



G7 Senior Development Officials Chair's Summary

March 20, 2023

Senior Development Officials (SDOs) of the Group of Seven (G7) met in Tokyo on February 21 and 22, 2023. The meeting was held to discuss the current development issues and shared priorities for the G7 on some of the most pressing global development and humanitarian challenges. This paper reflects a summary of discussions, as understood by the Chair. SDOs expect this summary to be a valuable input to other relevant tracks as well as to the G7 Sherpas and as a guide for how SDOs should focus their continued advancement of development issues across all G7 discussions this year.

Executive Summary

- SDOs shared their strong concerns that multiple crises have eroded hard-won development gains, and hampered **progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** and emphasized the **need to revitalize international cooperation to get them back on track as they reach their halfway point in 2023**. They stressed the importance of listening to the priorities of developing countries as they continue to struggle with recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic, aggravating humanitarian crises, and rising food insecurity, which particularly affects people in vulnerable situations.
- In addition, SDOs voiced their strong concerns over **developing countries' limited fiscal space to effectively respond to shocks** and that serious challenges to **debt management** are undermining **sustainable economic development**. They also stressed the importance of the G7's coordinated efforts to improve **fiscal sustainability** and promote private investment including through **de-risking in developing countries**.
- SDOs condemned Russia's illegal, unjustifiable, and unprovoked war of aggression against Ukraine, disregard for the Charter of the United Nations (UN Charter) and indifference to the impacts that its war is having on people worldwide. They reiterated their **commitment to continue countering the negative impacts of the war on the rest of the world, particularly on those in the most vulnerable situations**.
- SDOs also shared their deep concern that Russia's weaponization of food and energy has caused **global economic hardship and a rise in global food and energy prices, increasing the cost of living for people**, compounding the economic vulnerabilities of developing countries, as well as exacerbating the already dire humanitarian crises and food and

nutrition insecurity around the world.

- Based on these recognitions, SDOs stressed **the critical role that development cooperation plays** in addressing these compounding challenges and the need to **engage with international partners in solidarity**. They also remain committed to **upholding the international order** based on the rule of law, respecting sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-aggression. SDOs remain further committed to working together as the G7 and listening humbly to partners, including through **locally-led development** and especially to those in challenging situations.
- The Presidency shared the status of the ongoing revision of Japan's Development Cooperation Charter and expressed its intention to further engage with G7 members in its revision process.
- SDOs also appreciated valuable inputs by and useful discussions with the **Civil Society 7 (C7)** Group and **Women 7 (W7)** Group.
- SDOs decided **to accelerate progress on various development priorities to address global challenges and to show strong commitment by G7 members to support non-G7 members at the G7 Hiroshima Summit**. For this goal, SDOs shared their determination to advance their work, including, in particular, on **development finance**; infrastructure including through **the Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII)**; **food security** and **nutrition**; and **humanitarian assistance**, through supporting ongoing discussions in respective Working Groups, through coordination among G7 SDOs, as well as through contributing to relevant ministerial tracks with development input.

Sustainable Development and Resources Mobilization

- 1 SDOs pointed out the need to strengthen the efforts to **revitalize international cooperation to achieve SDGs in a comprehensive manner as they reach their halfway point in 2023**, with the SDG Summit scheduled in September. They decided to enhance support and take actions to accelerate progress across the Goals, including by focusing on those **in the most vulnerable situations**, supporting the **Addis Ababa Action Agenda**, including by means of promoting the concept of **human security in the new era** and to realize a society that **leaves no one behind**.
- 2 SDOs identified the important role of private finance in addressing the financing gap, and the need to maximize domestic resources mobilization – including via capacity building support for international tax standards – and private financial assets, while underscoring the importance of continuing to **scale up and more effectively target international public finance**. They shared the importance of achieving respective official development

