has demonstrated the need for coordinated action and a global response on health to protect citizens and promote prosperity for all. Unless we act, the spill over of outbreaks will continue to affect the health of citizens, impact supply chains, restrict international travel and undermine confidence in society. We need a renewed commitment to global health equality and security to ensure that we can build back better for all.

Effective international health organisations, in particular a strong WHO, are necessary for global health security, and we recognise steps taken at the B20 to promote reinforced global frameworks in order to strengthen pandemic preparedness. This is the only way to combat the current Covid-19 pandemic in a targeted and coordinated manner and to prevent possible future pandemics. Strengthening health systems is central to this. The G7 nations should revitalise the WHO and strengthen its role and their commitment to it.

What is more, a sustainable, global economic recovery can only happen with a successful vaccination programme and take-up across the globe. The vaccine story has demonstrated the power of science and innovation. We now need business and government to work together to ensure equitable distribution and uptake of vaccines. Business has stepped up over the past year, working hand in hand with governments, to deliver on vaccine development and deployment. However, despite strong commitments to a global response on health, we have seen a rise in trade barriers as countries grapple with domestic situations. This has been particularly prevalent in vaccines leading to disruptions to key supply chains and inequitable supply.

Vaccine production has rapidly increased, requiring an extremely complex supply chain of research, production, storage and distribution. Effective licensing agreements are an important part of this increased production, ensuring safety, quality and supply chain resilience. The immediate priority must be tackling existing bottlenecks and taking advantage of the surge in production by sharing vaccines more effectively. The global community will need continued innovation to find solutions for all populations and to overcome new variants that continue to emerge.

Instead of considering export bans, G7 governments should concentrate their efforts on building confidence in increasing coverage of new and existing vaccines: safeguarding free and open markets to support global supply chains and investing in a supportive research and development environment. Enhanced cooperation is needed to unlock constraints affecting, preventing, and limiting global vaccination. Through public-private partnerships, we can accelerate global vaccine development and deployment in order to achieve affordable and equitable access to vaccines. In this regard, we welcome the G7's commitment to increase developing countries' access to WHO-approved vaccines through the COVAX facility. We believe governments have a responsibility to accelerate distribution of vaccines to developing economies in order to achieve a global economic recovery.

The pandemic has also demonstrated the great value of joint risk assessments and preparedness both among G7 countries as well as globally. The G7 needs to engage more directly with business when assessing the risks to healthcare systems and designing policies to increase resilience and to avoid more shocks to the global economy.

Challenges such as antimicrobial resistance, an ageing society and mental health , have long been acknowledged by the G7 , but we need to have clear action plans to address them jointly with the private sector and wider stakeholders.

Recommendations:

- The G7 should champion a revitalised WHO and strengthen its role to coordinate the response to Covid-19 and future pandemics.
- The G7 should facilitate vaccine production and roll out, avoiding counter-productive export bans and uncoordinated national initiatives with adverse effects on international vaccine supply chains.
- The G7 must continue to champion global vaccination, via tools such as the COVAX facility. They should improve the sharing of health data globally and engage business in identifying future health related systemic risks to the global economy.



Restarting international mobility

Critical to economic recovery is a restarting of international mobility. Global vaccination alongside the development of testing capabilities means that the G7 nations are in an increasingly strong position to restart international mobility. International mobility is essential for recommencing global trade as it enables both passenger and logistics movements across the world, bringing significant economic and social opportunities for all that take part. The G7 nations must now lead at taking on guidance set out by ICAO, OECD, the WHO and other multi-lateral organisations to enable the development of clear, consistent, data-driven and internationally harmonised procedures for restarting travel.

Business calls on the G7 nations to take the first steps towards facilitating the rapid establishment of travel corridors based on clear, consistent metrics and following a data-driven approach. The G7 can enable international mobility by looking to harmonise standards for mutual recognition of Covid-19 tests and digital health credentials issued by member states. Digital applications, such as IATA's Travel Pass Initiative and Commonpass, will be the tools required for sharing and verifying passenger Covid-19 status and must be recognised across jurisdictions. In this process, governments must ensure that vaccination is not a pre-requisite for travel, but rather the G7 nations should together develop common, risk-based criteria for reopening international borders on a non-discriminatory basis and without quarantine restrictions.

Recommendations:

- G7 governments need to enact clear, consistent and internationally harmonised standards and procedures for restarting cross-border travel, using mutual recognition of Covid-19 tests and digital health credentials to enable a globally applicable solution. This should include:
 - Each of the G7 governments publishing clear health metrics (e.g., vaccination rates, infection rates, prevalence of variants of concern) that will be the milestones for rolling back border restrictions under a data driven, risk-based framework rather than broad-based measures.
 - Focussing the approach taken on international digital health credentials on interoperability, user-centricity and ensuring high levels of protection for traveller privacy. Where possible, these health credentials should leverage existing infrastructure.
 - Facilitating mutual recognition of international digital health credentials and playing an active role in developing global standards that will support inbound and outbound travel.
 - Collaborating on the testing standards for non-vaccinated passengers to ensure that travel can occur on a non-discriminatory basis with a goal to move away from quarantine measures.
 - Sharing up-to-date information with G7 counterparts about each country's current procedures for international arrivals, as well as best practice across governments.
 - Engaging in an ongoing dialogue with industry to ensure a robust two-way exchange of information and that policy decisions are made with information that is as complete as possible.

