Policy Brief for G7
Japan Youth Platform for Sustainability

Japan Youth Platform for Sustainability (JYPS) is a platform for young people and organisations based in Japan to engage in the UN and other intergovernmental systems. The process of developing this position paper was open, inclusive, and grounded on democracy. JYPS hosted the G7 Youth Summit on 22nd May 2016 supported by the Japan Civil Society Platform on 2016 G7 Ise-Shima Summit, GCAP Japan, and Mie University. The adopted 2016 G7 youth summit declaration has two pillars: G7 Analysis for reviewing the past eight years of Communique, and Working Reports in regard to youth and 10 thematic issues and priorities on G7 and meetings.

I. G7 Analysis
We would like to emphasise that the way G7 addresses youth falls short in effectively doing so by missing the meaningful engagement of young people at all stages of policy processes from designing, implementation, monitoring, and reviewing. We call on G7 countries to adopt the Major Groups as the institutionalised mechanism for stakeholders to partake in G7 summits.

II. Thematic Issues

Child Health Care
- All policies related to children should set full realisation of the Convention on the Rights of Children (CRC) as a goal.
- Within the health related aid, Child Health Care should be prioritised within Universal Health Coverage. It is essential to provide quantitative and qualitative aids for strong nursery institutions protecting the rights of children. Such provisions can be a part of promoting quality infrastructure.
- The aid for Child Health Care should set higher standard than WHO requirements.

Environment, Climate Change and Biodiversity
- G7 countries should commit to promote energy efficiency, phasing out fossil fuels and nuclear power, and achieve the 100% renewable energy society as soon as possible (or by 2050).
- Introduce Ecological Tax Reform, pricing the social and environmental negative externalities, to discourage the economic activities which impede sustainability. This will create new liquidity for financing and enable the environment to actually reach SDGs and Paris Agreement.
- Address the safety in the process of Reactor decommissioning, which has been neglected.
- The importance of technology to promulgate renewable energies is missing in the outcome of the G7 Energy meeting in Kitakyushu. This should be mentioned.

Partnership (PPP, Multi-stakeholder mechanism)
- Institutionalise the multi-stakeholder participation at all level and stages of the policy forming process. We recommend using the Major Groups system.
- Public Private Partnership should be held accountable and transparent. All partnerships should be scrutinised to measure its social, environmental, and economic impacts and community based implications. It should not be a technique to offset the debt from the balance sheet, which will cause the exceeding investment neglecting the actual economic environment.

Education for Sustainable Development
- In acknowledgement that education plays an indispensable role in the pursuance and creation of a sustainable and peaceful society, it is recommended that all G7 countries advocate and mainstream Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) at all levels.
- The process of Implementation, Monitoring, and Follow-up and Review should respect the autonomy of each institution. This requires the reform of evaluation systems of teachers and schools.
- It is necessary to build the ESD platform in a way that learners from all sectors and backgrounds can engage in opportunities to study.

Food Security and Hunger
- Address zero hunger in long-term planning, including the countermeasure against a temporal famine as those challenges are usually caused by the structural issues.
- Promote food security and a sustainable and responsible supply chain by strongly committing to actions against malnutrition through Nutrition for Growth and governance of tenure for land, fisheries, and forests.

Syrian Crisis
- Protect the asylum seekers from Syria and to expand eligibility to apply for Refugee resettlements.
- The cost to foster Syrian and other refugees should not be part of ODA,.

Youth Participation
- G7 should host a "G7 youth and children summit" as an official part of the summit, and its outcome shall be fed in outcome of G7 summit. It is critical to ensure the administrative and budgetary support for G7 children and youth summit.
- Promote the youth engagement in decision-making process, For example, local youth parliament can be one of ideas. Such initiatives are actually implemented in European countries. To enable marginalised groups participation, it is indispensable to allocate finances to those initiatives.

Peace
- It is essential to ensure the freedom of movement of people, knowledges, and ideas, especially among young people. This should be further promoted by expanding exchange programmes publically financed.
- In reconciliation process, there must be safe, inclusive spaces for marginalised people to actually voice their needs and priorities. Such initiatives should be institutionalised and not based on a good-will.

Regional Inequality
- Ensure the regional sustainability in objectives of development aid which ultimately aims to enable local ecological areas can sustain without excessive dependency on and influence of international trade. This can be operationalised through the "locally produced and consumed", ethical products, fair trade, and among others.
- Reduce inequalities among and within cities and between urban and rural areas to achieve the social cohesion and equitable society. It is necessary to transfer fiscal, financial, and administrative capacity to local authorities. This will change the paradigm of urban-rural dichotomy and enhance the Integrated Territorial Development..

Disaster Risk Reduction
- Reflecting the Sendai Framework, the G7 should also allocate adequate commitments to human-induced disasters in addition to natural ones, including pollution.
- Building Infrastructure should go through the assessment in terms of three dimensions of sustainable development. It should not undermine the local biodiversity.
- Enabling environment means that local authorities and young people can collaborate, ensuring the ownership of both activities. It is necessary to set the guidance for governments on how to create multi-stakeholder participation in its recovery.