



G7 in Tokyo

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Abstract

This article has provided a detailed discussion of the recent G7 summit held in Hiroshima, Japan. Different aspects related to the event have been discussed in the article. By holding the summit in Hiroshima, the Japanese government made a strong movement to express its concern for world peace as the city was devastated by a nuclear attack. Countries that participated in the summit addressed a range of key issues that the world is currently witnessing ranging from Russia's attack on Ukraine to the food crisis. The Japanese government has played an important role in improving international relations by hosting this event and making commitments to global crises.

Keywords:

G7, G7 countries, world peace, issues, commitment, leaders

Introduction

This article will provide a discussion regarding a recent topic in the context of international relations. The topic chosen in the assignment is the 49th G7 summit, which took place recently in Japan. In this narrative article, a discussion of the event will be provided while mentioning its purpose and implications.

An overview of the event including its history and inception

G7 or the "Group of Seven" is an "intergovernmental political gathering" that includes seven countries, Germany, France, Canada, the UK, Japan, Italy, and the US. It is worth noting that the EU is also a part of G7. The countries follow a common purpose which is bringing together advanced economies of the world for influencing global trends as well as managing pervasive and prevalent issues alongside emergent global crises. To be specific, the G7 can be described as a forum that allows various ministers, leaders, and policymakers to engage in open and constructive discussions. Every country in G7 plays an important role on the international stage and focuses on improving domestic and international priorities.

G7 has several shared values such as a "representative government", liberal democracy, and pluralism. The history of G7 dates to the 1970s, when the world's developed nations that experienced several challenges such as "the Nixon shock" (1971) and "the first oil crisis" (1973) started identifying the need for building a forum to discuss in detail policy coordination of trade, currency, macro economy, energy, and others, from a leader's perspective. Against the setting, proposed by the former French president "Giscard d'Estaing", the first-ever G7 summit was conducted at "the Chateau de Rambouillet" located in Paris in November 1975 with the participation of six countries such as the US, the UK, Germany, France, Italy and Japan (Bundesregierung, 2023).

This was the inception of G7 and since then summits have been held yearly with various presidencies. However, primarily it was a G6 summit in which leaders of six countries embraced the "the Declaration of Rambouillet" as well as agreed to meet once a year in the future. Canada joined the group in 1976 and henceforth it became identified as G7. Since then, summits concentrated on discussing meaningful responses to global crises. The EU was invited to attend by G7 in 1977.

The 49th G7 summit in Hiroshima, Japan and occurred between 19 May and 21 May 2023. The aim of this event was to develop strategies against current global challenges as well as set the course for a better future. Promoting international relations among G7 countries such as Germany, France, Canada, Japan, Italy, the US, the UK, and the EU was another major purpose of this event (G7hiroshima, 2023). These countries were the main participants; however, several countries were also invited to the event including India, Australia, Brazil, Vietnam, and Korea. Some international organizations that attended the summit are the UN, World Bank, WHO, WTO, and others.

Issues addressed at G7 summit.

The 49th G7 summit focused on improving international relations among participating countries and promoting world peace. The key issues that have been addressed in this event are mentioned in the following section.

- **Russia's Invasion in Ukraine:** The G7 has unitedly reacted to Russia's actions against Ukraine as a challenge to the international system based on rules. The G7 will keep pushing vehemently for sanctions against Russia and assistance for Ukraine. Since Japan is now holding the G7 presidency, the event's host, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, is anticipated to emphasize the importance of a nuclear attack as well as Tokyo's commitment to Ukraine. Since the beginning of the conflict, there has been an upsurge in fears of a nuclear assault, with Russian President Vladimir Putin voicing threats and conducting more hypersonic missile tests.
- **International economy, finance, and sustainable development:** According to Prime Minister Kishida, it was important to address issues to economic security, thus it was first brought up on the agenda of the G7 Summit. The G7 leaders held an open discussion. The G7 leaders reaffirmed that the G7 will work together to address issues including improving supply chain and key infrastructure resilience, stepping up our reaction

to non-market policy and practice and economic coercion, and managing critical and emerging technologies in an acceptable manner. The G7 leaders reaffirmed their commitment to closely coordinate in an all-encompassing way through the G7 framework based on the understanding that economic security is a strategic concern that the G7 should closely cooperate and address. The opportunities and difficulties that AI presents were also acknowledged by the G7 Leaders. The G7 leaders discussed the issue after gaining a shared understanding of it and then engaged in a discussion about the significance of data and the general course of action. Based on the discussion in this session, the G7 unanimously agreed to issue the "G7 Leaders' Statement on Economic Resilience and Economic Security," which is the first time they have sent out a complete and specific statement on economic resilience and economic security. The G7 leaders also unveiled the "Clean Energy Economic Action Plan about increasing resilience of supply chain of essential minerals that is necessary for clean energy transition and production of renewable energy gadgets, based on the discussion in this session.

- **Nuclear disarmament and “non-proliferation”:** A convention prohibiting the development of fissile material for use in nuclear bombs or other nuclear explosive devices should be immediately negotiated, as this has been overdue. The UN General Assembly unanimously adopted a resolution calling for a Fissile Material Cutoff Treaty (FMCT) in 2023. The resolution urges all nations to renew political attention to the FMCT as a top priority action to prevent the resumption of the nuclear arms race, including all independent or complementary efforts. The declaration calls for maintenance of voluntary moratoria on the manufacture of fissile material for use in nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices among all states that have not yet done so. No country should conduct any nuclear explosion, including nuclear weapon test explosions. Threats to conduct such explosions should be condemned, and it should be emphasized that implementing the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) is another essential problem.