The road from crisis to recovery

Greater coordination in addressing the crisis will allow us to turn our attention to the macroeconomic policy which will be critical in driving economic recovery, mindful that until the global vaccine rollout is successful, the pandemic will devastate lives and undermine the resilience of the global recovery. The pandemic shone a light on existing inequalities and fragilities within our economies. The road from crisis to recovery starts at home. Across the G7, governments learnt the lessons of the global financial crisis and provided significant economic stimulus and business support. Businesses across the G7 were thankful for this approach and the continuing support and engagement from our governments. Government stood behind business and jobs and now we must build on this partnership to continue innovation and raise productivity, building back better for all.

As we move through economic recovery, and support is rightly scaled back, we must ensure a cliff-edge scenario is avoided for businesses globally and that we move towards re-creating dynamic economies which support business innovation, investment, and job creation. Financial support will still be required by those sectors and communities most affected by Covid-19 induced lockdowns, such as hospitality and travel. It will be important for the G7 governments to continue close industry engagement on delivering the right support at the right time, and in the right way.

Equally, businesses are increasingly concerned about the levels of debt across the system. We also face the risk of inflation as economies and sectors recover at different speeds. The G7 governments and central banks need to manage this uncertainty wisely and increase collaboration on macroeconomic policy; this has been important during the crisis but will be essential as we tread a path to recovery.

It is integral that domestic and international rules, standards, regulations and norms work in harmony. A stable regulatory environment which promotes innovation, investment, competition and democratic values is essential to stimulating economic growth and prosperity around the world and supporting long-term business investment.

The G7 should enhance cooperation through a multi-stakeholder approach to the sharing of best practice between industry bodies, standard setting bodies, and international institutions to strive for an open, transparent consensus-based international system of international regulations, standard setting rules and norms.

Covid-19 showed the importance of open supply chains in goods and services. The G7 should promote the resilience of global value chains, recognising the vital role of small businesses and the importance of mobility to maintain critical infrastructure and logistics. Ensuring national macroeconomic policies reflect these complexities, including a focus on greater resilience, will be integral to a robust recovery. We highlight the importance of key sectors of the global economy, including critical minerals and semi-conductors, which are crucial to ensuring resilient supply chains. Geopolitical tensions in these areas risk increasing inflation, instability and disrupting trade.

The G7 should take a strong international stance regarding human rights and share serious concerns regarding human rights situations. Companies are fully committed to the respect of human rights and public international law.

Recommendations:

- The G7 nations should ensure more effective collaboration on macroeconomic policy, to support growth, manage the risk of debt imbalances, inflation, and limit long term economic scarring.
- The G7 should coordinate action on critical minerals and semi-conductors to promote diversified sources that will enable resilient global supply chains.
- The G7 should take a strong international stance regarding human rights and share any serious concerns regarding human rights situations.
- The G7 should enhance cooperation through a multi-stakeholder approach to strive for an open, transparent consensus-based international system of international regulations, standard setting, rules and norms.



A competitive agenda for business to drive inclusive economic recovery

Covid-19 has exposed the existing inequalities in our societies, with women, young people and those from lower socio-economic backgrounds being hit the hardest. Whilst globalisation has reduced global inequality, the pandemic has laid bare the significant disparity in economic resilience between and within wealthier nations, emerging market economies and low-income developing countries. Educational disparities as a result of unequal access to digital technologies have also been laid bare in the last year. Governments need to act now, in partnership with business, to ensure that no-one is left behind.

A competitive agenda for business, creating the right environment for investment, can deliver real growth and increase economic inclusion. The right combination of policy, business leadership and cross economy collaboration will be needed to unleash the full potential of industry, particularly SMEs. We welcome government support to promote participation of SMEs in global trade, particularly by improving access to trade finance instruments.

We acknowledge the significant progress that the OECD is making to reform the international corporate tax system to address the tax challenges of the digitalised economy to ensure competitive neutrality and we welcome recent signals that the G7 is redoubling its efforts in this area. This is a global issue requiring a global solution. We call on the G7 to continue to work within international fora to find a solution which works for business and is fit for the future.

The B7 emphasise the need to use this period of change to harness and better manage the significant reskilling and upskilling required across economies for the industries of the future and create digital inclusion. The pandemic highlighted the importance of putting people at the centre of economic policies, supporting sustainable jobs. Business recognises that we must lead, ensuring younger and older people are not left behind in the labour market, promoting decent jobs for all, working alongside trade unions and civil society. A focus on women's economic empowerment is also critical and we support the ambition of the B20 to dismantle obstacles to female employment. We reiterate the 2019 B7 statement on the importance of inclusiveness as a strategy to enhance the economic and the social potential of nations.

