

## **Scaling up environment protection, energy transition & climate action**

### **Vision and actions for a G7 leadership**

- Consensus is growing globally on the magnitude of the threats that climate change and biodiversity losses are generating for humankind, their equal gravity and mutually exacerbating nature.
- Policy-makers can no longer aim for efforts, or a fight here and there: there is a need to declare war on environmental degradations of all kinds that threaten stability, security, development. The civil society is already at the frontline. Governments must scale up environment protection, energy transition and climate actions.

#### **Africa and in particular, Sub-Saharan Africa:**

- 600 million people remain without electricity as we speak in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) close to 800 million without clean cooking: G7 countries should scale up their efforts:
  - By fostering investments in existing power networks to improve their reliability, while at the same time further incentivising private sector investments in off-grid electrification;
  - By facilitating investments in solar PV coupled with battery capacity, as well as in waste-to-energy incineration; By de-risking private sector finance to attract greater local and private sector investments (for example, along the lines of the TerraWatt/ISA initiative) and improving and harmonizing regulation (for example through a coordinated action from the ISA, IRENA and IEA) and supporting regional market integration;
  - In all these endeavours, scope for joining forces with China should be explored in order to accelerate sustainable growth, infrastructure development and electricity access while setting transparency and sustainability standards. G7 should wake up to China taking the lead in power and infrastructure investments on the continent;
  - In the short run, priority should be given to electrifying all schools on the continent, when today, only about a third have access to electricity.
- G7 leadership is crucial to practically support initiatives by African countries that promote sustainability linking environment and resources protection, stability, security and development in key economic sectors:
  - The Great green wall for Sahara and Sahel to stop desertification;
  - The fight against poaching and environmental crime;
  - The 3S initiative (Sustainability, Security, Stability in Africa) to restore degraded lands;
  - The Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative;
  - The OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Mineral Supply Chains.

**Climate:**

- The G7 should support the sustainable transformation of cities in Africa, South East Asia and in Latin America with dedicated finance and governance mechanisms, around six priorities: sustainable public transport, construction norms and sustainable cooling strategies, sustainable power & hot water supply, waste collection, treatment and use for energy where possible; water services.
- Important sector-specific initiatives should be developed or supported by the G7 or taken by G7 countries to the G20:
  - Maritime transportation fuels – enforcement of IMO regulation, development of LNG and green hydrogen as future fuels
  - The cooling sector – fostering building norms, setting strict norms for appliances, developing centralized cooling systems and fostering enforcement of the phase-down of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs)
  - Reducing methane leakage from hydrocarbon extraction and transportation
  - Stopping funding for new coal projects without CCS/CCUS and taking actions for greening finance
  - Fully unleashing the potential for reforestation/wood products, often cheaper than CCS/CCUS
  - Developing green hydrogen markets
  - Continuing efforts to phasing out fossil fuel subsidies
  - Engaging China for a green Belt and Road initiative
  - Increasing investments & capacity building in energy efficiency and enforcing higher standards for building and appliances.

**Oceans:**

- Beyond tackling the plastic disaster, in order to conserve marine biodiversity and protect ocean ecosystems, G7 countries should take a leading role in extending Marine protected areas to 30% of the global ocean by 2030, including 10% of no take zones.
- At the same time, G7 countries should phase out subsidies that encourage overfishing and destructive fishing practices, in particular fuel subsidies and tax concessions.

**Biodiversity:**

- G7 countries should take the lead in including ocean based solutions and nature based solutions in their enhanced NDCs ahead of COP25.
- Private stakeholders and NGOs are couching initiatives to limit the negative impacts of agriculture and food production on biodiversity that will be presented at the G7 Heads of State meeting, which we invite you to support strongly, with a view to escalating them to the G20 level.