Climate change, environment, and energy: The Group of Seven environment, energy, and climate change ministers agreed to significantly increase offshore wind power by 2030 and hasten the phase-out of unrestricted fossil fuel use as they concluded their two-day summit in Sapporo on Sunday. A schedule to phase out coal, which numerous European delegates, energy experts, and nonprofit organizations in Japan and abroad had been advocating for as a way to fulfil midcentury net zero carbon emissions objectives, was not agreed upon during the summit. The Japanese government is opposed to this timeline and has been vocal about it. Those in favors of a deadline contend that it will be impossible to achieve the 2015 Paris Agreement's aim of keeping global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius relative to pre-industrial levels without one.

- **Engagement with global partner:** The G7 leaders agreed that they will work with international partners to uphold the values of the United Nations Charter and the rule of law and will carefully address the needs of emerging and developing nations in relation to issues like poverty, energy security, and finance. They will do

this by creating value chains that allow developing nations to conduct processing locally and by providing support through PPP.

- **Health:** The G7 will construct and improve the global health infrastructure, focusing on prevention, readiness, and response for upcoming pandemics, based on the lessons learnt from the Covid-19 pandemic. The G7 also aspires to support health innovation to address a variety of health issues, as well as to help achieve more resilient, equitable, and sustainable universal health coverage.
- **Food Security Crisis:** A resilient food security system and ensuring everyone has access to affordable, secure, and nourishing food are urgently needed in light of the present food crisis. In order to accomplish this, the G7 will pinpoint the fundamental weaknesses in the world food system and establish a course of action to rectify them, all the while addressing immediate food crises.

These issues have been addressed and discussed in the event to ensure the growth and development of all societies in the world. It can be stated that Russia's aggression towards Ukraine has posed a challenge to the international order. The G7 will continue to support Ukraine as well as promote sanctions against Russia. It is believed that international relations and peace can be maintained in this way. The G7 countries have pledged to promote sustainable growth, job creation, and prosperity and make the global supply chain more reliable and resilient (Europa, 2023). The significance of “nuclear disarmament” and “non-proliferation” efforts has been re-recognized in the summit for creating a safer world. G7 countries also committed to decreasing global temperature and limiting biodiversity loss by 2030. To improve political and international relations, G7 countries determined to support a “free and open Indo-Pacific” and increase their partnership with African nations. G7 leaders have also shown their concerns about deteriorating international food security and focused on improving grain exports from Ukraine.

Outcomes and Analysis of the event

The event will serve as a useful opportunity for the upcoming generations and ensure the betterment of youth and children. By hosting this event, Japan has achieved a new position among G7 countries and scopes to strengthen relations with other invited nations (ROTHSCHILD, 2023). Climate change has been one of the major concerns in this event and for that new initiatives can be expected from G7 countries to limit carbon emissions.

The 49th G7 summit held in Hiroshima was highly important for every member country as well as invited nations and entities. It can be stated that the event had significant implications for the leaders of the countries gathered for discussions in Hiroshima, a city that has recuperated from the devastating damage by a nuclear bomb and continues to maintain world peace. Japanese Prime Minister Kishida declared that as the world has been faced with a major crisis of Russia's invasion of Ukraine as well as the increasing risk of utilizing mass destruction, Japan will provide support by emphasizing G7's robust determination to deal with military aggressions, risks of nuclear weapons and efforts to bring down the global order with historical significance (G7hiroshima, 2023). Based on such perspectives,

the Japanese government chose to host the event in Hiroshima, considering the city as the most suitable location to convey Japan's commitment to peace. As Hiroshima has a history of being devastated by a nuclear attack, the selection of the city as the prime venue for the 49th Summit to promote world peace has been a bold move made by the Japanese government.

It can be said that the 49th G7 summit has been successful in communicating and implementing its initiatives to maintain global peace, climate change, economic development, food crisis, and other issues. Countries that took part in the event committed to providing support to the nations that are in need and suffering from crises discussed in the event. The approaches made by the Japanese Prime Minister can play an important role in improving international relations among various countries in the future. For instance, on May 21st, the Japanese Prime Minister conducted a meeting with the Secretary-General of the UN during the Summit and discussed various issues faced by the global community including developing nations (MOFA, 2023). The Prime Minister has proposed an initiative named the "Youth Leader Fund for a World without Nuclear Weapons", which has been appreciated by the UN's Secretary-General. Japan has also pledged to help the UN in every way possible to strengthen its functions. Thus, Japan's contribution to this event was unmatched, and participating countries have agreed to work with Japan to ensure the development of communities around the world.

Conclusion

Priorities set forth by Japan before Hiroshima included reaching out to the Global South and coordinating with other advanced democracies to safeguard the world system of rules-based order. The topic, the attendees, and the venue all reflect Japan's commitment to solving these concerns. Overall, Japan had only modest success in achieving these two objectives; the true test would come in the execution of the summit's agreements. Japan gained brownie points for inclusivity by inviting a wide range of observer nations. Along with the G7 and the European Union, the summit was attended by representatives from 17 nations, including India, Brazil, Indonesia, Vietnam, Australia, South Korea, Ukraine, Comoros, and the Cook Islands. The next two greatest advanced democracies, Australia and the Republic of Korea (ROK), are participating, which shows that Japan understands the value of multilateralizing traditional and economic security measures. Japan was able to further its goal of collaborating more closely with the Global South in order to put greater pressure on Russia, combat climate change, and respond to the challenge of a more assertive China by inviting some of the greatest emerging economies and regional officials. The 49th G7 summit conducted in Japan acted as a bridge for uniting several major powers of the world. This way, the event promoted global peace and international relation through various commitments and initiatives. Japan also made a strong commitment to address global issues and facilitate international relations.

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