assistance (ODA) commitments, such as the **0.7% ODA/GNI target**, stressing the need to expand the **catalytic use of ODA** in mobilizing and leveraging additional financial resources for sustainable development. At the same time, they also welcomed ongoing work by the Finance Track colleagues to facilitate **multilateral development banks (MDBs) evolution** to better address global challenges while maintaining the focus on extreme poverty reduction and shared prosperity, including through the implementation of the review of the MDBs' capital adequacy frameworks, the World Bank's Evolution Roadmap, and through review of the IMF's toolkit to strengthen its ability to respond to the scale of need in vulnerable countries. They also called on MDBs and international financial institutions (IFIs) to accelerate their efforts to increase their capacity to leverage private finance, including through structural reforms. On this, they further emphasized the importance of making finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development in line with Article 2.1.c. of the Paris Agreement. Additionally, the importance of efforts on the voluntary channeling of Special Drawing Rights from all willing countries to reach a total global ambition of USD 100 billion for countries most in need was pointed out. In this regard, they also welcomed the organization of a summit on development financing by France in Paris in June to enhance the resilience of vulnerable countries and encourage the green transition of developing and emerging economies, while maintaining adequate funding for basic needs and the realization of the 2030 Agenda overall.

Development Finance and the Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII)

- 3 SDOs welcomed ongoing work at the Working Group on Development Finance and the PGII. They reaffirmed their commitment to narrowing the infrastructure investment gap in developing countries, including by delivering **financing for quality infrastructure**, supporting efforts to advance policy reforms needed to attract investment, operationalizing country-led partnership, and promoting upstream support. In this regard, they remained determined to work together to implement the **PGII**.
- 4 SDOs endorsed the discussions at the Working Group to promote **transparent and fair development finance** and shared their determination to work together to address the implementation gap of existing principles such as debt transparency and sustainability and fair appraisal, selection and lending practice for quality infrastructure investment. In this regard, recognizing that the Finance Track is leading on the debt issue, they shared the importance of calling on all actors to adhere to international rules and standards, including the G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment, the G20 Operational Guidelines

for Sustainable Financing, the OECD Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions and the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises.

- 5 In addressing these issues, SDOs expressed their commitment to deepen discussions and foster wider cooperation among like-minded emerging and developing countries.

Ukraine

- 6 SDOs shared that the G7 will continue its **unwavering support for the people of Ukraine**, in particular to its efforts in protecting the rights of women and children and reaffirmed their commitment to provide humanitarian and reconstruction assistance to meet Ukraine's urgent needs. SDOs also reaffirmed the importance of emergency assistance for the energy sector in Ukraine and its neighboring countries, particularly Moldova.
- 7 SDOs also discussed the needs to help maintain **Ukraine's economic and financial stability**. At the same time, they confirmed that they would continue to support the determination of Ukraine to build a society free from corruption and the Ukrainian government's efforts to advance necessary domestic reforms to enhance its governance and transparency to stimulate economic investment and growth. For this, they reaffirmed their determination to contribute to the work at the Multi-Agency Donor Coordination Platform for Ukraine. They also acknowledged the need for close coordination among the G7 in supporting **Ukraine's recovery and reconstruction efforts towards a sustainable and prosperous future**. They also discussed facilitating the reconstruction of basic social and public infrastructure, cities, industry, and the agricultural sector. The **Ukraine Recovery Conference** to be hosted in London in June is another opportunity to clarify and coordinate priorities for Ukraine's recovery.

Towards a Free and Open Indo-Pacific

- 8 SDOs affirmed their determination in maintaining a **free and open Indo-Pacific**, which is inclusive and based on the rule of law, shared principles, territorial integrity, transparency, the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the peaceful resolution of disputes. They shared each country's initiatives and priorities, including efforts to enhance connectivity, resilience and the sustainable development of partners in the region, including through quality infrastructure investment and by investing in areas such as digital, cyber as well as the green transition. SDOs also shared the need to address the specific needs of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the region. SDOs also discussed how they could leverage their respective strengths and expertise, and stressed the

importance of deepening cooperation to this end, together as the G7 and with like-minded countries.