Recommendations:

- G7 governments need to use dynamic economic policies to drive business investment, help business stimulate growth and create jobs across their supply chains.
- The G7 should coordinate national and international policy developments more effectively to make progress on key areas that support inclusion across nations and communities.
- We call on the G7 to continue to work with the OECD to reform the international corporate tax system so that it ensures competitive neutrality and is fit for the future.

A rebirth of the global trading system

The G7 must recognise and champion the integral role of international trade and investment in delivering sustainable and inclusive economic growth, putting it at the heart of a global economic vision. International trade is a driver not just of economic growth but also of jobs, innovation and social cohesion. A rise in national protectionist measures and unilateralism over recent years, further exacerbated by the pandemic, is concerning¹. Reversing this trend and facilitating free and fair cross-border trade and investment flows is essential; closed borders will only close off growth and opportunity. Building on efforts at the B20 to defend open markets and resist protectionism, we call on the G7 to lead by example by committing to a G7 roadmap to roll back protectionist measures adopted during the pandemic over the next 12 months; and commit to prioritising open global supply chains over consideration of export restrictions.

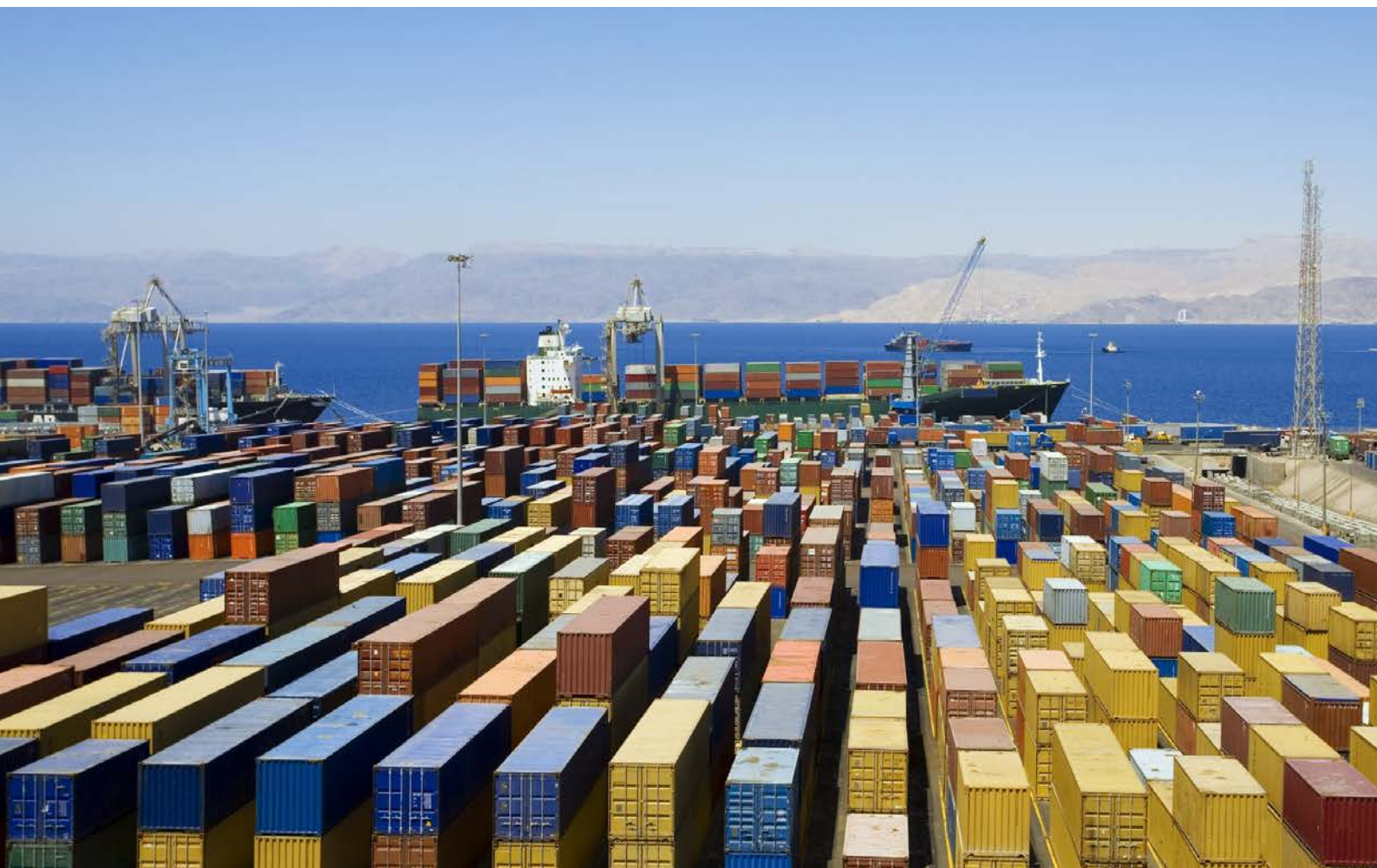
As well as increasing trade liberalisation, the B7 sees immense opportunities in a refocussed and revitalised global trading system for all continents. The B7 organisations commit to working in partnership with our respective governments and multilateral institutions to drive forward this agenda. We support a mission to re-energise the World Trade Organisation (WTO), ensuring growth is inclusive and developing countries have a path to prosperity. The G7 can play an important role in building momentum towards consensus, underpinning plurilateral approaches within multilateral fora. We will also support the B20 and G20 in pushing forward plurilateral solutions to global challenges. Without international collaboration, economic and social recovery will be stifled.

