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**T7 Task Force International cooperation
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POLICY BRIEF

IDENTIFYING "IMPACT HUBS" FOR AGENDA 2030 AND G7 COMMITMENT TO AGENDA 2030 "POLICY TAGS" (SDG TAGS)

02.05.2022

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Abstract

The proposal is in three parts but aimed at a singular goal: achieving measurable progress toward the successful fulfillment of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The first element is to have the G7 members collectively map the key "impact hubs" as described by Anne-Marie Slaughter and Gordon LaForge (2021). The second element is to obtain a G7 commitment to identify what principal SDG, or SDGs, is promoted or advanced with every policy initiative or announcement, whether administrative, legislative, or executive through the use of SDG Tags. The third and final element of the proposal urges G7 efforts to obtain G20 adoption of the initiative.

Challenge

Agenda 2030 was approved by the UNGA in 2015. The problem: several countries, most notably the United States, have failed to reference or target their policy efforts on the SDGs. The United States (Ingram and Pipa 2022) and other G7 countries seldom mention or promote policy initiatives and efforts in relation to the 17 SDG Goals (Ingram and Hlavaty 2021). The publics in the G7 countries are barely aware of the commitments and efforts to date.[1] With time running out and with the setbacks on achieving many of the Agenda 2030 goals due to the global pandemic and now rising geopolitical tensions, all countries must redouble their efforts.[2]

Proposals

The policy recommendation is in three parts. First is a commitment by G7 countries to undertake a mapping exercise to identify what Slaughter and La Forge (2021) call "impact hubs". As the authors describe these hubs they are: "issue-specific organizations that sit at the center of a set of important actors working on a particular problem—coordinating their collective work toward common, clearly measurable goals and outcomes. A hub could be an existing international or regional organization, a coalition of nongovernmental organizations, or a new secretariat within the UN system specifically created for the purpose." (2021, 29)

The authors further point to the application of impact hubs to Agenda 2030: "A good place to start would be to look at the actors working on each of the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)—targets the world has agreed must be met by 2030 to achieve global peace and prosperity."

These hubs are "whole of society" instruments; they can run from the subnational and substate level – private companies such as Coca-Cola, Siemens, and Tata, as pointed out by the authors; large philanthropies such as the Gates Foundation, the Ford Foundation, and the Aga Khan Foundation; and research centers, private institutes, think tanks, and civic and faith groups, cities, states, and provinces and then to regional and international organizations including UN agencies. These impact hubs can be employed to reveal the 'heart' of efforts nationally and globally to advance Agenda 2030.

The second element of the proposal would entail G7 members agreeing to implement a program of "SDG Tags". The SDG Tags would be identified for policy initiatives whether such policies are administrative, legislative, or executive. The SDG Tag program could be extended to the many "impact hub" actors and actions as they are identified.

The SDG Tag would identify what SDG goal or goals were being advanced through the policy and would further describe common, clear, and measurable outcomes for the policy initiative. By introducing SDG Tags for all policy programs and initiatives, the SDG Tags would publicly advertise efforts to achieve the 17 Goals. It would also crucially advance efforts to build a common methodology for measuring SDG efforts.

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The third and final element of this Policy Brief would include a commitment by G7 members to press forward to gain support and acceptance from all G20 members. It is vital to advance the commitment to the G20 members since the G20 includes significantly important emerging market and developing countries including China, India, Brazil, Indonesia, and others.

Implementations

The G7 is a critical starting point for this policy initiative. It is vital to get US commitment to move the global development initiative forward. The failure to obtain visible US support harms the global effort. Having achieved G7 commitment, then moving to the G20 is obvious and necessary. All key countries of the G7 and G20 alike need to target, advertise, and promote this key global development strategy. It is a number one priority for the G7 and the G20.

The SDG Tags and revealing the Impact Hubs are critical, we believe, in advancing national and systemic efforts to achieve Agenda 2030 which today is threatened by the pandemic and now geopolitical tensions and conflict. These impact hubs and SDG Tags are concrete initiatives in a global effort to prioritize SDG actions. The elements set out in this Policy Brief are designed to give all the starting point for renewing global efforts to achieve Agenda 2030. Here is a guide to action for all.

Endnotes

[1] One need only track US Secretary of State Antony Blinken's statements and interviews to recognize the absence of any references to Agenda 2030 or the Sustainable Development Goals. As pointed out by Ingram and Pipa (2022): "The U.S. is the only G-7, G-20, or OECD country not to have submitted or committed to submit a Voluntary National Review of the SDGs to the U.N."

[2] The unprovoked Russian invasion of the Ukraine has redirected G7 attention to this geopolitical nightmare leaving little space to collective Agenda 2030 action. Meanwhile time passes.

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Alan Alexandroff is Director of the Global Summitry Project. He is also the Editor of the e-Journal *Global Summitry* located at http://globalsummitryproject.com. Dr. Alexandroff focuses his research work on the contemporary global governance architecture and the influence and role of the rising states, particularly China, as well as the key Influentials, namely the United States and the EU. Early examinations of global order include: *Can the World be Governed? Possibilities for Effective Multilateralism* (Wilfrid Laurier University Press, 2008), and, *Rising States; Rising Institutions: Challenges for Global Governance* (Brookings Institution Press, 2010). Dr. Alexandroff has long written the blog post Rising BRICSAM.

Dr. Alexandroff received his B.A., M.A. and Ph.D. in Government from Cornell University, an M.A. in International History from the London School of Political Science and Economics and an L.L.B. from the McGill University Law School.

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Colin is Non-resident Senior Fellow of the Global Economy and Development Program at Brookings Institution. He is a specialist on global governance and the G20. He has edited Global Leadership in Transition (2010) and Global Governance Reform (2007). As a co-chair of Vision20 (V20) since 2016, Colin has convened annual events with Brookings to encourage longer term strategic thinking for the future. He is also the Lead Co-Chair for the China -West Dialogue Project (CWD). Colin was intimately involved in the efforts to move from the IDGs (the International Development Goals) to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

In 2004, Colin Bradford was the first person to push for transforming the G8 to G20 at leaders' level and became a leading convener of meetings of influential professionals to work for international institutional reforms to bring the emerging market economies more fully into the global system. As a CIGI and Brookings senior fellow, he helped create the think tank engagement track now known as the Think20 (T20) for G20 Summits.

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Philipp Bien is a PhD Candidate in International Relations at the University of Konstanz. Philipp began his academic career at the University of Konstanz in Germany where he graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science and Public Administration in 2018. Subsequently, he began hist postgraduate studies in Global Affairs at the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy at the University of Toronto which he graduated from with a Masters of Global Affairs (MGA) in June 2021. Philipp's academic interest is on global governance, international development and the Agenda 2030. From May 2020 until July 2021, he worked as a graduate research assistant, and was part of the Global Summitry Project.

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.