

1 **G7 Japan 2023**
2 **Justice Ministers' Communiqué**
3 **(TOKYO DECLARATION)**
4 **7 July 2023 Tokyo**
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6 **INTRODUCTION**
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8 1. We, the Justice Ministers and Attorneys General of Canada, France, Germany,
9 Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom (UK) and the United States of America (US), and the
10 Commissioner for Justice of the European Union (EU) met with the Justice Minister and
11 Prosecutor General of Ukraine and representatives of the United Nations Development
12 Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) at the
13 G7 Justice Ministers' Meeting held on 7 July 2023 in Tokyo. The Meeting was held under
14 the Ministry of Justice of Japan's "Justice Affairs Diplomacy" initiative as part of its
15 coordinated diplomatic approach, which aims to uphold and reinforce the free and open
16 international order based on the rule of law, respecting the UN Charter to the benefit of
17 countries, large and small.
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19 2. We confirmed our firm resolve to maintain and strengthen the momentum of the
20 G7 Meeting of Justice Ministers held last year in Berlin under the German Presidency,
21 and reaffirmed our joint commitment to steadily promote our shared values such as the
22 rule of law and respect for human rights that serves as the cornerstones of our societies,
23 particularly in times of unprecedented global challenges. We call on all partners to join
24 us in working together towards building societies that all people can enjoy.
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26 **I. ASSISTING UKRAINE'S REBUILDING EFFORTS IN THE FIELD OF LAW**
27 **AND JUSTICE**
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29 3. We continue to condemn in the strongest terms Russia's illegal unprovoked, and
30 unjustifiable war of aggression against Ukraine, which constitutes a blatant violation of
31 international law, and reiterate our unwavering commitment to stand with Ukraine.
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33 4. We reconfirm our steadfast commitments made in the *Berlin Declaration*
34 adopted during the G7 Meeting of Justice Ministers held last year, and will continue to
35 cooperate and coordinate closely with Ukrainian authorities to make all efforts to ensure
36 accountability for those who are responsible for the atrocity crimes committed in the

37 course of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, in line with the *Berlin Declaration*,
38 as well as with the 19 May, 2023 G7 Leaders' Statement on Ukraine issued during the
39 Hiroshima Summit. We will continue to work together with partners to support initiatives
40 of the G7 and its partners in this regard. We also reconfirm our commitment to support
41 investigations and prosecutions of atrocity crimes in Ukraine, including those involving
42 conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence, bearing in mind the important role of
43 victims and witnesses in the investigation of such crimes and supporting Ukrainian
44 authorities in this regard. We welcome the start of the operational work of the
45 International Centre for the Prosecution of the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine at
46 Eurojust on 3 July, 2023.

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48 5. In addition, as Justice Ministers and Attorneys General of the G7 and
49 Commissioner of Justice of the EU, we reaffirm our commitment to support Ukraine in
50 its efforts to "build-back-better", in particular the reforms undertaken in the field of law
51 and justice. We recognise that such efforts will serve as the foundation of reconstructing
52 a stronger and more resilient society based on the rule of law and will contribute to
53 Ukraine's EU accession process. We commend the work of the G7 Ambassadors' Support
54 Group for Ukraine in advancing justice and anti-corruption reforms. We welcome and
55 continue to participate in ongoing bilateral, multilateral and regional efforts to assist
56 Ukraine, such as the Ukraine Recovery Conference held in London on 21 June, 2023, and
57 intend to continue to align our efforts to reinforce momentum behind Ukraine's recovery
58 and reconstruction. We will continue our efforts to ensure that Russia pays for the long-
59 term reconstruction of Ukraine and reaffirm that, consistent with our respective legal
60 systems, Russia's sovereign assets in our jurisdictions remain immobilised until Russia
61 pays for the damages it has caused to Ukraine.

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63 6. We recognise anti-corruption as a very important area in which the G7 will
64 endeavour to provide further assistance to Ukraine in this regard, acknowledging the
65 threat corruption poses to the stability and security of societies, undermining democratic
66 institutions and values, and jeopardizing the rule of law. We welcome the significant
67 efforts under way in Ukraine to fight corruption including with support from the
68 international community. We underscore that anti-corruption efforts are an indispensable
69 component for the impartial, transparent and just allocation of resources and will be
70 crucial for ensuring Ukraine emerges from the war even stronger.

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72 7. To this end, we plan to establish the G7 Justice Ministers' "*Anti-Corruption Task*

73 *Force for Ukraine*” (*ACT for Ukraine*) under the coordination of Japan, as a flexible and
74 inclusive platform to bring together experts from the G7, Ukraine and relevant
75 international bodies including the UNDP and UNODC. Through close consultation and
76 coordination with the G7 Ambassadors’ Support Group in Ukraine as well as existing
77 partners engaged in anti-corruption work and ongoing initiatives, including the EU
78 accession process, *ACT for Ukraine* will serve as a medium to share information and take
79 stock of ongoing and planned anti-corruption initiatives in Ukraine, analyse the anti-
80 corruption needs of Ukraine, and develop possible strategies, including the consideration
81 of useful capacity building and/or technical assistance projects tailored to the needs of
82 Ukraine.

