

## G7 Summit in Elmau: Little progress towards an equitable world

At the beginning of the G7 presidency, the German government set priorities relevant to development policy, with a focus on issues such as the climate crisis, economic transformation, global health, infrastructure investment, human rights and the rule of law. These plans and the expectations attached to them were shaken by the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine. The new situation has not only presented the G7 with diplomatic and geopolitical challenges. The war has had massive repercussions worldwide, further exacerbating existing problems such as food security. Nevertheless, the industrialised countries bear a great responsibility for propelling change in many areas, such as the debt crisis, the global pandemic or the climate crisis. Significant momentum has been missed here. In view of the dramatic global situation, the results of the G7 summit are not satisfactory.

### **Humanitarian assistance and conflict**

The G7 has not put forward a strategy to meet the unprecedented humanitarian needs or to prevent the emergence of new crises. Many neglected crises require more political and financial attention to meet the needs of the most vulnerable and to defuse or prevent conflicts. The importance of conflict prevention and proactive humanitarian measures was also not mentioned here. Improving documentation and accountability with regard to gender-based violence is an important G7 commitment. However, it is insufficient that no plan for implementation exists thus far.

Since the G7 countries pledged to lift 500 million people out of hunger and poverty in 2015, the number of people suffering from hunger has steadily increased again. Nonetheless, there is still a lack of stocktaking or an action plan on how to achieve the goal by 2030. As the consequences of the war in Ukraine further aggravate the existing difficult situation, we welcome the

4.5 billion US dollars in the fight against hunger and malnutrition. However, more resources are urgently needed. Importantly, the G7 pledged that measures taken should help promote the resilience and sustainability of food systems. In addition, existing institutions such as the Committee on World Food Security must be given greater support and must not be weakened by the Global Alliance for Food Security.

### **Economic justice and transformation**

Given the ongoing debt crisis, the outcomes of the summit are disappointing. The G7 merely reaffirmed its commitment to the G20's Common Framework for Debt Treatments. Private creditors will continue to be encouraged to participate in debt relief, without any further steps being taken in this regard. Decisions to accelerate and improve the implementation of the Common Framework are urgently needed, but have not been taken.

Furthermore, the G7 countries could not agree on an excess profits tax for extra profits of companies during the coronavirus pandemic and the time of the war in Ukraine. This was a missed opportunity to mobilise urgently needed funds to implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and counteract a worsening poverty situation. Nor has the G7 offered any solutions to rising inflation and the deepening energy crisis, the impacts of which are currently affecting millions of people.

The G7 supports the work of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the G20 on a global minimum tax. Unfortunately, this initiative is inadequate. There is a need for international regulation at United Nations level.

### **Climate and environmental justice**

Keeping the 1.5-degree target within reach requires the fastest possible phase-out of fossil

fuels. It is therefore highly regrettable that the G7 has not agreed on a concrete phase-out of coal by 2030. The leaders have committed themselves to achieving a fully or predominantly decarbonised power sector by 2035. The departure from the international promotion of fossil infrastructure by the end of 2022 is reaffirmed. However, the exemption for liquefied petroleum gas must be viewed critically. This must not lead to a long-term expansion of gas production. In addition, development funds must not be used to promote fossil energy.

Infrastructure measures were an important point in the presidency's programme. The initiative to mobilise 600 billion US dollars for the development of infrastructure in developing and emerging countries is to be welcomed. Unfortunately, a large part of the announced funds comes from existing funds. The remaining financing is still unclear. The G7 governments urgently need to present concrete plans on how they can financially advance the major challenge of a global energy transition. The announced partnerships with developing and emerging countries for the expansion of renewable energies can be a good tool for this if they are financed adequately and implemented quickly.

The G7 countries have only committed themselves to existing climate financing objectives and commitments. Concrete statements would have been significant, such as achieving the 100 billion dollar target or doubling the budget for adaptation by 2025. It is to be welcomed that the importance of loss and damage has been recognised. As a next step, the G7 should support the establishment of a financing mechanism at this year's UN Climate Change Conference.

The proposed Climate Club should be open and inclusive and aim to complement and support the ambitious implementation of the Paris Agreement. It must not compete with the UN-FCCC or other multilateral processes.

The commitment to conserve or protect at least 30 percent of land and 30 percent of oceans by

2030 is to be welcomed. However, the necessary measures should be planned and implemented in partnership with local communities.

### **Global health**

We welcome the support of all four pillars of the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator, which aims to rapidly develop and equitably distribute COVID-19 tools. To defeat the pandemic worldwide, all countries need equitable access to vaccines, diagnostics and medicines. However, the G7 countries in particular have stood in the way of a patent waiver which would significantly improve access to these products. The presented G7 Pact for Pandemic Readiness does not make much progress in this respect and does not change the existing structural problems and dependencies.

We welcome the commitment to strengthen health systems, but there is no clear financial perspective. The G7 remains committed to supporting the replenishment of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. Clear indications as to how the G7 will contribute to the target amount of 18 billion dollars would have been desirable. The support of the Global Financing Facility and the Global Polio Eradication Initiative is also positive.

### **Open societies**

We welcome the G7's commitment to better protect civil society freedoms digitally and physically. Governments wish to strengthen transparent, accountable, inclusive and participatory governance and promote programmes to protect human rights defenders and anti-corruption activists. It is gratifying that the statements on open societies and resilient democracies have been institutionalised as part of the official G7 communiqués. These commitments must now be translated into quantifiable measures.

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