The appointment of Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, the first female and first African WTO Director-General is a hugely positive signal. The B7 are committed to working with the new WTO Director-General through an increased and more structured interaction with the WTO secretariat and encourage all WTO members to engage proactively to deliver the necessary reforms. We are currently faced with a narrow political window for WTO reform; we must seize this opportunity.

As we come out of the pandemic, business wants to see the G7 governments lead at the WTO, helping it to deliver concrete steps to modernise trade rules and set a timetable for addressing fundamental problems with its governance at this year's Ministerial which starts on 30 November 2021. A revived WTO should also raise its ambition in policies pertaining to climate, digital, services, health and SMEs. Business will take an active role in building a better international trading system, one that offers fair opportunities for all and responds more quickly to changes in technology, the imperative of net-zero, and new forms of commerce.

Recommendations:

- The G7 should commit to a G7 roadmap to roll back protectionist measures adopted in the pandemic, including export restrictions, over the next 12 months; and commit to prioritising open global supply chains over consideration of export restrictions.
- The G7 should rebuild trust in the WTO by putting G7 support behind credible concrete outcomes at this year's Ministerial in November: finalise the agreement on fisheries and the Joint Statement Initiatives on services, and secure progress on the JSI on e-commerce.
- The G7 must develop a common position on major WTO reform initiatives (dispute settlement, subsidies and special and differential treatment) with a cross-Presidency work plan in 2021 to deliver them.
- The G7 must ensure climate is integral to the WTO's modernisation agenda by relaunching work on the WTO's Environmental Goods Agreement and prioritise trade in health by committing at the WTO Ministerial to update the 1995 WTO Pharmaceuticals Tariff Elimination Agreement.
- The B7 will actively support the role of the WTO and will liaise with the WTO Secretariat to develop new forms of structured engagement with business representative organisations.



Tackling climate change and protecting the natural world

The business community understands its critical role in helping the world achieve its climate targets. The urgency has never been greater, and without determined action from businesses around the world, achieving the Paris Agreement goals will become increasingly difficult. As we address the challenge of reducing carbon emissions, business also needs to consider wider impacts on the environment, particularly biodiversity, where more work needs to be done to understand how business and government can work together to create a sustainable future for all. This is a crucial year for action. The B7 and G7 Summits are important milestones to deliver successful outcomes and build momentum ahead of the G20, COP15 and COP26.

As governments set clear and ambitious climate targets ahead of COP26, attention needs to turn towards how we decarbonise the critical sectors that underpin the global economy. G7 governments should lead international action progressing decarbonised power generation through detailed policy plans and incentives to support industry, workers and communities impacted by the transition. Setting a target to phase out unabated coal in power generation, where feasible by 2040, as a benchmark for policy ambition could be an important signal. Governments must work with businesses to deliver clear sector decarbonisation pathways and milestones that lead towards net-zero by 2050. For the most carbon-intensive sectors, including heavy industry, the greatest success will come when governments align their decarbonisation plans. This will help the integrated global supply chains reduce their emissions as well. Governments can maximise business impact by coordinating action on market-based mechanisms, including carbon pricing, and support for technologies like carbon capture and hydrogen, as well as delivering ambitious plans to decarbonise transport.

This year could also see an increase in the impact of the financial services industry in helping businesses across sectors respond to the climate crisis. In support of work at the B20 to leverage sustainable finance, we see increasing international alignment in developing sustainable finance taxonomies, disclosures, and regulations to support climate risk mitigation and facilitating the growth of sustainable finance as priorities that the G7 countries can lead on.

