



© Photo by Sam Moqadam on Unsplash

T7 Task Force International cooperation for the global common good

POLICY BRIEF

G7 INVESTMENT IN PEACEBUILDING FOR THE GLOBAL COMMON GOOD

22.03.2022

Sonja Dobson G7 Research Group



Abstract

G7 leaders at the Elmau Summit should commit to investing in peacebuilding efforts through three main avenues: development aid and reform, gender equality, and connecting the local to the global. They should do this through reallocating funds to peacebuilding efforts, tracking their progress on making the world more peaceful, and supporting the reform of UN peacebuilding efforts; focusing on investing in gender equality and access to quality education through peace processes; and supporting local and Indigenous people's views in a peace process. These actions would directly address the global decline in peace, which the G7, as global leaders and defenders of democracy, human rights and the rule of law, should see as a priority.

This would also build on G7 leaders existing peace-related commitments that have been complied with. Of the G7 commitments that have been assessed for compliance, the average rate of compliance is 73%. The G7 is committed to peace but needs to take strong actions to increase the global level of peace as the global level of peace in 2022 is lower than the global level of peace was in 2008. While different members have different interests to invest in peace, the bottom line is that it is in the best interest of all G7 members to ensure a more peaceful world. Especially now, as Ukraine is ravaged by the illegal full-scale war launched against them by Russia. Conflict and violence do not just cost the world precious lives and resources, but also trillions of dollars annually.

Challenge

On February 24, 2022, Russia started a total war against Ukraine, eight years in the making. The war has ravaged Ukraine and has involved countless other countries through taking in refugees, and sending aid, resources and weapons. Much of the world is on the side of Ukraine, however, Russia's recent expanding influence in Africa has clearly had an impact. Of the five UN General Assembly members who voted against condemning the Russian attack on Ukraine, one, Eritrea, is in Africa. Of the 35 abstention votes, 17 are African nations.¹ Russia's support has been primarily military to fight rebels or jihadist militants, as these countries are experiencing internal conflict.² Investing in peacebuilding efforts in Africa will lessen African nations reliance on Russia for military support, foster growth and development, and support the global common good.

2022 will likely be another year in which peace deteriorates. The Global Peace Index 2021 report, which ranks the peacefulness of 163 independent states and territories, found that, for the ninth time in the last 13 years, the average level of global peacefulness declined in 2021. Since the first Global Peace Index in 2008, peacefulness has only improved four times and the level of peace of the world in 2021 was lower than the level of peace recorded in 2008. This is in part due to the COVID-19 pandemic significantly impacting the levels of conflict and violence, fueling civil unrest.³

The economic impact of violence is substantial: estimated to be nearly USD 15 trillion in purchasing power parity in 2020,⁴ up from USD 14.4 trillion in constant purchasing power parity in 2019 after declining by USD 64 billion from 2018. The global economic cost of violence has so far peaked in 2020.⁵ Violence and conflict have a far-reaching impact, far beyond the lives of those directly involved: but so do peacebuilding efforts. The G7 needs to invest more effort in peacebuilding in Africa, which will have a global impact.

Proposals

At Elmau, the G7 should commit to:

Peacebuilding: Development Aid and Reform

1. **Earmark at least 0.2% of the 0.7% ODA/GNI target for international aid to go to peacebuilding efforts.** Growth and development thrive in peaceful and stable societies. In 2020, the estimated ODA/GNI for G7 members was as follows: Canada at 0.3 per cent, France at 0.5 per cent, Germany at 0.7 per cent, Italy at 0.2 per cent, Japan at 0.3 per cent, the UK at 0.7 per cent, and the US at 0.17 per cent.⁶ If a G7 member does not already contribute the 0.7 per cent to ODA, it can increase its ODA contribution by investing in peacebuilding efforts.
2. **Mandate a Working Group or Task Force to produce an annual report specifically focusing on the G7's progress on peace.** The G7 Accountability Working Group already produces a progress report

on development and development related commitments, including on women, peace and security and conflicts and crises in Africa. The G7 should create a subgroup within the Accountability Working Group to focus only on G7 progress on creating peace. The first report should be completed by end 2022.

3. **Support reform processes of UN peace operations and peacebuilding efforts.** In 2016, G7 members first stated support for the ongoing reform processes on UN peace operations and peacebuilding activities, but there has not been much progress on that front in the last 6 years.⁷
4. **Allocate a portion of the defense budget for conflict prevention.** While the war in Ukraine makes it unreasonable for the G7 to immediately take action on reallocating some of the defense budget from supporting Ukraine to conflict prevention, plans should be considered on how and when it will be reasonable to do so.

