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FEATURED Q&A

What Did Leaders Accomplish at the G7 Summit?

During last week's G7 summit, the gathering's host, Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney, met with world leaders including Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum. // Photo: @MarkJCarney.

Q Leaders of the G7 nations met for their annual summit June 15-17 in the Canadian province of Alberta. U.S. President Donald Trump and Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum were among the world leaders attending the summit, alongside the gathering's host, Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney. What did world leaders accomplish at the summit, and how much progress did they make on areas including geopolitics and trade? What did meetings on the summit's sidelines say about the dynamics between the leaders in attendance?

A Carlo Dade, director of international policy at the University of Calgary School of Public Policy: "The big story for Latin America and the Caribbean was not the big story globally, that is, the absence of damage caused by U.S. President Trump. Success was always going to be about having less. That also holds for what may be most consequential for the region: the reappearance of a serious Canada that shows up without the baggage of its recent moralizing, finger-wagging and larding of international economic agendas with virtue signaling on social issues. This is the Canada that nations of the hemisphere may distantly remember from a time when Canada mattered to the region, when it played a useful and helpful role centered on truly shared interests of importance. That an eroding economy at home and turmoil abroad have sharpened minds in the new government in Ottawa was on display in a part of Canada that had little, if any, tolerance for the previous government's agenda. The evidence for this is scant, but in Western Canada, we take what we can get. Significant in Canada was the

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TODAY'S NEWS

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Local Residents Kidnap 57 Soldiers in Colombia

Residents of the Micay Canyon area of southwest Colombia kidnapped 57 soldiers over the weekend. The area is a center for cocaine production.

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BUSINESS

Russian Firms Seeking to Supply LNG to Mexico

Russian companies are interested in supplying liquefied natural gas to Mexico and also in offering Mexico novel oil drilling technologies, the Russian embassy in Mexico said Saturday.

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POLITICAL

Panama Suspends Some Rights Amid Violent Protests

Panama's government suspended some constitutional rights amid violent protests in Bocas del Toro province. Presidential Minister Juan Carlos Orillac said "radical groups" are to blame for the violence in the province.

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Orillac // File Photo: @JuanCOrillac via X.

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POLITICAL NEWS

Panama Suspends Some Constitutional Rights Amid Protests

Panama's government on Friday suspended some constitutional rights, include free movement and the right to assemble, for five days in Bocas del Toro province after two months of protests became more violent, the Associated Press reported. The move also allows police officers to make arrests without a warrant, BBC News reported. "In the face of the disruption of order and acts of systematic violence, the state will enforce its constitutional mandate to guarantee peace," said Presidential Minister Juan Carlos Orillac, Reuters reported. The unrest in the northwestern province had "escalated dangerously," the government said. Orillac told reporters on Friday that the government was seeking to "rescue the province" from "radical groups," the AP reported. Protests that began as demonstrations against changes to Panama's social security system descended into violence last Thursday as protesters damaged an airport in the city of Changuinola, vandalizing cars, and the facilities of banana producer Chiquita Brands, the AP reported. Protesters also started a fire at a local baseball stadium and destroyed an office of Panama's National Civil Defense, the AP reported. Last month, Chiquita fired thousands of workers who had gone on strike in Bocas del Toro. At the time, Panamanian President José Raúl Mulino called the protest, which involved approximately 5,000 workers, illegal, the AP reported. Earlier this month, Panama's Congress approved a law that was part of an agreement to bring an end to the strike and included new labor protections and safeguards of workers' health benefits, the AP reported. Panama's government declared a state of emergency in the province on May 27, though it did not at suspend constitutional protections at that time. Earlier this month, the government dispatched some 1,500 additional police officers to the province in order to clear roadblocks that protesters had set up, the AP reported. Protests over the last several weeks have stretched across Panama as groups including construction workers, teachers and unions protested changes to the social security system. The government has said the changes are needed in order to maintain the solvency of the system, the AP reported.

