Childhood Education International™

Bright Futures for Every Child, Every Nation

1100 15th St., NW, 4th Floor
Washington DC 20005
202-372-9986; 800-423-3563

Dear G7 Leaders,

In Childhood Education International's Universal Beliefs About Education, we state that education is transformational and "can create better lives for learners, their families, their communities, and ultimately nations." To build back better, we must collectively recognize the critical role that education plays in addressing the realities of COVID-19 and creating a strong foundation for a prosperous future for people of all nations. **We also must be clear about what "better" means and for whom**.

This year's G7 summit priorities present multiple opportunities to incorporate and leverage education to build back *equitably, inclusively, innovatively,* and *sustainably.*

Build back equitably and inclusively by

- Addressing challenges universally so that global progress is measured collectively to ensure that *every* child has the same opportunities to participate in *every* aspect of education, learning, and life to the best of their abilities and thereby reach their full potential
- Embedding inclusivity in systems and policies that guarantee equitable access to learning, with measures taken to overcome systemic barriers related to physical and social discrimination and embrace diversity.

Build back innovatively by

- Strengthening health and education sector partnerships to improve physical and mental health outcomes for children
- Investing in digital literacy and technology infrastructure and access to prepare children with the 21st-century skills needed to create a better and more sustainable future.

Build back sustainably by

- Equipping the next generation with skills to find enduring solutions to environmental, economic, and social issues critical to sustainable development, including
    - financing initiatives that focus on global citizenship education and education for sustainable development
    - advancing policies and fostering cross-sectoral cooperation that reorients education around a sustainable development model
    - empowering teachers with skills and resources to implement transformative pedagogy
    - preparing locally successful sustainable development initiatives for scalability in other contexts.

Underscoring each approach to building back better is a call to incorporate the voices of youth in policy and program decisions that affect their future. We applaud G7's inclusion of the Youth 7 as an engagement group and the publication of their communique and urge you to continue to include the voices and concerns of youth in global policy discussions.

In conclusion, while especially encouraged by the remarkable campaign to emphasize girl's education, we hope the G7 recognizes the broader transformative potential of education in addressing *all* stated priorities. To achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, the G7 needs to take decisive action now to build back the momentum of the SDG agenda, with education leading the world toward a thriving and resilient future.

Sincerely,
Childhood Education International