



Press release, 31 May 2022, **embargoed until 10:00am (CEST)**

Urgent need for climate protection, energy transition and pandemic preparedness: Science academies publish statements ahead of the G7 summit

The science academies of the G7 states are calling for urgent international action to protect the ocean and polar regions and to accelerate decarbonisation. In the healthcare sector, scientists demand increased global pandemic preparedness and the implementation of a One Health approach, which considers the health of humans, animals, plants and the wider environment as closely linked and interdependent. Their recommendations are set out in four statements which were submitted to the German federal government today at the Science7 Dialogue Forum 2022 in Berlin/Germany.

“The G7 summit must provide leadership on climate action, the energy transition, global pandemic preparedness and One Health. Our recommendations show the need and make the case for urgent international action,” explained Prof. (ETHZ) Dr. Gerald Haug, President of the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina, when he submitted the four statements to the Head of the German Federal Chancellery, Wolfgang Schmidt. “The four topics are interlinked and each considers the Earth system as a whole,” he continued, highlighting the systemic approach of the statements. The joint recommendations developed by the G7 science academies under the leadership of the Leopoldina will inform the deliberations of the heads of state and government at the G7 summit, which is taking place at Schloss Elmau in Germany from Sunday, 26 June to Tuesday, 28 June.

Urgent need for coordinated measures to protect the ocean and the cryosphere

The global ocean and the ice and snow regions that make up the cryosphere are changing faster than ever before as a result of global warming. Ice loss has strongly accelerated in both Antarctica and Greenland and the Arctic permafrost is thawing. The seawater is becoming more acidic and warmer and sea levels are rising. Faced with these dramatic developments, the G7 science academies are calling for a substantive reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, global protection of marine ecosystems as well as enhanced international scientific cooperation and data sharing for an Earth observation and forecasting system based on high performance computing.

Achieving climate neutrality by accelerating decarbonisation

To achieve climate neutrality by 2050 or earlier, decarbonisation is needed in electricity generation, the heating and cooling of buildings, the mobility and transport sector as well as in industry and agriculture. To this end, the G7 science academies recommend building a carbon neutral and resilient energy system, and supporting a just energy transition through the introduction of an international trading system for renewable energy and a global CO₂ pricing mechanism. The risks of climate change also need to be better communicated and carbon-neutral lifestyles promoted.

Development of antiviral drugs for increased pandemic preparedness

The COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated that the world is insufficiently prepared for pandemics and urgent action is needed to develop new antiviral drugs. The G7 science academies therefore call for long-term support for the development of specific and broad-spectrum antiviral drugs, an international coordination body for clinical studies and improved international coordination in the field of pandemic preparedness.

A One Health approach to zoonotic diseases and antimicrobial resistance

The disruption of ecosystems fosters the emergence of human pathogens from animal populations and vice versa (zoonotic diseases). Due to increasing antimicrobial resistance (AMR), the antimicrobial drugs (e.g. antibiotics) used to treat infectious diseases are losing effectiveness. To address these complex problems, the G7 science academies recommend a stronger focus on the One Health approach, which considers the health of humans, animals, plants and the wider environment as closely linked and interdependent. They also call for the use of new digital technologies for effective surveillance of zoonoses and AMR and fostering research and development focused on the One Health approach.

The joint statements of the G7 science academies can be found at: www.leopoldina.org/science7.

The science academies have been accompanying the annual G7 summits for more than fifteen years. In the run up to each summit, they address scientific agenda-related issues that require multilateral action. As the German National Academy of Sciences, the Leopoldina has been officially mandated by the German government to lead the preparation of science-based policy advice (the Science7 process) as part of the German G7 Presidency this year. The Leopoldina last had this role in 2015. More information about the G7 process, the advisory role of the science academies and their latest statements can be found at: <https://www.leopoldina.org/en/international/g7-and-g20-policy-advice/>.

The Leopoldina on Twitter: <https://www.twitter.com/leopoldina>

Most relevant hashtags are #G7GER, #G7Science, #G7Academies.

About the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina

As the German National Academy of Sciences, the Leopoldina provides independent science-based policy advice on matters relevant to society. To this end, the Academy develops interdisciplinary statements based on scientific findings. In these publications, options for action are outlined; making decisions, however, is the responsibility of democratically legitimized politicians. The experts who prepare the statements work in a voluntary and unbiased manner. The Leopoldina represents the German scientific community in the international academy dialogue. This includes advising the annual summits of heads of state and government of the G7 and G20 countries. With 1,600 members from more than 30 countries, the Leopoldina combines expertise from almost all research areas. Founded in 1652, it was appointed the National Academy of Sciences of Germany in 2008. The Leopoldina is committed to the common good.

Contact:

Dr. Marina Koch-Krumrei

Head of the International Relations Department

German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina

E-Mail: s7@leopoldina.org

Media Contact:

Caroline Wichmann

Head of the Press and Public Relations Department

German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina

Tel: +49 (0)345 472 39-800

E-Mail: presse@leopoldina.org

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