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84 8. We will also support Ukraine to enhance the capacity of its law enforcement and
85 justice institutions, as appropriate, through the provision of capacity building programmes
86 and legal technical assistance. We welcome the cooperation of relevant organisations and
87 institutions such as the UNDP, UNODC, Organisation for Economic and Co-operation
88 and Development (OECD), Council of Europe, the International Development Law
89 Organisation and the United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of
90 Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFEI) with the G7 on these issues.

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92 **II. BUILDING COOPERATION AND COORDINATION AMONG THE G7 TO**
93 **PROMOTE THE RULE OF LAW**

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95 9. We reiterate the important role of the G7 in addressing international issues in the
96 field of law and justice. We further recognise that cooperation and coordination within
97 the G7, as well as with relevant organisations and initiatives is a key contributing factor
98 to promoting the rule of law in the international community. We are committed to working
99 with our international partners to promote the rule of law globally.

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101 10. We are committed to providing and/or supporting, as appropriate, the provision
102 of (legal) technical assistance and capacity building to the justice and anti-corruption
103 sector in other countries and jurisdictions, with a view to promoting shared values. We
104 recognise our assistance should be based on mutual understanding, and tailored to the
105 societal, economic, cultural, legal and other backgrounds of the recipient country, while
106 respecting shared values. In order to strengthen our coordinated approach in delivering
107 (legal) technical assistance and capacity building, to seek synergies, and to avoid
108 duplication among initiatives, we intend to explore necessary measures to share

109 information and liaise between ongoing or planned initiatives.

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111 11. We will work to speed up cooperation and strengthen the fight against the most
112 serious forms of transnational organised crime, such as by promoting the confiscation of
113 criminal proceeds and new forms of cooperation, as envisaged by the United Nations
114 Convention against Transnational Organised Crime (Palermo Convention of 2000).

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116 12. We emphasise our commitment to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and
117 realisation of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals that seek to realise the human rights
118 of all and to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.
119 Against this background, we reaffirm the role of the G7 in demonstrating global
120 leadership to promote gender equality, and in fully respecting, promoting, and protecting
121 the human rights and dignity of women and girls in all their diversity as well as
122 LGBTQIA+ persons. We endeavour to develop and implement appropriate policies and
123 plans to achieve gender equality and gender-equal access, and remove impediments to the
124 advancement of women and girls and women's empowerment in this regard. We strongly
125 condemn crimes which target people based on their gender and all forms of sexual and
126 gender-based violence.

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128 **III. CONNECTING THE G7 AND THE INDO-PACIFIC, INCLUDING ASEAN IN** 129 **THE FIELD OF LAW AND JUSTICE**

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131 13. As we witness grave threats and challenges to the free and open international
132 order based on the rule of law, we reaffirm the importance of multilateralism and
133 international cooperation in promoting peace, stability and prosperity and are committed
134 to take action to strengthen ties with key partners around the globe, including through the
135 advancement of shared values. In this context, we reiterate the importance of a free and
136 open Indo-Pacific, which is inclusive, prosperous, secure, based on the rule of law, and
137 that protects shared principles including sovereignty, territorial integrity, peaceful
138 resolution of disputes, and fundamental freedoms and human rights. We underscore our
139 shared commitment to strengthen coordination with regional partners, including ASEAN
140 and its Member States for the advancement of shared values. To this end, under the
141 initiative of the Japanese G7 Presidency, we were pleased to convene, on the occasion of
142 this G7 ministerial, the first ever ministerial meeting between ASEAN and G7 in the field
143 of law and justice, entitled the "ASEAN-G7 Justice Ministers' Interface". We strongly
144 welcomed this historic opportunity to meet with Justice Ministers and Attorneys General

145 of ASEAN Member States and the ASEAN Secretary General.

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147 14. We reaffirm our unwavering support for ASEAN centrality and unity and our
148 commitment to promoting cooperation in line with the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-
149 Pacific, which shares fundamental principles with a Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP).
150 We intend to continue to hold dialogue with ASEAN Member States, both bilaterally and
151 multilaterally, to discuss matters of mutual interest in the field of law and justice. In doing
152 so, we will respect the diversity of ASEAN Member States and are committed to engaging
153 with them towards building strong and longstanding relations.

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155 15. We recognise that building such relations requires sustained constructive and
156 meaningful engagement over the long-term. In particular, we recognise the importance of
157 supporting the development of and cooperation among the next generation from the G7
158 and ASEAN Member States, including the role this plays in building mutual trust and
159 understanding.

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161 16. To this end, we welcome the initiative of the “Next Leaders Forum” initiated by
162 Japan’s G7 presidency, which will periodically bring together young, promising officials
163 working in the field of law and justice from the respective Justice and/or other Ministries
164 of both the G7 and ASEAN Member States. The Forum, will provide our next generation
165 of leaders the opportunity to meet and discuss common challenges, learn from each other
166 through the sharing of information, knowledge and best practices, and better understand
167 how our respective legal systems, despite their differences, can promote and implement
168 common values. We intend to make efforts to ensure that the Forum will pave the way
169 towards future-oriented relations between the G7 and ASEAN, and will facilitate further
170 dialogue based on shared values.

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(End)