Peacebuilding: Gender Equality

1. **Ensure commitment to gender equality and prioritize improved access to quality education for girls and women in the early stages of peacebuilding efforts.** “Gender equality is the number one predictor of peace...Women’s participation increases the probability of a peace agreement lasting at least two years by 20 percent, and by 35 percent the probability of a peace agreement lasting 15 years.”⁸
2. **Reiterate commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals, including SDG 4 on Quality Education and SDG 16 to Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies.** The 2030 Agenda deadline is coming up quickly and there has not been enough progress on the goals, especially with the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Peacebuilding: Connecting the Local to the Global

1. **Build the capacities of both local people and women to advance their involvement in international peace and security efforts.** As the saying goes, African solutions to African problems.
2. **Consult local and Indigenous people before, during and after peacebuilding efforts.** Local and Indigenous peoples’ needs and wants are a lot easier to determine, promote and invest in if they are involved in the process throughout.
3. **Explore linkages between local, national and international initiatives relating to peace and security.** The local, national and international can all learn from each other to grow and progress. This would tie into the G7’s promotion of and views on the importance of pluralism.

Implementations

The G7 as a whole and individually have long worked closely with African nations and the African Union, inviting leaders of African nations and the African Union to the G7 Summits. Germany hosts the German-Africa Investment Summit and is seeking a larger role in EU-Africa policy,⁹ Canada hosts the Canada-Africa Business Conference,¹⁰ France held the New Africa-France Summit in October 2021 and has a close relationship with Francophone African nations,¹¹ Japan launched the Tokyo International Conference of African Development in 1993,¹² the UK launched the UK-Africa Investment Summit in 2020,¹³ and the US hosts the US-Africa Leaders' Summit.¹⁴ Furthermore, at the G7 Biarritz Summit, the G7 published the Sahel Partnership Action Plan and the Biarritz Declaration for a G7 and Africa Partnership.¹⁵

Canada's international development efforts in Sub-Saharan Africa are concentrated in 10 countries.¹⁶ France's Development Agency works in 50 African nations.¹⁷ Germany's KfW Development Bank invests in 31 African nations.¹⁸ Italy's development agency works in seven African nations.¹⁹ The Japan International Cooperation Agency works in 35 African nations.²⁰ The United Kingdom's UK Aid works with 23 African nations.²¹ The United States' USAID works in 28 African nations.²²

The top 10 African nations in which the G7, individually and together, should focus their peacebuilding efforts are the Central African Republic, the DRC, Ethiopia, Ghana, Madagascar, Mozambique, South Sudan, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. These 10 nations already have all or most of the G7 members working with or investing in them, therefore the close relationships to pursue or strengthen peacebuilding efforts are already in place. Furthermore, the G7 should strengthen their work with the G5 Sahel countries – Mauritania, Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso and Chad – which also have strong relationships with the G7.

Investing in peace leads to positive impacts such as thriving economics, better performance on ecological measures, and high levels of resilience and adaptability to change. Peace, particularly positive peace, leads to inclusive, healthy and happy societies.²³ According to the Institute for Economics and Peace, "If all countries improved their peacefulness to the average of the 40 most peaceful countries, the reduction in violence would accrue to \$3.6 trillion in savings over the next decade."²⁴ Peacebuilding efforts in Africa by the G7 will lead to a more stable geopolitical environment including by taking allies away from Russia and China, progress on the SDGs including through education for girls, an improvement in the global economy, and savings on conflict that will be able to be invested in other sectors such as climate change, infrastructure and health. As the world watches civilians and children in Ukraine being targeted by Russia and Russia committing war crimes in Ukraine, there is no argument that investing in peace is not a good investment. People do not need to suffer at the hands of others and the G7 is in a position to help make that stop.

