

# Cooperation Canada's Plan for the 2025 Civil 7 Presidency

## A. BACKGROUND

The Group of Seven (G7) is an informal grouping of advanced economies, focused on global and regional political and economic issues including, in hosting order, Canada, France, the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, Japan and Italy, as well as the European Union. An important part of the G7 process is dialogue with various interest groups, called engagement groups. Civil 7 (C7), as an official engagement group, is a platform through which civil society organizations and actors can collaborate and enter into dialogue with the G7. This is accomplished by channeling the voice of global civil society and presenting positions to address critical global policy concerns. Canada last hosted the G7 in 2018, at which time Cooperation Canada (CC) held a C7 Summit and where [Prime Minister Trudeau spoke](#) on issues of gender, climate change, inequalities and humanitarian action

Canada is once again set to host the G7 in 2025, with the Leaders' Summit to be held in Kananaskis, Alberta towards the middle of the year and a number of ministerial meetings to be held throughout 2025. Some priorities for the Canadian Government put forward thus far include “building economies that benefit everyone, fighting climate change, and managing rapidly evolving technologies”.

Cooperation Canada will lead the C7 in 2025. We also seek to support coordination between other G7 engagement groups (such as Women 7, Think Tank 7, Business 7, Labour 7, Municipal 7, Pride 7, Youth 7). This paper outlines Cooperation Canada's plans for taking forward the work of the C7 in such a manner that can positively influence the G7 and promote civil society policy and advocacy objectives.

## B. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- Lead civil society from G7 countries to put forward focused, coherent, and impactful advocacy, aiming to influence policy both at the leaders' and ministerial levels. Coordinate Canadian civil society and convene G7 engagement groups, aiming for convergence and complementarity in advocacy.
- Play the roles of intermediary between CSOs and the Global Affairs Canada (GAC) G7 Team as well as interlocutor for C7 priorities to the Government of Canada.
- Provide space for the meaningful engagement of Global South partners during various meetings and workshops, recognizing their critical perspectives on G7 policy decisions.

- Ensure alignment with broader international cooperation agenda, such as the 2030 Agenda, the Financing for Development agenda and synergies with overlapping processes and other multilateral spaces such as the G20/C20.

### C. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- **Inclusivity:** Prioritize the meaningful engagement of CSOs from G7 countries and the Global South, ensuring diverse representation and perspectives.
- **Transparency:** Maintain open and transparent communication with engaged stakeholders, providing regular updates and clear information on C7 activities and objectives.
- **Impact:** Focus on delivering targeted, actionable policy recommendations that address key global challenges and leverage G7 influence for meaningful change.

### D. KEY PILLARS OF ENGAGEMENT

#### Policy Advocacy:

**Develop a focused policy agenda, through a C7 Communiqué, that addresses critical issues such as global economic justice, climate action, humanitarian assistance, and sustainable development:** Ensure that policy recommendations reflect the concerns of global and national civil society while at the same time being informed by the Government of Canada's G7 agenda to maximize opportunities for influence. Past C7 Communiqués will provide solid foundations to refine and prioritize key recommendations.

- **Communicate recommendations effectively to relevant decision makers:** Advocate for government accountability by striving for inclusion in key discussions to capitalize on advocacy opportunities. This will include advocacy for accountability and transparency by presenting the GAC G7 Team with procedural good practices for multistakeholder engagement. CC will also prioritize active engagement in relevant ministerial processes, including participation in working groups and involvement as observers and by presenting our recommendations through a formal C7 Communiqué.
- **Advocate for meaningful C7 and engagement group presence at the Leaders' Summit:** Work toward strong civil society participation and engagement, both with media centre passes and at various activities, including during press conferences. The C7 Communiqué will provide leverage for global civil society participation. To amplify advocacy, efforts will be made to consult and coordinate with other G7 engagement groups, as well as the C20.

#### Civil Society Convening:

- **Handover event:** Convene G7 civil society during a virtual handover event where Cooperation Canada can lay out its plan for Canada's G7 presidency.

- **Thematic convening:** Bring global civil society together around a maximum of four key themes, each with their own working group led by CC's policy team. In doing so, CC will consult national CSO networks from other G7 countries and their partners, in-country and in the Global South, on a set of proposed recommendations and through virtual workshops.
- **C7 Summit:** Host a C7 Summit in Ottawa, bringing together civil society from G7 countries and the Global South. This event will serve to finalize the C7 Communique, and present it to the Prime Minister, other relevant Ministers, the G7 Sherpa, and Heads of Mission and diplomatic representatives from G7 countries and Global South representatives from countries that have civil society representation at the C7 Summit.
- **Connection points:** Host virtual meetings at opportune moments to work on relevant advocacy documents and activities (e.g. reaction pieces, statements) with Canadian and global civil society. Cooperation Canada will continue to engage closely with past and future C7 and C20 leaders to provide continuity and support global convening.
- **G7 participation:** Lead civil society participation in G7 ministerial meetings and the Leaders' Summit, including press engagements and public events.

Communication and Outreach:

- **Amplify the voices of civil society in the media and public discourse surrounding the G7:** Publish timely commentary and broad dissemination of statements, communiqués, news updates and stakeholder activities. By carefully positioning itself, Cooperation Canada can be a thought leader, amplifier and convener on everything G7 with a focus on development and humanitarian issues.
- **Develop a communication and branding strategy for the 2025 C7:** Support C7 efforts by creating a strategy aimed at establishing a clear identity and improving coordination and unity.

## E. C7 PRESIDENCY SCHEDULE

### August – September 2024

- Engage with GAC G7 Team on multistakeholder engagement best practices; GoC priorities for the G7; Canadian civil society priorities, and Cooperation Canada's C7 plan.

### October – December 2024

- Engage with G7 country CSO networks and Global South partners on the C7 plan.
- Hold a handover event to formalize the transition from Italian to Canadian leadership of the C7, including policy areas of focus, working arrangements, communication and advocacy strategies, and logistics.
- Work with previous C7 president (GCAP Italy) on website details.

- Prepare communications and branding materials.

**December 2024 – January 2025**

- Write draft recommendations in consultation with stakeholders.
- Hold working group virtual workshops.

**February – April 2025**

- Organize C7 Summit to present communiqué and collectively strategize on advocacy strategies.

**March – June 2025**

- Engage in advocacy across G7 countries, socializing the C7 Communiqué.
- Leaders' Summit and Ministerial meetings (all TBD – including some potentially held post-Summit)