Partnership with developing countries around the world

- 9 SDOs noted with great concern that developing countries in **Asia, Africa, the Caribbean, Latin America, and the Middle East** have been adversely affected by rising prices, conflicts, disruption of food supply chains, and climate shocks. The particular vulnerabilities of **SIDS** and **Least Developed Countries (LDCs)** were also discussed. In response to such situations, they acknowledged the need to continue **supporting these countries under massive global economic headwinds**. In this regard, they shared the value of listening to the voices of partner countries and local communities. They also stressed the strategic importance of the engagement with partner countries, in order to support the needs unique to the countries and their communities.
- 10 SDOs also stressed the increasing importance of **Africa as a driving force of global cooperation, trade, economic growth and innovation**. SDOs commended efforts by African partner countries, the African Union (AU), as well as Regional Economic Communities to strengthen connectivity across borders, promote regional economic integration, and lead sustainable economic transformation. They emphasized that the G7's support continues to be guided by the objectives of the AU Agenda 2063, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the goals of the Paris Agreement, and the principles of the UN Charter. They remain committed to collaborating with African partners to build resilient and sustainable societies, economies and promote peace, including through initiatives such as the G20 Compact with Africa.
- 11 SDOs were deeply concerned about the grave humanitarian crisis caused by the earthquakes that struck **Türkiye and Syria** in February and have caused devastation and losses of tens of thousands of lives. They expressed their commitment to **continue to provide humanitarian and development support for early recovery and rehabilitation**, while addressing emergency needs.

Food and Nutrition Security

- 12 SDOs underlined that risks posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, food and energy price shocks, climate change, prolonged armed conflicts and Russia's war of aggression have all contributed to disorder and disruption in food systems, including supply chains, and have highlighted their fragilities at all levels in recent years. This has also been threatening food and nutrition security around the world, especially in Africa, Asia and the Middle East.

- 13 SDOs discussed **how to continue to address both the acute pressing food and malnutrition crisis from a short-term perspective, and the structural vulnerabilities of current agricultural and food systems from mid- to long-term perspectives.** In coordination with existing initiatives and efforts by each member as well as by the UN, including the Global Alliance for Food Security and the Black Sea Grain initiative, they decided to continue the work to provide coordinated responses to address the food crisis by promoting solidarity in the international community to prevent future shocks, including responding through emergency food assistance. In the context of fertilizer shortage and rising food prices, they also discussed the importance of ensuring resilience and transparency in supply chains of both fertilizers and food products and enhancing market predictability including through strengthening the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS) as an early warning tool.
- 14 Furthermore, SDOs shared the need to support developing partners to strengthen their capacity to ensure **sustainable, resilient and inclusive food systems.** These efforts include supporting developing partners on sustainable land use for food production, promoting local and sustainable food sources, agricultural production adapted to and mitigating climate change and biodiversity loss, as well as supporting soil health and fertility through the appropriate, efficient and targeted use of fertilizers in accordance with local environments and circumstances. They also stressed that **women and youths** are key actors in these efforts.

Humanitarian Assistance

- 15 SDOs expressed their strong concerns about the often-overlooked fact that **an unprecedented humanitarian condition** is deteriorating for tens of millions of people, while global attention is focused on Russia's war against Ukraine, and shared the need to address this situation. Particularly in Africa, they remained concerned about the security situation in the Horn of Africa, Sahel, Lake Chad and Great Lakes regions and with its multidimensional humanitarian crises, which has been disproportionately impacting populations in the most vulnerable situations such as refugees and internally displaced people, particularly women and girls.
- 16 SDOs renewed their determination to strengthen humanitarian assistance to help vulnerable populations maintain their lives and dignity. They stressed the importance of implementing the **Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) Nexus approach** thoroughly, from mid- to long-term perspectives, with a view to building inclusive and resilient societies, and realizing sustainable peace. Recalling the importance of ensuring a safe, full

and unhindered humanitarian access, they also noted the importance of enhancing the quality of humanitarian assistance with increased funding, including quality funding, in order to respond to prolonged and complicated humanitarian crises. They also shared the need to call upon the international community, including emerging donors, to strengthen their support to refugees and displaced persons as well as host countries in the lead-up to, among others, the second **Global Refugee Forum** in December.