Local Residents Kidnap 57 Soldiers in Southwest Colombia

Civilians under pressure by rebel dissidents in southwestern Colombia have kidnapped 57 soldiers in a mountainous area, the country's army said Sunday, Reuters reported. The Micay Canyon area, near El Plateado in Cauca department, is a main area for cocaine production, the wire service reported. Thirty-one soldiers were kidnapped on Saturday, and the rest were abducted on Sunday, the army said, adding that more than 200 local residents had taken the soldiers captive, BBC News reported. Brigadier General Federico Alberto Mejía said in a video posted to social media that 53 soldiers and four noncommissioned officers had been seized. The EMC rebel group may have ordered the kidnapping, according to reports in local media, BBC News reported. The abductions followed the arrest of suspected EMC rebel on Saturday, General Erik Rodríguez told Colombian newspaper El Tiempo. The soldiers were seized when local residents surrounded them as they prepared to fly the suspect out of the area, said Rodríguez. He added Sunday that negotiations were underway for the soldiers' release. Colombia's military said it has had a presence in the Micay Canyon area since October, BBC News reported. Soldiers have been "on constant patrol" and have been "capturing and neutralizing armed combatants," the military said. More than 90 percent of the area's residents depend economically on the cultivation of coca, the plant from which cocaine is made, according to military estimates, BBC News reported. The government of Colombian President Gustavo Petro has held peace talks with the EMC, but the group's leader, who is known as Iván Mordisco, walked out of talks last year amid the EMC's split into

NEWS BRIEFS

Eight People Killed in Crash of Hot-Air Balloon in Brazil

Eight people were killed and 13 others were injured after a hot-air balloon caught fire and crashed on Saturday in southern Brazil's Santa Catarina state, the Associated Press reported. Local authorities said the aircraft's pilot attempted to land after a fire broke out in the basket, allowing 13 people, including the pilot, to jump out, the AP reported. Eight other people were unable to exit the basket before the balloon began to rise again; all eight were killed. The results of an investigation into the incident will be made public next month, the wire service reported.

Colombia Joins BRICS-Backed Development Bank

Colombia has officially joined the BRICS-based New Development Bank, the government announced, UPI reported Friday. The South American nation's membership in the bank "is a key step toward diversifying alliances and strengthening the country's economy," Colombia's presidency said in a post on social media site X.

U.S. Federal Judge Expected to Release Mistakenly Deported Man

A U.S. federal judge in Tennessee intends to order the release of Kilmar Abrego García, whom the administration of U.S. President Donald Trump mistakenly deported to El Salvador in March before returning him to the United States this month, the Associated Press reported. The judge ruled that the Trump administration cannot keep Abrego García in detention ahead of his trial on smuggling charges. If Abrego García is released, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is likely to detain him, the AP reported.

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separate factions, BBC News reported. [Editor's note: See related **Q&A** in the April 22 issue of the Advisor.]

ECONOMIC NEWS

Dozens Arrested as Venezuela Cracks Down on Economists

Venezuelan authorities have arrested dozens of people as it seeks to crack down on independent economists and other analysts that have tracked the country's economic decline, the Financial Times reported Sunday. At least 58 people have been charged with terrorism and financial crimes for operating websites that track black-market exchange rates, the newspaper reported. Among those arrested is former Finance Minister Rodrigo Cabezas, who worked under President Nicolás Maduro's predecessor, Hugo Chávez, but turned against the government in 2017. "They say Rodrigo Cabezas has information about the financial people who operate the websites that are used to destabilize the dollar exchange rate," Interior Minister Diosdado Cabello said last week.

BUSINESS NEWS

Russian Companies Eye Supplying LNG to Mexico: Embassy

Russian companies are interested in supplying liquefied natural gas (LNG) and offering novel oil drilling technologies to Mexico, the Russian embassy in Mexico announced Saturday in a post on social media platform X. Russian firms plan to increase their investments in all stages of Mexico's hydrocarbons sector, from upstream exploration and production to midstream refining and distribution, Russian Minister of Energy Sergey Tsivilyov said last week at an annual international economic conference in St. Petersburg, Mexican newspaper El Imparcial reported. "Russia is ready to supply LNG to Mexico, as well as to share technologies throughout the entire energy sector's production chain," the Russian embassy in Mexico City said on Saturday. Neither the embassy nor Tsivilyov disclosed any specific timeline for Russian natural gas shipments or investments in upstream oil and gas projects in Mexico. The government of Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum is currently seeking to double the natural gas storage capacity of state-run Pemex amid concerns of overreliance on the United States for energy security, Reuters reported earlier this year. Oil major Lukoil is the only Russian firm that currently maintains significant operations in Mexico's energy sector. Lukoil has an operating stake in one offshore crude oil exploration project—as well as minority stakes in two other projects that are at production stages—off of Mexico's eastern coastline.

