

January 25, 2021

Dear President Biden, Chancellor Merkel, Prime Minister Suga, President Macron, Prime Minister Johnson, Prime Minister Conte, Prime Minister Trudeau:

Our countries are united in their belief in democratic principles according to which our societies are organized and towards their improved practice we continue to strive. The democratic foundation of our politics and our self-identification as part of the Free World, sets the G7 apart from other international forums and informs our leaders' decision-making. As legislators from all G7 countries, we recognize the particular importance of the next summit as international cooperation becomes increasingly critical. Because the actions of the People's Republic of China (PRC) are affecting global politics and our societies like never before, the G7 must stand up for the democratic principles we share and believe in. Representing the interests of our electorates, we urgently call our leaders to unite around a plan of action that addresses internal and external PRC behavior which we consider contradictory to international standards.

We continue to want constructive relations with the PRC based on reciprocity, transparency, and accountability. With that in mind, we turn to our leaders to outline the problems we see and ask them to take a realist stance in dealing with the PRC. Our primary objective should be clear: acting as one G7 alliance to hold firm in our commitment to uphold the international order while ensuring countries like the PRC play by the rules that they themselves have agreed to. Doing so, will help us better address the manifold global challenges of our time. It is in particular with regard to five subject areas that we identify problems in PRC's behavior and thus call for allied action.

#### *International institutional reform*

A PRC that lives up to its international commitments and acts responsibly and transparently would benefit the world. But by manning bottleneck positions and using sharp power to its own advantage the PRC has weakened international governance. The consequences of such behavior can be severe, as lately seen at the World Health Organization. Its international response to Covid-19 was severely undermined due to PRC interference and violation of its rules. In other organizations, most evidently the World Trade Organization, which China joined almost two decades ago, we still wait for it to fulfill its obligations. As important fora to advance our collective agendas, international institutions must operate with transparency and accountability. The G7 must work together to return them to their original vision and purpose.

#### *Technology standards*

The platform technologies of quantum computing, artificial intelligence, and 5G deployment are set to radically change our global economy over the coming decades. The power inherent in these technologies cannot be overstated. While these technologies have the potential to improve the lives of citizens across the globe, they must be developed around core principles that safeguard user data. The PRC has taken the lead in developing some of these future industries – at times to the detriment of other nations through unfair or even illegal means. The Free World must avoid becoming dependent on a country that rejects market principles and democratic values. A coordinated partnership amongst our countries to lead the development of these

technologies and set global norms and standards for their use is thus essential to make full use of their potential without compromising our security and interests.

### *Human rights*

The PRC's abuse of human rights is in stark contrast from the universal standards of the UN Human Rights Declaration we consider inalienable. We should be gravely concerned by the internment of ethnic Uyghurs and reports of forced indoctrination, torture, food deprivation, and denial of religious freedoms, which are clear violations of the PRC's international human rights obligations. The PRC's egregious violations of human rights demand a collective response by the G7 countries to hold the PRC accountable for its treatment of ethnic and religious minorities.

### *Tensions in the Indo-Pacific region*

As the Covid-19 pandemic rightly consumes much of the focus for governments around the world, the PRC continues to escalate tensions in the region. This is evidenced by their most recent actions against Hong Kong, border conflicts with India, and continued aggression in the South China Sea. We call on G7 leaders to hold the PRC and its leaders accountable for its blatant violation of an international treaty through the implementation of the draconian national security law in Hong Kong. PRC expansionism in the region and around the world must entail consequences. Similar aggression with respect to Taiwan and contested territories in the Himalayas and the South China Sea must be deterred. It is in our vital interest to ensure that freedom of navigation in those critical waters remains guaranteed.

### *Cooperation on Covid-19*

It is up to the PRC to determine whether Covid-19 is a case of cooperation or conflict. We want cooperation, given that we can best overcome the pandemic through a transparent and concerted effort. This requires openness and information-sharing. Early signs show that the PRC held back important information in the initial stages of the pandemic and undermined the WHO. In doing so, it denied the rest of the world critical time to respond to the virus. To prepare and prevent future outbreaks, we believe that an independent investigation into the origins and spread of the virus is necessary. But Covid is far from over. We should learn from the early mistakes and fully commit to pooling efforts in slowing the spread of the virus, distributing a vaccine, and sharing access.

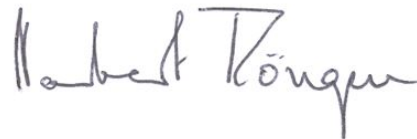
While our countries may not agree on all the solutions to the global challenges that we face, we believe that it is important that our governments work together in a collaborative and thoughtful way to address the issues outlined in this letter.

Sincerely,



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Rep. Anthony Gonzalez  
United States of America



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Norbert Röttgen MdB  
Germany

Former Rep. Denny Heck (USA)	Nils Schmid MdB (Germany)
Former Rep. Daniel Lipinski (USA)	Florian Hahn MdB (Germany)
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