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The Whitehall & Industry Group
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'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