Endnotes

- ¹ Al Jazeera. (2022). UN resolution against Ukraine invasion: Full text. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/3/3/unga-resolution-against-ukraine-invasion-full-text>
- ² BBC News. (2022). Ukraine conflict: How Russia forged closer ties with Africa. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-60506765>
- ³ Institute for Economics and Peace. (2021). Global Peace Index 2021. <https://www.visionofhumanity.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/GPI-2021-web-1.pdf>
- ⁴ Institute for Economics and Peace. (2021). Global Peace Index 2021. <https://www.visionofhumanity.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/GPI-2021-web-1.pdf>
- ⁵ Institute for Economics and Peace. (2021). Economic Value of Peace 2021: Measuring the global economic impact of violence and conflict. <https://www.visionofhumanity.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/EVP-2021-web.pdf>
- ⁶ Focus 2030. (2021). How Much Do the G7 Countries Give in Official Development Assistance (ODA)? <https://focus2030.org/How-much-do-the-G7-countries-give-in-Official-Development-Assistance-ODA>
- ⁷ G7 Information Centre (2016). G7 Ise-Shima Leaders' Declaration. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/ise-shima-declaration-en.html>
- ⁸ Women's International League for Peace & Freedom. (n.d.). Does Gender Equality Lead to Peace? <https://www.peacewomen.org/sites/default/files/Fact%20Sheet%20Gender%20Equality.pdf>
- ⁹ Euractiv. (2022). Germany seeks key role in new EU-Africa policy. <https://www.euractiv.com/section/africa/news/germany-seeks-key-role-in-new-eu-africa-policy/>
- ¹⁰ Canada-Africa. (2021). The Canada-Africa Business Conference. <https://canadaafrica.ca/blogs/news/the-canada-africa-business-conference>
- ¹¹ Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs. (2021). The New Africa-France Summit, reinventing our relationship together. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/africa/the-new-africa-france-summit-reinventing-our-relationship-together/>
- ¹² UNDP. (n.d.). Tokyo International Conference on African Development. https://www.africa.undp.org/content/rba/en/home/about_us/ticad0.html
- ¹³ UN. (2020). First UK-Africa Investment Summit signals post-Brexit plans for continent. <https://www.un.org/africarenewal/news/first-uk-africa-investment-summit-signals-post-brexit-plans-continent>
- ¹⁴ White House. (2021). President Biden to Host Second US-Africa Leaders Summit. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/11/19/president-biden-to-host-second-u-s-africa-leaders-summit/>
- ¹⁵ G7 Information Centre. (2019). Official Documents. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2019biarritz/index.html>

¹⁶ Government of Canada (n.d.). Canada and Sub-Saharan Africa. https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international_relations-relations_internationales/africa-afrique/index.aspx?lang=eng

¹⁷ French Development Agency. (n.d.) News. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites>

¹⁸ KfW German Development Bank. (n.d.). Sub-Saharan Africa. <https://www.kfw-entwicklungsbank.de/International-financing/KfW-Development-Bank/Local-presence/Subsahara-Africa/>

¹⁹ Cassa Depositi e Prestiti. (n.d.). Our projects. https://www.cdp.it/sitointernet/en/mappa_explora.page

²⁰ Japan International Cooperation Agency. (n.d.). Africa.

<https://www.jica.go.jp/english/countries/africa/index.html>

²¹ UK Aid. (n.d.). Where we work. <https://www.ukaidirect.org/about/where-we-work>

²² US Aid. (n.d.). Africa. <https://www.usaid.gov/where-we-work/africa>

²³ Institute for Economics and Peace. (2022). Positive Peace Report 2022.

<https://www.economicsandpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/PPR-2022-web-1.pdf>

²⁴ Institute for Economics and Peace. (2021). Economic Value of Peace 2021: Measuring the global economic impact of violence and conflict. <https://www.visionofhumanity.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/EVP-2021-web.pdf>

References

- Al Jazeera. (2022). UN resolution against Ukraine invasion: Full text. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/3/3/unga-resolution-against-ukraine-invasion-full-text>
- BBC News. (2022). Ukraine conflict: How Russia forged closer ties with Africa. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-60506765>
- Canada-Africa. (2021). The Canada-Africa Business Conference. <https://canadaafrica.ca/blogs/news/the-canada-africa-business-conference>
- Cassa Depositi e Prestiti. (n.d.). Our projects. https://www.cdp.it/sitointernet/en/mappa_explora. page
- Euractiv. (2022). Germany seeks key role in new EU-Africa policy. <https://www.euractiv.com/section/africa/news/germany-seeks-key-role-in-new-eu-africa-policy/>
- French Development Agency. (n.d.) News. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites>
- Focus 2030. (2021). How Much Do the G7 Countries Give in Official Development Assistance (ODA)? <https://focus2030.org/How-much-do-the-G7-countries-give-in-Official-Development-Assistance-ODA>
- G7 Information Centre. (2019). Official Documents. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2019biarritz/index.html>
- G7 Information Centre. (2016). G7 Ise-Shima Leaders' Declaration. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/ise-shima-declaration-en.html>
- Government of Canada (n.d.). Canada and Sub-Saharan Africa. https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international_relations-relations_internationales/africa-afrique/index.aspx?lang=eng
- Institute for Economics and Peace. (2021). Global Peace Index 2021. <https://www.visionofhumanity.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/GPI-2021-web-1.pdf>
- Institute for Economics and Peace. (2021). Economic Value of Peace 2021: Measuring the global economic impact of violence and conflict. <https://www.visionofhumanity.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/EVP-2021-web.pdf>
- Institute for Economics and Peace. (2022). Positive Peace Report 2022: Analysing the factors that build predict and sustain peace. <https://www.economicsandpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/PPR-2022-web-1.pdf>
- Japan International Cooperation Agency. (n.d.). Africa. <https://www.jica.go.jp/english/countries/africa/index.html>
- KfW German Development Bank. (n.d.). Sub-Saharan Africa. <https://www.kfw-entwicklungsbank.de/International-financing/KfW-Development-Bank/Local-presence/Subsahara-Africa/>

Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs. (2021). The New Africa-France Summit, reinventing our relationship together. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/africa/the-new-africa-france-summit-reinventing-our-relationship-together/>

OECD. (n.d.). The 0.7% ODA/GNI target – a history. <https://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-standards/the07odagtarget-ahistory.htm>

UK Aid. (n.d.). Where we work. <https://www.ukaidirect.org/about/where-we-work>

UNDP. (n.d.). Tokyo International Conference on African Development. https://www.africa.undp.org/content/rba/en/home/about_us/ticad0.html

UN. (2020). First UK-Africa Investment Summit signals post-Brexit plans for continent. <https://www.un.org/africarenewal/news/first-uk-africa-investment-summit-signals-post-brexit-plans-continent>

US Aid. (n.d.). Africa. <https://www.usaid.gov/where-we-work/africa>

White House. (2021). President Biden to Host Second US-Africa Leaders Summit. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/11/19/president-biden-to-host-second-u-s-africa-leaders-summit/>

Women's International League for Peace & Freedom. (n.d.). Does Gender Equality Lead to Peace? <https://www.peacewomen.org/sites/default/files/Fact%20Sheet%20Gender%20Equality.pdf>

World Population Review. (2022). Countries Currently at War 2022. <https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/countries-currently-at-war>

About the Author

Sonja Dobson – G7 Research Group



Sonja Dobson is a PhD student in peace and conflict studies at the University of Otago in New Zealand, focusing on the intersection of the local and the global. She holds a master's degree in conflict studies and human rights from Utrecht University in the Netherlands and an honours BA in African studies and political science from the University of Toronto. Sonja has worked with the G20, G7 and BRICS Research Groups since 2015. She is currently co-chair of the G20 Research Group and has served as editor of the BRICS Research Group since 2018. Sonja is also lead researcher on development for the G7 Research Group.

N=22	Commitment	Ave	Canada	France	Germany	Italy	Japan	Russia	UK	US	EU
1984-31	"We encourage the parties to seek a peaceful and honorable settlement. We shall support any efforts designed to bring this about, particularly those of the United Nations Secretary General."	-0.75	-1	-1	-1	-1	+1		-1	-1	-1
1996-115	"We urge the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) to develop the dialogue and cooperation with the Republic of Korea (ROK), this being the only means of achieving permanent peace on the Korean Peninsula and ensuring a more stable and more secure future for the Korean People....We call on the international community to join us in providing political and financial support for the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO).	-0.50	-1	-1	-1		0		-1	+1	
2001-54	We support the idea of convening a donors conference following the establishment of durable peace and a successful conclusion of a political agreement between the parties.	+0.56	+1	+1	+1	0	+1	-1	0	+1	+1
2002-32	"Training African peace support forces including through the development of regional centres of excellence for military and civilian aspects of conflict prevention and peace support, such as the Kofi Annan International Peace Training Centre;"	+0.38	+1	+1	+1	-1	-1	0	+1	+1	
2002-116	"Helping Africa combat the effects of HIV/AIDS – including by: Helping to enhance the capacity of Africa to address the challenges that HIV/AIDS poses to peace and security in Africa."	+0.50	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	-1	-1	+1	
2004-159	"Therefore, we commit, consistent with out national laws, to:...Work with interested parties, before the nest Summit, to develop a transportation and logistics support arrangement, which will help provide countries with transportation to deploy to peace	+0.67	+1	+1	+1	+1	-1	0	+1	+1	+1

