



Photo: Henning Schacht

About the U7

The G7 is a forum of seven leading liberal democracies: Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States, as well as the European Union (non-enumerated member). G7 members are united by both their shared values and their economic might. These values set the group apart from other multilateral fora, enabling its members to commit to ambitious policies.

The decisions made by the G7 – on subjects ranging from trade to the environment to public health – have a significant impact on cities around the world. The Urban7 was established based on the shared conviction of its members that policies developed together – by all levels of government – will be better able to address global challenges. Too often, national governments set international agendas, leaving the potential of cities untapped. The Urban7 is working to establish a system of true multi-level governance by engaging directly in the G7 process.

The U7 is led by a strong urban alliance, comprising the Association of German Cities, the Global Parliament of Mayors (GPM) and ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability. The national city networks of the G7 members are at the heart of the U7's work, driving the group's vision and priorities. Throughout Germany's G7 presidency in 2022, the Urban7 was supported by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation

and Development and the Service Agency Communities in One World of Engagement Global.

Impact

The Urban7 brought mayors from across the G7 and around the world together with a common vision for the involvement of cities in the G7 process. This vision guided the group's engagement throughout the German G7 Presidency, and enabled it to achieve remarkable progress toward multi-level governance. The group's four key accomplishments are as follows:

1. Mayors had a seat at the table in the G7 Process.
2. Several G7 ministries made written commitments to engage with cities and include cities as partners in addressing global challenges.
3. Japan, which is taking over the G7 Presidency in 2023, has committed to continuing the urban development ministerial track, and committed to engaging cities in this process.
4. Cities now have a groundbreaking model that they can refer to when pushing for multi-level governance and co-decision in future multi-lateral processes.



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Recent Activities

June 2021

- First U7 meeting organized by Core Cities UK

January 2022

- Germany takes over G7 Presidency and publishes programme

May 2022

- Urban7 publishes U7 Mayors Declaration
- Urban7 Mayors Summit
- G7 Foreign Ministers commit to sharing experience and expertise across national and subnational government departments
- G7 Development Ministers acknowledge important role of cities and multi-level governance
- G7 Climate and Environment Ministers encourage better coordination across all levels of government and acknowledge key role of cities in just climate and energy transition

June 2022

- Urban7 Event at World Urban Forum
- G7 heads of state commit to developing a joint understanding of good urban development policy and to fostering exchange with cities

July 2022

- Sustainable Urban Development Officers gather in Mannheim to plan first meeting of G7 Ministers for Sustainable Urban Development

September 2022

- Mayor Peter Kurz joins first-ever meeting of G7 Ministers for Sustainable Urban Development on behalf of Urban7



Photo: Germany at WUF



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2022 G7 Urban7 Group Alliance



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