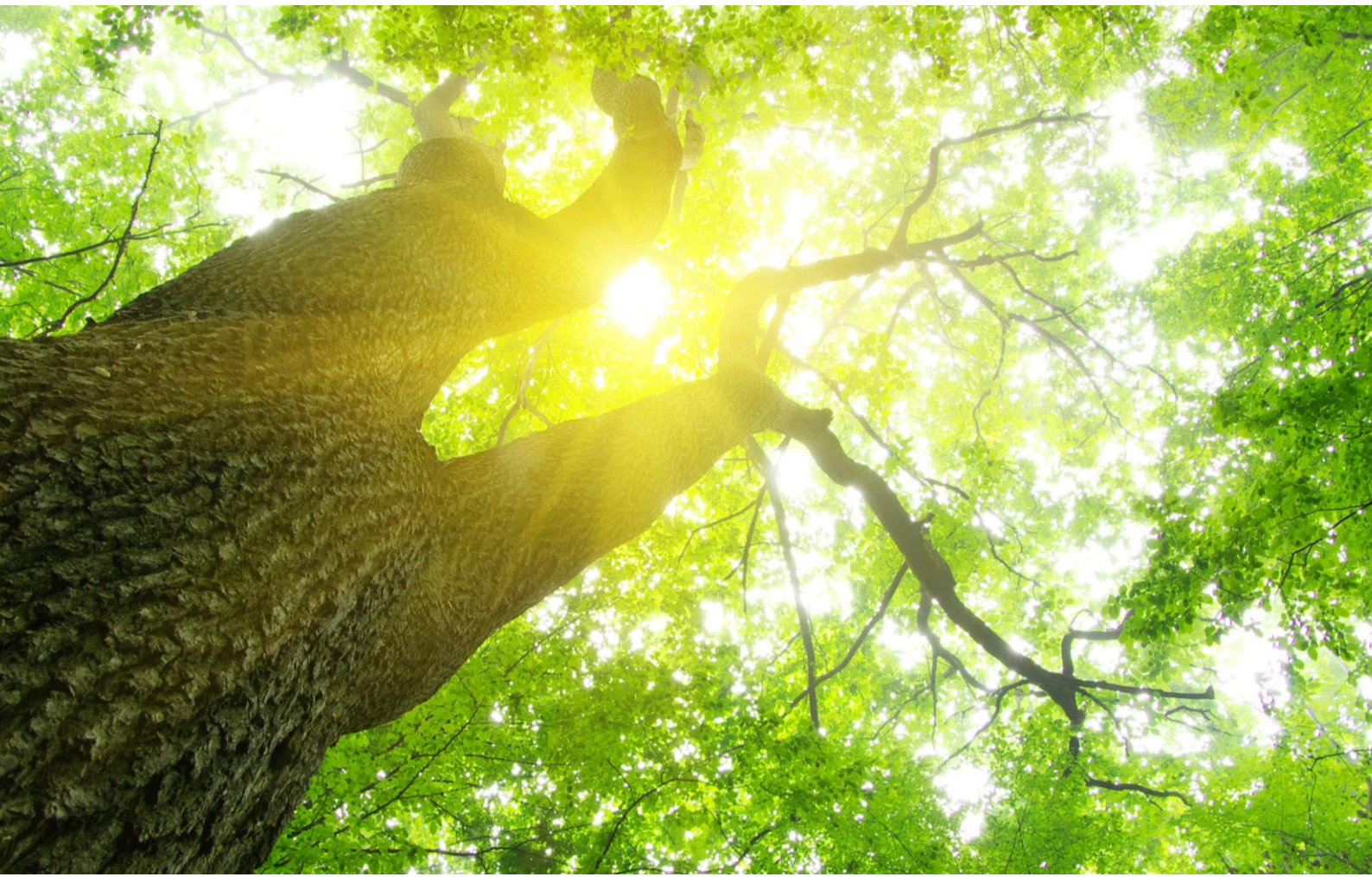
It is right that there is an increasing focus on the importance of valuing nature and protecting biodiversity. The B7 recognise that businesses have an important role to play in limiting the impact of their activities on the planet and are committed to further work to shape the principles for 'nature-positive' business action. Meanwhile, G7 governments can put in place policies that support business in addressing these challenges, such as through national biodiversity strategies with targets set in line with objectives set out in the Convention on Biological Diversity Post-2020 framework. They can also progress international collaboration on the development of science-based, globally recognised metrics for business in quantifying their impact on nature.

Recommendations:

- The G7 should lead international action on agreed cross-economy net-zero targets by progressing decarbonised power generation. Setting a target to phase out unabated coal in power generation, where feasible by 2040, as a benchmark for policy ambition

could be an important signal. Governments will need to implement detailed policy plans and incentives to support industry, workers and communities impacted by the transition, and drive innovation in abatement technologies and alternative zero-carbon power generation technologies.

- The G7 should increase international alignment in developing sustainable finance taxonomies, disclosures, regulations, and policy frameworks to support climate risk mitigation and facilitate the growth of sustainable finance.
- G7 nations should prioritise national policies to support the development of markets that value biodiversity, natural environments and natural carbon sinks, and nature-positive business activity.
- The B7 commit to further develop a set of specific principles for understanding business activity on biodiversity and supports business in quantifying their impact on nature and how to value natural assets and services.



Showing global digital leadership

After decades of growing economies, digital technologies have this past year helped preserve them, acting as a bedrock of resilience during the pandemic. Now is the moment where digital development will be increasingly transformative and it is critical that the G7 shows global digital leadership.

The B7 believe the best and fairest model of sustainable growth requires resilient network infrastructure through a diverse supply chain: supported by free data flows, underpinned by data protection standards that the public trust, and the strongest safeguards to keep public institutions, citizens and businesses cybersecure. Moreover, we highlight the need for a stable regulatory environment which promotes innovation, investment and competition, while supporting democratic values.

