

G7 Leaders Recognize the Transformative Power of Cities as Drivers of Sustainable Development

From May 19-21, the G7 heads of state met in Hiroshima, Japan to discuss pressing global issues including Russia's ongoing war in Ukraine, economic resilience, and climate change. In their final Communiqué, the G7 Leaders emphasized "the transformative power of cities worldwide as drivers for every aspect of sustainable development" and committed to continue their cooperation with cities on sustainable urban development "to support exchanges with our global partners, whose cities face some of the most significant challenges relating to climate change". The G7 Leaders also recognized "the vital role of sub-national governments in collaboration with other stakeholders and partners to advance climate and energy actions based on local needs and environmental conditions."

These commitments build on [decisions made by the heads of state](#) in Germany in 2022, when they recognized the importance of working directly with cities to address global challenges. Furthermore, they tasked, "relevant Ministers to develop a joint understanding of good urban development policy [...], and to decide on joint initiatives for unlocking the full potential of cities to promote social, cultural, technological, climate-neutral, economic, and democratic innovation for the common good."

Since Japan took over the G7 Presidency in 2023, the G7 has deepened its commitment to engage cities in the process. On 15-16 April, the G7 Ministers' Meeting on Climate, Energy and Environment in Sapporo (Japan) concluded with the announcement of the first-ever G7 Roundtable on Subnational Climate Actions in collaboration with Urban7 (U7) – the voice of local governments at the G7 process. This Roundtable is a clear progress towards the implementation of the commitments made by the G7 Leaders in Germany in 2022. For the second year in a row, cities will also play a key role at the G7 Urban Ministerial Meeting. Urban 7 is helping to shape the process through participating in the preparatory meetings and U7

representatives are invited to the Ministerial Meeting, which is scheduled to be held in July 7-8.

The Urban7 is engaging in these important meetings with a common voice, outlined in the 2023 [U7 Mayors Declaration](#). In March 2023, mayors of the 2023 U7 Group, chaired by JDCMA President Mayor Kizo Hisamoto (Kobe, Japan), came together in Tokyo for the [Urban7 Mayors Summit](#). The mayors presented the Declaration and their priorities to representatives of Japan's G7 Presidency, including officials at the Cabinet Office, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Ministry of the Environment, and the Foreign Ministry.

Representing the U7 Secretariat as Chair of the Global Parliament of Mayors, Mayor Peter Kurz (Mannheim, Germany) said, "For the past three years, the Urban7 has been working to make the voice of cities heard in the G7 process. I am pleased that, for the second year in a row, the G7 Presidency has recognized the decisive role that cities play in addressing global challenges. Local governments will be critical partners for G7 members in these efforts. The Urban7 will continue to build this partnership by working closely with Japanese ministries to ensure that local government is involved in relevant G7 ministerial meetings."

About the Urban7

The Urban7 (U7) advocates for a continuous dialogue between the G7 nations and municipal actors represented by national associations and supported by international city networks. It addresses the G7 Presidency and is moved forward by a strong urban alliance. The U7 Group consists of Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), Urban France, Association of German Cities (DST), National Association of Italian Municipalities (ANCI), Japan Designated City Mayors' Association (JDCMA), Core Cities UK, the United States Conference of Mayors (USCOM), and Eurocities. ICLEI and Global Parliament of Mayors serve as the U7 Secretariat, together with the city association from the country leading the G7 that year. In 2023, the G7 Presidency is held by Japan and thus the Japan Designated City Mayors' Association (JDCMA) is fulfilling that role in the U7 Group. United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) is a network partner.

[Read the G7 Hiroshima Leaders' Communiqué](#). [More information about the 2023 U7 Mayors Summit and Declaration](#), and [the U7 2022 Impact Report](#).