## Background notes

### **Sub-Saharan Africa:**

- Lack of access to electricity is a fundamental obstacle to sustainable development and poverty reduction. Energy access in SSA is improving too slowly: there were 400 millions people without access in 1990, there are now 600 million. These numbers are set to further increase as demographic growth is stronger than electrification progress unless more action, investments and coordination are undertaken. Access to clean cooking remains an equally alarming challenge: 780 million people are without clean cooking.
- Technologies and business models are available, different tools can be promoted (centralized, decentralized) or technologies (solar, hydro, biomass essentially, but also gas to power) depending on locations. There has been notable progress in Northern Africa or South Africa. But poor governance, insufficient funding, strong demographic growth represent key obstacles to overcome.
- In Nigeria for example, more than 86% of companies own a diesel generator, covering nearly half of their demand. This represents an installed capacity of between 8 and 14GW (more than total capacities installed on the central network). With CO<sub>2</sub> emissions estimated at 1580 g / KWh for a small generator (> 60KW), replacing these generators by alternative energies such as PV could cut its CO<sub>2</sub> output by more than 18 million metric tons per year and much more given the growth in deployment of generators.
- SSA produced 174 million tons of waste in 2016 and this figure could reach 516 million in 2050. Although not competitive compared to other electricity generation technologies, waste-to-energy incineration should also be supported by the G7 as a way to address both the electricity access challenge and the growing waste management issues. Waste is increasingly responsible for health crisis, crime and dangerous methane emissions.
- Preserving ecosystems and making sustainable use of natural resources is critical for long-term development and stability on the African continent and the G7 should recognize that environmental sustainability underpins all other socio-economic objectives in the long run. G7 leadership is crucial to federate and ensure implementation of existing initiatives, linking climate, biodiversity and development issues. These initiatives have been initiated and are supported by African countries themselves, but they are lacking operational implementation and funding. The following are of particular importance:
  - The Great green wall for Sahara and Sahel (in the framework of UNCCD, to fight desertification);
  - The fight against poaching and environmental crime, a declaration by 84 countries in London, October 2018, could be given operational implementation based on the existing IUCN and WWF initiative;
  - The 3S initiative (Sustainability, Security, Stability in Africa) to restore degraded lands and within which many African countries have made commitments.
- To invest in rural areas and communities, by strengthening the resilience of agriculture, building human capital, and improving access to electricity and irrigation, using solar technologies.

**Climate:**

- The world is still on a > +3°C trajectory and CO2 emissions continue rising, alongside yearly average temperature that beat records. There is an urgent need to scale up action for climate mitigation and adaptation, especially in making the required funding available.
- The more climate change will unfold, the more actions towards prevention and mitigation will be costly and less effective, hence the need to step up efforts now. It is adamant to reiterate the importance of stepping up efforts for climate change adaptation and committing to greater efforts as part of the UN September summit and the COP25 meeting.
- Insecurity provoked by climate change and environmental degradation is growing and reinforces other destabilization factors: Lac T Chad, Nigeria, Central America are recent tragic examples.
- To support the deployment of low-carbon technologies, it is equally import to promote the transparent, sustainable and ethical sourcing of raw materials, including critical metals which play an increasingly central role for both the energy transition and the digital transformation.
- Cities represent 80% of global energy supply, and contribute to 70% of global GHG emissions. In addition, cities are particularly vulnerable to climate change impacts, including heatwaves. The urban population in Latin America is the highest in the world. The urbanization in Africa is growing and will reach > 60% of population by 2030, bringing immense social, economic, energy and environmental challenges in cities and in rural areas.
- There are still too many investments in coal projects in the world, especially driven by China in its Belt and Road initiative, but also by several OECD countries and companies.

**Ocean:**

- Beyond the issue of plastics that the G7 has addressed last year, G7 countries should support initiatives that would have a converging effect for climate resilience, biodiversity protection, and development. G7 countries' support would be very useful in this regard if they would promote the extension of the global coverage of Marine protected areas to 30% of the global ocean by 2030 (which is recommended by the scientific community and corresponds to the commitment taken at IUCN's world nature congress in 2016), including 10% of no take zones, which would effectively conserve marine biodiversity, increase ocean resilience to climate change and promote the sustainable development of the fishery sector.
- G7 countries could also take the leadership for the integration in ocean solutions into NDCs ahead of COP25 of UNFCCC in Chile, where this issue should be specifically discussed.

**Biodiversity:**

- Initiatives fostering nature-based solutions should be supported by the G7, ahead of COP25 of UNFCCC in Chile, as well as in the perspective of COP15 of UNCBD in China in 2020, particularly in integrating Nature based solutions and ocean solutions in their NDCs, as well as taking national commitments on the food and agriculture sector to protect biodiversity and climate. Indeed, the recent Global Assessment Report of the IPBES stresses the role of food and agriculture in the degradation of biodiversity.