

## 第4部 課題

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【課題】

第4部 英文B

G-7 bears heavier responsibility for countermeasures  
against global warming

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Editorial: G-7 bears heavier responsibility for countermeasures against global warming 

The leaders of the Group of Seven (G-7) major countries have agreed at their summit meeting in Germany on a long-term goal of reducing global greenhouse gas emissions at the upper end of a range of 40 to 70 percent from 2010 levels by 2050, and incorporated the target in their declaration. The G-7 leaders also confirmed their determination to agree to a new framework for preventing global warming involving all countries at the 21st Conference of Parties (COP21) to the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change to be held in Paris at the end of this year. 

The fact that developed countries showed their determination to take the lead in reaching agreement on a new framework in Paris should be highly appreciated. The G-7 countries bear heavy responsibility to speed up negotiations on a new framework and step up countermeasures against greenhouse gas emissions in the world. 


Countries participating in international negotiations on reducing greenhouse gas emissions are aiming to limit an average rise in global temperatures to less than 2 degrees Celsius to prevent global warming from causing serious global damage. 


The long-term goal incorporated in the G-7 leaders' declaration is in line with a scenario necessary to limit the average rise in global temperatures to below 2 degrees, which was unveiled by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. 

The G-7 has called for reducing global greenhouse gas emissions by half by 2050 and such emissions by all developed countries by 80 percent over the same period, but this is the first time that the G-7 leaders have clearly shown the base year for that goal.

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By showing figures that have scientific basis, the G—7 urges developing countries to implement countermeasures against global warming. 


The Kyoto Protocol, which was adopted at the COP3 to the convention held in Kyoto in 1997, obligates developed countries to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. However, since the amount of emissions by developing countries has been increasing, measures to prevent global warming cannot be effective unless the whole world works on reductions. Such being the case, the parties to the convention are aiming to make sure that all countries voluntarily set their own goals of reducing emissions beyond 2020 under the new framework and take effective countermeasures. Still, no optimism is warranted for the prospects of the negotiations. 


Developed countries have committed themselves to contributing 100 billion dollars annually (approximately 12.5 trillion yen), including funds from the private sector, to developing countries by 2020 to help them implement countermeasures against global warming. The G—7 leaders reconfirmed this commitment in their declaration but stopped short of showing a road map to realizing this. 


Prior to the COP21, the European Union and the United States submitted their respective midterm goals of reducing greenhouse gas emissions — by at least 40 percent from 1990 levels by 2030 and 26 to 28 percent from 2005 levels by 2025, respectively — to the United Nations. In response, developing countries have argued that developed countries are historically responsible for global warming. However, countries that emit massive amounts of greenhouse gases, including China and India, should bear responsibility for the future of the globe. The G—7 should encourage these countries to submit bolder goals of reducing

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their greenhouse gas emissions. 

At the G—7 summit, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe explained Japan's new proposed goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 26 percent from 2013 levels by 2030. Japan is the last G—7 country that has unveiled its goal. Japan's goal is as high as those set by European and North American countries based on their 2013 levels, and was reportedly appreciated by other G—7 leaders to a certain extent. However, the volume of Japan's per—capita reductions is less than those by the EU and the rate of annual reductions is smaller than that of the United States. 

Still, it is no easy task for Japan to achieve its own goal. The government needs to step up its energy—saving measures and expand the use of renewable energy while gaining understanding from the public. The government should draw up and implement specific measures at an early date. 

June 10, 2015(Mainichi Japan)

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