



**WIG**

The Whitehall & Industry Group  
connecting the sectors



## 'Trade & International Affairs' Series

Reflections on the G7 summit with Jonathan Black, G7/G20 Sherpa, 20 July 2021

### Expert Insight

Following the UK's successful hosting of the G7 2021 summit in Carbis Bay this June, WIG was delighted to welcome Jonathan Black, the Prime Minister's G7 & G20 Sherpa, for a webinar reflecting on the crucial discussions that took place. Jonathan touched on the points below:

- This year's G7 summit represented the first physical meeting of world leaders in the best part of two years.
- As chair of this year's summit, the UK invested time in order to reinvigorate the G7 format. Special emphasis was placed on addressing ministers in discussion, and creating a communique which would reflect the agreements made.
- The policy agenda covered a number of important topics, such as climate change, vaccine rollout, and support for the economy during the COVID recovery phase.
- The summit also focused on the forward agenda, setting the foundations to tackle topics such as global tax reform, finance and gender.
- The G20 has rightly become the primary forum for global economic issues given its make up of the most advanced economies.
- The G7 is not only a group of advanced economies, but of countries with shared democratic values. A major theme of this year's summit was returning to this original purpose, and the invitations of India, South Korea, South Africa, and Australia reinforced this.
- World leaders really appreciated the chance to come together in person. A monumental effort was made by those in charge of operations and logistics to make this happen safely during the pandemic.



The summit [in Carbis Bay] at leader level achieved what we are looking for it to achieve, a renewed unity and renewed purpose was demonstrated amongst the G7



### Our members' questions

Our members raised some challenging questions, key issues raised included:

- Challenge of taking forward G7 aspirations into G20 negotiations, especially around issues that have historically met with some resistance e.g. ambitious conservation targets
- The likelihood of a collective international response to economic challenge posed by the COVID pandemic
- The government's top policy priorities regarding 'regulatory diplomacy'
- The pros and cons of digital diplomacy, and any positive aspects that could be retained moving forward

WIG members can listen to Jonathan's presentation [here](#)  
To see our full programme of webinars, visit [www.wig.co.uk](http://www.wig.co.uk)