



B7 BUSINESS SUMMIT 2018

April 6, 2018

To the Heads of State and Government of the G7 nations:

When you convene shortly at the 2018 G7 Leaders Summit in Charlevoix, you will meet at a time of both serious challenges and unparalleled opportunities.

Rising protectionism and a backlash against trade, market volatility, the growing divide between the “haves” and the “have nots” and the rising fear of technology’s potential to displace jobs all place serious strains on the global economy and create doubts about our ability to ensure future generations will enjoy growing prosperity.

As business leaders, we recognize the role of business goes well beyond simply ensuring the success of our enterprises. Business also has a responsibility to help lead social and environmental progress. We are committed to working closely with governments to ensure the benefits of freer trade and economic growth are widely shared by the citizens of our countries.

It is in this spirit that we, the leaders of the G7 business federations, issue the attached declaration. It contains 18 recommendations based on three broad themes: inclusive growth, resource efficiency and scaling up small business. These themes anchored our discussions at the 2018 B7 Business Summit in Quebec, City, Canada, on April 5 and 6. They are rooted in a fundamental belief that the growth generated by freer trade provides the best tool to lift people out of poverty, create a bigger, more prosperous middle class and raise living standards for all.

Achieving more open trade requires businesses and governments to stand together against protectionism. We must open markets by upholding our trade agreements and creating new ones and by strengthening institutions, like the World Trade Organization, that form the backbone of the global trading system.

Together, we must also address the growing fear of disruptive new technologies, including artificial intelligence. While the digital age provides unprecedented opportunity to increase productivity, reduce the cost of doing business and connect businesses to new markets

around the world, our success is not assured. Without public trust that businesses and governments will protect intellectual property, privacy and personal data, the promise of the digital age will not be fully achieved.

Fulfilling the digital society's potential requires that all citizens see a place for themselves in this new future. Businesses and governments must collaborate to eliminate the obstacles that block the full participation of underrepresented groups. Together, we must ensure all of our citizens possess the education and skills needed to succeed in the economy of the 21st century. As business leaders from the G7 countries, we are committed to playing our part.

While the road ahead is uncertain, we remain optimistic. The measures we have proposed in this declaration reflect our commitment to work with our governments to create prosperity for all of our citizens. We thank you for the opportunity to share our perspectives and we extend every good wish for a successful Leaders Summit.

Sincerely,

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