Climate, Energy and Environment

- 17 SDOs placed strong importance on their commitments to the **developed country goal of jointly mobilizing USD 100 billion annually** in climate finance as soon as possible and through 2025, in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation, and work together with other developed countries to make progress on the Climate Finance Delivery Plan's collective actions. They welcomed discussions on a new collective quantified goal which contributes to reaching the goals of the Paris Agreement. They called for the expansion of the contributor base and highlighted the importance of promoting private investments, aligning financial flows with the goals of the Paris Agreement and addressing barriers faced by vulnerable countries to accessing finance. They pointed out the need to improve the inclusiveness, including from a gender perspective.
- 18 SDOs welcomed the ongoing second replenishment process for the **Green Climate Fund (GCF)** and affirmed the need to consider G7 pledges of financial contribution, while underscoring the need to broaden the GCF's contributor base with all potential contributors, including emerging economies, which will ensure a successful and ambitious replenishment.
- 19 SDOs also shared their determination to continue accelerating efforts to at least **double the collective provision of climate finance for adaptation to developing countries from 2019 levels by 2025**, in the context of achieving a balance between mitigation and adaptation, through the provision of scaled up financial resources, including through continuing to enhance efforts to scale up the provision of climate finance for adaptation towards our respective adaptation targets, and encouraging non-G7 countries to make financial contributions to adaptation, as well as urging MDBs to commit to ambitious adaptation targets, while identifying pathways to announce revised collective adaptation finance target and screen projects for adaptation needs.
- 20 SDOs emphasized the strong determination to actively work to **successfully implement the decision taken at the 27th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United**

Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC-COP27) establishing new funding arrangements, including a fund, for assisting developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change in responding to **loss and damage**. In this regard, they emphasized the importance of leveraging funds from a wide variety of sources, including innovative sources, and ensuring coordination and complementarity with existing funding arrangements and initiatives within and outside the UNFCCC system.

- 21 SDOs reaffirmed their strong commitment to the **Just Energy Transition Partnerships (JETPs)**, as a platform for host countries to work in a coordinated way with donors, private sector investors, multilateral development and investment banks and other partners to deliver ambitious and just energy transitions away from fossil fuels and towards clean renewable energy sources. They welcomed progress achieved on JETPs with **South Africa**, the first JETP launched at COP26, with the launch of the Investment Plan, the launch of the **Indonesia JETP at the G20 Bali Summit and the Vietnam JETP in December 2022**. They committed to support the ongoing discussions with **India and Senegal** to move towards partnerships in 2023. SDOs expressed the importance of focusing their efforts in 2023 on implementation and on offering tailored support to achieve a just energy transition.
- 22 SDOs stressed the importance of tackling the **triple crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution** in an interdependent manner, noting their significant detrimental impacts on global development and the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. SDOs welcomed the landmark adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework at the 15th meeting of the Conference of Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP15) and committed to support its full, swift and effective implementation, including the headline goal to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030, and supporting delivery by mobilizing resources from all sources, including from MDBs, to increase financing for biodiversity by 2025.

Disaster Risk Reduction

- 23 SDOs shared the importance of **enhancing cooperation in climate and disaster risk reduction with countries at high risk of facing and most vulnerable to disasters** and discussed the ways to accelerate the efforts. They also pointed out the fiscal vulnerabilities of these countries and expressed their interests in further discussing climate resilient debt clauses.
- 24 SDOs placed emphasis on important existing efforts including early warning systems and

climate finance, such as the Global Shield and the Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems (CREWS) as measures to cope with increasing climate and disaster risk, and the need to strengthen these efforts, taking particular note of populations in the most vulnerable situations, such as women and girls, as well as Indigenous People, who are often hardest hit by disasters.

- 25 SDOs exchanged views on accelerating international disaster risk reduction cooperation, emphasizing the importance of a disaster preparedness approach and investment in both human capital and goods including through strengthening it through social protection that contribute not only to “risk transfer” but also to “risk reduction”, and mainstreaming disaster risk reduction in every investment and planning processes.
- 26 Building on the outcome of COP27, SDOs also underlined that such efforts on disaster risk reduction contribute to responding to loss and damage as well as to anticipatory actions in the field of humanitarian assistance.
- 27 Based on the discussions above, SDOs expressed their intent to closely coordinate among G7 members for the midterm review of the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Health