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invitation to Prime Minister Modi of India, whose government has been implicated by U.S. federal law enforcement of ordering the assassination of a Canadian citizen on Canadian soil, and the invitation to Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman of Saudi Arabia. That there was little to no protest of significance from Canadian political parties or civil society, as the prime minister clearly read the room at Kananaskis instead of reading the polls at home, is another positive signal. These signals match those given by the new government on domestic economic reform, where the focus, so far, has been actually building infrastructure, something the country has been largely unable to do for decades and carrying out politically difficult regulatory reforms. For the region, the end of finger wagging and virtue signaling may be reason enough to consider re-engaging Canada; the addition of a seriousness about economic growth makes an even stronger case. More than a communique about wildfires, a return to the pragmatic, practical and, above all, serious Canada of the past will be what matters most to the region."

Andrés Rozental, member of the Advisor board, president of Rozental & Asociados and former deputy foreign minister of Mexico: "The conflict between Israel and Iran ended up pushing President Trump to leave the summit a day early and to cancel at least two important bilateral meetings that were scheduled with Mexico's President Sheinbaum and Ukraine's Zelensky. His abrupt decision to return to Washington, together with his first refusal to sign on to a joint statement drafted by the rest of the G7 countries, were reminders of what happened at the last G7 summit held in Canada during his first term when he angrily stormed out of the meeting, spewing invectives at then-Canadian Prime Minister Trudeau and downplaying the importance of the G7 in general. While this time Trump showed a nicer face during the initial media coverage of his meetings with Mark Carney and Keir Starmer, his irate statements about the group having expelled Russia after that country's invasion of Crimea, as well as restating his opinion that the G7 wasn't useful without Putin at the table, indicates that he doesn't really give much importance to multilateral discussions within the group. Although the U.S. president was able to cloak his decision to leave early by saying that the crisis in the Middle East was much more important than staying on for the second day of the summit, with the advanced communications facilities that always accompany a U.S. president, he could well have presided remotely over a situation room meeting of his cabinet and taken the same decisions that he approved after returning to Washington. In any case, little was accomplished at Kananaskis beyond the announcements regarding the bilateral 'deal' with the United Kingdom (already publicized back in May) and a commitment to negotiate an economic agreement with Canada in the next few months. The joint text agreed to

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by the other G7 members that Trump earlier refused to join was later slightly amended to allow for him to belatedly sign on, but the substance was nothing more than a reiterated call for a de-escalation of hostilities between Israel and Iran."

Roberta Lajous, former Mexican ambassador to Cuba, Bolivia and Spain: "From the Mexican perspective, the most important result of the G7 meeting in Canada was the telephone call between President Sheinbaum and President Trump agreeing to negotiate a 'global' deal including security, migration and trade. Just the week before, U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem accused Sheinbaum of encouraging protests in Los Angeles, from the Oval Office in Trump's presence. Although Sheinbaum immediately denied the accusation, saying she had spoken about peaceful mobilization regarding the tax on remittances, it was the lowest point of bilateral relations in this century. As the G7 meeting was developing, Deputy Secretary of State Christopher Landau made public the encouraging result of his meeting with Sheinbaum at the National Palace, which took place a week before. He reported being encouraged by the start of a new era of cooperation between the United States and Mexico in security matters 'as never before.' He announced a visit of Secretary of State Marco Rubio to Mexico City, on a date to be determined. Mexican wisdom, learned from 200 years of trying to gravitate intelligently around our powerful neighbor, says that Washington has a binary understanding of foreign leaders: friendly or unfriendly. The proof is in the pudding.

> **"More cooperation around security issues is required for improving friendly bilateral relations."**
>
> **— Roberta Lajous**

More cooperation around security issues is required for improving friendly bilateral relations. While Mexico and the United States work on that, Sheinbaum hopefully learned from her first meeting with Prime Minister Carney about the trade and security agreement that Canada is working on with the United States, which was surely worth the trip to Kananaskis."

The Advisor welcomes comments on its Q&A section. Readers can write editor Gene Kuleta.

Upcoming Events

2025 Women in China Policy Speaker Series: Trade, Critical Minerals and China's Subnational Engagement
JUNE 24, 2025 | 9:00 a.m. ET

The Future of U.S.–Caribbean Relations
JULY 1, 2025 | 10 a.m. ET

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