Achieving this will require government action and international co-operation. Industry stands ready to make its own contribution to an inclusive global recovery – investing, innovating and helping solve societal challenges.

Recommendations:

- The G7 should establish greater cooperation on next-generation regulatory frameworks governing emerging technologies like AI and fintech, illegal goods and content, and digital competition issues.
- The G7 should construct a formal mechanism to advance telecoms diversification and identify opportunities for policy collaboration, including on RD&I, to accelerate to market opportunities, such as virtualised networks.
- The B7 endorses the G7 goal to develop roadmaps on areas for international cooperation to support data transfers across G7 economies, across issues such as unjustified data localisation, regulatory cooperation, access to government data, and approaches to voluntary data sharing and it commits to working with the G7 to deliver this.

Seizing the moment

We are faced with an opportunity to transform and relaunch the global agenda with renewed global governance and leadership. Building on the work of the B7 and our global partners, including the Italian Presidency of the G20, business is committed to creating a lasting legacy. Business is ready to work in partnership with governments domestically and on the multilateral stage to deliver this global economic vision, building back better for all.

B7 recommendations: Governments and business driving recovery and change

Overall recommendations	
Health	The G7 should champion a revitalised WHO and strengthen its role to coordinate the response to Covid-19 and future pandemics.
	The G7 should facilitate vaccine production and roll out , avoiding counter-productive export bans and uncoordinated national initiatives with adverse effects on international vaccine supply chains.
	The G7 must continue to champion global vaccination , via tools such as the COVAX facility. They should improve the sharing of health data globally and engage business in identifying future health related systemic risks to the global economy.
International mobility	G7 governments need to enact clear, consistent and internationally harmonised standards and procedures for restarting cross-border travel , using mutual recognition of Covid-19 tests and digital health credentials to enable a globally applicable solution.
Macro-economic response	The G7 nations should ensure more effective collaboration on macroeconomic policy , to support growth, manage the risk of debt imbalances, inflation, and limit long term economic scarring.
	The G7 should coordinate action on critical minerals and semi-conductors to promote diversified sources that will enable resilient global supply chains.
	The G7 should take a strong international stance regarding human rights and share any serious concerns regarding human rights situations.
	The G7 should enhance cooperation through a multi-stakeholder approach to strive for an open, transparent consensus-based international system of international regulations, standard setting, rules and norms .
Inclusive recovery	G7 governments need to use dynamic economic policies to drive business investment , help business stimulate growth and create jobs across their supply chains.
	The G7 should coordinate national and international policy developments more effectively to make progress on key areas that support inclusion across nations and communities .
	We call on the G7 to continue to work with the OECD to reform the international corporate tax system so that it ensures competitive neutrality and is fit for the future.
Trade	The G7 should commit to a G7 roadmap to roll back protectionist measures adopted in the pandemic, including export restrictions, over the next 12 months; and commit to prioritising open global supply chains over consideration of export restrictions.
	The G7 should rebuild trust in the WTO by putting G7 support behind credible concrete outcomes at this year's Ministerial in November: finalise

	<p>the agreement on fisheries and the Joint Statement Initiatives on services, and secure progress on the JSI on e-commerce.</p> <p>The G7 must develop a common position on major WTO reform initiatives (dispute settlement, subsidies and special and differential treatment) with a cross-Presidency work plan in 2021 to deliver them.</p> <p>The G7 must ensure climate is integral to the WTO's modernisation agenda by relaunching work on the WTO's Environmental Goods Agreement and prioritise trade in health by committing at the WTO Ministerial to update the 1995 WTO Pharmaceuticals Tariff Elimination Agreement.</p> <p>The B7 will actively support the role of the WTO and will liaise with the WTO Secretariat to develop new forms of structured engagement with business representative organisations.</p>
Climate	<p>The G7 should lead international action on agreed cross-economy net-zero targets by progressing decarbonised power generation. Setting a target to phase out unabated coal in power generation, where feasible by 2040, as a benchmark for policy ambition could be an important signal. Governments will need to implement detailed policy plans and incentives to support industry, workers and communities impacted by the transition, and drive innovation in abatement technologies and alternative zero-carbon power generation technologies.</p> <p>The G7 should increase international alignment in developing sustainable finance taxonomies, disclosures, regulations, and policy frameworks to support climate risk mitigation and facilitate the growth of sustainable finance.</p> <p>G7 nations should prioritise national policies to support the development of markets that value biodiversity, natural environments and natural carbon sinks, and nature-positive business activity.</p> <p>The B7 commit to further develop a set of specific principles for understanding business activity on biodiversity and supports business in quantifying their impact on nature and how to value natural assets and services.</p>
Digital	<p>The G7 should establish greater cooperation on next-generation regulatory frameworks governing emerging technologies like AI and fintech, illegal goods and content, and digital competition issues.</p> <p>The G7 should construct a formal mechanism to advance telecoms diversification and identify opportunities for policy collaboration, including on RD&I, to accelerate to market opportunities, such as virtualised networks.</p> <p>The B7 endorses the G7 goal to develop roadmaps on areas for international cooperation to support data transfers across G7 economies, across issues such as unjustified data localisation, regulatory cooperation, access to government data, and approaches to voluntary data sharing and commits to working with the G7 to deliver this.</p>