- 28 Recognizing the unprecedented public health emergencies caused and aggravated by the COVID-19 pandemic, SDOs reiterated their strong commitments to **achieve universal health coverage (UHC)**, in particular by strengthening health systems and investing in health workers from ordinary times, including through enhancing primary health care (PHC), developing a response system to infectious diseases as well as promoting regional production, financing and other elements of equitable global access to medical tools and medical countermeasures (MCM), which will also contribute to **prevention, preparedness, and response (PPR)** to future health emergencies. In this regard, SDOs also noted the importance of strengthening the implementation of the One Health approach.
- 29 SDOs strongly highlighted the essential role of strong, resilient and inclusive health systems in achieving UHC through PHC and addressing various health challenges largely set back by the pandemic, such as routine immunization, polio, measles, cholera, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases (NTDs), non-communicable diseases (NCDs) – including mental health conditions, sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health, healthy aging water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and nutrition.
- 30 SDOs showed particular attention to the value of investing for stronger health systems as

critical to achieving **more resilient, equitable and sustainable UHC** in the post COVID-19 era, to ensure that health systems are fully functioning both to address ongoing health challenges and to respond to health emergencies. In this regard, they welcomed the ongoing discussions at the G7 Health Working Group on the role of financing in global health. It is also important to prioritize investment in health systems by enhancing domestic resource mobilization and private investment, to contain COVID-19, restore essential health services to pre-pandemic levels and build back better towards the post COVID-19 era. They also welcomed the work by the G7 Health Working Group to facilitate relevant global health organizations and initiatives to coordinate and align themselves toward the common goal of achieving UHC.

Education

- 31 As presented at the UN Transforming Education Summit during the 77th UN General Assembly in September 2022, SDOs recognized the global education crisis and reaffirmed the importance of education in each country in the context of a complex crisis, stressing the importance of the HDP Nexus and making progress on foundational learning skills, as this is critical for pandemic recovery and addressing the massive learning loss that occurred during the pandemic, as well as promoting **the role of girls' education**.
- 32 The lost educational opportunities caused by the impacts of armed conflicts, forced displacement, and health and climate-induced disasters have immense socio-economic impacts both on individuals as well as on society. Under this recognition, SDOs reminded themselves with their prior commitments to prioritize global ODA for education and expressed firm determination to uphold the G7's commitment to **protect educational opportunities for all children and girls in vulnerable situations, including the most marginalized and those caught up in conflict or whose education is affected by the climate and environment crisis**. They also reiterated the need for the G7 to increase investment in human capital such as educators in a more equitable, inclusive and efficient way to equip children and adolescents including girls and young women with knowledge and skills, by providing them quality-learning opportunities and including through cooperation with programs of international organizations such as school meals programs.

Gender Equality

- 33 SDOs stressed that gender-mainstreaming is a cross-cutting issue and recognized the need for further promotion of **gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in all their diversity** including LGBTQIA+ protections more than ever, given its central role in

achieving the SDGs, and the rollback of women's and girls' rights due to the pandemic and other crises. They took special note of the grave situation of Afghan women and girls and they condemned the oppression and systematic exclusion they are facing in political, social and economic spheres, including through severe restrictions on their rights and freedoms such as access to education, employment, freedom of movement and freedom of choice, the rights to association and peaceful assembly and participation in public life.

- 34 SDOs stressed the importance of promoting **comprehensive SRHR and maternal, newborn, adolescent as well as child health and wellbeing**, including access to safe abortion and post-abortion care and of working together to end the preventable deaths of mothers, babies and children by 2030. SDOs also expressed their determination to implement the **Women, Peace and Security agenda** by enhancing support for all, including women and girls in all their diversity who are among some of the most vulnerable in conflict affected or fragile countries, including through providing support for survivors of conflict related sexual violence, reducing and mitigating the harmful effects of gender-based violence through concrete action, and enhancing disaster resilience of women and girls in all their diversity. SDOs also expressed support to women's economic empowerment, including addressing gender wage gaps, promoting the recognition of the care economy, and protection and advancement of all women's and girls' rights. SDOs acknowledged that gender equality requires fair distribution of financial resources and recognizing the importance of gender-lens investment.
- 35 SDOs also recalled the commitment that G7 Leaders made in 2022 to make every effort to collectively increase the share of G7's bilateral allocable ODA advancing gender equality, and the empowerment of women and girls in all their diversity, over the coming years. In this regard, they called for **enhancing a "nexus" among key gender-related policies and actions**, in particular among political, security, economic and social spheres, with coherence, comprehensiveness and continuity.