	operations and logistics support to sustain units in the field. This kind of arrangement, which will take into account existing efforts, should address a key capabilities gap that often prevents timely intervention in crises.”										
2005-3	“The G8 in return agreed a comprehensive plan to support Africa's progress. This is set out in our separate statement today. We agreed: to provide extra resources for Africa's peacekeeping forces so that they can better deter, prevent and resolve conflicts in Africa.”	+0.67	+1	+1	+1	0	+1	-1	+1	+1	+1
2006-288	"In order to facilitate the UN's rapid and efficient response to crises, G8 states commit to pursuing reforms in the United Nations to ensure that resources are available in advance to the UN as it works to establish new peacekeeping and peace support operations: pre-positioning equipment in Brindisi, an increase in pre-authorization funds to support DPKO's planning, and the authority to identify personnel in advance of a UNSC resolution mandating a new PKO;"	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2008-203	"[We will, in particular] build capacity for peace support operations including providing quality training to and equipping troops by 2010, with focus on Africa, as well as enhance logistics and transportation support for deployment"	+0.67	+1	0	+1	+1	+1	0	+1	+1	0
2008-248	"We reaffirm the importance of economic and social development along with counter-terrorism measures in the Afghanistan-Pakistan border region, which can play a critical role in bringing lasting peace, stability and security to this region. To this end, we are committed to further strengthening the coordination of our efforts in the border region in cooperation with the respective countries, international organizations, and other donors."	0.00	+1	0	0	-1	-1	0	+1	+1	-1

2009-161	"[We will reinforce G8 programs, taking action to:]provide assistance, including financial, for African-led peace support operations, and work towards flexible and predictable funding."	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	-1	0	0	+1
2010-59	"To this end, we commit to strengthening: the international availability of civilian experts to support rule of law and security institutions; the capacities of key littoral states and regional organizations for maritime security; and international peace operations."	+0.89	+1	+1	0	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1
2011-83	"In this respect, we are committed to maintaining and strengthening the global nuclear non-proliferation regime based on the NPT and its three pillars of nonproliferation, disarmament, and peaceful uses of nuclear energy, including by taking the actions in the plan adopted by consensus at the 2010 NPT Review Conference."	+0.67	0	0	+1	0	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1
2012-75	"We reaffirm our unconditional support for all three pillars of the NPT disarmament, nonproliferation, and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy."	+1.00	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1
2013-198	[We are determined to work together to] support the Syrian people to establish peace and stability through political means.	+0.78	+1	+1	+1	0	+1	+1	+1	+1	0
2015-123	We support the ongoing UN-led processes to find lasting solutions for peace and stability in Syria	+0.75	0	+1	+1	+1	0		+1	+1	+1
2015-125	We support the ongoing UN-led processes to find lasting solutions for peace and stability in Yemen	-0.13	0	-1	0	-1	-1		+1	+1	0
2016-148	We reiterate our commitment to maintaining a rules-based maritime order in accordance with the principles of international law as reflected in UNCLOS, to peaceful dispute settlement supported by confidence-building measures and including through legal means as well as to sustainable uses of the seas and oceans, and to respected freedom of navigation and overflight.	+1.00	+1	+1		+1			+1	+1	

2018-?	We support the resumption without delay of substantive peace talks between Israelis and Palestinians aimed at achieving a negotiated solution that ensures the peace and security for both parties.	+0.50	-1	0	+1	+1	+1		+1	0	+1
2018-51	We are committed to permanently ensuring that Iran's nuclear program remains peaceful, in line with its international obligation and commitments to never seek, develop or acquire a nuclear weapon.	+0.63	0	+1	+1	0	+1		+1	0	+1
2018-176	We will ensure commitment to gender equality and prioritize improved access to quality education for girls and women in the early stages of humanitarian response and peacebuilding efforts, while supporting schools as safe spaces for children	+0.63	+1	0	0	+1	+1		+1	+1	0
2019-7	[We share an objective] to foster peace and stability in the region.	+0.88	+1	+1	0	+1	+1		+1	+1	+1
	Average	0.45	0.45	0.41	0.48	0.29	0.43	0	0.59	0.73	0.5

Table 1: G7 Compliance on Peace



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



Deutsches Institut für
Entwicklungspolitik



German Development
Institute



[This publication has been being published under the Creative Commons License CC BY-ND 4.0.](#) You are free to copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format for any purpose, even commercially. The licensor cannot revoke these freedoms as long as you follow the license terms:

Attribution — You must give appropriate credit, provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made. You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use.

NoDerivatives — If you remix, transform, or build upon the material, you may not distribute the modified material.

No additional restrictions — You may not apply legal terms or technological measures that legally restrict others from doing anything the license permits.

Publisher:



Global Solutions Initiative Foundation gGmbH
Rudi-Dutschke-Straße 26
D-10969 Berlin

www.global-solutions-initiative.org