Annex: B7 Policy Paper Recommendations

Digital	
Telecoms diversification	The G7 should construct a formal mechanism to advance telecoms diversification and identify opportunities for policy collaboration, including on RD&I, to accelerate to market opportunities, such as virtualised networks.
	The G7 should support continued cooperation on the international promotion of industry-led technical, consensus-based standards and advance technology-neutral approaches to encourage innovation, interoperability, and diversification in telecoms systems.
	G7 governments in close collaboration with industry should stimulate demand for connectivity technologies through targeted support for business adoption and experimentation, such as industrial 5G applications.
	G7 governments in the deployment of next generation telecommunications products, services, and processes should carefully consider alignment with the recommendations of the “The Prague Proposals”
Data free flow with trust	The B7 endorses the G7 goal to develop roadmaps on areas for international cooperation to support data transfers across G7 economies, across issues such as unjustified data localisation, regulatory cooperation, access to government data, and approaches to voluntary data sharing. The G7 should also oppose measures that require the transfer of or access to source code as a market access requirement
	The G7 must lead by example and work together and with other nations to reemphasise that ‘equivalent’ standards don’t necessarily translate as ‘identical’ standards on personal data protection.
	The G7 should support regulatory and institutional data protection capacity-building in developing countries.
	The G7 Trade Ministers should seek substantial progress and agreement on the WTO e-commerce negotiations, advancing a ‘high standard’ principles-based outcome that promotes cross-border data flows.
	The G7 should consider the thinking emerging from the OECD’s research on key issues impacting cross-border data flows, for example working jointly to develop international norms in this space.
Cybersecurity	The B7 supports greater G7 government coordination on attribution and accountability of state conduct in cyberspace which violates international law, norms, rules, and principles of responsible behaviour by states.
	G7 governments should lead efforts by the UN Group of Governmental Experts to strengthen the rules of the road for state conduct in cyberspace.
	The G7 should develop an international platform on cyber risks to allow businesses and governments to share data about cyber incidents all around the world to improve global knowledge, stimulate common actions, and help prevent attacks.

	<p>G7 countries should review best practice and new methods of bilateral and multilateral cooperation, capacity building, confidence building, and voluntary information exchange on cybersecurity via trade deals, Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties, and RD&I collaborations.</p>
	<p>The B7 supports leveraging industry expertise in the development of secure by design standards and cyber technology assurance standards.</p>
	<p>G7 countries should continue to invest in technical support and awareness raising measures for business, particularly SMEs.</p>
<p>Cooperation on emerging technologies and digital regulatory models</p>	<p>The G7 should establish greater cooperation on next-generation regulatory frameworks governing emerging technologies like AI and fintech, illegal goods and content, and digital competition issues. Governments should work closely with industry and civil society to develop proportionate, effective and trusted policy, recognising the role of existing rules in governing digital technologies and looking to identify and discuss gaps, areas of divergence, and pinch points.</p>
	<p>The B7 welcomes the UK government's proposal to establish and host a Future Tech Forum to bring together governments, industry, academia, and civil society in dialogue on a core set of principles to guide the evolution of the international technology ecosystem.</p>
	<p>G7 nations should enhance cooperation between industry and government on measures to counter online harms to keep citizens safe and to protect democracies from misinformation and disinformation, while maintaining safeguards that support free speech, pluralism, and digital skills. This cooperation should extend from G7 countries to the rest of the world.</p>
	<p>Given the importance of the technical standards which underpin the internet and digital growth, the G7 should support the industry-led multi-stakeholder model, while focusing on capacity-building which allows industry and civil society to engage effectively.</p>
<p>Digital facilitation of trade</p>	<p>The G7 should identify the legal, regulatory, and technical obstacles to the use of Electronic Transferrable Records in G7 countries.</p>
	<p>The G7 should commit to a timetable for aligning legal frameworks to the UN Commission of International Law (UNCITRAL) Model on Electronic Transferable Records (MLETR).</p>
	<p>Each G7 country should identify a single lead department who is responsible for digitising trade and reporting back on progress.</p>
	<p>The G7 should commit to fund capacity building for developing economies in this area.</p>

Climate	
<p>Enabling global decarbonisation in key sectors</p>	<p>G7 governments should lead international action on agreed cross-economy net-zero targets by progressing decarbonised power generation. Setting a target to phase out unabated coal in power generation, where feasible by 2040, as a benchmark for policy ambition could be an important signal. Governments will need to implement detailed policy plans and incentives to support industry, workers and communities impacted by the transition, and drive innovation in abatement technologies and alternative zero-carbon power generation technologies.</p>
	<p>G7 nations should commit to deliver a complementary mix of national plans and international cooperation to cut transport emissions across sectors. National roadmaps for the uptake of electrified vehicles</p>

