

the Summit agenda should become less overloaded with more intense focus placed on only those issues where the G7 can credibly make a notable difference. Amidst the mass of intractable problems that has inundated the annual Summit agenda in the 1990s, leaders are more able to reach and implement credible cooperative agreements and understandings on policy matters that are genuine products of their own deliberation and value added. It is more difficult for them to monitor and implement concrete strategies to alleviate many problems dealt with by others in the first instance. If leaders continue to attempt to pronounce on the proliferating myriad of issues they are confronted with every year and fail, they risk damaging their reputations and discrediting the summit process. At a minimum, Summit communiqués should specify which are the priority areas the leaders have focused on and will focus on, and which are agreements produced elsewhere that they merely endorse.<sup>19</sup>

2) Given the success of compliance in issue areas where finance ministerials have played an integral role, the G7 should hold similar ministerials for foreign ministers both prior to and following the summit. This would enable foreign ministries to focus specifically on pressing *political* matters and offer proposals and suggestions for implementation, monitoring and enforcement on these issues. To ease scheduling difficulties, G7 foreign ministers could meet at seven or eight on the margins of existing multilateral meetings other than the UN, notably NATO (with Japan added) and the OECD. Given the important role of G7 deputies, deputy ministers of foreign affairs could meet to conduct an implementation review.

3) The G7 should internationalize domestic policy issues only when, in the words of Putnam and Paarlberg, a "positive synergistic linkage" can be developed.<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>19</sup> This is not a call for a shorter communique with fewer commitments in general, but for a sharper focus on commitments generated by leaders themselves, and subject to their ongoing attention.