

Call for Action

NEW CONCEPTION OF PROSPERITY AND MEASURES OF PROGRESS NEEDED

27.06.2022

To overcome the major challenges the world is facing today - from recovering from the pandemic to mitigating climate change - the global community will need concerted, transformative policy efforts, aligned with collective values and societal goals. To achieve this, a new conception of prosperity, along with a related comprehensive yet concise set of goalpost indicators, are needed. We call upon the G7 to begin systematically measuring progress through internationally comparable, multidimensional metrics that cover (1) social well-being, (2) economic well-being, and (3) environmental sustainability.

It has been widely acknowledged, for example by the UN Secretary General and the current German G7 Presidency, that economic growth, measured in terms of GDP, is insufficient as a yardstick for the progress of nations. There is extensive evidence of the shortcomings of GDP as a measure of progress, including its association with the deterioration of natural and social capital. Nevertheless, GDP is still the central goalpost for assessing progress, informing development strategies, policy pathways, and budget priorities. The unintended consequences of this focus have been devastating, as is evident from pollution, climate change, and biodiversity loss, but also from growing inequalities, decreased social cohesion, and mounting public/private debt.

While significant advances have been made on the international and national statistical agendas on measuring progress beyond GDP, well-being indicator frameworks remain fragmented across countries and organisations, and their benefits for policy making are not even close to being used to their full potential. Therefore, a comprehensive measurement framework that rests on globally shared normative foundations and can serve as worldwide authority on assessing progress towards well-being of people within planetary boundaries is needed. We recommend that the key dimensions of present and future well-being be monitored for G7 countries and beyond to set the course for a sustainably prosperous future, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals. Policy makers must adopt this new

measurement framework swiftly and consistently across countries and through time. The indicators must summarise well-being across its multiple dimensions and be amenable to disaggregation.

The G7 has a unique opportunity to recouple the social, economic, and environmental dimensions of well-being in assessing the progress of nations, aiming for an appropriate balance across these dimensions to achieve equitable, inclusive, and sustainable outcomes within planetary boundaries. We recommend that the G7 take the following concrete steps:

- Establish a G7 Working Group to explore the measurement of progress beyond GDP, with the objective of identifying a comprehensive yet concise set of indicators focused on multidimensional well-being across G7 countries to be regularly monitored in the future.
- Use this new measurement framework to align the G7 members around concrete policies for advancing social, economic, and environmental well-being beyond GDP.
- Promote data collection efforts at maximally granular level to monitor both multidimensional well-being and its distribution.

We call upon the G7 to show leadership by rethinking progress and adopting new measures focused on well-being that are comparable across countries and encompass not only material wealth and economic performance, but also the social and environmental dimensions of well-being.



The Think7 engagement group under the German G7 presidency 2022 is jointly chaired by the Global Solutions Initiative and the German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS) (formerly German Development Institute / Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik) as mandated by the German Federal Chancellery.)



Signatories as of 27 June, 2022^a

Milena Amaral (CEO), Neovili, France

Natalia Aquilino (Professor), National University of Entre Ríos, Argentina

Asian Development Bank Institute, Japan

Jesús Barron, Universidad de Sonora, Mexico

Jonathan Barth (Co-Director), ZOE Institute for Future-Fit Economies, Germany

Livia Bizikova (Lead, Monitoring and Governance, Tracking Progress), International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), Canada *

Franco Bruni (Vice President), Institute for International Political Studies (ISPI), Italy

Eduardo Carvalho (Head of Global Citizenship), IPERID, Brazil

Roberto Castellanos (Researcher/Lecturer), National Autonomous University of Mexico, Mexico

Alejandro Contreras Cerdan (Managing Director), Energy Factor, S.A., Mexico

Helen Ding (Senior Economist), World Resources Institute, Netherlands

Jakob Dirksen (Research and Policy Officer), Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI), UK *

Earth4All, Switzerland

Laura Marie Edinger-Schons (Professor of Sustainable Business), University of Mannheim, Germany

George F. Ellis (Professor Emeritus.), University of Cape Town, South Africa

Emil Evenhuis (Researcher Urban and Regional Development), PBL - Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency, Netherlands

Andrew Fanning (Data Analysis & Research Lead), Doughnut Economics Action Lab (DEAL), UK

Georg Feigl (Senior Economist), Chamber of Labour (Vienna), Austria

Marc Fleurbaey (Professor), Paris School of Economics (PSE), France

Doris Fuchs (Professor), University of Münster (WWU), Germany

Mattia Gallotti (Head of Research & Development, Associate Professor), The London Interdisciplinary School, UK

Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors: Community and Family Aid Foundation, Ghana; Friends of the Disabled Association, Lebanon; Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary-Loreto Generalate, US; International Presentation Association, US; JusticeMakers, Bangladesh; National Union on Intellectual Disability, Lebanon; Phenix Center for Economics and Informatics Studies, Jordan

Jorge Gomez-Paredes (Director), UN SDSN Andes & Beyond One Foundation, Ecuador

Dennis Görlich (Program Manager), THE NEW INSTITUTE, Germany

David Green (Consultant), Improveon, UK

Jakob Hafele (Co-Director), ZOE Institute for Future-Fit Economies, Germany

David Heymann, UCL, UK

Fjoralba Hoxhallari (Specialist sector of "Development policies for people with disabilities"), Ministry of Health and Social Protection Albania, Albania

Amanda Janoo (Economics and Policy Lead), Wellbeing Economy Alliance (WEAll), UK

Kata Katona (Environmentalism)

Christian Kroll (Professor of Sustainability), IU International University; SDG Index and Dashboards, Germany

Inhoe Ku (Professor), Seoul National University, South Korea

Guillaume Lafortune (Vice President & Head of Paris Office), UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), France

Hajo Lanz (Director), Friedrich Ebert Foundation Geneva, Switzerland

Stephanie Lauth Shaelou (Professor of European Law and Reform, Head of School and Chair of Research and Innovation), UCLan Cyprus, Cyprus

Martin Lehmann (Associate Professor), Aalborg University, Denmark

Katharina Lima de Miranda (Program Manager), The New Institute (TNI), Kiel Institute for the World Economy (IfW), Global Solutions Initiative (GSI), Germany *

Martin Lok (Executive Director), Capitals Coalition, Netherlands

Stephen Martin (Hon Professor Learning for Sustainability), Universities of Worcester and Nottingham, UK

Colin Mayer (Emeritus Professor), Saïd Business School (SBS), University of Oxford, UK

Toloue Miandar (Assistant professor), University of Bologna, Italy

Henrietta Moore (Founder & Director, Professor), Institute for Global Prosperity (IGP), University College London (UCL), UK

Tatiana Moreira de Souza, University of Liverpool, UK

Andrew Mountfield (Senior Research Fellow), Oxford University, UK

Jose Navarro (Researcher), TU Dresden, Germany

Panashe Ndlovu (Peacebuilder), Indonesia

Yelena Novikova (Independent expert on ESG Integration, G20 Global Solutions Initiative Young Global Changer), Germany

Fiona Nunan (Professor of Environment and Development), University of Birmingham, UK

Mina Ogbanga (Faculty), Centre for Development Support Initiatives, Nigeria

Richard Parsons (Project Director, NSW wellbeing budget), NSW Department of Planning and Environment, Australia

Alaine Perrott

Amna Potocnik (Regional Development Expert), Regional Development Agency for Podravje - Maribor, Slovenia

Mónica Quinzá Armenta (Consultant), Centre for Well-being, Inclusion, Sustainability and Equal Opportunity (WISE), OECD, France

Gabriela Ramos (Assistant Director General for Social and Human Affairs), Unesco, France

Narasimha D. Rao (Associate Professor), Yale School of the Environment (YSE), US

Calin-Ciprian Rus-Gheorghiu (CEO), Arhebis Digital Systems, Romania

César Salazar (Researcher), Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Mexico

Niall Smith (Chief executive), TBA21-Academy, UK

Robert Smith International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), Midsummer Analytics, Canada *

Dennis Snower (Founder & President), Global Solutions Initiative (GSI), Germany; The New Institute (TNI) Germany; Hertie School of Governance (HSoG), Germany; Institute for New Economic Thinking (INET Oxford) and Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford, UK; Brookings Institution, USA *

Andrea Soccorso (Co founder), AfterWeVote, US

Social Progress Imperative, US

Judith Stroehle (Senior Research Fellow), Saïd Business School (SBS), University of Oxford, UK

Michel Tia (CEO), All Party System Co, US

Elena Tosetto (Statistician), OECD, France

Robel Yeshitela (Senior Programme Manager), Initiative Africa, Ethiopia

Ryan Yip, Hong Kong

Zakaria Zoundi (Policy Advisor), International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), Canada *

^a Some signatories have requested to remain anonymous. We respect this and therefore do not publish their names here. Overall 86 individuals and institutions from 35 countries co-signed this call.

*Contributed to drafting this call.