	<p>and new low-carbon fuels should be developed alongside international agreements on emissions reduction targets for aviation and shipping.</p> <p>G7 countries should set clear, ambitious, consistent and measurable roadmaps for hard-to-abate sectors to reach net-zero emissions. Given the global nature of supply and value chains, G7 countries should coordinate efforts in establishing such roadmaps and the necessary policy incentives by convening key players and governments.</p>
Sustainable Finance measures to drive climate action	<p>The G7 should increase international alignment in developing sustainable finance taxonomies, disclosures, regulations, and policy frameworks to support climate risk mitigation and facilitate the growth of sustainable finance.</p>
	<p>All G7 countries should support the acceleration of the adoption of climate risk and opportunities disclosures such as those aligned to the FSB's TCFD.</p>
	<p>G7 countries could encourage the development of an agreed framework on which G7 economies should develop and adopt taxonomies.</p>
	<p>The G7 governments should develop supporting policies with clear roadmaps to support with financing the transition.</p>
The role of carbon pricing and carbon markets	<p>G7 to commit to supporting the development of coordinated market-based mechanisms, such as carbon pricing, and support progress of Article 6 negotiations on the Paris Agreement.</p>
Government policies to support biodiversity	<p>G7 nations should prioritise national policies to support the development of markets that value biodiversity, natural environments and natural carbon sinks, and nature-positive business activity.</p>

Trade	
Showing the WTO can deliver	<p>The G7 should rebuild trust in the WTO, by putting G7 support behind credible concrete outcomes at this year's Ministerial in November: finalise the agreement on fisheries and the Joint Statement Initiatives on services, and secure progress on the JSI on e-commerce.</p>
	<p>The G7 should target one clear digital win by campaigning to make permanent the moratorium on customs duties on electronic transmission which is currently renewed every two years.</p>
A medium-term plan to modernise the WTO's governance	<p>G7 members must develop a common position on major reform initiatives starting with renewed dispute settlement based on the Walker principles ahead of the 2021 Ministerial.</p>
	<p>The G7 should launch work on subsidies and special and differential treatment in 2021 and report back in 2022 G7 summit.</p>
	<p>G7 nations should agree a cross-Presidency work plan in 2021 to deliver fundamental reform.</p>
	<p>The B7 will actively support the role of the WTO and free trade and we will liaise with the WTO Secretariat to develop new forms of structured engagement with business representative organisations.</p>
Combatting protectionism including in health	<p>The G7 should commit to a G7 roadmap to roll back protectionist measures adopted in the pandemic, including export restrictions, over the next 12 months; and commit to prioritising open global supply chains over consideration of export restrictions.</p>

	<p>The G7 should work with WTO Members to facilitate the free movement of medicines, vaccines and consumer health products, both now and in the future, to ensure timely access to medicines for those who need them.</p>
	<p>G7 members should commit at the WTO Ministerial to update the 1995 WTO Pharmaceuticals Tariff Elimination Agreement to reduce the cost of medicine production by adding new active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs). In the short term, the G7 should commit to negotiating a permanent plurilateral agreement on Trade and Health which, at a minimum, would include tariff liberalisation, disciplining export restrictions and improved trade facilitation for all pharmaceutical products and their components.</p>
<p>Reorienting trade policy in favour of low carbon goods and services</p>	<p>The G7 must re-launch work on the WTO's Environmental Goods Agreement with an announcement at the November Ministerial that the G7 will support work in Geneva to update the list of eligible goods and the services eventually provided with those goods.</p>
	<p>G7 members must ensure climate is integral to the WTO's modernisation agenda by promoting environmental services and disciplining distortive fossil fuels subsidies.</p>
	<p>The G7 must lead from the front by making climate an important element of G7 trade policies and of the bilateral and plurilateral agreements presently being negotiated by G7 countries.</p>
<p>Building resilience and opportunities for SMEs</p>	<p>The G7 must remove obstacles to the use of Electronic Transferable Records in G7 countries as in the recommendations above for digital facilitation of trade above.</p>
	<p>The G7 should drive greater transparency for trade in services by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • adopting a negative list approach to inscribing services reservations in subsequent free trade agreements. • establishing a freely accessible database of barriers to services trade, independently hosted, and managed by the WTO. • agreeing between G7 nations to provide national treatment to suppliers trading cross-border through a commercial presence (mode 3 liberalisation).
	<p>The G7 should boost the participation of MSMEs by implementing the practical principles of the WTO's Informal Working Group on Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs).</p>

References

- 1 The WTO estimated in July 2020 the cumulative trade coverage of import-restrictive measures implemented since 2009, and that were still in force, amounted to USD 1.7 trillion or 8.7 per cent of world imports:https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/trdev_24jul20_e.htm

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United Kingdom 2021

